

# Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

July 2005

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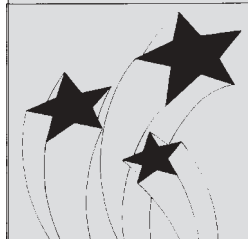
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J U L Y



## Letters About Literature

—by Roy Bird

Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

The Kansas Center for the Book in cooperation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and in partnership with Target Stores, will invite readers in grades 4-12 to enter “Letters About Literature,” a national reading contest. This program will be accepting entries for its next round of competition beginning in September, 2005. The deadline for submissions to Letters About Literature will be December 1, 2005. State winners will be announced in the spring of 2006 and national winners will be announced in April 2006.

To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic, explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s way of thinking about the world.

There are three competition levels: Level I for children grades 4-6; Level II for grades 7-8; and Level III for grades 9-12. Winners will receive cash awards at the national and state levels.

More information will be forthcoming when details arrive from the Library of Congress in August. In the meantime, if you are a children’s or young adult librarian in a public library, if you are a school librarian, or if you know an educator who might be interested contact Roy Bird, Director, Kansas Center for the Book

at the Kansas State Library, 800/432-3919 or royb@kslib.info for an update. Be watching listserves and newsletters for more information as soon as it is available. And encourage public school, private school, and home-schooled children to participate in Letters About Literature!

## New Maintenance Checklist for Public Libraries

—by Shannon Roy

Director, Local Library Development

Two public librarians, Carla Kaiser of Basehor and Rob Banks of Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, have put together a Maintenance Checklist that is intended to help with the care of public libraries and to keep them safe and free of expensive problems. This is really very well done and we thought it would be a useful resource to have available. You can find it on the Library Development web page of the Kansas State Library web site, or you can bookmark the following URL:

<http://www.skyways.org/KSL/development/maintenancechecklistforpubliclibraries.pdf>

Our thanks to Rob and Carla for this project.

If you are even thinking about the need for a building program, don’t forget the online KSL publication called “Designing a Fine Library,” that is also available on the KSL Library Development web page.



## Thoughts from the State Librarian

Dear Friends:

Take a minute to think about convenient library service. Convenient library service is service that is free of barriers and includes ready access to library resources. Most of the libraries in Kansas today are providing, or are on the way to providing, convenient library service. But what if our idea of “convenience” changes? It did with the banking industry. For example, we used to think that convenient banking included extending the hours that the bank was open. Later we thought that convenient banking included drive-up access to the bank and ATM machines. Today we consider convenient banking to be banking online where we can check our balances, transfer money and pay bills.

What if the idea of convenient library service begins to include many more online services? Or access to all the Kansas library databases in one place? Or 48 hour delivery service? Or a statewide catalog with patron initiated interlibrary loan?

Will there come a day when our libraries are not considered convenient – or even relevant – if we do not have these services? This is the question that the Statewide Resource Sharing Summit grappled with as we looked at the future of library service in Kansas. And the answer they came up with was that in order to remain convenient and relevant to Kansans, we need to make some changes.

Task force volunteers will be needed to take on the work of researching and discussing new ways to provide library service. I hope that each of you will consider volunteering to help design convenient, relevant, and outstanding statewide library services for 21<sup>st</sup> century Kansans.

*Christie Brandau*



Read to a Tot, "No Matter What"

One Book, One State  
Program  
From the  
State Library of Kansas  
*Kansas Reads...to  
Preschoolers*

Children's Book Week,  
November 14-20, 2005

[www.kansasreadstokids.org](http://www.kansasreadstokids.org)





## NOTES

—by Eric Hansen  
Executive Director

### Merger with SLAC

The process of merging the Kansas Library Network Board and the State Library Advisory Commission moved forward with a meeting of the KLNB and SLAC merger task force during the Kan-ed conference in Wichita. On Wednesday, June 15, that task force met to discuss issues connected with the proposed merger. In only a few hours, the task force made decisions as to the function of the combined board, including the research and development emphasis of the KLNB, terms of service, and library representation. I will add statutory type language to this related to officers, meetings, reimbursement, and other routine matters and will present it as a formal proposal to the Network Board at its meeting in El Dorado on September 1, 2005.

### Statewide Resource Sharing Summit

The statewide resource sharing summit in Wichita June 16 was attended by 38 and was a great success. Kan-ed graciously sponsored the summit as a conference within its own first annual leadership conference and annual membership meeting. I have distributed my notes from the summit to attendees. Issues that came out of summit discussions included content, delivery, interface, statewide catalog & ILL, marketing, KANAnswer and digitization. State Librarian Christie Brandau and I will soon be seeking volunteers to populate task forces dedicated to the first five of those issues, with KANAnswer and digitization to follow later. I am grateful to Christie Brandau, whose opening address set the tone of openness and innovation for the summit, to Randy Dykhuis for his masterful facilitation of the event, and to Cliff Haka for

his insights into the academic library perspective on resource sharing.

### Interlibrary Loan Development Program

There are 45 applications in for competitive ILDP grants FY 2006. The total requested is \$82,495.00. I will form a grant evaluation committee shortly that will review the applications and make a funding recommendation to the Network Board at its meeting September 1 in El Dorado.

### New contact information

Please note that as of June 21, my title and e-mail address changed to the following:

Director, Statewide Resource Sharing  
erich@kslib.info

*For information about the Network Board, contact Eric Hansen, KLNB Executive Director, at 785/296-3875 (erich@kslib.info).*

## From the Editor

I am grateful to you readers of this newsletter for lending us your eyes for the past seven years of my editorship. In order to keep the newsletter interesting and relevant, you can expect to see some changes in the near future. We will explore a different format, and some of the features you've come to expect may move elsewhere. For example, the Kansas books review column will likely migrate to the newsletter of the Kansas Center for the Book. We will no longer be bound by an eight-page format—issues may be longer or shorter depending on the amount of State Library news to report for the month. Position announcements will be a thing of the past; to check on available library jobs, see the Help Wanted page on KLA's website at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA/helpwanted/index.html>.

Because the emphasis will be on news and best practices, I encourage you to send in articles and announcements about your successes and goings-on at your library. I also welcome articles with information that we all can use, including guest articles about topics relevant to libraries, such as open meetings law, for just one example.

We will continue to send out issues in hardcopy by mail to those who have expressed a desire to receive them in that format. As always, your comments on *Kansas Libraries* and changes to it are welcome and can be sent to me at [erich@kslib.info](mailto:erich@kslib.info).

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.



## Library Director retires

—by *Diana Friend*  
*Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library*  
*Public Information Manager*

David L. Leamon, Director of the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, retired at the end of June. Leamon informed the Board of his intention early in the year so that the process of seeking his successor could be implemented. Leamon came to Topeka thirteen years ago from San Antonio, Texas, where he served as the Executive Director of the San Antonio Public Library.

During his tenure in Topeka, Leamon was instrumental in assisting the Board with the 1992 referendum issue that was passed by Shawnee County and Topeka voters to



*David Leamon*

combine city/county support for the library. Only Rossville and Silver Lake townships were exempt from the vote because existing library levies were in place to support their respective libraries. Leamon worked closely with the Board and the community in seeking a \$23 million bond issue for the

purpose of expanding and remodeling the library at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Washburn. The new building, designed by renowned architect Michael Graves, tripled the size of the library to 178,000 square feet. With the construction completed in 2002, the state-of-the-art library facility now includes 10 meeting rooms, 175 public computers with Internet service, the Millennium Café, the Chandler Booktique with used books and new gifts, the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery for art, and a children's and teen library five times larger than before.

Leamon began his career 37 years ago at the Mid-Century Public Library in Independence, Missouri. His career path included administrative library work at the Cuyahoga County Public Library in Cleveland, Ohio; the Tulsa City-County Public Library, Tulsa, Oklahoma; the Seattle Public Library, Seattle, Washington; the Jackson District Library, Jackson, Michigan; the San Antonio Public Library, San Antonio, Texas and the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.

He and his wife, Audrey, plan to remain in Topeka.

## Let's Talk About It, ALA & Jewish lit

—by Roy Bird  
Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

With a goal of introducing Jewish literature to new audiences through the Let's Talk About It program, the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and Nextbook are offering \$1,500 grants to libraries. Funds can be used to support training, develop program materials, or to cover costs of local scholars. Created by ALA in 1982, the Let's Talk About It program has reached out to millions of Americans, including hundreds of Kansans. This new grant will provide four new themes that explore Jewish literature and culture.

Libraries select one of four themes—Your Heart's Desire; Demons, Golems, and Dybbuks; Between Two Worlds; and A Mind of Her Own. They then use that theme to set up reading and discussion programs that take place every two to four weeks. The themes and descriptions are listed on the Nextbook website <http://nextbook.org/ala>. The application deadline for this fourth and final grant cycle of the year is September 30, 2005. The awards will be announced in December, 2005. The winning libraries will hold their reading and discussion programs in the summer and fall of 2006. A final report is due by February, 2007. For more information visit the website identified above.

### Funding for classroom technology

Public and private schools often turn to grants to provide the necessary funding for classroom technology. The SMARTer Kids Foundation is offering an opportunity for classrooms to earn grants that help defray some of the costs of eInstruction products. The SMARTer Kids Grant for eInstruction Products is open to all public and private, accredited and nonprofit educational institutions. Authorized home-schoolers and libraries involved in K-12, college, university and technical instruction or administration are also eligible to apply. The grants help these institutions obtain interactive technology by making it more affordable and more accessible. The winning institutions can receive grants that are 15-20% of the suggested list price for eInstruction products specializing in educational technology, particularly wireless response pad technology. Grants are awarded as the applications are received and processed. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2005. Grant winners have until October 31, 2005 to use the money. For more information visit <http://www.smarterkids.org/k12/smartproducts/index.asp>.

## The Kansas Center for the Book

—by Roy Bird  
Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

The "Kansas Books" column of *Kansas Libraries* will be disappearing from the pages of the newsletter in the future. It will be replaced by a section of the Kansas Center for the Book newsletter!

The Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB) has been transferred from Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library to the Kansas State Library. A ribbon-cutting for KCFB's new home at the State Library is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, at 2:00 pm. Governor Kathleen Sebelius, John Y. Cole of the Library of Congress Center for the Book, and Jonathan Holden, Kansas Poet Laureate are invited. State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau will host the ribbon-cutting.

As part of a three-pronged approach to participation in and funding for the Center, the State Library is inviting individual librarians, authors, booksellers, educators and others involved in literacy, reading promotion, and literary efforts in Kansas to join the Fellows of the Kansas Center for the Book. One of the upcoming projects will be a KCFB newsletter that will include more reviews and reach a wider audience than the current "Kansas Books" column. The Fellows will provide a pool of volunteers for the KCFB newsletter and other projects under way or contemplated in the future—or maybe you will be the one who comes up with the next great idea!

If you are interested in the possibility of becoming a member of the Fellows of the Kansas Center for the Book, contact Roy Bird, Director, at 800/432-3919 or [royb@kslib.info](mailto:royb@kslib.info).

### 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*.**

## Kansas books

—by Roy Bird

Federal Projects Coordinator/Library Consultant

*Trespassing Time*, compiled and edited by Jerri Garretson. Order from Ravenstone Press, PO Box 1791, Manhattan, KS 66505-1791, 785/776-0556, raven@interkan.net. Softcover, 5" x 9", 240 pp. ISBN 0-9659712-6-0. \$7.99.



One might think July is Linda Madl month, as she appears again with not one, but four haunting short stories—including the title story—in *Trespassing Time*, the most recent book from Ravenstone Press. This new book is a “first” in several ways: it is the first book Ravenstone owner/publisher Jerri Garretson has done which is for adults, not children; it is the first

collaboration by four astute authors from the Manhattan vicinity; it is the first readers have seen of outstanding authors Barbara Baldwin and Sheri McGathy in book form for some time; and it is the first book of ghostly fiction ever completely set in Kansas and/or the prairies.

Each author—Madl, Garretson, Baldwin and McGathy—wrote four stories to contribute to this collection. Each story is filled with the paranormal, and some have decided romantic slants as well. Haunted churches, dastardly artwork, desperate spirits, spooky cemeteries, a dead cat and other eerie characters and settings fill and chill this book. Order it now so that it will be ready and on the shelves for Halloween—only put this one in a prominent place in the *adult* collection.

*The Journey Home: Extraordinary Tales of Courage, Honor, and Love*, featuring Linda Madl. Order from: Imajinn Books, PO Box 545, Canon City, CO 81215-0545, 877/625-3592, www.imajinnbooks.com. Softcover, 5" x 9", 240 pp. ISBN 0-9759653-5-2. \$15.00.

Kansas romance author Linda Madl is one of 10 award-winning, bestselling women authors who contributed to this compilation. *The Journey Home* is, as the preface says, about the wounded hero. Madl's 27-page story takes place near the end of the “Great War,” October 1918. The main male character, Brian, must honor a promise to his sister who died while he was in Europe. In the course of contacting his sister in the great beyond, he falls in love with Amanda, the medium through whom the contact is made—a delightful romantic ending.

The other nine stories are equally powerful, paranormal romances about men coping with the stresses of war. The settings include medieval England and the American Revolution, the Civil War and Vietnam War, even other planets and times in the future. Madl and her fellow authors are donating half of their royalties from *The Journey Home* to Support Our Soldiers America, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing much needed support to men and women in the military. Recommended for all adult collections.



Check out the Topeka libraries online  
“ATLAS” catalog at:  
<http://lib.wuacc.edu/>

