



Friends CONNECT

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Spring 2015

**FRIENDS
OF KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES, INC**

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Our Mission

- to advocate for public libraries on the local, state, and national level
- to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

Sister Libraries: Near and Far

International Cooperation with the Libraries in Kazakhstan and in Ukraine

By Luba C. McDonald, MPA
Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program
Friends of the Laurel County Public Library

"Information helps you to see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really any different from everyone else" by Maya Angelou.

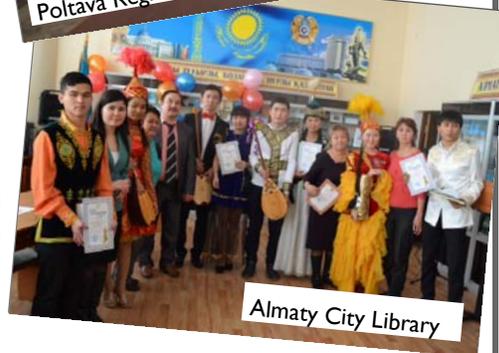
I have been a member of the Friends of the Laurel County Public Library for several years and I have been honored to serve on the Friends' Board for a second term. We are a diverse and dynamic group of individuals and we developed an idea of establishing an international network with libraries in Kazakhstan and in the Ukraine.

Why work with these international libraries? I was born in Kazakhstan and attended different libraries in rural area. I remember that our librarians were professional and hard working individuals, they conducted *Book Days* for children and youth, teaching us how to do research on different subjects. I also have a colleague who lives in the Ukraine and works for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). When I asked her about the idea of getting connected with the Ukrainian libraries, she gladly put us in contact with libraries in the Ukraine. My friends and former United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) colleagues in Kazakhstan helped us to contact libraries as well.

We have started this project of introduction with overseas libraries with the goal to inform our patrons in Laurel County about other cultures through an educational exchange with these libraries. It is a simple idea. Now, we are maintaining communications with three libraries in Kazakhstan: East Kazakhstan Regional Library named after A. Pushkin, City Library #4 in Almaty City, and Shortandy Rayon Library in Northern Kazakhstan Region. We are in touch with two libraries in the Ukraine-Vinnitsya Public Library and Poltava Regional Library. The libraries in Kazakhstan and the Ukraine do not have support organizations like Friends of the Library. Instead, the library staff is conducting all the work for the public.



Poltava Regional Library



Almaty City Library

International Cooperation (cont.)

On some occasions, they involve students and other volunteers to conduct activities. There is a national professional Librarian Associations in both Kazakhstan and in the Ukraine. This serves as a professional library association network.

These libraries have received information about educational programs designed by the Laurel County Public Library and about Friends' support through our correspondence with their staff. This information has been very useful to them in their future design of upcoming programs.



Shortandy Rayon Public Library

The U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan supports the American Culture Corners in some libraries in Kazakhstan. The U.S. Embassy in the Ukraine supports the Window on America program in libraries of the Ukraine. This support promotes learning of the English language and American culture. Information was provided to Library #4 in Almaty City how to find contacts to set up English language courses and perhaps possible collaboration can be worked out with the universities in Almaty. Overall, we have learned that there are differences in legislation covering these libraries in the United States, in Kazakhstan and in the Ukraine. There is more budgetary support provided to the libraries at the local level in the United States. In Kazakhstan and in the Ukraine, the budget is more centralized and less allocations are made to the libraries. In spite of these con-

straints, the staff of the libraries are very dedicated, highly educated and motivated individuals who work with their communities. As the result of networking communication with overseas libraries the following has been achieved:

Posting of the international exchange information with overseas libraries on the website of the Laurel County Public Library and on its Facebook page <http://www.laurellibrary.org/about/friendsofthelibrary/>;

- Twenty scanned library activities bulletins issued by the Laurel County Public Library sent to overseas libraries with accomplished Russian translation;
- The copy of the Declaration for the Right to the Libraries sent to the National Association of Public Libraries in Ukraine; The Program "A Day in the Life" introduced in the Laurel County Public Library was sent and described in details to overseas libraries based on Japanese libraries' experience.

We will continue our efforts with overseas libraries and we would like to approach legislators in Kentucky to continue their support of local libraries as patrons of various counties are benefiting greatly by their access to the educational programs and the events organized by the libraries. We also would like to invite the Friends of Libraries from other counties in Kentucky to consider the opportunity of cooperation with various overseas libraries. We also would like to thank our friends at the *US Embassies* overseas who have helped us out in establishing connection with the libraries as well as the support of the Laurel County Public Library Director, our Library Liaison as well as the staff of the library who are actively involved in educational development programs for their communities.

We are also thankful to our counterparts in Kazakhstan and in the Ukraine for their support and creative approaches and for taking their time and efforts to connect with the Friends and with the Laurel County Public Library. We all live in busy world of social media and technology and libraries play an essential role in promoting dialogues between the patrons in different countries.



East Kazakhstan Public Library



Vinnytsia Public Library

Libraries Helping Libraries: The Kentucky Sister Library Project By April Ritchie Statewide Coordinator, Kentucky Sister Library Project

So much has happened with the Kentucky Sister Library Project (KSLP) during the past six months! I have a few updates to give, but first I'll give a quick re-cap of the program for those of you who are new to hearing about it.

The program started in 2010 as a way for in-state libraries to pair up with one another (or, become "sisters") in order to play off one another's strengths and balance out one another's weaknesses. The original idea was for larger libraries with more resources to pair up with smaller libraries with fewer resources. However, this notion has evolved, as the project now has some "sisters" that are similar in size and resources.

The first pairing was between the Kenton County Public Library and the Carter County Public Library. Next came a partnership between the Campbell County Public Library and the McLean County Public Library. More and more partnerships have continued to develop, and now we have a total of 13. Since a couple of the collaborations have more than two libraries, the total number of participating libraries is 30. One such alliance of more than two occurred in December, when the directors of Robertson (Carol Mitchell), Mason (Valerie Zempter), and Pendleton (Cheri Figgins) counties all joined forces. They decided it would benefit all of them if they could make a commitment to help one another in this official capacity.

Valerie Zempter, commented "It's hard to put a finger on all the times Carol or Cheri have made suggestions that were helpful, but Carol gave me some names of accountants who were good bets for audits, and Cheri has shared several ideas that helped me . . . with developing a marketing strategy." She went on to note "Cheri shared her publicity request form and her scheduling strategy. She also sent me a description of the marketing job she used to create that position in her Library." Cheri Figgins described the recent activities as "mostly just an exchange of advice and information."

These are perfect examples because they demonstrate that "sisters" do not always have to work on large endeavors together; small tasks are fair game for collaborative efforts. Sometimes smaller items need to be checked off your list before you can think about moving on to bigger assignments. In related news, the Lexington Public Library and the Bath County Memorial Library became "sisters" in January of this year. Harsh weather foiled their plans for their inaugural joint effort, but that will be re-scheduled. Additionally, two more libraries are in the discussion stages, so more good news may be on the way soon.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc. has been a key supporter of the KSLP for the past 4 years! By offering yearly grants, sister library pairings have been able to work on projects together that may have otherwise been unaffordable. The grants have furthered the KSLP's goal, which is expressed via its motto: "Libraries Helping Libraries".

Thank You, Friends!



Sister City/Sister Library

If your city has a sister city program it could be useful to take advantage of joining in their travel adventures.

A Visit to Carrickfergus Library by Georgia de Araujo

Danville, Kentucky's Sister City is Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland. I was lucky enough to visit there in April 2014 and spent some time at the Carrickfergus Library. All the public libraries in the country are operated through the Northern Ireland Library Authority. In a country that covers about 5,500 square miles (one-seventh the size of Kentucky) they have 96 public library branches, 16 mobile libraries, and 10 Homecall Service vehicles.

Carrickfergus Library Branch Manager, Dawn Young, is proud to note their branch is one of the 10 busiest in the country. They have many of the same kinds of programs we have here: Rhythm and Rhyme for babies with caregivers, Storytime for 4-8 year olds, Children's and Teenage Reading Groups, and "Knit and Natter" for those who want to knit, crochet, and chat (with tea!)

The Carrickfergus Mobile Library is very busy serving residents of County Antrim, one of the six counties of Northern Ireland. The motto on each bookmobile is "Developing People For Life."

But the nicest part of visiting the Carrickfergus Library is the view...right across the street from the 12th century Carrickfergus Castle overlooking the Belfast Lough, the passage where the Titanic first sailed after being built at the Belfast shipyards.



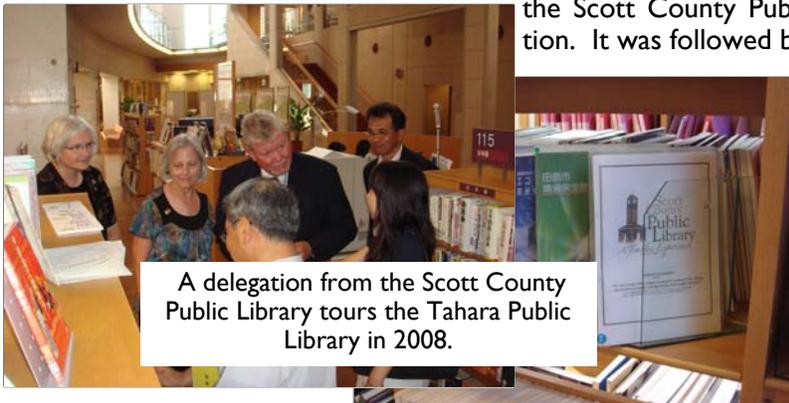
Main Desk



Bookmobile

Sister City Program Leads to Sister Library Relationship by Earlene H. Arnett

The sister city program of Georgetown, Kentucky and Tahara, Japan will celebrate their 25th anniversary this year. From this sister city program, a special relationship developed between the Scott County Public Library and the Tahara Public Library. The first exchange of information came at a reception held at the Scott County Public Library for the official Tahara delegation. It was followed by a Georgetown official delegation to



A delegation from the Scott County Public Library tours the Tahara Public Library in 2008.

Tahara that included representatives from the library. I had the privilege to be part of that delegation in 2008. I was so proud to see our library summary on their shelf while touring their new facility! The relationship continues informally with library displays celebrating anniversaries and annually providing bilingual National Library Week posters and bookmarks.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Mary Lynn Collins



**Status of Kentucky Library Lawsuits –
Good News and Not So Good News**

Perhaps you heard the shouts of joy on March 20, 2015—and perhaps you shouted yourself when you heard. . . that the Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Campbell and Kenton County libraries and reversed the earlier decision of the Circuit Courts. I had my 22-month old granddaughter at my home when I got the word and I immediately, with toddler on my lap, started sending out emails to folks, tweeting, and posting the news on the Friends Facebook page. There was indeed an electronic happy dance as folks from all over the state reacted to the news.

These library lawsuits, which relate to how library taxing districts set their rates, have implications far beyond Kenton and Campbell County Public Libraries. A final decision affects most of Kentucky's public libraries and a negative decision would mean possible refunds and significantly reduced revenues for many libraries. Services would be cut and in some cases, libraries would be forced to close their doors.

The Court of Appeals decision was 3 – 0 with no dissent. The court stated: “For over thirty years, without protest or challenge, the library districts created by petition have acted in good faith and conducted their affairs in accordance with the direction of the Executive Branch.”

While it was not unexpected, we were disappointed that the plaintiffs in these lawsuits have asked the Kentucky Supreme Court for discretionary review of the Court of Appeals decision.

The next step is for the Campbell and Kenton County Public Libraries to file responses. Those responses were due May 17. The Supreme Court will then decide whether to take the case and I am told that could take up to six months or longer.

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries were part of an Amicus Brief filed on the cases before the Court of Appeals and we are prepared to play a similar role if the Kentucky Supreme Court should take the case. We have consulted with both of our lawyers who helped to craft the Amicus Brief, Mark Overstreet and Virginia Snell, and they both indicated that they are prepared to act in a similar capacity on our behalf should the Supreme Court hear the case. These two lawyers are also library trustees and they have and will continue to offer their services pro bono and we are so appreciative.

The appeal did little to dampen our enthusiasm. We are confident that the Court of Appeals ruling will stand—and Kentuckians will continue to benefit from our investment in public libraries. Stay tuned—we will keep you posted.

Welcome New Board Member Lois Schultz

Lois Schultz is Head of Knowledge Management Services at Northern Kentucky University. Before coming to Northern Kentucky University in 1978, she was at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH and Thomas More College in Edgewood, KY. Prior to entering the library field she taught school in Jefferson County Schools in Louisville, KY.

Professional service includes many professional library organizations and university committees. Service to public libraries includes Board of Trustees Kenton County Public Library for ten years (1999-2010) serving as president for two years, Kenton County Public Library Foundation Board (2011-), Kentucky Library Trustee Round Table (ca 2008-2010) serving as secretary for two years, and Friends of Kenton County Public Library. She teaches collection management for the American Library Association. She is also serving on the Board of the Kenton County Extension Service.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD



Calloway County

Patsy Pittman, Secretary; Shawn Maxwell, Fundraising Chair; Pat Harrington, Public Relations Chair; Deborah Drane, Membership Chair; Mary Lynn Collins, President, Friends of Kentucky Libraries; Andy Dunn, Vice President; Ann Landini, President

Congratulations to Calloway County for obtaining their nonprofit status. Friends of Kentucky Libraries award non-competitive grants of \$400 to each chapter obtaining this status to assist with filing fees.

The annual FKL's Sister Library Grant was awarded to the Kenton County/Carter County sister libraries at the spring Kentucky Public Library Association conference. This \$400 competitive grant is awarded annually to assist sister library programs.



Carter & Kenton County

Sister Library grant given at KPLA conference Nellie Jordan; Carter County Public Library Director; Mary Lynn Collins, President, Friends of Kentucky Libraries and Dave Schroeder, Kenton County Public Library Director

“Declaration for the Right to Libraries”—Update by Linda Stith

Even though February’s Library Legislative Day was cancelled, results of the Declaration for the Right to Libraries project were delivered to Kentucky legislators before the end of the 2015 session. A packet containing a copy of the Declaration and a report about this statewide effort demonstrated to legislators that support for libraries in Kentucky is very much alive! In addition, the traditional yellow M&M’s were part of this special delivery.

The FINAL tally of Declaration signatures reached over **20,000!** This impressive figure is due to the hard work of librarians, Friends and trustees from all over the state. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated!

Don’t Forget

We may want to forget the Winter of 2015 and the snow that led to multiple cancellations and disruptions! But with optimism and good humor, let’s look forward to continuing our advocacy efforts with an eye toward the 2016 Legislative session.

And before that? Remember that Meet and Greets (especially in the Fall) offer a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate support for our libraries and to showcase their value in every Kentucky county. It’s never too early to start planning! For further information, contact Linda Stith at bluelas@aol.com

From the Editor

We want to hear from you! “News from the Field” will highlight Friends’ chapters across the state. Please submit articles about what your Friends group is doing to make a difference in your community. It’s really ok to “Toot Your Own Horn” while sharing. You could be making a difference in another community by sharing your success through this newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE!

November 14. The Friends of Kentucky Libraries will be holding their annual meeting in Frankfort at the Capital Plaza Hotel in conjunction with the 2015 Annual Kentucky Book Fair. More information to follow soon!



Find us on
Facebook

We are now on Twitter (@KYLibFriends) as well as Facebook. Follow us for the latest library news, including updates on the 2015 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly.



FriendsCONNECT is published four times a year by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

For a membership application, visit www.FriendsKyLibraries.org.

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