

Special points of interest:

May-June, 2010

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The Association for Rural and Small Libraries
announces its 2010 Conference,
Magic in the Mile High City, to be held in Denver, Colorado
at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, October 14-16, 2010

The Keynote Speaker for Thursday's Opening Session will be Dr. Lorie Roy, past President of ALA. For the Saturday morning closing session, Pat Wagner from Pattern Research will address the group. A Wednesday night Welcome Mixer is planned to allow you to meet old friends and make some new ones. There will be dine-arounds on Thursday evening and a Magic show on Friday night. Some of the topics for this year's workshops include **gaming in the library**, using **outreach programs for children and teens**, **ethics**, **library advocacy**, and **managing change**.

Early Bird member's rate for conference registration is \$200:

(SEKLS is offering five \$400 scholarships for librarians who want to attend this conference. Apply using the usual CE grant application in the SEKLS red book.)

Three exciting **pre-conferences** are planned as well. All are scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2010.

Dealing with a Runaway Board will offer real world solutions for those who are having difficulty managing boards, directors, or other library personnel who are out of control. A panel of experts will work with attendees to develop solutions for your situation.

10 Things You Should Know Before Disaster Strikes will take you step by step through disaster preparedness; what you need, who you should call and how to organize now, before a disaster hits your library. This workshop includes a hands-on salvage workshop for restoring damaged library materials.

Think Outside the Box is a 1/2 day tour of the two newest libraries in the Anything Library System. LEED Certified and completely Deweyless, these two new libraries offer an opportunity for you to see a different kind of library. Meet with the architect, talk to the directors and tour the facilities. Transportation to and from the libraries is included.

The conference hotel rate is \$99 per night, and SEKLS is again cooperating with other library systems in Kansas to provide a bus for the trip. The cost of the bus will depend on the numbers who sign up, but we anticipate around \$100, round trip to be the final cost. We plan to arrive in time for bus riders to attend a preconference on Wednesday, October 13, and to be back home on Saturday night, October 16.

Director's Corner

by Roger Carswell



Rolling Stone guitarist Keith Richards has admitted to a secret longing to be a librarian

This issue, I'd like to share some stray thoughts and miscellaneous observations.

How many times does an SEKLS librarian make the front page of the *Wichita Eagle* (or any other wide-circulation newspaper)? In a recent article on high-speed Web access in Kansas, the Sunday *Eagle* focused on Chautauqua County, which has the lowest percentage of home broadband users in the state, and on Geary County, which has the highest. And the photo accompanying this article featured Sedan library director Kathleen McCorkle, posing in the library. The caption noted that the library has 24-hour wi-fi which allows anyone in or near the building use the Internet. Kathleen is also quoted in the article.

Forget Saturday Night Live—what I wanted to see was Betty White's ap-

pearance as a school librarian on the ABC show *The Middle*. That episode aired May 19. Apparently, Brick had 31 overdue school library books which imperiled him moving on from the third grade.

And speaking of celebrity-librarian connections: did everyone see the report recently that Rolling Stone guitarist Keith Richards has admitted to a secret longing to be a librarian? Apparently he is quite a reader and book collector. He is quoted as saying, "When you are growing up there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equaliser." I imagine many librarians have secretly wished to be a rock star—but a rock star wishing to be a librarian is a thought I never would have guessed!

On Sale Now:

The book, *Courage Before Every Danger, Honor Before All Men*, written by Joanne Emerick, popular speaker at last November's SEKLS Annual System Business Meeting, is now available for purchase. The book follows the exploits of the 31st Bombardment Squadron as it fights its way across the Pacific during World War II. The complete history of the squadron is told by the men who lived it from their unique eyewitness accounts. The book contains 421 pages of emotional and heartwarming recollections along with maps and photographs.

Hardcover price: \$46.75 Softcover price: \$35.25.

Prices include shipping and handling.

Books may be ordered from Emerick Historical Productions

c/o Joanne Emerick

P.O. Box 254

Hoxie, Kansas 67740

Make checks payable to Emerick Historical Productions.



Arma City Library Leverages Young Adult Section Using Grant from SEKLS

by Christie Wilson, Arma City Library

In those workshops I heard the magic words 'let your teens plan their own programming'

At the **Arma City Library**, our teen section was beyond sad. Consider that it consisted of a few donated and way outdated Harlequin "soft" teen romances from the eighties, a few cracked classics, and a never-ending row of the R.L. Stine Fear Street series, and you'd have to agree that it was only one Kleenex away from a Lurlene McDaniel novel (of which we also had a few ragged specimens). P a t h e t i c .

Clearly my need for a teen advisory group was great. My desire for one? Not so much. This was, for the most part, due to the "whatever, bored now" worst case scenario that played out in my head whenever I envisioned a program put on for teens.

I could see the rows of blank eyes and the yawns, hear the click of disinterested thumbs texting the BFF about the way lame thing his mom insisted on dragging him to and the irritating buzz of MP3 players turned up even louder to drown out the sound of anything but the music.

The sadness that was the YA section slowly passed through denial - "It's really not all that bad. Look! Here's a Christopher Pike and it was checked out just last year!" - anger - "Why do we even need this section anyway? Magazine racks would look great here!" - bargaining - "Okay. Maybe if I agree to *think* about a teen section, one will magically appear." - depression - *SIGH* "As long as I live this section will

haunt me. Total FAIL." And, finally: acceptance. "As long as it's haunting me, I might as well apply for this collection development grant that **SEKLS** sent and see if I can get a jumpstart on a better collection ... but forget about programming!"

That grant (and a very vicious weed), along with several conveniently timed teen programming workshops that **SEKLS** offered, did indeed turn out to be what was needed to kick start the heart of what is now a hugely popular young adult section and successful teen advisory group for us. In those workshops I heard the magic words "let your teens plan their own programming" and it gave me the "Well, duh," moment I was looking for to get over myself and j u s t g o f o r i t .

Over countless pepperoni pizzas in the library meeting room, our teen advisory group, the self-proclaimed-and-proud-of-it International Dork Society has planned and implemented a variety of programs for teens. These include interior decorating their own YA section, starting their own summer reading activities, book discussion groups at Starbucks, an annual Halloween bash, a field trip to Books-a-Million with grant funds slated for YA materials to select and buy books of their own choosing (with a little librarian vetting), and active recruiting of new members to

take up the mantle when the current members go off to college.

(Continued on page 4, Arma City Library)



Becky's View

by Becky Parker



I am not a techie person. I can get around my computer but that's about it. I don't download music, movies or games. In fact, I don't know how. I find I am not alone, being of the generation of 8 track players, VHS movies and Atari, Space Invaders and Pac Man. In those days, after putting the (tape, cassette, game) into the player, or dropping your quarter, you could just start playing. But first you had to go to the store or library and buy or borrow them. Now with instant everything you can lie in bed and play any game, watch any movie or even shop, with only your cell phone and a credit card. I find myself in the dark when it comes to the terminology and technology to use any of these devices.

But since the talking book went digital I have HAD to learn some of this stuff, and it's not as foreign as I thought. I predict that with the *Bible* available for download, we will see more and more talking book patrons coming into libraries to download the *Bible* if they don't download anything else. The old cassette talking book of the *Bible* was 24 cassettes. Now with the digital

format, all 79 hours and 2 minutes will be on one flash drive. Listeners will no longer be switching sides or switching tapes and messing with buttons. I can visit your library to demonstrate how easy it is to download the new digital audiobooks. I encourage you to learn how this new machine and downloading work. That way when someone comes into your library to download a new book and needs help, you will be the techie person at the library.



I can visit your library to demonstrate how easy it is to download the new digital audiobooks

(continued from p. 3, Arma City Library)

I started off with a sad YA section and a fear and loathing of teen programming. I needed but did not want teens in "my" library. Now I look back and wonder what in the name of Stephanie

Meyer I ever did without them! They've brought fun and fresh life into the library and supplied me with a whole new world of authors to read and enjoy. I love my teens.

AROUND THE SYSTEM

The teens are not afraid of touching the keyboard buttons and don't worry about messing anything up

Since I have become the new librarian in **Prescott**, Kansas, we have had an increase in computer users and many have been older adults. These adults are ages 60 and above. They are very interested in learning the Internet, especially to send mail to family members and using Facebook to keep in touch with loved ones and friends.

I have also had quite a few of the teenagers in town come in to use the computers, for the same reasons. We have five computers available to the public, all in one area (in a straight row) so everyone sits together. What is so great is the teens helping the older adults on the computers.

The teens are not afraid of touching the keyboard buttons and don't worry about messing anything up, while the older adults are afraid to touch anything. They all watch each other and

learn from each other. Then the older adults ask the teens questions and I see the teens leaning over, helping them out. The way they talk to each other is so polite; it is a great thing to watch.

I sit back and wait for any of them to ask me for help, and many times they get everything figured out between the two of them. Also I have learned a lot from the teens myself!

These patrons are also learning each other's names and greet each other as they walk in. And I bet they do that when they see each other on the streets of our little town too. Many of the same people come by on a regular basis. Our library is not just for checking out books. We use it as one of our socializing places to meet. And this librarian never says Shhhhhh.

by Ginny Clarke



The SEKLS competitive grant this year will be for collection development. Watch for more information soon, especially for workshops to help you learn how to submit a successful grant to SEKLS!

Governor Mark Parkinson has made the following appointment to the Southeast Kansas Library System:

Ms. Vicki Hay (succeeds Beth Clarke)

Yates Center, KS

Term Expiration Date :6/30/2013

Sandy's Corner

by Sandy Wilkerson



I finished **23 things Kansas**. Shout it from the rooftops--I finished! It was a positive experience. Not all the lessons were positive for me, but as a whole it was a positive experience. I liked the learning style; it kept me motivated and it kept my interest. The program can still be accessed and used. You can start at any time. I would encourage you to consider this program if you are interested in learning more about the internet and social media programs used today. I learned lots and compiled a list for you.

1. Google Apps keep me organized: I love Google Reader to keep up with other blogs.
2. Shelfari is addictive, I love it!
3. Facebook is a huge animal: a great way to meet your patrons where they are hanging out.
4. I am not a good tagger. I always forget...even when I use Delicious.com...I am horrible!
5. Starting a blog is easy. Keeping it current takes dedication
6. I like Jing! Wasn't sure I would. I do. What a way to teach where the learners are.
7. Online meetings save time and travel!
8. Photosharing is a great way to share photos with Grandmas.
9. Instant messaging is real time chat. It is also a time drain if used irresponsibly.
10. Editing a wiki is no big thing
11. Archived webinars are wonderful. You don't have to miss any CE topics offered.
12. Cloud computing makes my job easier, no matter where I am.
13. Sharing a document on Google is easy: all users get the info... and did I mention easy?
14. Creating a new account for all the new products is easy if I can use the same password.
15. Even the easy stuff took a couple tries before I understood what was happening.
16. It takes time to stay informed on new technology. It is not play time, it is learning
17. Using IRC channels to communicate is not bad when there are many people to talk with.
18. I don't twitter, still don't twitter, not sure I will ever twitter, but I did try it.
19. Slide sharing is like Power Point, only better. It is on the web, meaning accessible to you wherever you surf.
20. YouTube is huge. You can watch anything, anytime. And some of that stuff is funny!
21. A blog just is a journal or diary. A microblog answers the question "what are you doing" in 140 characters or less, aka Twitter.
22. Lifelong learning takes time, I have to make time to expand my horizons.
23. It's not as scary as I thought, and a lot more fun.

It takes time to stay informed on new technology. It is not play time, it is learning



23 Things Kansas

6th Annual Kansas Reads to Preschoolers

Local libraries play a big role in early childhood reading and are instrumental to the success of Kansas Reads to Preschoolers.

The State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Center for the Book proudly announces *Up, Down and Around* by Katherine Ayres as the selection for the Sixth Annual Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week. Kansas First Lady Stacy Parkinson will serve as honorary chair for the special week, Nov. 14-20, 2010. "Reading to our children is a great way to spur their imagination and help establish a life-long love of learning," said First Lady Parkinson. "I am honored to serve as the chair of this effort, and I encourage every adult to take time to read to a child."

State Librarian Jo Budler explained, "a child develops language skills before he or she is able to speak, and they develop literary skills long before they can begin to read. So much learning capacity occurs in a child's first three years that it is imperative that we read to every baby, toddler, and preschooler."

The 2010 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week will focus on food, nutrition and where our food comes from, which is why *Up, Down and Around* is the statewide book selection. Local libraries play a big role in early childhood reading and are instrumental to the success of Kansas Reads to Preschoolers. Librar-

ies all over the state will plan special displays of food and nutrition-related books, schedule activities, organize pre-school story hours, and invite participation by various food and nutrition professionals. It's estimated that during the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week, more than 20,000 Kansas preschoolers will be read to by parents, grandparents, children's librarians, mayors, elected officials, middle and high school students and many, many others.

More information on the program, including ideas for activities and crafts for teachers, parents, and caregivers are being developed for the website: <http://www.kcfb.info>. More information about the book and author can be found at: <http://www.katherineayres.com/updown.html>

The Kansas Center for the Book is a state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. As a program of the State Library of Kansas since 2005, the Center's role is to promote Kansas books, authors, libraries, booksellers, publishers, and the book community, and to foster awareness of literacy and the literary heritage of the state. For more information, visit our website: <http://www.kcfb.info>.

We usually think of the ISBN number as a unique identifier for a book, but:

Publishers have been reusing ISBNs for a number of years now. So when searching your local catalog or OCLC, make certain you conduct a thorough search. A thorough search is more than an ISBN search. It is a title search; an author search; a title/author search. If the ISBN matches and brings up a record, this does not mean the record it brought up is a match to your item. If the ISBN doesn't bring up a record, this does not mean there isn't a match for your item. Match points include author, title, publisher, date, and edition.

Quoted from the Illinois State Library

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SEKLS Calendar

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| June | 16 | Everyday Ethics webinar with Pat Wagner, Wimba |
| | 21—25 | Story Teller Tour: Jim Two-Crows |
| | 23 | Directors' service project at Cedar Vale Library |
| | 24—29 | ALA annual conference in Washington, D. C. |
| | 30 | Using Microsoft Publisher Workshop, Allen CC |
| July | 4 | Independence Day |
| | 6 | SEKLS grants workshops, Eureka & Garnett |
| | 8 | Using Microsoft Publisher Workshop, Independence CC |
| Aug | 13 | Executive Board |
| | 20 | SEKnFind Users —Garnett |
| | 26 | Summer Reading Wrap-Up—Pittsburg Public |