

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

February 1997

This month in Kansas Libraries

State Aid has been processed.....1
FoKL annual breakfast.....1
National Public Health Week....2
Freda Dobbins in Marquis Who's Who.....2
Mersmann at NEKLS.....2
The Carnegie Legacy.....2
CATALYST.....3
Romances at Emporia Public Library.....4
Independence Friends discuss activities.....4
"Cabin Fever" fiction book sale.....4
Miss Kansas—USA at Oak Park.....4
African-American History Program.....4
Kansas children's author website.....5
Public internet access.....5
Haysville receives grant.....5
Edgar Wolfe literary award.....6
Kansas books.....7
Library Positions.....7
LSCA to LSTA planning meetings.....7

F E B R U A R Y



State Aid has been processed

The Federal-State Grants-in-Aid (State Aid) has been processed so eligible public libraries should have received either the notification of electronic fund transfer or the warrant mailed directly from the Division of Accounts and Reports.

If you received a warrant, you have been sent a postcard to assure the State Library that you have received your payment. Please sign your name and the name of your library on the back of the postcard and return it to the State Library, which is the address on the front of the card. If you received an electronic fund transfer no further action is necessary.

Please note the methods that Federal-State Grants-in-Aid warrants are being distributed. In 1996 numerous public libraries did not recognize the warrant when it arrived, or learned that because of the Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) used it was delivered to the municipal government instead of the public library, or was not alerted by their bank that an electronic deposit had been made.

The amount of Federal-State Grants-in-Aid awards for all eligible public libraries have also been listed this year for the first time on *Blue Skyways*, the State Library's electronic website.

You will still be asked for the percentage of Federal and State funds being reported for children's services. Please be aware and be prepared to report this on the annual reports for Federal and for State funds this fall.

FoKL annual breakfast

Crop artist Stan Herd will present a slide program on his famous crop art at the annual Friends of Kansas Libraries breakfast meeting, to be held during the Kansas Library Tri-Conference on Friday, April 11, 1997 at 7:30 am. The event will be held in the Pioneer Room at the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka. Mr. Herd will sell and autograph copies of his book, *Crop Art and Other Earthworks*, before and after the breakfast meeting.

A "hearty country breakfast" will be served, followed by a brief business meeting before the program. The cost is \$8.50 per person, to be paid with your Tri-Conference registration fees.

The breakfast program will be followed by two workshops in the Pioneer Room which should be of interest to public, academic, and school librarians:

- 9:30 am—11:00 am: "Let's Be Friends: A Workshop for Library Friends, Librarians, and Trustees"—A panel discussion lead by Dr. Susan Adamchak, President, Manhattan Library Association, with panelists addressing the following topics:
 - starting or revitalizing your Friends organization;
 - how to organize and hold a book sale;
 - other ways for your Friends organization to raise money;
 - obtaining tax exempt status for your library and Friends organization

The panel discussion will be followed by talk tables on these issues.

- 11:00 am to 12:00 noon: "Solid Support: How a Foundation Can Keep Your Library Growing". Public libraries are moving away from dependence on public funds. Three progressive public libraries talk about the role of library foundations in their success, lead by Rosalie Pettle, Assistant Director of Operations and Collection Development at Manhattan Public Library.

FoKL gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the KLA Public Library/Trustee Section in planning the Foundation workshop.

National Public Health Week

Kansas libraries are being asked to help build awareness for National Public Health Week, which runs from April 7—13. The theme of this third annual event is “Public Health—An Investment in Your Future.”

By mid-March the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will have mailed packets to all public library directors in Kansas. The department asked libraries to share materials on public health with their patrons. It also suggested coordinating a showing of the public health video “A Day in the Life of Public Health.”

If you think your facility could use some extra publicity, a sample news release is also included in the packet. Simply retype it on your letterhead, filling in the blanks. Then send it to your local media.

A survey is also included in the packet. This survey is voluntary and there is no deadline for its return. Feel free to provide feedback by responding to this survey.

“We truly appreciate being able to work with Kansas libraries to promote awareness of how public health continues to improve everyone’s quality of life,” says Secretary of Health & Environment James J. O’Connell. “Public libraries have always been excellent forums for community education and learning.”

National Public Health Week was established in 1995 as a way of recognizing the contributions of public health and prevention services to America’s well-being. After all, a clean bill of health is one of life’s most precious gifts; public health helps make that a reality.

Governor Graves will proclaim April 7—13 as Public Health Week. Your participation in National Public Health Week will help remind everyone of the true significance of public health. We appreciate your support.

Freda Dobbins in Marquis Who’s Who

Freda J. Dobbins, Director of the Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Regional Library, St. Mary’s, has earned inclusion in *Who’s Who in the Midwest 1996-1997*. To be chosen for inclusion, candidates must have held a position of responsibility or have attained a significant achievement in their field.

Who’s Who in the Midwest 1996-1997, published by Marquis Who’s Who, is a guide to 26,000 of today’s most influential midwesterners.

“We congratulate Freda Dobbins on her achievements,” says Paul Canning, Editorial Director of Marquis Who’s Who. “Our editors use stringent selection criteria to select the most distinguished professionals for inclusion in each edition.” Over the past century, Marquis Who’s Who has created authoritative references that provide instant access to individuals from all areas of endeavor and all geographical areas.

Freda Dobbins is married to James Dobbins, Goff, KS. They have two children, Jared, of Coffeyville and Janelle, a student at Kansas State University. Freda was raised on a farm near Hutchinson. She has been a librarian since receiving her MLS from the Univ. of Denver in 1963.

Mersmann at NEKLS

Patti Mersmann will serve as Services Coordinator for the Northeast Kansas Library System, effective March 3, 1997. Patti was the Director of the Library Information Technology Division of the Kansas State Library, and has previously served as Reference and Interlibrary Loan Director for the CKLS. She is a graduate of the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University. In 1996 Patti participated in the Snowbird Library Leadership Institute and received the Kansas Library Association Presidential Achievement Award to a New Professional.

The Carnegie Legacy

Dodge City Public Library (DCPL) and Carnegie Center for the Arts celebrated nine decades of the library’s existence by presenting *The Carnegie Legacy: Dodge City Public Library Celebrates 90 Years* with Jeffrey Smith as Andrew Carnegie in “Temples of Democracy.” The event took place on Saturday, February 1, at 7:00 pm in the Lois Flanagan Room of DCPL. A reception followed the program at Carnegie Center for the Arts, which is housed in the former Dodge City Carnegie Library building.

On February 1, 1895, Andrew Carnegie’s personal secretary wrote: “If the City agree by Resolution of Councils to maintain a Free Public Library at cost of not less than Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars a year, and provide a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be pleased to furnish Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars to erect a Free Public Library Building for Dodge City.”

This program is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization encouraging the appreciation of history, heritage, and values.

Catalyst

by Michael Piper
Executive Director
Kansas Library Network Board

ALA endorses Blue Skyways with \$10,000 award

Marilyn Boria, Chair of the American Library Association's Fyan Grant Jury, has announced that the Kansas Library Network Board is the recipient of the 1997 Fyan Grant.

With this \$10,000 award, the State Library, University of Kansas Medical Center and regional library systems will deliver training workshops across Kansas, beginning in mid-1997. These sessions will show librarians how to develop and maintain civic pages on Blue Skyways, the Kansas library community's World Wide Web service.

"We are elated about this endorsement of Blue Skyways," said Jim Bingham, Kansas Library Network Board chair. "The Network Board looks forward to working with our partners statewide to make Skyways a service all Kansans can be proud of."

About Blue Skyways

Blue Skyways is brought to you by the Kansas State Library, in cooperation with librarians and volunteers statewide. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/>

Skyways offers 3,500 pages of material about Kansas communities, education, government and libraries. This includes:

- Community information—Blue Skyways provides information on more than 100 Kansas communities -- and the list is growing daily. Any Kansas community can load information on Skyways.

- Education resources Information about schools, two-year and four-year colleges, and Regents universities is available on Skyways.
- Government info—Blue Skyways includes information on state legislators and government agencies.
- Library collections—Skyways visitors can use the Kansas Library Catalog, an online listing of holdings in more than 600 libraries statewide.
- Full-text articles—Blue Skyways links to FirstSearch, which provides full-text articles on business, medical and research topics. Updated daily, FirstSearch permits clients in 600 Kansas libraries to print off the complete contents of the magazine articles they need on the spot, with no wait.

Skyways serves people worldwide

In 1996, Blue Skyways served 1,000 requests for information daily. So far in 1997, Skyways is responding to an average of 2,500 requests every day from Internet visitors worldwide.

Blue Skyways is funded by a federal grant from the Kansas Library Network Board, a division of the State Library. Skyways is now in its second year of operation. Costs for year one: \$32,000. Year two costs: \$40,000.

Eventually, the Network Board hopes to recruit permanent state funding for Skyways. Meanwhile, the Board has embarked on a fund-raising campaign to enlist support for Skyways from corporations, foundations and other funding sources.

The Skyways partners list is growing

The State Library has provided Skyways accounts to numerous state agencies, including the Legislative Administrative Services Department and the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing. The State Library contracts with the University of Kansas Medical Center to deliver Blue Skyways to the people of Kansas.

Thanks to these and other partners across the state, Skyways is communicating the Kansas story to a worldwide audience. Above all, Blue Skyways is helping Kansans learn, grow, and achieve better than ever before.

For more about Blue Skyways, contact Michael Piper (KSSTL2LB@INK.ORG).

Romances at Emporia Public Library

On Friday, February 14, 1997 from 3:00—4:30 pm, the EPL hosted “Tea and Romance—An Open House for Readers of Popular Romances.” The program gave romance readers an opportunity to exchange recommended titles, favorite romances, and sample the library’s new collection of romance paperbacks.

Mary K. Chelton gave a short talk on “The History and Appeal of the Romance Novel.” The program was free and open to the public, and refreshments were served. Mary K. Chelton is a new member of the SLIM faculty at ESU. She recently completed her Ph.D. at Rutgers University.

An avid romance reader, Dr. Chelton is the author of “Unrestricted Body Parts and Predictable Bliss: The Audience Appeal of Formula Romances” in *Library Journal* July 1991. In 1995 she was named Romance Writers of America’s Librarian of the Year. Dr. Chelton has also been a guest columnist for *Library Journal*’s Romance Book Review column.

Independence Friends discuss activities

Activities for the past year were reviewed and future plans discussed at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Independence Public library.

Anne Jaynes, Director of Library Services, recognized volunteers and gave appreciation for their combined 1,140 hours of service, some of it highly skilled, to the library. She estimated the value of that service to be approximately \$11,755 over 1996.

April Nutt, Assistant Director, reported that the Friends group is underwriting a major computer project and the redecoration of the children’s department in a jungle theme. She said the project should be completed by National Library Week in April.

Members also voted to sponsor preservation and indexing of the local history file and to underwrite the cost of providing a lease plan of bestselling books. They also decided that the annual book sale would be conducted every year during the first weekend after Labor Day weekend. In 1996, the sale netted more than \$2,800.

It was reported that the group took in \$9,424 in memberships, grants, book sales and other income in 1996. They spent \$9,669 on various items for the library.

“Cabin Fever” fiction book sale

Looking for a good book to curl up with by the fireside during the winter? The Johnson County Library and friends of the Library held a “Cabin Fever” used book sale January 17—18, 1997, at Antioch Library, Merriam.

A variety of used hardback fiction was offered for sale including recent bestsellers. The sale consisted of several thousand books which were donated or retired from the Library’s collection. All books sold for \$1 each. There was no limit to the number of books individuals could purchase.

In addition to holding special book sales and an annual book sale, the Friends of the Library operate a used book store at Antioch Library. Donations for the book sales and book store may be brought to Antioch Library or any Johnson County Library location.

Miss Kansas—USA at Oak Park

Kathryn Taylor, Miss Kansas—USA appeared at the Oak Park Library, Overland Park, on January 15 at 7:00 pm for a family storytime. Ms. Taylor read her favorite childhood stories. The program was free and open to the public.

Ms. Taylor, age 24, is an Overland Park resident who attended Emporia State University and Southeast Missouri State University. She competed with 27 other women in Kansas for the state title in September.

African-American History Program

The ninth annual program of “An Afternoon of the Arts: A Tribute to African American History” was held in Wichita February 23. This year’s day of programs were held at three locations: Maya Angelou Northeast Branch Library, Wichita Public Library, and Tabernacle Baptist Church. All three performances were free and open to the public.

The featured storyteller was Charlotte Blake Alston. This nationally known storyteller models her role after that of the Griot, the keeper of traditions and stories in African villages. Charlotte, in keeping with African oral traditions, promotes an understanding of our common human experiences. Her commitment is to fostering an appreciation and understanding of differences among people and to providing entertainment to both young and adult audiences.

The Wichita Public Library was proud to bring Charlotte Blake Alston to town and to include local storyteller, Jean Pouncil-Burton and two local musical groups, the Lynch Brothers and the Children's Choir of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, in the day's performances. The program was designed to increase knowledge and promote an appreciation for African-American culture and history to a cross-section of the community. The program also sought to demonstrate how the arts can play a role in building bridges of understanding.

This program was presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Kansas children's author website

—Jeff Hixon, Manhattan Public Library

A new website, Kansas Authors and Illustrators of Children's Books, is now available from Manhattan Public Library (MPL).

Until Dorothy Bramhall, of the MPL Children's Department, with Jerri Garretson, Head of Children's Services, assisting as advisor and editor researched and compiled this list, there was, to our knowledge, no authoritative list of creators of children's books who had, at some time in their lives, lived in Kansas.

The Kansas Authors and Illustrators of Children's Books first appeared in print form for librarians' use in the spring of 1996 and quickly proved to be a wonderful resource not only for our summer reading theme, "Kansas Kids Read" but for librarians, teachers and students looking for books linked to Kansas. We have since added more information, particularly anecdotes about life in Kansas, or Kansas as an influence, received in response to a letter asking those on the list to send us material for that purpose.

Many of the authors and illustrators answered us with fascinating information, linked to their entries on the list. We hope to hear from more of these creative people in the future and to keep adding to the list of those represented. We also will continue to link to more material about those listed as we find it online. We invite anyone who knows of an author or illustrator who belongs on this list, or of URLs that would make good links, to send e-mail to Jeff Hixon (jeffh@manhattan.lib.ks.us) or Jerri Garretson (jerri@manhattan.lib.ks.us).

Kansas Authors and Illustrators of Children's Books is located at <http://www.manhattan.lib.ks.us/kail/>.

Public internet access

The Goodland Public Library now has a computer available for public access to the Internet. The computer was made available through the "TeleCommunity Partnerships Grant" funded by the Kansas Library Network Board.

Grant funds were awarded in order to provide residents of Goodland and Sherman County with local access to the Internet. The public computer in the library allows all local residents to have Internet access.

At present the Internet computer is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Patrons using the computer will be asked to complete their search in 20 minutes if other patrons are waiting. As much as possible, library staff will help patrons access the Internet.

—Goodland Daily News

Haysville receives grant

The Haysville Community Library will be able to enhance its "Access 2000: The On-Ramp to the Information Highway" project as a recipient of a \$3,000 grant from Southwestern Bell.

The grant to the Haysville Community Library is part of the second phase of Southwestern Bell's two-phase Kansas Community Enrichment Program, which distributed a total of \$300,000 in 1996. In this phase, 21 communities and organizations, selected from more than 200 applicants, will receive \$164,000 in grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

The Access 2000 project will provide the residents of Haysville, USD #261 and residents of southwest Sedgwick County access to information-age computer technology and CD-ROM applications, as well as online access to the Internet, World Wide Web and other information resources.

"The application from the Haysville Community Library was very effective," said Bill Bryant, Southwestern Bell area manager. "Southwestern Bell is proud to support communities throughout Kansas with these innovative and effective programs... We look forward to the significant project that will soon get underway at the Haysville Community Library."

Through its philanthropic arm, the SBC Foundation, Southwestern Bell recently created the Kansas Commu-

nity Enrichment Program to award grants of up to \$25,000. The grant money assists the communities in addressing quality-of-life issues through the use of new telecommunications technologies. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to organizations that demonstrate an innovative use of technology to meet community needs in four categories: education, economic development, health care and community access to the information highway.

To be eligible for funding under the Kansas Community Enrichment Program, organizations must be classified as a government entity or have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and be located in a Kansas community receiving telephone service from Southwestern Bell.

Grant application forms are available by calling toll free 800/622-5078. The application also is available on the Internet by accessing Southwestern Bell's regional home page at <http://www.sbc.com/ks>.

Frontier in American culture

An exciting visual display and programs provided a look back into the settling of the West. The Antioch Branch of Johnson County Library was one of only 45 public and academic libraries selected to host the Frontier in American Culture exhibit over the next two years.

The exhibit focuses on two conflicting stories about the settling of the West—historian Frederick Jackson Turner's description of free land and peaceful settlement, and Buffalo Bill Cody's depiction in his Wild West show of bloody conflict and violent confrontation.

A third point of view depicted in the exhibition is that of the Native Americans residing in the West, who were ignored by Turner and demonized by Cody. Organized by the American Library Association and the Newberry Library, in Chicago and supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, programs included:

- **Frontier in American Culture Public Reception**—January 12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Johnson County Library and the Friends of the Johnson County Museums. Guest Speaker: Kate Lehrer, author of *Out of Eden*, (and wife of TV personality Jim Lehrer).
- **Evening of Native American Dance**—January 16 with dancing and drumming to raise awareness of American Indian culture and to pass on traditional Indian values to their children.

- **The Frontier is My Home with Kit Carson**—January 23, with Kit Carson portrayed by Fred Krebs, professor of history at Johnson Co. Comm. College and member of the Kansas Humanities Council speakers bureau.
- **Cowboy Poetry and Folksongs**—February 1, featuring Jim Hoy, teacher of folklore, medieval and Western American literature at Emporia State University.

Edgar Wolfe literary award

The Friends of the Library in Kansas City, KS presented the eighth annual Edgar Wolfe Literary Award to Nancy Pickard at 2:00 pm on February 23, at the West Wyandotte Library. The public was invited to attend the award presentation and a reception for the author.

Nancy Pickard is the nationally-known author of the Jenny Cain mysteries. She was a founding member and the first official president of Sisters in Crime, an international association of mystery fans, and has served on the board of directors of the Mystery Writers of America.

She is a life-long resident of the Kansas City area. After earning a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri (Columbia) she worked as a free-lance writer for ten years before trying her hand at fiction. Copies of her books will be available for purchase and signing at the reception.

The Edgar Wolfe Literary Award honors the memory of Edgar Wolfe, the late University of Kansas creative writing teacher and author of *Widow Man*, *Trial by Ice*, *To All the Islands Now*, and *The Almond Tree*. The award recognizes authors with a local connection who have remained true to the ideals of integrity and creative excellence that were taught by Edgar Wolfe. Call Jan Pack at 913/596-5800 for more info on the Edgar Wolfe Literary Award.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

Kansas books

by Roy Bird

A Price Beyond Rubies: A Novel of the Civil War, by Louise McCants Barry. Order from: Sunflower University Press, Box 1009 Manhattan, KS 66505-1009 or call toll free orders 800/258-1232. Trade paperback, 490 pp. 1996. \$25.95. 25% library discount, 1-4 copies; 40% library discount, 5 or more.

Louise Barry has entered the field of historical fiction with a novel of the Civil War based on her grandfather's memories. *A Price Beyond Rubies*, Barry's first work of fiction, takes place in the Arkansas Ozarks, where she was born, and is based on the long-hidden memoirs of her grandfather, a fiercely independent Arkansas pioneer who fought on the Union side *against* his own brothers. It is the story of a hard-headed man and his high-spirited wife, whose character is based on the author's grandmother.

Barry is the author of two books for career women: *Cinderella Doesn't Work Here Anymore* and *Techniques School Should Have Taught You About Working With Men and Other Women*. Her third book, *Retire to Fun and Freedom* (with co-author Cavett Robert), was published in 1988 by Warner Books.

Dr. Barry received a Ph.D. in Adult Education and an M.S. and a B.S. in Mathematics. She is retired from the Metropolitan Community Colleges of Kansas City, as Director of Instructional Services. She previously served as Dean, Arts and Sciences Division, of Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Director of Research, NIE Adult Education Grant, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

A Price Beyond Rubies is a highly readable historical novel, thoroughly researched, accurate and interesting. Barry looks at the Civil War as the Kansas-Missouri border from both Union and Confederate points of view. Recommended for adult fiction and high school collections.

Library Positions

Emporia State University
Director of Library Services and University Librarian

The Director will provide dynamic leadership and vision to all library services into the 21st century, and oversee the continuing move to Internet and CD-ROM accessible

databases, the migration to a new integrated client/server library automation system, and the creation of accessibility at remote sites. Applicants must have an ALA-MLS and doctorate in library science or related field with 5-8 years of academic/research library administrative experience. Qualifications must merit a tenure track appointment as full or associate professor. Applicants with university teaching experience, understanding and commitment to resource sharing, networking, library automation, new information technologies, successful grant acquisition/administration, and a record of scholarly and professional achievement, are especially invited to apply. Screening will begin February 24, 1997 and continue until the position is filled, no later than June 15, 1997. Send letter of application, vita, names, telephone and e-mail addresses of three professional references who are submitting letters to John O. Schwenn, Academic Affairs, Campus Box 4045, ESU, Emporia, KS 66801-5087. E-mail: schwennj@esu.emporia.edu. AA/EOE.

LSCA to LSTA planning meetings

How should Kansas use the new Library Services and Technology Act? We encourage your participation in one to two hour discussion meeting about how Kansas librarians should use the new federal program, the Library Services and Technology Act of 1996.

Agenda

- Briefly review the current programs of LSCA
- Review the program opportunities within LSTA
- Discuss your preferences for the future LSTA program in Kansas

Background

With the Library Services and Technology Act of 1996, the U.S. Congress has replaced the Library Services and Construction Act with the LSTA. The program differences between LSCA and LSTA require us to adjust, and in some ways change, the ways we use the federal funding received.

These discussion meetings create an opportunity for you to receive information about the new federal program for libraries and to express your preferences about how the federal money for library service will be used in Kansas.

—continues on page 8

The LSTA public meeting schedule is:

- March 14 1:00—3:00 pm, ESU Memorial Union, Kanza Room (assisted by EKTC)
- March 19 1:00 pm, Oakley Public Library
- March 25 9:30 am, Iola Public Library
- March 26 NEKLS
- March 28 NEKLS
- April 1 10:00 am, Red Coach Inn, Salina

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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