

# Behind the Lines

*Since 1987*

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From the desk of Leah Barnhard  
Executive Director  
Wichita Public Library Foundation  
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**The 2011 Big Read Wichita - in a word, spectacular!** The amazing programming award goes to the Library. A huge thank you goes to The Friends for hosting the author reception and the Wichita Genealogical Society for including the Big Read as part of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Thank you to Mayor Brewer and the City Council for recognizing October 2011 as Big Read month and to *everyone who read the book!*

**It's all in the numbers!** More than 550 attended the Big Read kick-off; 730 attended author Tim O'Brien's talk and book signing. Thank you to the Friends of the Wichita Public Library, Wichita State University Libraries, Wichita State University Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, USD 259 Wichita Public Schools, Friends University and Candlewood Suites – Wichita Airport who made his visit possible. *More than 60 partners and book clubs, representing five counties, participated in this year's Big Read.*

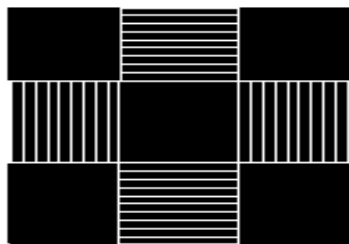
In recognition of our fourth Big Read, we had a very special visitor from Arts Midwest, who works in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts to make The Big Read possible. Angharad Guy spent two days touring Wichita with Tim O'Brien, our Big Read author, visited Big Read partners, the Wichita Art Museum, Mead's Corner, KCTU TV 43, Wichita State University and Friends University. The perfect fall weather and the people she met left a lasting impression *of the impact our Big Read has on our community.*

**And planning begins for a 2012 grant.** If you belong to an organization who would like to help plan or be a community partner, *please call me at 261-8523.*

**Barnes and Noble Bookfair update!** Special thanks to Jim Erickson, Brad Purkey, Lance Ponder, Dustin Chau and Kaleb Basham. Jim's talk, Brad's book discussion and an afternoon of jazz by Lance, Dustin and Kaleb entertained the shoppers and resulted in a very successful Bookfair. And thank you to Barnes and Noble customers who purchased and donated books from the Library's wish list table. *With your support, the Library will be the place to go!*

And thank you to the careful readers who noticed the October issue of the *Behind the Lines* had a couple of bloopers. The content of the newsletter is solely my responsibility. The purpose is to share how Foundation grants and fund raising support Library programming and materials purchases. I know it gets a bit confusing. Rest assured, grants and contributions to the Foundation show up at check-out counters, technology labs, auditoriums and work rooms. *Working together, we create the programming and services that make our City special!*

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**Wichita Public Library  
Foundation, Inc**

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