

# Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department  
for Libraries and Archives

October 2009

## In This Issue

[Kentucky Archives Month  
Observed 2009](#)

[Trustee Tip](#)

[Lexington Public Library  
Teams Up With WUKY-FM](#)

[Online at 89: Seniors Improve  
Quality of Life Through the  
Internet](#)

[Local Records Program  
Dedicated to Preserving  
Permanent Records](#)

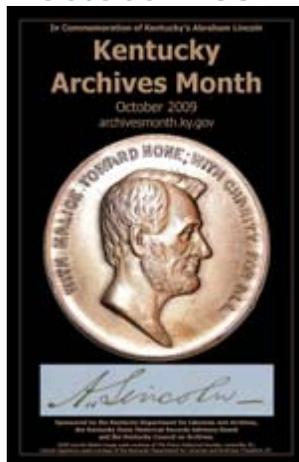
[A New Address: Mary Wood  
Weldon Memorial Library  
Friends of Kentucky Libraries,  
Inc.](#)

[Project Idea Comes From  
Book](#)

[Summer Reading Programs:  
Battling Summer Learning  
Loss and Building Community  
Connections](#)

[Successful Program Leads to  
Full-Time Young Adult  
Programmer Position](#)

## Kentucky Archives Month Observed October 2009



By Valerie Edgeworth  
Librarian, KDLA

## Local Records Program Dedicated to Preserving Permanent Records

By Jerry Carlton  
Public Records Branch Manager, KDLA

The Local Records Program is a branch within the Public Records Division at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). The program was established in 1984 by the passage of the House Bill 26 which provided funding through a two dollar increase in the legal process tax collected by County Clerks for the recording of legal instruments in their offices.

The program was the first of its kind in the nation and has been copied by many other states. The program is dedicated to the preservation of the permanent records maintained by local government agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

In addition, the program provides records management guidance to those agencies. Local Records Program staff serve all 120 county governments, 426 incorporated cities, 174 school districts (1,243 schools), special districts, fire and police departments and other local agencies.

All local government agencies may apply for grants to improve the management and preservation of their local records. For over 25 years the Local Records Program has granted funds to local government agencies in excess of \$16,000,000. [Read more...](#)

## A New Address: Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library

By Martha Nell Thomas  
Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library

Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library's Board of Trustees had a busy year in 2008. The Board received a grant that allowed for the purchase of property with a beautiful facility, which had formerly been a bank. After examining the possibility of maintaining both properties, which would have brought Glasgow's square footage closer to state-recommended standards for public libraries, the Board



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### Trustee Tip

By Paul M. Poland  
President, Scott County Board of Trustees  
[ppoland@roadrunner.com](mailto:ppoland@roadrunner.com)

Ever had the urge to attend the Kentucky Public Library Association/Kentucky Library Trustees Round Table Spring Conference (KPLA/KLTRT) but just didn't have the money in the library budget to do so? Maybe you would like to go but the economy has put a hold on all extras at your library.

Well...do I have good news for YOU!

The KLTRT is going to award one scholarship of up to \$500 to attend the spring conference in Bowling Green, Kentucky next year (2010.) [Read more...](#)

### Lexington Public Library Teams Up With WUKY-FM

concluded that this was not fiscally feasible. A Phase I and Phase II proposal for the renovation of the new property was prepared by Chris Cottongim, an architect with 5253 Design Group of Louisville.

The Library Board held two forums in recent years to gauge public opinion of the library's services and to help determine the library's future role in the Glasgow-Barren County community. [Read more...](#)

**Photo: The open, airy environment and warm color scheme of the new library have been well received by Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library's customers.**

### Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

By Judith Gibbons



Kentucky has a revitalized statewide support group called Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc. This organization plans to advocate on behalf of our public libraries at the local, state and national level. Kentucky's Friends also want to encourage the formation of local Friends of the Library groups and to help support and strengthen those currently in place.

The Friends have accomplished much in a short period of time. This spring, a determined group met in Scott County to spearhead efforts in support of the Commonwealth's public libraries. Over twenty individuals attended the gathering or participated via conference call. A steering committee was established to coordinate organizational and logistical efforts. [Read more...](#)

### Project Idea Comes From Book

by Jennifer Nippert  
Director, Owen County Public Library

As with many good things, it all started with reading a book.

I was a new library director in 2007, new to libraries and new to the community where I was working. Some fellow library directors were chatting on the listserv about a book about creating engaged communities, so I thought I'd order it and check it out. The book was The Great Neighborhood Book, by Jay Walljasper. It is a collection of short vignettes about towns and cities worldwide, where citizens have taken matters into their own hands and made good things happen, instead of allowing decay and



By Doug Tattershall  
Lexington Public Library

The Lexington Public Library and WUKY-FM will begin monthly book discussions of books by on-air National Public Radio personalities, starting with a discussion of Geoffrey Nunberg's *Going Nuclear: Language, Politics, and Culture in Controversial Times*.

The new NPR Book Club will meet to discuss Nunberg's book at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Tates Creek Branch. Nunberg is a language commentator for the NPR program, Fresh Air. [Read more...](#)

### Online at 89: Seniors Improve Quality of Life Through the Internet



By Martha Nell Thomas  
Mary Wood Weldon Memorial  
Library

Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library, the Glasgow-Barren County community's public library, began the program "Bridging the Gap: You've Got Mail" in 2008 with the help of a state grant. The programming grant was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library

disconnection to prevail.

On a two page spread, there were pictures of benches in Zurich, Switzerland, one tiled in multiple colors, one sketched with a city skyline, and even one with flower planters affixed to the sides. In each bench people were seated, laughing and talking.

I thought to myself..."And why not Owenton?"  
[Read more...](#)

**Photo: The stone bench in front of the Owen County Public Library symbolizes an invitation to stop and have a conversation.**

## Summer Reading Program: Battling Summer Learning Loss and Building Community Connections

By Patricia A. Richards  
Kenton County Public Library

Summertime...and the 2009 Summer Reading Program...have both drawn to a close. This year, 141,499 children (birth-18 years) signed up for summer reading across the Commonwealth. Everyone can take a collective sigh of relief and rest up over the next nine months, before it all begins again, right? Wrong! If you wait to begin planning for summer reading in the spring, you will have missed a far greater opportunity to reach more children and families than just creating programs and ordering prizes. Planning summer reading is much more than the standard public library litany, it is an important opportunity to go out into your community and connect with many others who have contact with children on a daily basis, especially those who may be underserved, as well as possibly underachieving.

As many know, the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Missouri, have spent the better part of the last twenty years researching *summer learning loss* and the results are conclusive...  
[Read more...](#)

## Successful Program Leads to Full-Time Young Adult Programmer Position

by Annesse Williams  
Director, Muhlenberg County Public Libraries

In December 2007 I attended an excellent community workshop, Bridges Out of Poverty. Then, the tornado of

Services and administered by the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The program's purpose was to introduce senior citizens to the various life-enriching opportunities offered by computers and the Internet. [Read more...](#)

**Photo: A participant of the popular program "You've Got Mail" works at a computer**

## 2009 Public Archives Symposium

KDLA and the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives are proud to announce that the 21st Annual Public Archives Symposium will be held at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill on October 29, 2009. For details, please check the [KDLA web site](#).

## KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives would like to welcome the following new trustees:

- Polly Reynolds, Daviess County
- Dr. Jonathan Carroll, Daviess County
- Debra Taylor, Hancock County
- Barbara Webb, Menifee County
- Mary Marshall, Russell County

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

January 2008 struck and several dedicated Muhlenberg County citizens started the Muhlenberg County Long-Term Disaster Recovery, Inc.

One of those involved in both of these projects developed a slide program with the song *Do Something* by the Eagles as background. The words of this song combined with our county's experiences of the previous few months created the name for our Muhlenberg County Public Libraries' new Young Adult program: The Do Something Club, because a common complaint that we hear is "There's nothing to do!"

The Do Something Club was incorporated into our Long-Range Plan for activities for FY 2008-2009. Using local funds, we began with two programs each month (one on a Saturday and one on a Monday evening) for October 2008 - May 2009. [Read more...](#)

## Archival Photo of the Month



Parkway Field, Louisville, Kentucky. April 1938

WPA Photo Collection, Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives provides equitable access to quality library and information resources and services, as well as helps public agencies ensure that legislatively mandated documentation of government programs is created, efficiently maintained and made readily accessible. For more information, visit <http://www.kdla.ky.gov> or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

Please send questions, comments and story ideas for Libraries & Archives Monthly to editor Paige Sexton at [paige.sexton@ky.gov](mailto:paige.sexton@ky.gov) or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

# Article Continuations ONLY Beyond This Point

## Local Records Program Dedicated to Preserving Permanent Records

The Local Records Program is a branch within the Public Records Division at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA). The Program was established in 1984 by the passage of House Bill 26 which provided funding through a two dollar increase in the legal process tax collected by County Clerks for the recording of legal instruments in their offices.

The Program was the first of its kind in the nation and has been copied by many other states. The Program is dedicated to the preservation of the permanent records maintained by local government agencies throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, the Program provides records management guidance to those agencies. Local Records Program staff serve all 120 county governments, 426 incorporated cities, 174 school districts (1,243 schools), special districts, fire and police departments and other local agencies.

All local government agencies may apply for grants to improve the management and preservation of their records. For over 25 years the Local Records Program has granted funds to local government agencies in excess of \$16,000,000. Much of this has been for security microfilming of permanent records; there are over 60,000 rolls of security microfilm stored in a vault within the State Archives. Also, funds have been used for records conservation, improving storage conditions, establishing local archives, purchasing new technologies such as automated indexing and digital imaging services and conversion from paper to digital format.

The program also provides direct services through four regional administrators who are positioned throughout the state. They provide records management guidance not only for paper records but for electronic and digital records as well. Additionally, they provide records management and disaster preparedness and recovery training.

[Return to top of page](#)

## Kentucky Archives Month Observed October 2009

Kentucky Archives Month is planned for October 2009, in conjunction with American Archives Month. This year the Commonwealth of Kentucky will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln was born on Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County (present day LaRue County), Ky.

Records of Lincoln, his family and Mary Todd Lincoln's family are preserved and made available in numerous archives, special collections, libraries and other repositories

across the state.

"This documentary legacy is a rich resource for all Kentuckians that enhances our understanding of our shared historical experience and is of lasting benefit to this and future generations," said Wayne Onkst, state librarian and commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

Almost 300 archival and manuscript repositories in Kentucky hold archival records that document the history of the Commonwealth. Their holdings include personal papers, photographs, Bibles, diaries, letters and government records, such as marriage certificates and wills. Many of these institutions are hosting special programs, open houses, exhibits and speakers to highlight historical materials available for research in Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories, all listed on the Kentucky Archives Month web site (<http://archivesmonth.ky.gov>).

"We invite everyone to join in the fun of Archives Month and plan an activity or event this year to celebrate Kentucky's rich archival heritage," said Onkst.

The Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) will present a Certificate of Merit to commemorate Kentucky Archives Month. Charles Castner, retired employee of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and long-standing volunteer at the University of Louisville Archives, will be honored with a Certificate of Merit for Notable Service to and Advocacy of Archives by a private person.

Kentucky Archives Month is sponsored by the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Kentucky Council on Archives, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. For further information, call (502)564-8300 x. 246.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **A New Address: Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library**

Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library's Board of Trustees had a busy year in 2008. The Board received a grant that allowed for the purchase of property with a beautiful facility, which had formerly been a bank. After examining the possibility of maintaining both properties, which would have brought Glasgow's square footage closer to state-recommended standards for public libraries, the Board concluded that this was not fiscally feasible. A Phase I and Phase II proposal for the renovation of the new property was prepared by Chris Cottongim, an architect with 5253 Design Group of Louisville.

The Library Board held two forums in recent years to gauge public opinion of the library's services and to help determine the library's future role in the Glasgow-Barren County community. During the most recent forum, held in 2008, Mr. Cottongim shared the Phase I and Phase II plans for the future renovation. Financial representatives were on hand at this forum to answer any questions from the community about that aspect of the renovation project. The Board also informed the community that, because of the current level of funding, only the Phase I plan was currently possible.

Lynn Andrew took the reins as new library director in December 2008, and the rebirth process began. Sunbelt Construction of Bowling Green was awarded the bid for renovation of the 14,000 square foot facility. The new building opened on July 6, 2009. It was an exciting and busy time during the first month as unprecedented numbers used the library.

This property offers many opportunities to enhance delivery of library services to the public while retaining some favorite aspects of the old facility. The entrance of the new building features an Internet cafe complete with a coffee bar constructed from an antique circulation desk. A drive-through book pick-up window provides further ease of access for the public. A large screen projection and surround sound system in the library's meeting room affords new program possibilities.

The new facility further differs from the old building by offering a more open and airy environment through the windows lining the entire building. The community has commented favorably on this aspect and on the warm, welcoming color scheme. The first level features the main circulation desk, new publications, DVDs, and the youth services department. Avalon School of Glass created four unique stained glass panels, entitled "Knowledge," that are mounted behind the circulation desk. An open staircase was added to reach the lower level of the building, which houses the adult services department, a quiet reading room, and the periodical reading room. The new facility almost doubled the number of computers.

The universally positive public response has renewed Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library's purpose and goals for the future. The library staff frequently hears customers comment "This is like a library found in a big city, it's so nice." It has also been most gratified by the Glasgow-Barren County community's amazement and obvious pride in the new library, and entertained by repeated attempts by individuals to deposit money at the drive-thru window. As Wendell Ford once said in a quote prominently displayed and taken to heart at the new facility, "If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are the banks."

[Return to top of page](#)

## Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

Kentucky has a revitalized statewide support group called Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc. This organization plans to advocate on behalf of our public libraries at the local, state and national level. Kentucky's Friends also want to encourage the formation of local Friends of the Library groups and to help support and strengthen those currently in place.

The Friends have accomplished much in a short period of time. This spring, a determined group met in Scott County to spearhead efforts in support of the Commonwealth's public libraries. Over twenty individuals attended the gathering or participated via conference call. A Steering Committee was established to coordinate organizational and logistical efforts. Members of the Steering Committee include:

**Carol Baughman**, former Paul Sawyer Public Library Board Member (Franklin County) and Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Children and Youth Services Consultant, Retired; **John Clark**, former Lexington Public Library Board Member; **Mary Lynn Collins**, Trustee, Paul Sawyer Public Library (Franklin County) and former Friends President; **Lance Farris**, Friends Vice-President of Muhlenberg County Public Library; **Judith Gibbons**, former Woodford County Library Friends President and Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Field Services Division Director, Retired; **Theo Leverenz**, Friends President of Scott County Public Library; **Jean Lucas**, Friends President of Warren County Public Library; **Nelda Moore**, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Regional Consultant, Retired; **Jane Pfarner**, Friends President of Kenton County Public Library; **Cathy Snell**, Friends of

Louisville Free Public Library; and **Jim Stoops**, Trustee of William B. Harlan Memorial Library (Monroe County) and former Friends President.

**Wayne Onkst**, State Librarian and Commissioner and **Paul Poland**, Chair of the Kentucky Library Trustee Roundtable are ex officio steering committee members.

Officers include Mary Lynn Collins, President; Judith Gibbons, Vice-President, Carol Baughman, Secretary and John Clark, Treasurer.

Newly established committees include: Advocacy chaired by Lance Ferris, Membership chaired by Nelda Moore, Mentoring chaired by Jane Pfarner and Annual Meeting chaired by Jean Lucas. A Kentucky Book Fair Subcommittee is chaired by Cathy Snell.

After the initial meeting, President Collins commented, "In the current economic climate, our public libraries are even more important to our communities, and in turn, our public libraries need even more support to meet new challenges. Our 21st century libraries need powerful citizen advocates - Trustees and Friends."

The Steering Committee meets monthly. An upcoming project is publicizing Friends of Libraries Week in the Commonwealth. Governor Steve Beshear signed a proclamation announcing that Friends of Libraries Week is October 18-24. The document reads:

*Whereas, the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky recognize the importance of public libraries; and*

*Whereas, public libraries offer a wide array of free services, including access to print and electronic materials, expert assistance in research, reading programs and special events for adults and children, job hunting assistance, and health information services; and*

*Whereas, at least 47 of our counties have Friends of the Library chapters to help public libraries supplement resources by providing funds and volunteers to better meet their missions; and*

*Whereas, in recognition of the important contribution Friends make to their libraries, a statewide Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc. was established to advocate for public libraries, encourage formation of new Friends of Libraries chapters, and support existing chapters; and*

*Whereas, the gift of time and commitment to Kentucky libraries by Friends of the Library chapters sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our communities; and*

*Whereas, proclaiming a Friends of Libraries Week in the Commonwealth of Kentucky will provide a positive example and influence to encourage Kentuckians to join existing Friends of Library chapters or to establish new chapters;*

Now, therefore, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim October 18-24, 2009 as

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY WEEK in Kentucky.

Local Friends chapters are also celebrating Friends Week. A sample template courtesy of The Friends of Scott County Public Library gives suggested wording for a county or city proclamation.

The Friends plan to be very visible at many venues in the upcoming months in order to recruit new members and share information. A website is under development. Volunteers are needed to staff a booth at the Kentucky Library Association Conference on Thursday, October 1 and also attend the Kentucky Book Fair on November 7. The time for both events will be from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Recruitment announcements are on the KYLIBFRIENDS discussion list.

All Kentucky Friends are encouraged to join KYLIBFRIENDS. This is an on-line discussion group for members of Kentucky public libraries friends. Please sign up for this list and encourage other library Friends to join also. There are very few posting but this is a very easy and inexpensive way for Kentucky Friends members to communicate.

To sign up, go to [http://listserv.ky.gov/read/all\\_forums/](http://listserv.ky.gov/read/all_forums/)

You will see an alphabetical list of discussion groups. Click 'show more' at the bottom of the page. Scroll down until you see 'kylibfriends'. Click 'subscribe' at the far right side of the line. Follow all prompts to enter your e-mail address and subscription preferences. You will receive an email confirmation of your membership.

At a time when the resources provided by libraries are urgently needed by Kentuckians, we have the opportunity to strengthen the service library users' desire and deserve. Working together, Kentucky's local and state Friends chapters are valuable partners in public library development.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **Project Idea Comes From Book**

As with many good things, it all started with reading a book.

I was a new library director in 2007, new to libraries and new to the community where I was working. Some fellow library directors were chatting on the listserv about a book about creating engaged communities, so I thought I'd order it and check it out. The book was [The Great Neighborhood Book](#), by Jay Walljasper. It is a collection of short vignettes about towns and cities worldwide, where citizens have taken matters into their own hands and made good things happen, instead of allowing decay and disconnection to prevail. On a two page spread, there were pictures of benches in Zurich, Switzerland, one tiled in multiple colors, one sketched with a city skyline, and even one with flower planters affixed to the sides. In each bench people were seated, laughing and talking.

I thought to myself, "And why not Owenton?"

In my first few weeks of work, I spent many hours at the front desk. You can see quite a bit from the desk in our 4,600 square foot library. I did not grow up in a small town, and I was delighted to see how many people came into the library just to visit and catch up with neighbors. This was juxtaposed by the empty downtown storefronts just a block away from the library, places that I am sure served the same social purposes years ago, but are no longer in use. I came to realize how precious these every day connections could be, as I learned my way around the community, to make bigger things happen for the library and the county, down the road. Those empty storefronts reminded me that these opportunities to make face to face connections were growing

endangered, just where it seemed natural for them to flourish. What we obviously had coming into the library needed to be advertised, nurtured and shared.

Celebrating this year's summer reading theme, "Be Creative at Your Library," produced just the right atmosphere to put my thoughts into action. We had worked with Al and Penny Nelson of Nelstone Carvers in Louisville during a previous library program and wanted to invite them to return for our summer reading activities, when we have the highest attendance level of the year. The Nelsons' approach to workshops includes participation by large groups of people, creating group ownership, while still allowing the final product to be personalized. As a final touch, each participant takes away a souvenir piece of stone that is fashioned into a keychain or necklace.

Putting the bench at the front entrance of the library symbolized an invitation to stop and have a conversation with someone. Putting symbols of our vision for the library was an added bonus, and would give us a chance to be creative together. We could also hope that community peer pressure might squelch any temptation to vandalize the bench, as it sits facing Main Street, the most traveled road through town.

Picking out the symbols for the bench was a great exercise for me to learn how the staff views our mission. What came out of the brainstorming process were three important elements: 1) we are a "door to lifelong learning," 2) we are proud of our rural heritage, and 3) we like seeing people and things grow. We translated those thoughts into images of an opening door, a sun rising over fields and a tree whose roots are growing out of an open book. We were thrilled when Al and Penny said they were going to be able to make our sketches a reality.

When the day came to do the carving, heavy rain and possible tornadoes definitely cut down on the number of attendees, but we nevertheless had many library users and their families take part in carving out the main portion of the bench. I hope that in the future those children will bring their children to the library and sit with them in the bench that they helped to carve. Maybe we'll even see some other benches spring up around downtown. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **Summer Reading Program: Battling Summer Learning Loss and Building Community Connections**

Summertime...and the 2009 Summer Reading Program...have both drawn to a close. This year, 141,499 children (birth-18 years) signed up for the Summer Reading Program across the Commonwealth. Everyone can take a collective sigh of relief and rest up over the next nine months, before it all begins again, right? Wrong! If you wait to begin planning for summer reading in the spring, you will have missed a far greater opportunity to reach more children and families than just creating programs and ordering prizes. Planning summer reading is much more than the standard public library litany, it is an important opportunity to go out into your community and connect with many others who have contact with children on a daily basis, especially those who may be underserved, as well as possibly underachieving.

As many may know, the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Missouri have spent the better part of the last twenty years researching *summer learning loss* and the results are conclusive...children experience learning losses when they are not engaged in educational activities during the

summer; low-income youth typically suffer from a 2-3 month reading loss; teachers typically spend 4-6 weeks re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer; research clearly showed that students scored lower on standardized tests at the end of summer than they did on the same tests given prior to the beginning of summer break; and, "a summer loss of 3 months accumulates to become a gap of 18 months by the end of 6th grade". By middle school, summer reading loss produces a cumulative lag of two or more years in reading achievement, even when effective instruction during the school year is available. On the positive side, students who participated in summer reading programs after Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades were less likely to be retained in future years.

What you may not know is that in 2002 the Academy for Educational Development at Johns Hopkins conducted a survey of parents and found that 43% of them just wanted their kids to relax and have fun during their summer break. While relaxation and fun are definitely on anyone's to do list for summer, public libraries can be at the forefront toward ensuring that summer fun won't become a fall back in learning for many children. Establishing the foundation for this begins in the fall and continues throughout the year with public library staff making contact and collaborating with school and community members who are stakeholders, as well as partners, in a viable and successful future for the local and world community. The more public library staff is active within the community, the more opportunities to promote and grow literacy will become evident.

Some simple (although not always easy) ways to achieve this are:

- Arrange personal visits to schools in your service area to meet the school librarian, principal, literacy coaches and Title I teachers, thereby establishing a professional relationship
- Explain the public library's mission for providing services to the school and ask to attend faculty meetings to discuss skills, experience, and resources the library can offer to faculty and staff
- Attend school functions: Readifests, PTA meetings and Parent Night/Open House events are all good opportunities to pass out library information and meet families
- Arts based centers or private foundations can offer the following: Artists to teach classes in various disciplines and possible space for classes/programs when the library is unable to provide them
- Take the show on the road by utilizing books and programming out in the community
- Identify and contact businesses interested in becoming literacy partners; set aside a time for meeting and planning collaborative activities; identify and cultivate those with resources that may be interested in offering financial assistance for literacy programs
- Business partners might be interested in lending staff personal time for volunteer community service in literacy/arts based library events for children and/or families
- Community centers also provide good partnership possibilities: tie in with community center activities to reach more families
- Become a familiar figure at community events in order for citizens, school personnel, and community officials to recognize the importance of the public library and what it brings to the community

Many are already out there doing some, if not all, of the things listed here. Just know that cultivation of your community will raise awareness of a public library's impact toward a viable community, along with creating opportunities to reach more children

and youth throughout the entire year, and especially during the summer months. The foundation public libraries build today may help to make the difference in breaking the cycle of summer learning loss for the many and not just the few.

[Return to top of page](#)

## Trustee Tip

Ever had the urge to attend the Kentucky Public Library Association/Kentucky Library Trustees Round Table Spring Conference (KPLA/KLTRT) but just didn't have the money in the library budget to do so? Maybe you would like to go but the economy has put a hold on all extras at your library.

Well...do I have good news for YOU!

The KLTRT is going to award one scholarship up to \$500 to attend the spring conference in Bowling Green, Kentucky next year (2010.) It will be given as a reimbursement after the conference with submitted receipts. The money can be used for conference registration, mileage, hotel expenses and meals. Depending on where you live, the scholarship could possibly cover the vast majority, if not all, of your expenses to attend a great State Conference...OUR conference.

KDLA Regional Consultants will be promoting the scholarship for the next several months at their Board of Trustees' meetings. Or, you can go to the KLA web site: search Kentucky Library Association - click "Divisions" - then click "Round Tables" - then click "Trustees." The scholarship application will be there. You will need to print the application and mail it to the appropriate address by the stated deadline and maybe you'll be the lucky winner!

I do hope many of our Public Library Trustees apply for the scholarship and I also hope to see many of our Trustees at the spring conference, even if they aren't awarded the scholarship. It is well worth the dollars and time plus it's a great opportunity to meet and greet a lot of good people with the same passion and interest as you. Feel free to contact me personally if you have any questions regarding the scholarship or the conference:

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[Return to top of page](#)

## Lexington Public Library Teams Up With WUKY-FM

The Lexington Public Library and WUKY-FM will begin monthly book discussions of books by on-air National Public Radio personalities, starting with a discussion of Geoffrey Nunberg's *Going Nuclear: Language, Politics, and Culture in Controversial Times*.

The new NPR Book Club will meet to discuss Nunberg's book at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Tates Creek Branch. Nunberg is a language commentator for the NPR

program, Fresh Air. *Going Nuclear* is described by its publisher as a collection of feisty and humorous essays in which Nunberg "cracks the codes embedded in many familiar terms used in media, business, technology and politics to reveal unexpected insights about America's fractious society."

The book club will meet the second Tuesday of each month, rotating library locations. Librarians from each location have volunteered to lead the discussions at their particular branches and have helped assemble book discussion kits for each title. Participating librarians will be interviewed on the radio station prior to their particular book discussions.

Scheduled book discussions include:

- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, Beaumont Branch - *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, Central Library - *Uncivilized Beasts and Shameless Hellions: Travels with an NPR Correspondent* by John Burnett
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, Tates Creek Branch - *When You Are Engulfed in Flames* by David Sedaris
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, Beaumont Branch - *Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba* by Tom Gjelten
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, Central Library - *The Years of Talking Dangerously* by Geoffrey Numberg

[Return to top of page](#)

## Successful Program Leads to Full-Time Young Adult Programmer Position

In December 2007 I attended an excellent community program, Bridges Out of Poverty. Then, the tornado of January 2008 struck, and several dedicated Muhlenberg County citizens started the Muhlenberg County Long-Term Disaster Recovery, Inc.

One of those involved in both of these projects developed a slide program with the song *Do Something* by the Eagles as background. The words of this song, combined with our county's experiences of the previous few months, created the name for our Muhlenberg County Public Libraries' new Young Adult program: The Do Something Club, because a common complaint that we hear is "There's nothing to do!"

The Do Something Club was incorporated into our Long-Range Plan for activities for FY 2008-2009. Using local funds, we began with two programs each month (one on a Saturday and one on a Monday evening) for October 2008 - May 2009.

Topics in the program included: Harpist Timbre Cierpke from Nashville, Salsa Dancing taught by Louisville's Angela Bartley, putting together a world jigsaw puzzle, Wii Fit and Rock Band video gaming, podcasting "A Day in the Life of a Muhlenberg County Teenager," making Christmas treats in the kitchen and taking them to the residents of a nearby assisted living apartment complex, and stone carvers Al and Penny Nelson.

The best attended was the Salsa dancing, because a few adults insisted on coming and were absolutely thrilled. After they learned their dance, they performed at the assisted living apartment complex. The most popular with the targeted age group were the stone carving program (which yielded a pair of bookends for both library locations and

every participant was able to make a small book or other object from stone scraps for a keychain) and So You Want to Be an Actor. At each program we served refreshments (usually pizza or pizza rolls), had a drawing for a \$10.00 Chamber of Commerce gift certificate good at over 50 local businesses, and had the participants do something for someone else - write a thank you note, share treats, or a similar activity. Attendance ranged from two or three to 10-12 participants. Program evaluations filled out by the participants were positive. Surprisingly, they were least interested in the video gaming programs and stated that they didn't really need those. The programs were developed and planned by the library director, but were generally executed by the young man who is our system administrator and a very new part-time, but very enthusiastic library clerk/programming assistant.

As a result of this experimental year, the Long-Range Planning Committee recommended that this program be continued, targeting ages 11-15, and creating a full-time young adult programmer position. The board adopted these recommendations and budgeted for the additional position. The library clerk/programming assistant is now the full-time youth programmer and working on her certification. Programs are being held once a month. The system administrator is relieved not to be responsible for programming other than computer classes, although he is always available to help with technology based programs.

The Fall 2009 programs are: Watercolors with artist Jan Anderson, Harvest Hoedown with Zeke and Ramsey, Self-Defense (Martial Arts), and Decorating Holiday Treats with Megan McCombs.

[Return to top of page](#)

## **Online at 89: Seniors Improve Quality of Life Through the Internet**

Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library, the Glasgow-Barren County community's public library, began the program "Bridging the Gap: You've Got Mail" in 2008 with the help of a state grant. The programming grant was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The program's purpose was to introduce senior citizens to the various life-enriching opportunities offered by computers and the Internet. This outreach was designed to offer senior citizens the opportunity to learn computer skills and utilize the library's resources in a familiar setting. In less than a year, this program has seen significant success in reaching senior citizens through basic computer education and use of the Internet. Glasgow resident Ted Winbigler expressed his newly acquired skill as "Online at 89!"

Three locations were selected for the program: Highland Ridge Assisted Living Facility, the Glasgow Recreation Department's Senior Citizen Center, and the Housing Authority's Senior Citizen and Community Center. Classes were planned at each location, and students started with a mouse tutorial, which they could access anytime for practice. Books were purchased for reference and review notebooks were compiled for individual students. One location voiced a concern that the books would intimidate their residents, so it chose not to use them; another location's students used the books successfully. Bookmobile stops were added for the two locations that did not have a stop.

Highland Ridge Assisted Living Facility was the program's poster child for success.

Prior to classes beginning, the activity director promoted the program in their newsletter, and "talked it up" with residents. A breakthrough with residents came when Mr. Winbigler, one of the first students, embraced this new challenge and helped fellow residents with their skills. The activity director said that this opportunity came at a wonderful time, as Mr. Winbigler had just given up driving. His introduction to the Internet provided him with an opportunity to share photos with fellow residents about a World War II reunion.

Setting up email accounts was the next challenge, as residents sometimes forgot their account names. The solution was a record of accounts kept by the activity director. Mr. Winbigler now communicates through email with his four children, who are scattered throughout the United States. Residents are enjoying photos of their grandchildren and communication via email. Some residents who have not taken the classes have family bring up their accounts and share photos and messages. Others check the library's online book catalog. This computer use has met the program's goals by enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Highland Ridge Assisted Living.

The other locations had successes as well, with one student who has Parkinson's disease managing the use of the mouse, search engines, and typing brief messages. Another lady in her late seventies practices her letter writing skills on the computer to help in her duties as a secretary of an organization. She now visits the library at least once a week, brings her practice book, and recently utilized the Internet to find stock prices.

As anticipated in the original proposal, "Bridging the Gap: You've Got Mail" has successfully opened alternative methods of communication and provided further learning opportunities to senior citizens. The program's future goals include continuing to offer computer and Internet education for Glasgow and Barren County senior citizens.

[Return to top of page](#)

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