

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

August 1998

## This month in Kansas Libraries

Community - Library Advocacy Project.....1

KLA, other state associations issue statements against filters.....1

Community Connections.....2

Eighth Class Graduates from KPLACE in May...3

Leaping Stars Receive High Certificates at Spring Assemblies.....3

KLA 100th anniversary...4

October is Kansas Library month.....5

Libraries save with BCR fall CD-ROM group purchase.....5

LRS website announced .....5

KLA legislative committee active during the summer...6

KCKPL inaugurates Bestseller Club...6

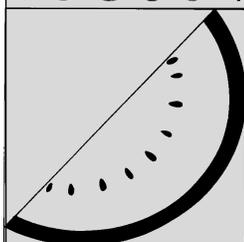
"Lives Worth Knowing" at TSCPL.....7

Kansas books.....7

In memoriam.....8

SWKLS announces appointment.....8

AUGUST



## Community - Library Advocacy Project

In July, 1998, Ellen Miller, Johnson County Library board member and trustee advocate, was one of the mentor/advocates from across the U.S. participating in the first meeting of the Community-Library Advocacy Project (CLAP). This 24-month project was developed by Libraries for the Future, a national organization working to strengthen citizen advocacy for public libraries, and Friends of Libraries USA. CLAP is funded by a grant from the Viburnum Foundation.

The mentor/advocates heard from current and former legislators including William Hudnut, former 4-term mayor of Indianapolis; Una Clark, a Jamaica-born member of the

U.S. Congress from Brooklyn; and five state legislators or staff. The mentors then met with the eight states (Texas, North Dakota, Nebraska, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi) selected to participate in CLAP. Panels covered topics such as library funding, censorship, constituency-based advocacy and library visibility. These states will now select mentors to design and conduct local advocacy workshops.

Ellen Miller was invited to work with Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

The speakers provided tips for dealing with state legislators; dealing with local elected officials; techniques for all elected officials; and a list of resources. Ellen's work as a mentor will be appreciated.

## KLA, other state associations issue statements against filters

The Kansas Library Association (KLA) has been joined by the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), the Georgia Library Association (GLA) and the Montana Public Library Directors in issuing statements this summer of 1998 opposing the use of Internet filters.

While a Library Hotline newsletter article on July 27, 1998, says the KLA statement "hedges slightly, opening the way for decision-making by local library boards," the Georgia Library Association adopted on July 24 a statement which is not only based on the KLA statement but which also adopts the same language.

The New Jersey and Montana statements adopt the same attitude, if not the exact language. Other states may soon follow KLA's lead in opposing "attempts by federal state governments to mandate" the use of Internet filters.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

## **Community Connections**

### ***Haysville Library is becoming an Adult Education Center***

The Haysville Community Library is an attractive facility, with its soft mauve coloring, central circulation center and silver grey cat. Like most medium sized public libraries, it is a recreational and social center. But it also has an unusually strong commitment to lifelong learning.

Betty Cattrell has been director of the Haysville Community Library since it was established in 1977. But before that, she worked for many years for the Haysville school district. Perhaps that is one reason why the public library has a wonderfully productive relationship with adult education.

The Haysville library has become the official library of the Alternative High School, receiving special funding to fill this role. The library is also a major GED testing site. The GED program is administered by library staff members Dorothy Goin and Penny Starr. People of all ages come in from all over central Kansas for GED testing because of the Haysville library's frequent and unstructured GED testing.

The library also works with the school to offer an active tutoring program. There are tutors who come in both during the day and during the evening to offer special tutoring on a variety of subjects, often for GED test preparation but also to help people build their job and life skills. The people who take advantage of this program may be school age dropouts or they may be people who left school a long time ago. They may be immigrants or people who have English as a second language and need to build their language skills.

"It is wonderful for the public library to serve as the library for the Alternative High School," Betty commented. "Many of these people do not have good memories of traditional education and they are not comfortable in a school environment. In the public library, they find that they are treated just like any other library user. We work hard at keeping the library atmosphere friendly and casual. Even Libby,

the library cat, has an important role in building the kind of environment we want."

"We have always had the philosophy that the public library is an important center of lifelong learning. We want to expand that part of the library's services. And the school district is very eager to work with us."

The Haysville library and the Haysville school are planning an addition to the north side of the library that will serve as an adult education center. There will be space for the tutors, space for the GED administrator and the GED records and space to offer GED testing for up to 12 people at a time. The addition will also hold an employees' lounge and a meeting room.

The school district will also be working with the library to provide a computer lab in the library so both students and adults can develop computer skills. The lab will be a glassed-in area on the east side of the library. The school will provide equipment and furnishings. There are tentative plans to link the public library with the schools in a wide area network.

"A lot of people are worried about their technical skills and librarians can certainly sympathize with that," Betty said. "Here at the community library, people will be able to learn technology in an adult learning environment where they can be comfortable. Classes here will be open to people from the community as well as students from the Alternative High School."

Dr. John Ferrell, the administrator of the Alternative High School, added: "We are really trying to build cooperation among the school, the city and the library because it helps us use funds and resources effectively. Betty has been wonderful to work with. She knows the community and she has really helped to build support for these projects."

"The public library is ideal for our students, who often have jobs and families. Its conveniently located, it has long hours and it has a friendly staff that can help people develop the information access skills they will need to get ahead. This partnership has been a happy one and it has helped a lot of our people."

## ***Eighth KPLACE Class Graduates***

An unflappable and quietly self-confident KPLACE 1998 class received their KPLACE certification on May 21st in Emporia. It was a class with a lot of diversity since it included one academic librarian, two school/community librarians, one school/academic librarian as well as a wide variety of public library staff. There were library staff from Wichita and library staff from communities that served less than 500 people. It was a class that came from every part of Kansas and represented all seven systems.

It was a class that contained far more support staff than directors, yet they were obviously knowledgeable and it was plain that they would have many options in the years to come. There were a lot of "second generation" KPLACERS in this group; staff members who had been encouraged to come by a KPLACE certified director.

In spite of their variety, they talked to each other easily. In the computer labs, they taught each other more than they listened to the lab instructors. After Vikki Stewart's famous ice-breaker, they spent a day and half talking about library technology with Brig McCoy, Rhonda Machlan and Jim Swan. They talked with Paul Hawkins and Linda Slack of Kingman about community networking. They renewed their friendship with Sue Blechl of Emporia and discussed with her many issues of collection management in the Information Age. They seemed to take it for granted that they would be involved with KPLACE events for many years to come.

The graduating class of 1998 included Karen Baird of Finney County, Neola Breckenridge of Stockton, Susan Curtiss of Ellinwood, Linda Frasier of Ness City, Arlene Hasty of Chanute, Mary Loewenthal of Ellinwood, Ruby Martin of Dighton, Donna McCullough of Herington, Barbara Means of Wichita, Linda Mitchell of Elkhart, Cherie Nienke of Andover Schools, Jan Pack of West Wyandotte in Kansas City, Kim Pendergraft of Satanta, Brad Reha of Wichita, Mary Roberts of Parsons, Beverly Romereim of Halstead, Ray Santee of McPherson College, Paula Schroeder of Lakin, Vickie Schweizer of

Johnson, Lynell Sheahan of Randall, Carol Smith of Oberlin and Sandra Wise of Clearwater.

## ***Leeping Stars receive high certificates at spring assemblies***

**Cindy Jones Blanton** was openly delighted to receive the first Level Six LEEP Certificate in Northeast Kansas. Cindy received her B.S. in Library Science from Northwest Missouri State University and her KPLACE Certification in 1995. At present, she is the Childrens' Services Librarian and the Homebound Services/Large Print Librarian at Atchison Public Library. She has also been active in NEKL and a number of library organizations.

A 44-year-old single mother of two children, Cindy is involved in many community and church activities in Atchison.

Cindy's colleague **Claudia Bosshammer** received her Level Five LEEP Certificate at the NEKL Spring Assembly. Claudia has been working at the Atchison Public Library since 1970. She is the Interlibrary Loan and Cataloging Supervisor and also works in the Kansas Room and Genealogy Department.

Claudia received her KPLACE certification in 1995 and comments: " I heartily encourage anyone who has not been to KPLACE to seriously consider attending the program."

Claudia's hobbies include gardening, herb gardening, wreath making, literature classes and cats.

**Marlene Evinger** also received her Level Five LEEP certificate at the NEKL Spring Assembly. Originally from Northwest Missouri, Marlene has been the library director at Eudora since 1984. She received her KPLACE certification in 1992.

Marlene has a daughter and two grandchildren. Her hobbies included counted cross stitch and lots of reading. "Sometimes its more book reviews than books but it's all fun."

**Virginia Johnson** became one of the first librarians in the Southwest System to receive her Level Six certification. She began working in the Morton County Library in Elkhart in 1980 and became the director in 1991. "I never wanted that part of the job but I have truly enjoyed it. This is a great place to work." Virginia received her KPLACE certification in 1992 and is a great supporter of both KPLACE and LEEP. "I have relied on every one of my 600 credits to get me through a demanding job."

**Frances Roberts** has held every position at the Grant County Library in Ulysses since 1963. She been the director since 1981. She is noted for spending a lot of time on library support and community collaboration. "I have been accused of being proactive. They tell me to quit looking for solutions before there is a problem," says Frances.

Frances and the Friends of the Library installed a computer lab in the lower level of the library that is now in its fourth generation of computers. She is presently looking toward a building program since the library is very crowded.

Frances also received her Level Six certificate at the Southwest Spring Assembly. She may have to have a Level Seven for she has no plans to retire, though she was 69 in January. "I love my job and there is something different to do every day."

**Cindy Adams** received her Level Five certificate at the Southeast Assembly in June. Cindy has been the director of the Yates Center Library since 1989. She has been treasurer of the Southeast System Executive Board and serves as its president today. Cindy is a choir director at the New York Valley Church, a 4-H leader, and a single mother of daughters Cherielle, a junior at Kansas State and Kelci, a freshman at Yates Center High School. Her hobbies include reading, cooking and singing.

Cindy is a 1993 KPLACE graduate. In 1999, she will receive her degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Friends University in Wichita.

## ***KLA 100th anniversary***

The 100th anniversary of the Kansas Library Association is coming up during the year 2000. Immediate past president Roger Carswell appointed an ad hoc Centennial Committee in June as one of his last duties as KLA president.

At its first meeting on Friday, July 31, 1998, the Centennial Committee organized to continue as an ad hoc committee with Roy Bird, State Library as convener. The members also discussed several ideas for the promotion and celebration of KLA's 100th birthday.

The committee also elected to solicit ideas and volunteers from the Kansas library community. These might come from what local libraries have done for anniversaries, but they might also be something your community, other organizations, and private sector centennialists have done. The committee would also like to hear from you if you would like to participate in any way.

Its centennial year is a great opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of the Kansas Library Association, its members, and library service to the people of the state. Ideas and volunteer offers can be made to any of the following committee members:

**Roy Bird**, Committee Convener, Kansas State Library

**Roger Carswell**, Southeast Kansas Library System and Iola Public Library

**Paul Hawkins**, South Central Kansas Library System and KLA

**Margaret Knecht**, Kansas State Historical Society

**Mary Louise Meder**, Professor Emeritus, SLIM

**Rowena Olsen**, Miller Library, McPherson College

**John Stratton**, Bethany College Library

## October is Kansas Library month

*"Libraries are true treasures of mankind, not only for the information they can pass on to the reader but also for stimulating our ability to do our own research and thus training us to become independent thinkers."*

—Samuel Ramey, *Opera Singer*

The Kansas Library Association is sponsoring Kansas Library Month in October, 1998, with the theme "Connect to Kansas Libraries." Libraries in the state are encouraged to join in the celebration to highlight the positive value of libraries as an essential resource to the quality of life, culture and education in Kansas.

Celebrities from all walks of life who are current or former Kansans were asked how Kansas libraries had made a difference in their life. All Kansas libraries will receive copies of a brochure which contains the responses. Brochures are being distributed through the seven regional library systems. There are limited extra brochures available. If you need more, or if you have not received any by the first of September, contact the system consultant in the library system in your area, even if you are not a system member.

A display, based on the brochures, will debut at the Kansas State Fair, and then be available for booking by libraries across the state. To schedule the display in your library, contact Vikki Stewart, by e-mail at [vikkijo@ink.org](mailto:vikkijo@ink.org), by fax at 316/532-1076 or by calling 316/532-1075.

Check out the KLA website at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/KLA/> for programming ideas that were used by libraries in their 1997 Kansas Library Month celebrations. If you don't have access to the web and would like a paper copy of the programming ideas sent to you, contact Ann Bailey, Northwest Kansas Library System, P.O. Box 446, Norton, 67654.

Do you have a great event planned? Send a brief summary of the event and any publicity to Sandra Wiechert, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont, Lawrence, KS 66044. Ideas contributed this year will be compiled and placed on the web page and distributed at Tri-Conference next year.

## Libraries save with BCR fall CD-ROM group purchase

Information about BCR's current Fall CD-ROM Group Purchase will be mailed to libraries the week of August 17. Title and pricing information also will be posted on BCR's web site ([www.bcr.org](http://www.bcr.org)) that same week. As in the past, this CD-ROM Group Purchase allows libraries to obtain popular educational and entertainment CD-ROMs at significantly discounted prices.

Librarians choose from a list of more than 200 popular CD-ROM titles. These titles are some of the most sought-after by libraries and school media centers, and through BCR they are available to schools and libraries at up to 40 percent off the regular retail price. (See [www.bcr.org/~ids/CD-ROM/cd-bibli.html](http://www.bcr.org/~ids/CD-ROM/cd-bibli.html) for an idea of how these CD-ROM titles are selected.)

Libraries can expect additional savings. The large volume of orders included in past group purchases has enabled BCR staff to negotiate an additional discount that is deducted from the library's account before the invoice is mailed.

To add your library to the mailing list for the Fall CD-ROM Group Purchase, contact BCR's Laura Chittivej ([lchittiv@bcr.org](mailto:lchittiv@bcr.org)). Subscribe to BCR's BCR-CDGROUP listserv to receive regular updates about the group purchase. Send a **subscribe bcr-cdgroup** message to [majordomo@bcr.org](mailto:majordomo@bcr.org).

The deadline to order is Friday, October 23. Please note that BCR cannot provide firm price quotes beyond this period. It is imperative that libraries process their orders quickly and should not wait until the last minute.

## LRS website announced

The Library Research Service (LRS) at the Colorado State Library and the University of Denver announces [www.LRS.org](http://www.LRS.org).

This is intended to be a one-stop web site for:

- Library statistics on Colorado, other states and the nation
- Data files and publications, that can be viewed or downloaded immediately
- Demographic and economic data for library decision-makers
- Links to organizations and individuals doing research
- News about the latest research findings.

Plans are underway for a link between this web site and Blue Skyways which will place Kansas public library statistics online by the year 2000. Check out the site for future reference.

### ***KLA legislative committee active during the summer***

KLA Legislative Committee has held two meetings over the last few months. At a meeting at KSU in Manhattan on May 12 the committee primarily reviewed the Literature Review Task Force Report. This report reviews several aspects of library legislative options to pursue for funding and governance. Compiled by Karen Cole, Jim Minges, Jane Hatch and Rosanne Goble, Karen and Rosanne provided an in-depth review. Points brought out in the discussion included the need to develop alternative funding sources, the need to look at technology issues related to library funding, review of the KLNB structure, the Kansas Library Advisory Commission charge and the need for long-range efforts in these areas over several years. The importance of working with the entire library community was referred to several times.

The committee approved of the document concepts and referred a resolution to the KLA Council which generally recommended pursuit of the ideas within the document and a consensus building effort with state library groups who will be impacted by our actions.

KLA Council gave the Committee go-ahead on June 16 at Council Meeting and approved the resolution. On June 18 the Legislative Committee met in Topeka to plan the next steps in forming a Legislative Agenda and long range plan which would represent the Kansas library community's needs.

At this meeting it was determined a consensus forming discussion would be held July 16 and representatives of various library bodies and groups would be invited to attend.

Regarding the filtering legislation situation, the Committee agreed that a special task force should be formed to develop a strategy for working with the filtering issue in the legislature based on the recently adopted KLA Filtering Statement. Several KLA members were suggested for this group and will be contracted and asked to serve.

On July 16 the KLA Legislative Committee sponsored an idea generation session that will be the first step in building a cohesive, state-wide legislative initiative for next year, as well as the years to come. The resulting ideas fell into eight groupings: general funding; Internet/information access; statewide resources; enabling strategies for funding; legislative relations; visioning; requirements; and standards.

Following the idea generation, a timeline for implementation from 1999 till after 2001 was developed. The items on the timeline will be tied to specific strategic plans by the KLA Legislative Committee. The Committee planned another meeting on Wednesday, August 12 at Hale Library, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

### ***KCKPL inaugurates Bestseller Club***

Kansas City, Kansas Public Library has inaugurated a program to speed up delivery of bestsellers to patrons. Called the Bestseller Club, it is an easy way for patrons to get new books by authors of regular bestselling books.

All a patron must do is stop by the Argentine, Main or West Wyandotte Library, or visit the Bookmobile at one of its 37 stops throughout Wyandotte County. Pick up a Bestsellers Club flyer and fill out name, the date, and library card number. Place a checkmark by any of the more than 60 authors listed whose new books the patrons would like to read, and indicate at which location they would like to pick up their books.

When a new book comes out by an author checked, the patron will automatically be added to the list to receive the book as soon as possible. Books in the Bestsellers Club are ordered to meet demand, and check out for a shorter loan period so patrons get them faster.

Patrons receive postcards letting them know when books are on hold at the library. So, once they sign up for the Bestseller Club, all they have to do is sit back and relax. It's possible they will receive the latest bestseller before they even know it's been published.

For more information, call the Argentine Library (2800 Metropolitan, 913/722-7400), Main Library (625 Minnesota, 913/551-3280) or West Wyandotte Library (1737 N. 82nd St., 913/596-5800).

### ***"Lives Worth Knowing" at TSCPL***

The Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library is one of thirty-five libraries in the nation selected to participate in *Lives Worth Knowing*, a reading and book discussion series featuring the biographies of "everyday" people. Sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities in partnership with the American Library Association, the project is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Sara Tucker from Washburn University and Susan Marchant, Public Information Manager at the Library participated in an orientation and planning seminar in Washington, D.C., June 24-27 in preparation for the series.

Dr. Tucker, Professor of History at Washburn University and lecturer for the Kansas Humanities Council, will lead the book discussion group, **The Unfamous**, a series that focuses on the lives of ordinary people, at the Library. The series is free and open to the public, and books will be available at no charge. Registration begins September 3, at 7:00 pm in the Library Board Room.

Titles and program dates include: September 30, **All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw**, by Theodore Rosengarten; October 21, **Plain Folk: The Life Stories of Undistinguished Americans**, David M. Katzman and William M. Tuttle, eds.; the **Maime Papers: Letters From an Ex-Prostitute**, by Maime Pinzer; and **The Good War: An Oral History of World War II**, by Studs Turkel. For more information, contact Susan Marchant, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library at 785/231-0548.

### ***Kansas books***

—by Roy Bird

**The Purchase of Small Secrets: Poems by David L. Harrison**, by David L. Harrison. Illustrated by Meryl Henderson. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1998. 48 pp., 9"x7", \$14.95 hardcover. ISBN: 1-56397-054-6.

David Harrison's name may be familiar to Kansas children's librarians. Some of his nearly 50 books have appeared on recommended reading lists in the state. His style reflects his many interests and is at one time both interesting and entertaining. **The Purchase of Small Secrets** is no different.

This new collection of poems by the Springfield, Missouri, resident will appeal to young Kansas readers with rural backgrounds. It "evokes the innocence and wistfulness of youth" and celebrates "the joys and realities of country life." Any child who has lived on the farm or who's visited grandparents there will identify with some of these 38 poems. The pencil sketches by artist Meryl Henderson add to the touch of whimsy in each poem's meaning.

Children enjoy poetry, and **The Purchase of Small Secrets**, while not specifically a book about Kansas, certainly will hold some secret message for Kansas children. Recommended for school libraries and children's collections in public libraries.

**In memoriam**

Anna Peterson, 92, public librarian at Thayer, died Friday, July 10, 1998. She graduated from Walnut High School in 1923. She later received her education degree from Pittsburg State University by attending summers, between teaching school terms.

She moved to Hepler in 1949, taught school for 45 years, and was the librarian at Thayer since 1975. In 1997, she was inducted into the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame.

The funeral was July 14 and burial in the Hepler Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Thayer City Library Fund.

Anna will be greatly missed in SEKLS and by all those who knew her.

**SWKLS announces appointment**

Southwest Kansas Library System recently announced the appointment of Carolyn Guernsey as Assistant Director.

Carolyn brings seven years experience in service to the system to the formidable task of the Assistant Directorship. Her talents, skills, and effective understanding of the challenges facing libraries makes her the ideal choice for this pivotal position within SWKLS.

**An invitation**

**Do you have news items of interest to other librarians? An especially successful program or grant project, for instance? Let us know so that we can tell your colleagues in *Kansas Libraries*.**

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