



# The KY Library Friends Connection

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

## Advocacy!

Advocacy is “the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal.” merriam-webster.com Advocacy is something that you, as an individual, can do well because you speak from your heart as a patron and a local voter. It is particularly important because Kentucky’s Biennial Budget will be enacted during the 2012 General Assembly.

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The Friends of Kentucky Libraries is sponsoring the Second Annual Meet & Greet at 22 sites across Kentucky during National Friends of the Library Week. See page 2 for the complete list of places, dates and times.

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We urge you to go to the one where your Senators and Representatives will be present, even if it means that you will travel to the next town. Face to face meetings with your elected officials are an excellent way to show your support for Kentucky’s public libraries.

If you cannot make it to a Meet & Greet, please make a phone call, send an email or handwrite a note, to your elected officials and tell them why public libraries are important to you. State Librarian and KDLA Commissioner Wayne Onkst makes this point in his column, “Five Minutes.”

And if you are still a naysayer, check out the Friends of LFPL advocacy results in Jefferson County, in “Advocacy Worked!”

We also support the Kentucky Public Library Association’s Legislative Day which will be held on March 7, 2012 at the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort.

This issue also welcomes our new Board member, Jim Peterson of Franklin, Kentucky. Two Friends groups, the Muhlenberg County Friends and the Iroquois Branch of LFPL, sent articles which are included. We will give our inaugural awards to an Outstanding Friend and an Outstanding Friend Chapter. Nominate your choice today.

Stay tuned! Our website is going through a major overhaul. We want to serve as a communication point for local Friends Chapters. For starters, list your book sales with us. Send your information to [contact@friendskylibraries.org](mailto:contact@friendskylibraries.org)

See you at the Meet & Greet!

Cathy Cravens Snell  
President

Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 537  
Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

# Support your Library by Going to a Meet & Greet

by Nelda Moore

The Meet & Greets for October 2011 are especially important since the General Assembly will approve a new budget for FY 2012-14 when it convenes in January. Libraries have sustained funding losses repeatedly as cuts were made when projected revenue did not come in. Now is the time for all citizens to let their legislators know that libraries are important to their communities' well being. Every member of a Friends of the Library chapter or just a friendly library patron needs to make an effort to attend and let his or her presence be noted. And legislators do notice numbers and what their constituents care about.

These Meet & Greets are designed to make it relatively easy for library supporters and legislators alike: they are local and held during a season of reasonably good weather, before the time changes and driving home in the dark is an issue, and before the frantic activities of the holidays begin.

SD	SITE	COUNTIES INCLUDED	DATE / TIME
1	Mayfield	Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Lyon, Trigg	21 <sup>st</sup> 4:00-5:00
2	Benton	Ballard, McCracken, Marshall	20 <sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:30
3	Hopkinsville	Christian, Logan, Todd	20 <sup>th</sup> 3:00-7:00
4	Princeton	Caldwell, Crittenden, Henderson, Livingston, Union, Webster	17 <sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30
5	Hardinsburg	Breckinridge, Grayson, Hancock, Hart, LaRue, Meade	17 <sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00
6	Central City	Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Ohio	19 <sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00
7	Frankfort	Anderson, Franklin, Woodford	25 <sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00
14	Lebanon	Marion, Mercer, Nelson, Taylor, Washington	18 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00
15	Russell Springs	Adair, Casey, Pulaski, Russell	20 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:00
16	Monticello	Clinton, Cumberland, McCreary, Monroe, Wayne, Whitley	11 <sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30
17	Georgetown	Grant, Owen, Scott	17 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:00
18	Greenup	Bracken, Carter, Greenup, Lewis, Mason, Robertson	19 <sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00
20	Shelbyville	Bullitt, Shelby, Spencer	20 <sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:00
21	London	Estill, Jackson, Laurel, Menifee, Powell	11 <sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00
22	Nicholasville	Boyle, Garrard, Jessamine	19 <sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00
26	Bedford	Carroll, Henry, Oldham, Trimble	27 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30
27	Morehead	Boyd, Elliott, Fleming, Lawrence, Rowan	19 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30
28	Paris	Bath, Bourbon, Clark, Harrison, Montgomery, Nicholas	18 <sup>th</sup> 10:00-12:00
29	Jackson	Breathitt, Floyd, Knott, Letcher	25 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30
30	Hazard	Bell, Harlan, Leslie, Perry	20 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30
31	Pikeville	Johnson, Martin, Pike	17 <sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00
34	Berea	Lincoln, Madison, Rockcastle	20 <sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00

If you'd like additional information about your senator or representatives, you can find them by district, county, or name at: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Legislators.htm>.

So, what is your responsibility? Attending, of course, but also spreading the word to others who care about libraries. Tell your friends, your co-workers, and the people you meet at church, in the supermarket, and at soccer practice. They don't have to stay more than a few minutes. If they're shy, they don't have to speak up; their presence alone will speak for them. This is an opportunity for grassroots support that shouldn't be missed!



Wayne Onkst,  
State Librarian &  
Commissioner

## Five Minutes

By Wayne Onkst

Kentucky's public libraries have never been more important in the lives of Kentuckians. Public libraries are serving more Kentuckians in more ways than ever before. For the first time in the Commonwealth's history, every county has state funded public library service.

Support of the Friends of the Library is critical for the success of our public libraries. Friends can provide support in so many ways. One of the most important ways Friends can help make their public library strong is to voice support for the library in the community and with elected officials on the local, state and federal levels. Unfortunately many public officials are not familiar with their public libraries and their importance to the communities they serve. Your voice is probably the most important way to make certain that our elected officials know the value of public libraries when making decisions about distributing resources for public services.

Spending only 5 minutes to call or e-mail your County Judge-

Executive, Mayor, Magistrate, County Commissioner, State Representative, State Senator, Governor, Congressman, Senator, and even the President, will be an important investment for your library. If you need contact information for your elected officials, contact your public library. When you see your elected officials or candidates for office, please mention your public library and how much it means.

The call, e-mail, or contact you make with your elected official may pay large dividends for your library. Please take five minutes to make your investment in the future of your library.

# Advocate!

## Advocacy Worked!

By Cathy Cravens Snell

The new Mayor of Louisville, Greg Fischer, recently announced that he was going to hold a series of five "Mayor's Forums" to listen to Louisville's citizens and hear what they thought should be included in the Metro's budget. The Friends of the Louisville Free Public Library decided to publically advocate for the return of Sunday operating hours and to ask that the promise to build the Southwest Regional Library be fulfilled.

The Friends of LFPL's Advocacy Subcommittee, chaired

by Cathy Snell, decided that Board members should appear and speak at every forum possible. Snell sought and received statistics concerning the Kentucky rankings of per capita spending by county from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. She presented these facts at the first forum. Jefferson County's low ranking surprised everyone.

The Friends of LFPL continued to appear at the forums and voice different perspectives on why the Louisville Free Public Library needed additional funding. These included literacy improvement, job training, economic development expectations, and community building.

The Friends' Board's advocacy paid off. When presenting his budget, Mayor Fischer recognized five citizens as having influenced his budget. The first person that he named was Cathy Snell. The Mayor's budget included funds for Sunday operating hours and design work for the Southwest Regional Library. It also added funds for to build the Fairdale Branch Library and expand technology.

# Don't Forget!

Please send us local Friends news!!! Send it to:  
[contact@friendskylibraries.org](mailto:contact@friendskylibraries.org)

## Thank you, Jim Stoops.

Jim, a member of the original Steering Committee, is a thoughtful man. When he speaks, it is well-reasoned and respected. While Jim has resigned for personal reasons and is no longer on the Board, he remains a loyal member of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. and a good sounding board. I personally will miss him and his counsel. I wish all the best to Jim.

Jim Petersen, the Technology Coordinator of the Goodnight Library in Franklin, Kentucky will fill Jim Stoops' term.

## Welcome, Jim Peterson.



Jim is the Technology Coordinator for the Goodnight Memorial Library in Franklin, KY. He holds an AAS from Bowling Green Technical College in Information Technology, State Public Librarian Certification and the Paraprofessional Certification. In addition to the IT work, Jim is also the Technical Services Librarian. Jim and his wife are active in the Simpson County 4-H, serving on the 4-H Council and as leaders of the 4-H Cloverbuds

Club. His interests include educating other librarians about technology, vegetable gardening, home brewing, outdoor sports, and automotive customization.

## Our New Muhlenberg Friends Initiated Two Projects

By Betsy Allen, President of the Muhlenberg County Friends



Ann Forsythe Scholarship  
1st scholarship recipient - Luke Waltrip, Elizabeth Martin (Ann's sister), and Lance Ferris, MCPL Friends

This year, the Muhlenberg County Public Library Friends initiated two new projects. On April 16 and 17, we held our first used book and media sale. We received over 100 boxes of donations from the public, which were then sold on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. At the end of the weekend, our total profits were over \$1,200. This money will be used to purchase books for local children who qualify for the Muhlenberg County Family Resource Center's "Make It a Better Christmas" project.

Additionally, we are proud to announce that on July 19, the first

annual Ann Martin Forsythe Friends of the Library Scholarship was presented to Luke Waltrip.

The \$500 grant is awarded to library staff members for course study in library science or technology related to library operations. Luke is employed as Systems Administrator and is completing the CompTIA A+ certification.

## Our Iroquois Friends Work Hard to Support Their International Community

By Bob Johnson, President, St. Matthews Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Iroquois branch of the Louisville Free Public Library operate a program of service and support on a schedule that never stops.

Every other month, they do something special for the branch staff. In September, it's lunch from Jimbo's, which serves barbeque in the Beechmont neighborhood the library serves.

During National Library Week, the Friends provide patrons and staff with Hershey's Kisses. "We Kiss everybody," says Doris Johnson, who started the Friends group at Iroquois about 10 years ago and remains its driving force.

The Friends provide refreshments for folks who turn out for the English Conversation Club, an informal get together on Saturday afternoons that is a part of the branch's unique outreach program for Louisville's ever-



growing community of refugees and immigrants.

On Halloween, the Friends show up in witch's hats to stage a program for neighborhood kids. They also provide snacks for the branch's Teen Tuesday program that offers a writing workshop, technology insights and a chance to play chess. The teens return the favor by helping the Friends prepare for their major community event, the annual Spring book sale and plant exchange on the library grounds at 6th St. and Woodlawn Ave.



Doris Johnson, Edy Johnson and June Johnson (no relation) enjoy the sun at the annual Iroquois Spring Book Sale and Plant Exchange.

It seems many of us have gift baskets and boxes tucked away at home, a natural resource of sorts that the Friends recycle into wrapped, eye-catching gift boxes that might include children's books and stuffed animals or a measuring cup matched with a cookbook. But books, always books. Each item sold brings a few dollars that will help support the Friends agenda.

The spring event is another way to reach into the Beechmont neighborhood. "We want to let the community know we are here,"

Johnson told a visitor to the August Friends meeting.

Beechmont is one of the city's strongest neighborhoods where the term community is of significant substance. It has a vibrant neighborhood association and boasts such organizations as the Beechmont Garden Club, which helps tend the plantings on the Library grounds, and the Beechmont Womens' Club.

In fact, evidence of Beechmont's strength is visible as far back as the Great Depression when neighborhood leaders got the ball rolling for a library building that became a reality thanks to the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the depression era construction program that the Roosevelt administration instituted to put the unemployed to work.

"This is a gem in the neighborhood," said branch manager Dustin Strong, who has been at Iroquois three years and with the LFPL for nearly 12. Strong is a Louisvillian whose work study program at Bellarmine College -- now Bellarmine University -- was in the school library. His interaction with people and his fascination with the search for information led him to the University of Kentucky and a masters degree in library science.

The solid, red-brick building stands just a few steps from Southern Parkway, one of Louisville's grand boulevards that run south from the Watterson Expressway (I-264) and through a

beautiful residential area to Iroquois Park, one of the half-dozen major parks that help define Louisville's urban core. Louisville International Airport lies on Beechmont's eastern flank.

A visitor to Iroquois quickly learns that this library has a special mission for the city's international community. By Strong's count, his staff includes five people who speak Spanish, one who speaks Vietnamese and another fluent in Arabic. The staff also includes the LFPL's only international outreach coordinator, Sophie Maier, who holds a Masters in political science from the University of Louisville and a Masters in library science from UK.

The Iroquois branch offers a full array of services and programs to Beechmont. "There are so many things to do at the library," Strong notes. The branch benefits from an addition that provides significantly more space than the original building. For instance, Iroquois has 38 computer terminals and another six set aside for the exclusive use of children.

But programs for immigrants and refugees offer a special flavor. Shelves in a corridor leading to the elevator hold books in a variety of languages. "Libros En Español" is the heading on one set of shelves that includes "Bill Clinton Mi Vida" and Dickens' "Historia De Dos Ciudades," among a number of others. There are smaller numbers of titles in Bosnian, Vietnamese and Arabic, including a Mayo Clinic publication in



Arabic on pregnancy and childbirth. There are foreign films on DVD and video, and brochures introducing visitors to the library in French, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic. A posted notice also outlines the process leading to American citizenship.



This sign, which is outside the LFPL's Iroquois Branch, directs patrons to the library in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, French, Arabic and Russian.

An August meeting of the English Conversation Club was an informal delight. People drifted in and out of a meeting room to sharpen their English skills with residents from the neighborhood.

One of Doris Johnson's goals for the Friends is to get members of the refugee community involved in the group that now includes about a dozen regulars. They have a lot to do. There's the branch's "Books to You" service in which members of the Friends deliver books to the homebound.

The Friends organization pays the fees to bring the

entertainers to the branch's Summer Reading program.

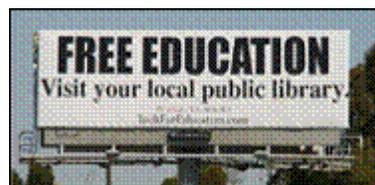
And of course, there are holiday baskets to prepare for the Christmas season. Doris Johnson, who was once a reading tutor in the Louisville Independent Schools, recently shopped the Borders Books liquidation sale for children's books for the holiday sale. Santa will be there, delivered to the Iroquois Branch by a fire truck from the nearby Louisville Fire and Rescue station.

As the August Friends meeting was winding down, Dustin Strong told the Friends in attendance, "You do so much for us."

Said Edy Johnson, (no relation to Doris) "That's why we're here."

### Look for us at the Kentucky Book Fair

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries will have a booth at the Kentucky Book Fair, Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Frankfort Convention Center. We are excited to be a part of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.



# Join Now!

## Join Friends of Kentucky Libraries Now

Your Friends of Kentucky Libraries membership is separate from your membership in your local Friends group. Go to <http://www.friendskylibraries.org> to print a membership form. Mail it to Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc., P. O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537 with your check. Thanks.

# Nominations

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries will honor the Outstanding Local Friends Chapter and the Outstanding Individual Friend of the Library at our Annual Meeting. Please make your nominations as soon as possible. The nominations close on February 1, 2012.

Download the applications from [www.friendskylibraries.org](http://www.friendskylibraries.org)

# Free Advertising

Local Friends Chapters, who are FKL members, may advertise their book sales on our website at no charge. Send your book sale information to [contact@friendskylibraries.org](mailto:contact@friendskylibraries.org)

