

Behind the Lines

Since 1987

From the desk of Leah Barnhard
Executive Director
Wichita Public Library Foundation
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We wish Sharon Miles a fond farewell as she retires from the Foundation. Her service to the Library, the Friends of the Wichita Public Library and the Foundation was greatly appreciated. We will miss her many talents and the cheerful smile she brought with her to the Library.

Art Day of Giving, a single day of community awareness for the arts in Wichita, was a great success. The Library Foundation raised over \$428,000. A huge thank you goes to Sharon Miles, all of our very special donors, the Foundation, Friends and Library Boards of Directors and the Wichita Community Foundation.

ArtDOG Buy-a-Book at Watermark Books was also a wonderful success. Sarah Bagby's amazing staff and Watermark volunteers, Sandra Dunsworth and Seenu Madhavan, made this a very special day as they explained the work of the Foundation and the purpose of ArtDOG. I also want to thank jazz saxophonist Phil Mershon, singer-songwriter Billy Bloomquist, flutist Ruth Ann Sooby, and the Grey Family Band for providing our entertainment. A special thanks goes to Beverly Mershon and Nola Brown for their assistance. *Looking forward to ArtDOG 2016!*

My Library Story: I received a lovely letter from Bonnie (Brown) Rupe, a former employee of the Library. She began her service in September of 1945 as the Children's Room Assistant. Bonnie then worked in many areas of the Library, including supervisor of Technical Services, before retiring in 1984. She recalls with great fondness the many happy memories enjoyed by the school librarians and library staff working together during the summer months and taking wooden boxes of books in a small van for distribution to area schools. The school buildings were closed, so tables were set up outside (circa 1923-1950). And not to be outdone by the current Central Library roof, she remembers placing buckets around the Carnegie Library Children's Room to catch rain dripping through the roof.

"The Carnegie Library is a unique building and we are glad it is being saved".

--Bonnie (Brown) Rupe

A very special thank you goes to Andrew Carnegie for his vision of a city library in Wichita and to Bonnie Rupe for living his vision!

Celebrating the Carnegie Library! Thank you to the City of Wichita and Fidelity Bank and the Bastian Family as we celebrate the Carnegie Library's 100th anniversary and the opening of the building to the public on May 14, 1915. From the very early beginnings of library service by the Wichita Library Association in 1876, subscription fee \$3, to its current form as the Wichita Public Library, our Library holds a very special place in our community.

And you thought the River Festival was just food, games and music!

Join the Foundation and the Library at the River Festival on Wednesday, June 6th from 4 – 6 p.m. on the Central Library West Lawn (between the Library and Century II). Sign up for the Summer Reading Club and help the Foundation celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Carnegie Library in Wichita.

The Friend's will host their ***Beach Read Paperback Book Sale*** on Saturday, June 6th, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Browse the best collection of gently used paperback books in Wichita. *You won't want to miss this very special shopping opportunity!*

Top 10 Ways to Give to the Foundation

#8: CD's, Saving Accounts, Brokerage Accounts, Checking Accounts with "Payable on Death" provisions. You retain full ownership and full control during your life. When your estate takes effect, the account balance is paid to your named beneficiary immediately and without probate. For more information, please call me at 316-261-8523 or consult your attorney.

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