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# Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department  
for Libraries and Archives

May 2010

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## Corbin Public Library Breaks Ground

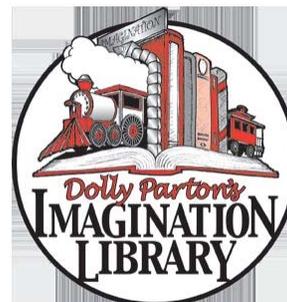
By Samantha Swindler  
Times-Tribune

Construction at the new Corbin Public Library is already underway, but recently the library board made the start of the project official with a ceremonial ground breaking at the building, located at 305 Roy Kidd

## Muhlenberg Public Library Participates in "Imagination Library"

by Annesse Williams  
Director, Muhlenberg County Public Library

Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library", a part of the Dollywood Foundation, is a literacy project that is open to children age 5 and under in participating communities. Each enrolled child receives one free book per month from the time of their birth until they enter Kindergarten. If a family has more than one child enrolled in the program, each child receives one book per month.



The Dollywood Foundation has a special arrangement with Penguin Press for purchase of the books. Each title is age appropriate and selected by a reading specialist. The first book for every child is *"The Little Engine that Could"*, and the final book for every child is *"Kindergarten Here I Come"*.

To participate, a community must make the program accessible to all preschool children in their area. The community pays for the books and mailing, promotes the program, registers the children, and enters the information into the database. From there the Dollywood Foundation takes over and manages the system to deliver the books to the home. [Read more...](#)

## Digital Talking-Book Internet Service Delivers One Millionth Download to Kentucky Reader

When Kentucky Talking Book Library patron Tonia Gatton downloaded the digital talking-book version of "Charlotte's Web" to her home computer, she knew she was going to read a classic of children's literature. What she didn't know was that she was also making history. That talking

Ave.

The whirl of drilling was heard inside the building as city officials, library supporters and other community leaders lauded the new project. The interior of the building, formerly the home of the Vintage House Restaurant, has already been gutted and construction crews worked in the background throughout the ceremony. [Read more...](#)

## Library Asks Public to Contemplate Why We Read

By Doug Tattershall  
Media Relations Coordinator  
Lexington Public Library

Why do you read?

Sometimes people read to learn something new, to discover more about the world around them, or maybe just to relax.

Why does it matter?

Because reading changes people's lives, making them more likely to advance in their careers, more likely to be civically engaged in activities such as voting, and more likely to be physically active.

A new campaign by the Lexington Public Library is asking everyone in Lexington to finish the phrase, "I Read Therefore I \_\_\_\_\_" in order to encourage people to think about how reading

book marked the one millionth piece of reading material delivered by the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service, a new initiative from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress.

Gatton is a rehabilitation teacher at the Kentucky Office for the Blind. "Finally having instant access to thousands of books and magazines that I can download and read as desired, rather than waiting and hoping for new books to come in the mail, has been an incredible experience," said Gatton. "I've recently started going back and reading a lot of the classics that I either hadn't read or didn't appreciate as a child, such as *"Charlotte's Web."* After a little over a year of using BARD, I can't imagine what I did without it."

Formally launched on April 30, 2009, BARD quickly became popular. Today more than 15,000 of NLS's more than 800,000 patrons are registered for access. Gatton is one of approximately 300 NLS patrons who have registered for BARD through the Kentucky Talking Book Library. [Read more...](#)

## Jessamine County Public Library Hosts First Ever Live Video Conference with Author Neil Gaiman

By Carol Grossi  
Community Relations and Adult Programming Coordinator  
Jessamine County Public Library

The Jessamine County Public Library (JCPL) hosted a live video conference in Nicholasville, Kentucky on April 12, 2010. Over fifty Neil Gaiman readers living in central Kentucky were able to visit JCPL and speak directly to the award winning author via Internet2 technology. In this singular event, libraries across the country were invited to view the discussion as well.



The program was entitled "An Evening with Neil Gaiman" and served as the kick-off for National Library Week (April 11-17). It was coordinated by the American Library Association's Campaign for America's Libraries and JCPL.

An Honorary Chair of National Library Week, Gaiman, the 2009 Newbery Medal winner for *"The Graveyard Book,"* spoke to his lifelong love of libraries and the role they play in a democratic society by supporting intellectual freedom

improves their lives.  
[Read more...](#)

and privacy. [Read more...](#)

**Photo:** Fans chatted with award winning author Neil Gaiman via Internet2 technology.

## Trustee Tip

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

Public library trustees' are, by design, your libraries biggest fans. They not only are responsible for oversight of operations (finances, policies & procedures, etc.) but are community advocates for the library. Trustees should take every opportunity to promote the library and the vast array of services and activities it provides the community.

Lori Acton is the director of the Laurel County Public Library and has developed a unique way to keep her former trustees involved. She has a luncheon once a year and invites her current as well as former trustees to attend. I asked her to send me a blurb of what she does and this was her response:

*"Trustees play a vital role in the success of any public library... [Read more...](#)*

## Lincoln County Public Library Celebrates Grand Opening

By Kay Peppard  
Director, Lincoln County Public Library

## Friends of Kentucky Libraries are Back!

By Mary Lynn Collins  
President, Friends Steering Committee

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries are pleased to announce they are now up and running. The state Friends group recently held their first annual meeting since the group was revitalized last May. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Kentucky Public Library Association Conference. Judith Gibbons moderated a panel focused on how local Friends groups can develop and maintain a good relationship with library staff and trustees.

Getting these relationships right is critical to the success of any Friends of the Library group. Panelists included: Jennie Boyarski, president of the Friends of McCracken County Public Library; Lisa Rice, director of the Warren County Public Library; and Lisa Day, trustee of the Muhlenberg County Public Library.

The Kentucky Friends also elected officers and directors at the annual meeting. Nelda Moore (Bardstown) will lead the Friends as the new president; other officers are: Cathy Snell (Louisville), vice-president; John Clark (Louisville), treasurer; and Carol Baughman (Frankfort), secretary.  
[Read more...](#)

## 92 Year-Old Program Coordinator an Example for All Librarians

By Paige Sexton  
Communications Officer, KDLA

The Hardin County Public Library Book Buddies Program will soon be celebrating its 20th year. It is a highly successful venture, due in large part to the program's senior coordinator, Joe Kareth. At the age of 92, Kareth has demonstrated a history of making a success of anything he attempts.



The Lincoln County Public Library held a grand opening ceremony for its new library April 25 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Luckily, the weather held out and approximately 150 people attended the ceremony.

The new building has 16,200 square feet, compared to the former 4,235 square foot building.

The first floor contains the collection, a teen room, the Kentucky Room, 16 public access computers, and a beautiful children's area where a local artist is painting murals of Kentucky forest animals, trees and flowers. [Read more...](#)

### Fact, Fiction and Forensics Speaker Series

By Jayne Pelaski  
Warren County Public Library

Warren County Public Library presents a new author series featuring best-selling authors whose books thrill and entertain us. The series starts in May and ends in August.

On Thursday, May 13, former journalist and attorney Jeffery Deaver will speak at the Main Library at 6:00 p.m. [Read more...](#)

### KDLA Welcomes New Trustees

KDLA would like to welcome the following new

Upon earning his degree in journalism from the University of Kentucky, the Lexington native entered the armed services. After five years in the service he began his career as a civilian personnel management specialist at Ft. Knox. He would hold that position until the age of 55 when he began to look for his next challenge, that of a certified real estate agent.

Kareth spent a few years in that field before returning to his old job, where he retired for a second time after a five year stint. But retirement was just not for Kareth. After 10 years of "semi-retired" life (selling advertising for The Penny Saver during this time), he was ready for his next career move. [Read more...](#)

**Photo: Joe Kareth, senior program coordinator for the Hardin County Public Library Book Buddies Program**

### Research Opportunities in the State Archives: State Capitol Building Commission

by Tim Tingle  
Public Records Branch Manager, KDLA

The Kentucky State Capitol Building in Frankfort is located in the southern section of the city, and overlooks the Kentucky River. The Capitol is a very impressive example of the French Renaissance style of architecture, and has served as the seat of Kentucky government since 1910. The State Archives holds a collection of records of the State Capitol Building Commission, the agency charged with the oversight of construction of the edifice. This collection, though not large, contains a great deal of extremely valuable information and would be helpful to anyone with an interest in the history of this grand structure.

The previous Capitol Building had been erected in 1830, and by the opening of the twentieth century was obviously no longer adequate. The legislature used money from a recent debt settlement with the federal government to fund a new building. Formed in 1904, the State Capitol Building Commission was chaired by Governor J.C.W. Beckham, with the Secretary of State, Auditor, State Treasurer and Attorney General also serving as members. [Read more...](#)

### Archival Photo Of The Month

trustees:

- Deborah Johnson, Boyd County
- Don R. Cundiff, Bullitt County
- Michael G. Branham, Bullitt County
- Barry Eastham, Greenup County

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An aerial view of the State Capitol Building, before the Capitol Annex was built.

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



The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives helps libraries provide 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.

## Full Articles Beyond This Point

### Muhlenberg Public Library Participates in "Imagination Library"

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The Dollywood Foundation has a special arrangement with Penguin Press for purchase of the books. Each title is age appropriate and selected by a reading specialist. The first book for every child is *"The Little Engine that Could"*, and the final book for every child is *"Kindergarten Here I Come"*.

To participate, a community must make the program accessible to all preschool children in their area. The community pays for the books and mailing, promotes the program, registers the children, and enters the information into the database. From there the Dollywood Foundation takes over and manages the system to deliver the books to the home. Currently, the program has been replicated in 566 counties across 36 states in the U.S. as well as in Canada and Europe. The program distributes more than 2.5 million free books to children annually.

In June of 2009, the Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation contacted the Muhlenberg County Public Library to discuss becoming the local partner with funding from the Foundation to participate in the "Imagination Library". A meeting was set, including members of the Foundation and representatives from the library, the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Education. Since the main focus of the Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation is to make Muhlenberg County a more viable economic community through better education for all, the "Imagination Library" is ready-made to start developing a community of ready-to-learn children. Everyone agreed to proceed, and we were off. It was decided that the library would set up the paperwork with the Dollywood Foundation to be the local partner, with the Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation serving as the 501(3)c needed to participate.

The Dollywood Foundation provides brochures customized for the local partner for a basic production fee per thousand. Cardboard display stands and customized posters may also be purchased. Every partner is provided with a CD with adaptable PSAs about the "Imagination Library". We have a local radio station that plays the 30 second spot featuring Dolly and our own system administrator Wesley several times a day. We also purchased a six foot banner featuring Dolly urging people to "Get on Board the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Train" in both of our library locations. These may be easily taken to events around the county for displays and sign-ups. The Dollywood Foundation also provides a specific person as our liaison for any questions or problems. She answers e-mails quickly and is very helpful.

We held a kick-off event which was combined with the Extension Office's "Sunday at the Trail" healthy living walking event in October. At that time we had all our brochures and display items, our database set up, and had already signed up our first children at the "World's Biggest Baby Shower" event.

Our Steering Committee meets quarterly to seek new outlets for advertising the program, keep everyone up to date on progress and plan special events. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from Family Resource Centers, the Board of Education, physicians, hospital community educators, the County Extension Office, the County Health Department, the Office of Child and Family Resources, the Kentucky Delta Rural Project and others.

With the help of the Steering Committee we have distributed brochures to over 130 locations throughout the county, including the hospital, the health department, doctors' offices, post offices, private preschools and day care centers. Every child in Head Start received a brochure. Most recently we have purchased large brochure stands for the wellness center and a local community college branch. Another one will be placed at the county courthouse soon. We have an "Imagination Library" link on the main page of our website ([www.mcplib.org](http://www.mcplib.org)) as well as on the Board of Education's website and the main web page of a local bank. Parents may register online; the registration then goes into a pending file for us to check before adding the child to the database.

As of March 15, we have 800 children participating. We know they are excited because we receive numerous calls every month asking exactly what day the new book will arrive. Of course we don't know the exact day; not all the books are mailed on the same day, so the arrival date is usually sometime in the last week of each month. The biggest challenge is with the addresses. They must be entered exactly and must be found in the U.S. Postal Services' database with the child's name included as a resident. Frequent calls are needed to the post office to confirm spellings and highway numbers. In the initial weeks, we spent several hours a week working on the database and public awareness. Now, we probably spend a maximum of two hours a week

working on the database.

Our grant funding from the Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation is to establish a firm basis for the program for the first three years. The Foundation reimburses the library for all public awareness materials and the monthly bill for books. They will be sponsoring our annual celebration inviting all participants to a special program each October. In addition, we have developed a survey form which will be sent to all participating families annually. Those who return their surveys will become eligible for bonus books to be purchased with grant funds. The cost to sponsor a child is less than \$30.00 a year. We will begin asking Chamber of Commerce members and our Friends of the Libraries to sponsor children after the initial three years.

We consider this program to be so successful that we have applied for another grant this year to initiate a "Kindergarten Reads" program as a logical follow-up to the "Imagination Library". We had a new little girl in Story Time today whose mother applied for a library card for the first time. I attribute their library participation to their enrollment in the "Imagination Library" project as their first contact with the library. The mother fondly remembered this month's book *Corduroy* from her own childhood.

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## Digital Talking-Book Internet Service Delivers One Millionth Download to Kentucky Reader

When Kentucky Talking Book Library patron Tonia Gatton downloaded the digital talking-book version of "*Charlotte's Web*" to her home computer, she knew she was going to read a classic of children's literature. What she didn't know was that she was also making history. That talking book marked the one millionth piece of reading material delivered by the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service, a new initiative from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress.

Gatton is a rehabilitation teacher at the Kentucky Office for the Blind. "Finally having instant access to thousands of books and magazines that I can download and read as desired, rather than waiting and hoping for new books to come in the mail, has been an incredible experience," said Gatton. "I've recently started going back and reading a lot of the classics that I either hadn't read or didn't appreciate as a child, such as "*Charlotte's Web*". After only a little over a year of using BARD, I can't imagine what I did without it."

Formally launched on April 30, 2009, BARD quickly became popular. Today more than 15,000 of NLS's more than 800,000 patrons are registered for access. Gatton is one of approximately 300 NLS patrons who have registered for BARD through the Kentucky Talking Book Library. Registered patrons utilize new digital players introduced in the fall of 2009 to replace cassettes.

"We're gratified by the passionate response BARD has received," said NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke. "At NLS, we strive to continually improve our patrons' opportunities to access a wide range of reading material. BARD has been an unequalled success in speeding delivery to our patrons."

Gatton selected "*Charlotte's Web*" from among more than 18,000 titles currently available through the Internet. In the past, patrons had to wait for E.B. White's

children's classic to arrive in the mail. BARD allowed Gatton to download a digital version for immediate playback.

The next stage in BARD's development is to transfer administrative control from NLS to state and local libraries serving blind and physically disabled readers. The Kentucky Talking Book Library, from which Gatton receives services, assumed responsibility for administrating BARD to its patrons in March, the fifth state to do so.

"Our patrons are enthusiastic about BARD," said Barbara Penegor, branch manager of the Kentucky Talking Book Library. "Some of the more computer literate readers have switched exclusively to downloading since the option became available. We are ready to become more directly involved in the service and excited to learn that this milestone occurred so close to our assuming full responsibility for the download activity."

NLS administers the free library program that loans materials to residents of the United States and citizens living abroad who are unable to read or use standard print materials because of visual or physical disabilities. Materials loaned include Braille and recorded books and magazines, music scores in Braille and large print, and specifically designed playback equipment.

For more information on NLS and the Talking Book service offered by the Kentucky Talking Book Library visit [www.kdla.ky.gov](http://www.kdla.ky.gov) or call 502-564-8300 ext. 282.

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## **Jessamine County Public Library Hosts First Ever Live Video Conference with Author Neil Gaiman**

The Jessamine County Public Library (JCPL) hosted a live video conference in Nicholasville, Kentucky on April 12, 2010. Over fifty Neil Gaiman readers living in central Kentucky were able to visit JCPL and speak directly to the award winning author via Internet2 technology. In this singular event, libraries across the country were invited to view the discussion as well.

The program was entitled "An Evening with Neil Gaiman" and served as the kick-off for National Library Week (April 11-17). It was coordinated by the American Library Association's Campaign for America's Libraries and JCPL.

As honorary chair of National Library Week, Gaiman, the 2009 Newbery Medal winner for "*The Graveyard Book*", spoke to his lifelong love of libraries and the role they play in a democratic society by supporting intellectual freedom and privacy. Gaiman joined a live audience at JCPL from the University of Minnesota using high definition videoconferencing technology supported by Internet2 which enabled an interactive discussion with the author.

The genesis of JCPL's teleconference was the recent media attention targeted at JCPL and its director, Dr. Ron Critchfield. In the fall of 2009, some members of the community demanded a certain book be taken out of the library's collection. The library board and Dr. Critchfield upheld the library's policies of allowing parents and caregivers to determine what materials are appropriate for their child, not the library. JCPL believes strongly in the principles of intellectual freedom and a reader's right to read. Dr. Critchfield stated, "We as a library are charged with making a collection that serves multiple constituencies with multiple interests, and what might interest one

person wouldn't necessarily interest someone else."

Dr. Critchfield was recognized for his stance by being awarded the 2010 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, presented by the American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Round Table. This local debate received national media attention and eventually reached the ear of Mr. Gaiman. When he wrote in support of Dr. Critchfield and JCPL on his blog, Neil Gaiman's Journal, the library took the opportunity to contact Mr. Gaiman personally and invite him to be their virtual guest.

The program began with an introduction from Dr. Critchfield and continued with a discussion led by JCPL moderators Juliana Gaddis, Children's Services Librarian, and David Powell, Circulation Manager. Questions from the moderators covered a variety of topics including Mr. Gaiman's thoughts on intellectual freedom, libraries and the economy, current technology and literacy. The moderators also read questions which had been previously submitted by internet participants from all over the U.S.

Following the discussion with the moderators, participants in the audience at JCPL were given the unique opportunity to ask questions directly of Mr. Gaiman. Gaiman fans lined up to satisfy their curiosity on the subjects of Mr. Gaiman's writings, current reads, tips for aspiring journalists and much more. Each question was answered with much thoughtfulness, care, and humor by Mr. Gaiman, creating a fun-filled and informative evening for all. While the patrons in Jessamine County were enjoying their interactive time with Mr. Gaiman, over 800 individuals were watching live via Internet streaming video.

Those who were unable to view this program live may view it on ALA's public awareness web site at [www.atyourlibrary.org](http://www.atyourlibrary.org).

This program was hosted by JCPL in collaboration with ALA's Campaign for America's Libraries, Internet2 Commons, HarperCollins Children's Books and the University of Minnesota.

## **ABOUT NEIL GAIMAN**

Neil Gaiman is the New York Times bestselling author of the novels "*Neverwhere*," "*Stardust*," "*American Gods*," "*Anansi Boys*" (#1 NYT bestseller), and "*Good Omens*" (with Terry Pratchett); the Sandman series of graphic novels; and the short story collections "*Smoke and Mirrors*" and "*Fragile Things*." He is also the author of books for readers of all ages including the #1 bestselling and Newbery Medal winning novel "*The Graveyard Book*," the bestselling novels "*Coraline*" and "*Odd and the Frost Giants*," the short story collection "*M is for Magic*" and the picture books "*The Wolves in the Walls*," "*The Day I Swapped my Dad for Two Goldfish*," and "*Crazy Hair*," illustrated by Dave McKean; "*The Dangerous Alphabet*," illustrated by Gris Grimly; and "*Blueberry Girl*," illustrated by Charles Vess. He is the winner of numerous literary honors, including the Hugo, Bram Stoker and World Fantasy Awards, and the Newbery Medal. Originally from England, he now lives in America. Visit him online at [www.neilgaiman.com](http://www.neilgaiman.com).

## **ABOUT HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

HarperCollins Children's Books is one of the leading publishers of children's books. Respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing quality, award-winning books for young readers, HarperCollins is home to many timeless treasures, such as "*Charlotte's Web*," "*The Chronicles of Narnia*," and "*Where the Wild Things Are*" - as well as popular new classics, such as "*The Graveyard Book*," "*Warriors*," and "*Fancy Nancy*."

HarperCollins Children's Books has published some of the world's foremost authors and illustrators and has won numerous awards including the Newbery Medal, the Caldecott Medal, the Printz Award and the Geisel Award. HarperCollins Children's Books is a division of HarperCollins Publishers. Consistently at the forefront of innovation and technological advancement, HarperCollins is the first publisher to digitize its content and create a global digital warehouse to protect the rights of its authors, meet consumer demand and generate additional business opportunities. Headquartered in New York, HarperCollins has publishing groups in the U.S., Canada, the UK, Australia/New Zealand and India. You can visit HarperCollins Children's Books at [www.harpercollinschildrens.com](http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com) and HarperCollins Publishers at [www.harpercollins.com](http://www.harpercollins.com).

## **ABOUT INTERNET2**

Internet2 is an advanced networking consortium led by the research and education community. An exceptional partnership spanning U.S. and international institutions who are leaders in the worlds of research, academia, industry and government, Internet2 is developing breakthrough cyberinfrastructure technologies that support the most exacting applications of today - and spark the most essential innovations of tomorrow. Led by its members and focused on their current and future networking needs since 1996, Internet2 blends its human, IP and optical networks to develop and deploy revolutionary Internet technologies. Activating the same partnerships that produced today's Internet, our community is forging the Internet of the future. For more information, see <http://www.internet2.edu>.

## **ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Founded in 1851, the University of Minnesota has a presence throughout the state with its five campuses and numerous research and outreach centers. The University serves Minnesota's families and businesses, while contributing knowledge and innovations to help build a healthier, sustainable world. Life-changing work, like the recent creation of a beating heart and stem cell transplant to cure recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB), a once-fatal skin disease, shows the caliber of the University's research. The University was established as a land-grant college, meaning the federal government gave it land to use or sell to provide an education for students of all incomes. Being a land-grant institution meant you also had a commitment to your state's agriculture. Today, through myriad scholarships, the University helps its students afford tuition, housing, and books, and agriculture is still a focus of its teaching, research and outreach. As the U grew, so did the city around it, and the University has adapted its historic land-grant mission to fit its surroundings and has dedicated itself, through programs like the University Northside Partnership, to resolving complex contemporary issues in the urban age. For more information, see <http://umn.edu>.

The **Campaign for America's Libraries** ([www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary)) is ALA's public awareness campaign that promotes the value of libraries and librarians. Thousands of libraries of all types - across the country and around the globe - use the campaign's @ your library brand. The Campaign is made possible by ALA's Library Champions, corporations and foundations that advocate the importance of the library in American society.

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## **Friends of Kentucky Libraries are Back!**

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries are pleased to announce they are now up and running. The state Friends group recently held their first annual meeting since the group was revitalized last May. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Kentucky Public Library Association Conference. Judith Gibbons moderated a panel focused on how local Friends groups can develop and maintain a good relationship with library staff and trustees.

Getting these relationships right is critical to the success of any Friends of the Library group. Panelists included: Jennie Boyarski, president of the Friends of McCracken County Public Library; Lisa Rice, director of the Warren County Public Library; and Lisa Day, trustee of the Muhlenberg County Public Library.

The Kentucky Friends also elected officers and directors at the annual meeting. Nelda Moore (Bardstown) will lead the Friends as the new president; other officers are: Cathy Snell (Louisville), vice president; John Clark (Louisville), treasurer; and Carol Baughman (Frankfort), secretary. Elected to serve as directors were: Lance Ferris (Muhlenberg County), Renee Knight (Laurel County), Theo Leverenz (Scott County), Traci Nolen (Boyd County) and Jim Stoops (Monroe County). Mary Lynn Collins (Frankfort), president of the Steering Committee that reorganized the group, and State Librarian Wayne Onkst are ex officio members of the group.

The mission of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries is to advocate for public libraries at local, state and national levels and to provide networking and mentoring services for local Friends chapters. Membership in state Friends is open to anyone who wishes to support and celebrate our Kentucky public libraries and a membership form can be found at <http://friendskylibraries.org>. Membership dues for individuals are only \$5. The Friends now have over 150 individual members as well as 21 local Friends chapters, and 23 public library boards.

This past year, the Friends organized a week in October to honor both the state Friends as well as local chapters. Governor Steve Beshear issued a proclamation and First Lady Jane Beshear delivered it to the Friends at a ceremony at the Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort. Local friends groups were honored by local officials and library trustees throughout the state.

When the Louisville Free Public Library's Main Branch was flooded last summer and experienced major damages, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries made a donation of \$500 to the Louisville Friends to help in the recovery. And the state Friends also initiated an opportunity for the Louisville Friends to raise funds during a Paula Poundstone performance at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts.

The state Friends spent much of their effort this year working with the Advocacy Committee of the Kentucky Public Library Association. The Friends came to Frankfort during Library Legislative Day and met with legislators. They reminded legislators of how important public libraries are to communities - particularly in the current economic climate. Those who could not travel to Frankfort sent messages to legislators. This effort continues since the session ended without passage of an Executive Budget.

If your library has a Friends group that has not yet joined the state Friends, we urge you to join us. We can be more effective advocates of our public libraries by coming together. You can find out more about the Friends by going to our website <http://friendskylibraries.org>.

If your library plans to start a Friends group, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries would like to assist in the effort. You may contact the state Friends by emailing them at [contact@friendskylibraries.org](mailto:contact@friendskylibraries.org).

Friends of Kentucky Libraries are back and working hard to support public libraries throughout the state.

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## **Corbin Public Library Breaks Ground**

Construction at the new Corbin Public Library is already underway, but recently the library board made the start of the project official with a ceremonial ground breaking at the building, located at 305 Roy Kidd Ave.

The whirl of drilling was heard inside the building as city officials, library supporters and other community leaders lauded the new project. The interior of the building, formerly the home of the Vintage House Restaurant, has already been gutted and construction crews worked in the background throughout the ceremony.

The library board has a total of \$900,000 invested in the purchase and renovation of the new building, which will nearly double the size of the current library.

Library board member Anne Hoskins said construction was estimated to take five months from the date the contract was signed on Feb. 10.

Sean Disney with Hometown Bank said his company was proud to help finance the project with the library board, not only for the benefit of the community, but for the benefit of his own children, ages 9 and 6. "Now, every time we drive by, I tell them that's going to be our library and they just can't wait to come inside and see what it's going to be like," he said.

Mayor Willard McBurney said it was "a historical day for the city of Corbin."

"We just can't stress how important this is for our community and how many communities throughout this country our size that do not have a library," he said. "We are very fortunate to have one such as we have."

On behalf of the Southern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Jeannie Hensley said, "I am honored to stand here and see a lifelong dream of the community begin. This is a beautiful building and it's going to be an even more beautiful building."

Bob Terrell, who with his wife Phyllis was the very first donor to the library's building fund, said the new building was a tribute to the library's leadership over the years. "It's a tribute to perseverance. In my 76, nearly 77 years, I have found there isn't anything that's worthwhile that doesn't take a price to gain. It takes an effort. It takes people that won't give up when discouraged."

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## **Library Asks Public to Contemplate Why We Read**

Why do you read?

Sometimes people read to learn something new, to discover more about the world around them, or maybe just to relax.

Why does it matter?

Because reading changes people's lives, making them more likely to advance in their careers, more likely to be civically engaged in activities such as voting, and more likely to be physically active.

A new campaign by the Lexington Public Library is asking everyone in Lexington to finish the phrase, "I Read Therefore I \_\_\_\_\_" in order to encourage people to think about how reading improves their lives.

People will be able to "Fill in the Blank" by visiting the library's website ([www.lexpublib.org](http://www.lexpublib.org)), or by coming to any Lexington Public Library location to create their own customized stickers and buttons. Library officials hope the campaign will help boost circulation over the three million mark for the first time in the library system's history.

"We all have our own reasons for reading. It's such a private thing. So it's easy to overlook the benefits to the community as a whole," the Lexington Public Library's Acting Director Martha White said. "This is a way to get us thinking about all the great things that happen when we're a community of readers."

More than 128,000 library cardholders last year checked out more than 2.7 million items from the Lexington Public Library, an average of 10 items per Lexington resident.

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## Trustee Tip

Public library trustees' are, by design, your libraries biggest fans. They not only are responsible for oversight of operations (finances, policies & procedures, etc.) but are community advocates for the library. Trustees should take every opportunity to promote the library and the vast array of services and activities it provides the community.

Lori Acton is the director of the Laurel County Public Library and has developed a unique way to keep her former trustees involved. She has a luncheon once a year and invites her current as well as former trustees to attend. I asked her to send me a blurb of what she does and this was her response:

*"Trustees play a vital role in the success of any public library. The impact of these people does not end, however, as precisely as a term limit.*

*The former trustee is a lifelong advocate of the library. These are the members of your organization who no longer have an official title, but continue to support the library's*

*mission just as vigorously and perhaps more effectively in some cases because they are no longer 'official'.*

*To honor these advocates, the Laurel County Public Library hosts a luncheon for all trustees, past and present, every June. This is a small token of our appreciation to those who continue to support us even though they are no longer on the board, and it strengthens the sense of purpose those associated with the library believe in.*

*We have had guest speakers in the past including State Librarian Wayne Onkst, our county judge and our mayor. This has given our board president a chance to report on the state of the library.*

*This year's guest speaker is Paul Poland, Chair of the Kentucky Library Trustees Round Table (KLTRT). This will be a special opportunity for library supporters to gather once again."*

The Kentucky Library Association (KLA) has approved a new membership level for former trustees so they may continue to be involved. By paying \$15, (the same as a retired librarian) per year, any trustee can be a member of KLA, KPLA and KLTRT well past their actual term set by the state. But even if you don't continue your KLA membership...please continue your support of your library!

Paul M. Poland  
Chair, KY Library Trustee Round Table (KLTRT)  
[pmpoland@roadrunner.com](mailto:pmpoland@roadrunner.com)

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## **Research Opportunities in the State Archives: State Capitol Building Commission**

The Kentucky State Capitol Building in Frankfort is located in the southern section of the city, and overlooks the Kentucky River. The Capitol is a very impressive example of the French Renaissance style of architecture, and has served as the seat of Kentucky government since 1910. The State Archives holds a collection of records of the State Capitol Building Commission, the agency charged with the oversight of construction of the edifice. This collection, though not large, contains a great deal of extremely valuable information and would be helpful to anyone with an interest in the history of this grand structure.

The previous Capitol Building had been erected in 1830, and by the opening of the twentieth century was obviously no longer adequate. The legislature used money from a recent debt settlement with the federal government to fund a new building. Formed in 1904, the State Capitol Building Commission was chaired by Governor J.C.W. Beckham, with the Secretary of State, Auditor, State Treasurer and Attorney General also serving as members. The Commission selected Frank Andrews as the building architect, and construction began in 1905. The new Capitol was completed in five years, at a total cost of \$1,750,000.

The records of the Capitol Building Commission include a Minute Book (1904-1911), which documents the meetings and discussions held by the group and describes the planning and construction process; a Receipts and Estimates Book (1904-1909) containing original vouchers and receipts for construction materials; and a Ledger

Book (1904-1914), which lists financial entries made over the course of the project. The Ledger Book also contains a few entries relating to the construction of the Governor's Mansion, which was built in the years immediately following the completion of the Capitol.

Kentuckians are justifiably proud of their beautiful Capitol, and as we near the centennial of the dedication of the building in 2010, researchers are invited to make use of the records of the State Capitol Building Commission to learn more about its history.

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## **Lincoln County Public Library Celebrates Grand Opening**

The Lincoln County Public Library held a grand opening ceremony for its new library April 25 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Luckily, the weather held out and approximately 150 people attended the ceremony.

The new building has 16,200 square feet, compared to the former 4,235 square foot building.

The first floor contains the collection, a teen room, the Kentucky Room, 16 public access computers, and a beautiful children's area where a local artist is painting murals of Kentucky forest animals, trees and flowers.

The second floor houses offices, work spaces, a break room, a Community Room which will hold 100 comfortably, and a large space for future expansion.

The library has already opened to the public, and the response has been extremely favorable. The Community Room has been used almost every day by groups and organizations in Lincoln County. During the month of March, 250 new library cards were issued and circulation increased by 20%.

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## **Fact, Fiction and Forensics Speaker Series**

Warren County Public Library presents a new author series featuring best-selling authors whose books thrill and entertain us. The series starts in May and ends in August.

On Thursday, May 13, former journalist and attorney, Jeffery Deaver will speak at the Main Library at 6:00 p.m. His novels have appeared on a number of bestseller lists around the world, including *The New York Times*, *The Times of London* and *The Los Angeles Times*. His books are sold in 150 countries and translated into 25 languages. His book "*A Maiden's Grave*" was made into an HBO movie, and his novel "*The Bone Collector*" was a feature film, starring Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie. His most recent book is "*Roadside Crosses*."

Tess Gerritsen, who has written best-selling suspense thrillers, will be at the Main Library on Thursday, June 17, at 6:00 p.m. Her books have been translated into 33

languages, and more than 20 million copies have been sold around the world. The TNT Network is developing a series around Gerritsen's Jane Rizzoli character featuring Angie Harmon as Rizzoli.

Jefferson Bass is the writing team of Dr. Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson. Dr. Bass, a world-renowned forensic anthropologist, founded the University of Tennessee's Anthropology Research Facility - the Body Farm - a quarter-century ago. Jon Jefferson is a veteran journalist, writer and documentary filmmaker. Their most recent title is *"The Bone Thief."* They will speak at the Main Library on Thursday, July 22, at 6:00 p.m.

Catherine Coulter is the author of fifty novels, thirty-eight of which have been *New York Times* bestsellers. Her latest book is *"Knock Out."* She will be at the Main Library on Thursday, August 12, at 6:00 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public, but tickets are necessary for admittance. Tickets are available at the Main Library or at the Bob Kirby Branch. For more information, call (270.781.4882) or email [jaynep@warrenpl.org](mailto:jaynep@warrenpl.org).

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## 92 Year-Old Program Coordinator an Example for All Librarians

The Hardin County Public Library Book Buddies Program will soon be celebrating its 20th year. It is a highly successful venture, due in large part to the program's senior coordinator, Joe Kareth. At the age of 92, Kareth has demonstrated a history of making a success of anything he attempts.

Upon earning his degree in journalism from the University of Kentucky, the Lexington native entered the armed services. After five years in the service he began his career as a civilian personnel management specialist at Ft. Knox. He would hold that position until the age of 55 when he began to look for his next challenge, that of a certified real estate agent.

Kareth spent a few years in that field before returning to his old job, where he retired for a second time after a five year stint. But retirement was just not for Kareth. After 10 years of "semi-retired" life (selling advertisements for The Penny Saver during this time), he was ready for his next career move.

Kareth saw an advertisement from the Hardin County Public Library looking for someone to begin a new outreach program called Book Buddies. The program was the result of a one year, \$10,000 federal grant. He knew immediately that this was perfect for him, and started in the position in 1990, expecting to work at the library for one year.

Twenty years later, Kareth still holds the position of senior coordinator for the Book Buddies Program, which uses volunteers to deliver library materials to homebound customers. After the grant money ran out, Kareth got busy and began visiting local businesses, civic and service groups to solicit the funds that the library needed to continue the program. One early success was the eight thousand dollars worth of free billboard advertising for the Book Buddies Program donated by a local advertising company.

Kareth became an "ambassador" for both the library and the program. It took a lot of hard work to get the program going and keep it running, and he has loved every

minute of it.

"When it's something you like to do, you can work your fingers to the bone and not notice it," he said. Although he can't believe he's worked at the library 20 years, his goal is "to work till I'm 115, if I can make it. Then maybe I'll sit back and relax."

After years of work by Kareth and his "right-hand", adult services librarian Kim Bland, the Book Buddies Program runs very smoothly. The program has approximately 20 volunteers who are either actively participating in the program, or ready to do so. Currently the program serves 12 homebound customers. The Book Buddies Program serves those with temporary disabilities (such as a broken ankle, making it hard to get to the library) as well as the permanently homebound. Volunteers, who Kareth describes as "the heart and soul" of the program, visit customers' homes and bring back whatever books, music CDs, DVDs, magazines and books on CD that the customer wants to borrow. Then, they return two to three weeks later to pick up those materials and bring more.

Even though the program takes less time to coordinate than it did in the early years, Kareth doesn't rest on his laurels. "I work five mornings a week, between two and four hours," he said. After emptying the book drop each day, he waters the plants and does anything that needs to be done around the building.

Library director Rene Hutcheson describes Kareth as a "gem" of an employee. "He is a wonderful role model for the other employees. He is always nicely groomed and dresses in a shirt and tie every day," she said. "He is extremely dependable, and he is a calming influence on everyone. He's always cheerful and is the bright spot in the morning for all of us. He just gets the day started right and we miss him when he's not here."

Kareth said, "I just try to be of some help to the staff. I try to make myself useful in any way that I can."

Hutcheson also said Kareth and his wife Mary make a monthly financial donation to the library. In addition, Kareth personally provides coffee for the employees and the groups that use the Community Room.

"Not only does he love the library, he helps support programming and helps us with materials," she said. "He is a fine man and an example for all librarians."

Kareth's favorite part of working at the library is the people: the homebound customers, the volunteers, and the other library employees. "They are all wonderful - they make my day every day!"

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