

WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

'E X C E R P T S }

WINTER 2007-2008

2007 – What a Year!

While the year isn't quite over yet, the Wichita Public Library has accomplished great things in 2007. The Library offered diverse and exciting programs, utilized technology to make service more convenient and accessible and made important steps on the master plan for library facilities.

The Library's biggest programs, such as the 19th annual African-American History Celebration and the 21st annual Academy Award® Shorts, attracted thousands of customers, requiring some events to be held off-site. During Hispanic Heritage Month, the first stand-up comic to perform at the Library, Patrick Candelaria, entertained over 70 people with his "Laughs for



Academy Award® Nominated Short *Binta & the Great Idea* (*Binta y La Gran Idea*), a Magnolia Pictures release. Photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

Literacy" program. New programs were launched, such as the Library's involvement in the first statewide one book program for adults, *Kansas Reads . . . The Learning Tree*. The Library hosted Gordon Parks' son David Parks for a lecture at Century II in addition to book discussions, a visit made possible thanks to the support from the Friends of the Wichita Public Library.

In addition to providing quality events for Wichitans, library staff members also are empowering others to share the love of learning and literacy. The Library continues to participate in Raising a Reader, a project in partnership with



Director of Libraries Cynthia Berner Harris and Wichita Public Library Foundation Board Members Sarah Bagby of Watermark Books and Café and Mary Eves Carey of the Orpheum Theatre greet the Sweet Potato Queen Jill Conner Browne (center).

the United Way of the Plains that encourages parents to read daily with their young children. In cooperation with Trees for Life, Library staff provide storytelling training for teachers and read to children as part of footage filmed for inclusion in the training materials for use in third world countries.

Behind the scenes, the Library was at work making technological improvements as well. The Library reopened its search for an updated system that allows for the services and features customers are requesting. Already in place is workstation timing and print management software, installed throughout the library system. Revenue has increased and supply needs have decreased thanks to the change of releasing print jobs at the service desk.

Progress was also made on the Library's master plan for facilities. After its adoption by the Library Board of Directors in August 2006 and endorsement in September 2006 by the City Council, several components were placed into the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. The first of those steps is the creation of a new Central Library in the core area. The City Council initiated the project and bonding resolution in November 2007.

These are exciting times for the Wichita Public Library!

What do Susan Wittig Albert, Rebecca Brandewyne, Jill Conner Browne*, Robert Day, Larry Hatteberg, Stan Hoig, Marilyn Irvin Holt, Hurst Laviana, L. Kelly, Raymond Nelson, David Parks, Nancy Pickard, Tim Potter, Anna Quindlen*, Lois Ruby and Roy Wenzl all have in common?

All are authors who participated in 2007 Library programs.

* Indicates partnership program with Watermark Books and Café





Kansas Book Festival

The second Kansas Book Festival, held Oct. 5-6, moved to Wichita State University's Koch Arena. The annual celebration of literature, the arts and Kansas heritage attracted over 5500 people for readings, panel discussions

and book signings by more than 60 adult and children's authors in addition to arts and humanities programs and vendor exhibits. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the free festivities, a Night of Notables Gala at the Wichita Art Museum honored the 2007 Notable Authors. Proceeds from the Gala went to benefit the Kansas Library Association Educational Foundation's Greensburg/Kiowa County Library Relief Fund.

While executing the Festival was a team effort, the Wichita Public Library played a major role. Staff helped in a variety of ways at the Festival, from escorting authors and costumed characters to wearing costumes themselves. Staff also shared information about Library programs and services at its booth, where over 680 entrants registered to win books. In addition to assistance with planning and volunteering at the Festival, the Library sponsored an appearance by Scholastic's Magic School Bus. While mechanical problems kept the bus from arriving until the final day of the Festival, its eagerly anticipated arrival was an instant hit with school-age children.

Another popular destination was the Friends of the Wichita Public Library Book Sale; they raised \$453.25, one quarter at a time. In addition to the book sale, the Friends showed their support of the Kansas Book Festival by sponsoring an author programming stage.

2007 Notable Book award winner Ally Carter signs copies of her latest book, *Cross My Heart and Hope to Spy* for her fans.

Sponsors for the 2007 Festival included a gift in memory of Meredith Docking, Spirit AeroSystems, Kansas Lottery, Via Christi Health System and Preferred Health Systems, Papa

John's, and Wichita State University. Promotional sponsors included Cox Communications, KAKE-TV, KPTS-TV, KMUW-FM, Journal Broadcast Group, Radio Disney and the *Wichita Eagle*. The 2007 Kansas Book Festival was a presentation of the State Library of Kansas, the Kansas Center for the Book, the Wichita Public Library, the Kansas Historical Society, the Governor's Cultural Affairs Council, the Kansas Arts Commission, the Kansas Humanities Council and the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"I loved it sooo much on Friday, I came back again on Saturday - but this time with my grandkids. Do this again,"
wrote one happy festival-goer.

Summer Reading Programs



The summer's grand finale was a Library night at a Wichita Wranglers baseball game. Summer reading program participants were invited to round the bases for their major league accomplishments of reading all summer long!

In summer 2007, more than 10,000 children and teens participated in the Wichita Public Library's summer reading programs. Children 17 and under in the Summer Reading Program were asked to *Get a Clue* by setting their own reading goals, then received bags of prizes once completed. Teens ages 12-17 in Teens Read discovered *YNK - You Never Know* and were rewarded with chances to win prizes based on the amount of time spent reading. In both programs, participants make their own reading selections.

Children read over 145,000 books and teens read more than 19,000 hours. Strong in-school promotions have been a key to the Library's continued success. Over 23,000 students and teachers in 67 schools received presentations from staff with information about the Summer Reading Program and Teens Read. Students in another 24 schools received printed promotional information about the programs.

Franklin the Turtle visited branch libraries to help kick off the summer and branches remained busy. Several branches set circulation records in June. As a result of this special promotion and extra effort placed at reaching summer readers through outreach activities, June registration increased 28% over 2006. At the end of June, 7,859 children were registered to participate in the Summer Reading Program with an additional 1,415 teens involved in the Teens Read program. Summer Reading and Teens Read programs ended in early August with system-wide records set for the number of registrants, number of summer reading club finishers, and number of teens entering at least one of the weekly contests.

Summer Reading programs were made possible by the Leonard and Celia Levand Trust, the Kansas Art Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Thanks also go to Arby's, Backyard Burger, Carlos O'Kelly's, Chipotle, HomeTown Buffet, Marble Slab Creamery, McDonald's, Office Depot, Papa John's, Pizza Hut, Pump It Up, Sonic, Spangles, Taco Grande, Taco Tico, Texas Roadhouse, Wendy's, Vic's Corn Popper and Wichita Wranglers.



Breaking 2,000,000

The Library is on track to beat 2,000,000 circulations by year-end, a Wichita Public Library record. There's always something new at your Library; on an average day, the Library adds over 175 items to the collection! From bestsellers to reference books, from DVDs to electronic databases, your library is always adding new materials to meet your needs. Here are just some of the notable additions made in 2007.

Grants from the Margaret Humphrey bequests managed by the Wichita Town Committee of the Colonial Dames of America and the Jane Peebles Sexton Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists added more than \$15,000 of colonial era genealogy books to the collections within the Wulfmeyer Special Collections Center during May. In November, the cataloging of all of the Kansas Census microfilm collection was completed.

The July 21 release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* appeared to be effortless to Library customers, but included a variety of pre-event activities and a carefully coordinated plan to make copies available to customers as quickly as possible. The Library had more than 200 copies of this best-selling title available in print, unabridged audiocassette and spoken compact disc formats,



including 100 copies purchased through a grant from the Friends of the Wichita Public Library. It is almost certainly the largest purchase of any single title in the history of the Wichita Public Library system. A cover contest and trivia contest attracted many entries. The winners of these contests won copies of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* that were also available for pickup on July 21.

The popularity of non-book media continues to soar. Standing orders for spoken compact discs are serving many customers as well, thanks to funds from the Campaign for Books and

National Endowment for the Humanities. Use of *Audio books, music and more!*, the statewide library of downloadable materials, keeps growing as titles and formats available increase. The Wichita Public Library, one of the Kansas libraries contributing to the project, now lists "downloadable media" in its own catalog with links to *Audio books, music and more!* The expansion of the juvenile DVD collection, with an emphasis on high quality films, was completed with a grant from the KT Wiedemann Foundation.

The Library continued to look for ways to improve customers' ability to both locate and learn about new items. Graphic novels, both those classified as fiction and non-fiction, have been categorized into the three intellectual levels of juvenile, young adult and adult so customers can find the ones that suit their tastes. Reorganization efforts on the first floor of the Central Library began in earnest in March, when massive equipment was hauled in to prevent major service disruptions. The resulting rearrangement leaves more space for class groups to work together and gives customers and staff better line-of-sight of each other, making help easy to find. The Central Library's new circulating magazines are receiving attention in their new space. BookLetters, the Library's free e-mail newsletters (also available by RSS) about new materials and programs, enjoyed a 40% rise in subscriptions.



Charter members recognized at the Wichita Genealogical Society's 20th Anniversary Gala at Rolling Hills Country Club on Nov. 10, 2007, were Marcia Nordstrom, Jim Bradley, Corrine Afton, Jennie Byerley, Barbara Baker and Dick Miller. The Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing genealogical material, promoting the growth of the Library's Genealogy section, and offers educational opportunities and programs throughout the year to help both beginning and advanced family historians.



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Friends of the Wichita Public Library

2007 has been another fantastic year for the Friends of the Wichita Public Library with soaring membership, brisk sales in the Used Book Store and continued valuable contributions of time and effort from outstanding Friends volunteers. In total, the Friends donated more than \$41,000.00 to the Wichita Public Library through November 2007, not including the value of their volunteer support.

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library completed a challenge grant from the Wichita Community Foundation. The Friends raised \$60,000 and was awarded with \$20,000 by the Wichita Community Foundation. What will the Friends do with the money raised? Assuming an average 5% return on the endowment corpus, this grant will allow the Friends to provide \$4,000 a year to the Library to use in helping to promote and market library programs and service.

While major projects, such as purchases of downloadable materials for *Audio books, music and more!*, and support for large programs such as the visit of David Parks in conjunction with *Kansas Reads . . . The Learning Tree*, receive major attention, the Friends also have proven on a very personal level that they do live up to their name. Through their Good Samaritan program, the Friends have helped eleven library users with extenuating circumstances regain their library privileges by paying their fees. Thanks have poured in from users who feared they would never be able to use the library again because of a robbery, an extended hospitalization or other terrible situation.

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library are currently around 680 members strong. In just the past year, they have increased their membership by 22.3%, continuing their outstanding pattern of growth. Most



In an official proclamation from Mayor Carl Brewer, Oct. 21-27, 2007, was named Friends of the Library Week. Treasurer Larry Romine received the proclamation at the Oct. 2 City Council meeting. The proclamation was placed on display in the Friends Used Book Store at the Central Library.

Friends members join at the gold card level (\$25 annually), although memberships at the individual (\$10/year) and platinum (\$100+/year) levels are available. The benefits of memberships range from Friends of the Wichita Public Library Used Book Store gift certificates, grace periods on returning Wichita Public Library materials, and unlimited free reserves to having a Library item plated in the member's name. To become a member or renew, simply visit any library for a form or go online to the Friends' website at <http://www.wichita.lib.ks.us/Organizations/Friends/>.

Becoming a member or giving the gift of membership to a loved one is not the only way to help the Friends of the Wichita Public Library. Volunteers are always needed to help with Friends events and with the Friends Used Book Store. One of many new volunteers welcomed in 2007 was Beth Wasson; she officially became the new Used Book Store Manager on May 1. Used Book Store sales continue to provide a strong source of revenue to assist Library programs and collections, but volunteers are always needed to help staff the Book Store, both regularly and on a substitute basis, and to assist with the sorting of donated material. More information on volunteering is available on the Library's website at www.wichita.lib.ks.us, or you may call Sherryl Torres, Volunteer Manager, at 261-8526.