

Behind the Lines

Since 1987

From the desk of Leah Barnhard
Executive Director
Wichita Public Library Foundation
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Announcing a new endowment at the Foundation. We are pleased to add the Professor John Michael Hyde Endowment in memory of his mother, Helen McCarthy Hyde. Income from Professor Hyde's endowment will be used to purchase children's books for the Library system. As part of his gift, he also gave first editions of Laura Ingalls Wilder's "By the Shores of Silver Lake" and "The Long Winter," These cherished books will be housed in the Kendall R. Durst Decorative Arts Collection, which is supported in part from income from the Kendall R. Durst Endowed Memorial.

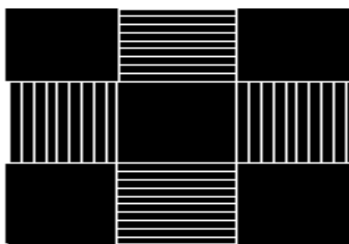
On July 10, something very special happened at the Wichita City Council meeting. Big Read Co-Chair Mayor Carl Brewer officially announced "The Great Gatsby" as the 2012 Big Read title. I was joined by Director of Libraries Cynthia Berner Harris, Beth Golay of Watermark Books and Café, Sheila Shaw of KPTS, Stephen Gleissner of the Wichita Art Museum and Sarah Jane Crespo of 89.1 KMUW – Wichita Public Radio for the big news. Numerous other partners have already signed on to this year's efforts.

As one of 78 organizations across the United States to receive support from the National Endowment from the Arts, we are very excited to be a Big Read community. This year's events officially kick off at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Wichita Art Museum with an accompanying exhibit, antique car show, reader's theatre, free books and more. Look for book discussions, films, lectures, and more as the Big Read spreads throughout Sedgwick, Harvey, Sumner, Cowley and Pratt counties. If you want to be a program or book club partner, it's not too late. Visit bigreadwichita.org for details on partnership, "The Great Gatsby," and more. You can also join The Big Read – Wichita on Facebook. *See you there!*

Coming August 1 is a slate of new online resources made possible by the State Library of Kansas. Mango Languages fulfills a frequently-requested service: online world language training. Whether you are brushing up on your language skills or starting fresh, Mango can help. There's still time to meet those New Year's resolutions of learning another language! *Say "hello" to Mango in more than 30 languages!*

Senior Wednesday will take you on a tour of France without the long flight! Claude Puntel will talk about French culture, language and customs. This program starts at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 8, at the Central Library. On August 18 at the Alford Branch Library, Kansas State University historian Dr. Michaeline Chance-Reay will talk about the history of the Harvey Girls in a program for the Wichita Genealogical Society. The program is open to the public and starts at 1 p.m. *You won't want to miss a thing!*

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