



THE KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

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Mission

The Kansas City Public Library Foundation develops friends and funds for the Kansas City Public Library.

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INSIDE

- 2 Confessions of a librarian
Reading program selects 2011 theme
Library rated 4-Star by *Library Journal*
- 3 Library aspires to Build a Community of Readers
- 4 Civil War lives in Missouri Valley Special Collections

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Donors take pride in library investment

Linda and Richard Rostenberg are grateful Library patrons, and much more. They have included the Library in their estate planning.

When asked why, Linda said, "It was a no brainer! We want to support things we really believe in. We think access to education is the greatest gift we can give ... and the library offers free education to everyone, in every possible format. The library crosses all lines, no matter your status, your location, your politics, the library is for you."

Linda grew up in a family of bookworms, loving to go to the library. In elementary school she even got to help out in the school library. She still remembers the smell of the purple ink stamp the librarian used for checking out books.

The Rostenbergs' Jewish heritage places learning high on the priority list, and libraries have always been their "best friends for learning".

Linda and Richard think more people need to know about all the services available for free at the Library - especially today when books are expensive and people are struggling financially. Linda says, "I just learned how to download books from the Library's website. What a convenience!"



The couple is fortunate to live within walking distance of the Plaza Branch, and enjoy many of the author programs presented there. They frequently order books in from other locations to pick up at Plaza. Put simply, Linda thinks "the Library is the best deal in town."

New skills discovered at the library

Although recently retired, Hattie Pompey has always been interested in self-enrichment. So when she saw that the Library was offering a computer class, she signed up right away. Although she had used a computer at work, there was a lot she didn't know and features she hadn't used.

Enter Francie Vandergriff, teacher of the computer class at the Southeast branch. Ms. Pompey recalled, "Not only was she knowledgeable but showed good teaching skills and patience, even with those who didn't know what a mouse was! She made sure that each of us understood the lessons."

The Library plays a key role in Ms. Pompey's life, as a resource for learning new infor-



mation and also just as a peaceful place to be. Sometimes she goes to the Southeast branch to pay her bills in a relaxed atmosphere. She has noticed that young teens are welcomed and comfortable there, and seem to be there for a purpose, which she is happy to see.

Confessions of a Librarian

Ritchie Momon, Branch Manager, Trails West

Why did I become a librarian?

As a youngster I was always reading at the library branch housed at my high school.

I was a freshman when the library offered me a paid job as a shelver, or “page” as we were called. This launched my 29-year career with the Kansas City Public Library. At the old Main Library downtown we delivered books to homebound readers, community centers, retirement centers and child care sites. I kept card files on those books so we wouldn’t send them something they’d already read.

When the Library separated from the School District, I helped open the Lucile H. Bluford Branch at 31st and Prospect. Since then I’ve been a computer technician, staff technology trainer, coordinator for the start-up library loan consortium, “automation librarian” and young adult specialist. Along the way I earned my Master’s degree in Library Science.

What have been the most significant changes in the Library over this time?

When the Library first moved out of the schools and into the neighborhoods most of our patrons were readers and took great pride in their local branch. Today, libraries are computer centers, community meeting venues, everything. This evolution has added value to the library as institution. At the same time, it is more difficult to

stay focused on our fundamental purpose, to support a community of readers and to get to know our customers one-on-one.

What is the most significant challenge today?

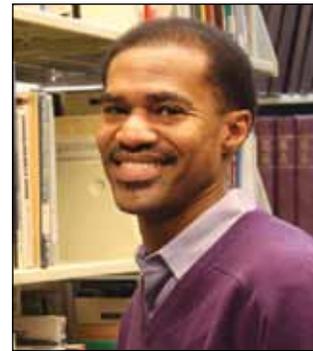
Like most libraries, we’ve had to tighten our belts, even though demand has grown. Job seekers need computer support. More people are turning to the library for free or affordable movies and public programs. Staffing is down, yet it’s important to maintain excellent service.

What does the Library do best?

We serve all people, and our service has a direct relationship to how many customers choose us and stay with us.

What do we do that makes the most difference in people’s lives?

We meet people where they are. For example, I have a few apples or other snacks on hand for children who need a boost before they go home. We help job applicants who are forced to use computers for the first time just to survive. They learn how to create resumes and submit online applications. It’s a great feeling when they come back to say, “I got the interview.”

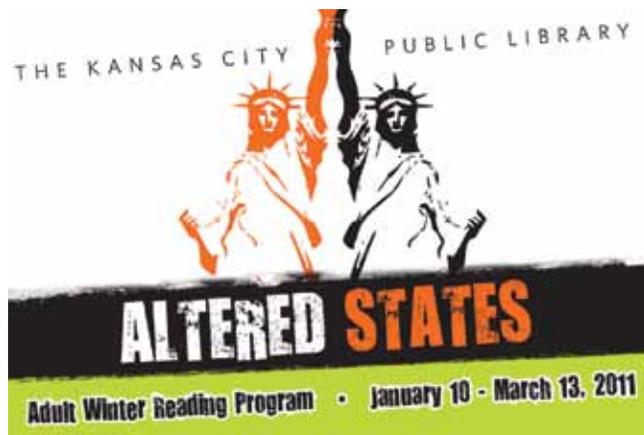


Reading program selects 2011 theme

The Adult Winter Reading Program returns in January to inspire a new legion of readers with its 2011 theme: *Altered States*. This concept focuses on classic and contemporary novels whose authors have altered the timeline of human history—for good or ill (but mostly for ill).

The program aims at encouraging leisure reading among adults through Readers’ Advisory materials prepared by the Library. Participating readers are rewarded with a classy limited edition bistro mug featuring the Winter Reading logo, a popular feature since the mugs’ introduction in 2009. This year, Winter Reading participants will also be entered into a drawing for a Nook e-reader

Book group leaders have scheduled 13 discussions of suggested readings for 2011—up from nine discussions last year. Members of the Winter Reading Committee and the Readers’ Advisory Group are also contributing Winter Reading book reviews for the *KC Unbound* blog.



Library rated 4-Star by Library Journal

The *LJ* Index of Public Library Service has given the Kansas City Public Library four of five possible stars within its peer group. The national rating system is designed to recognize and promote America’s public libraries, to help improve the pool of nationally collected library statistics, and to encourage library self-evaluation. Ratings are based on four key per capita standards: circulation, visits, program attendance and public internet terminal uses.

We expect the *LJ* rating to be useful as we strive toward excellence in specific services and seek funding to continue to expand and improve our services.

The Kansas City Public Library Foundation newsletter is published periodically during the year and posted on the Library’s website at www.kclibrary.org under the Giving tab. To learn more about opportunities to support the Library, or if you have questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Claudia Baker at 816-701-3518 or claudiabaker@kclibrary.org

Library aspires to Build a Community of Readers

The Library has launched a multi-year initiative to transform Kansas City into a community of readers . . . vaulting our city to the top five most literate communities in the nation. This is an ambitious goal that requires building a consciousness among our citizens that we aspire to be a more literate community.

We want to increase Kansas City's exposure to books, because especially for children, it will set the stage for a rich vocabulary, strong literacy skills and academic success. So, to position the Library as the community's intellectual center, we have set down three measurable objectives:

- **Increase summer reading programs** from 12,000 to 18,000 school-age participants in 2011/year one . . . bringing the joy of reading to even more children and supporting reading skills.
- **Launch the Reading Partners program** in May 2011 during Children's Book Week, awarding at least 1,000 books to children who read 20 or more books.
- **Increase Library circulation** at a pace that places us in the top 10% of public libraries nationwide.

If you share our vision of a community of readers, please join the Library in this initiative through your financial support. Your gift today will help us achieve our goal of attaining national recognition as one of America's most literate communities. Mail your check to The Kansas City Public Library Foundation, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. Or charge your donation online by visiting www.kclibrary.org and click on "Giving".



Above: Library Director Crosby Kemper spoke about how early literacy is fundamental to the larger Building a Community of Readers campaign.



Left: Veteran Pembroke Hill preschool teacher Kit Smith spoke fervently about the importance of surrounding children with books and reading with children to instill a love of reading and learning.

The Greenwood Society is a recognition program for donors of \$1000 or more annually to support the mission of the Library. We appreciate the generosity and shared vision of these members.

Mark Twain Circle

Julia and Jonathan Bredin
Mr. Chris Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Kemper

Langston Hughes Circle

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kirk
The Neal and Jeanne Patterson Family Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. John J. Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. Rex A. Sinquefeld

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Mr. Morton I. Sosland
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Sally Wood





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The Library Foundation is privileged to received gifts in tribute to loved ones and friends. The tributes below were received from September through November 2010.

- In Honor of Smarty Espinoza
Ms. Mary A. Espinoza
- In Memory of Gudrun Mae Maclean
Ms. Jennifer McGreal
- In Memory of Jane Neale Havens
Suzanne Eleanor Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bean
Kenneth A. Bono, O.D.
Myrna Corpeny
The Emley Family
Emily Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B.W. McCollum
Kitty Marquardt
Edith R. Salisbury
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Spangler
- In Memory of Mary Hill Knickerbocker Parrish
Ms. LeAnn J. Fletcher
Ms. Trudy Keyes
Ms. Katherine B. Mayfield
Dana Melching
- In Memory of Richard K. Andrews
Ms. Martha Dunalewicz
- In Memory of Garland English
Reed English

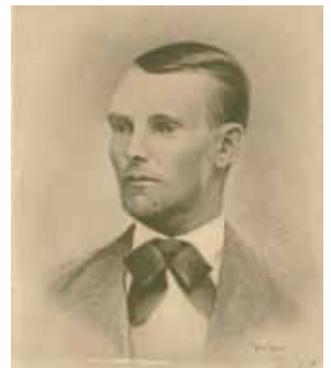
Civil War lives in Missouri Valley Special Collections

With the anniversary of the Civil War coming up, the Library's Missouri Valley Special Collections are a great resource for bringing history to life. *Guerrillas and Outlaws* is a digital collection of photographs of 52 charcoal portraits of legends of the era: William Quantrill, Jesse and Frank James, and William "Bloody Bill" Anderson.

Others pictured have a close local connection—like William Gregg, who was part of Quantrill's Guerrillas but later became a Jackson County deputy sheriff. Another interesting character is Dick Yeager, a wagon master between Westport and Santa Fe.

We know that the original charcoal portraits were created by A.L. Dillenbeck and Elmer Stewart, who probably used photographs as a basis for their drawings. But who were these artists? It's possible that Dillenbeck was a woman, as an Anna Dillenbeck was listed in the 1893 Kansas City city directory along with an Elmer Stewart, but further information could not be verified.

For a fascinating historical experience, explore the Missouri Valley Special Collections for yourself—online or in person at the Central Library. The Family Collection in the Digital Gallery [kchistory.org](http://www.kclibrary.org/kchistory.org) has more Civil War related photos and letters; and the Border Warfare Civil War special topics appear at <http://www.kclibrary.org/kchistory/border-warfare-civil-war>.



Jesse James



John Ross