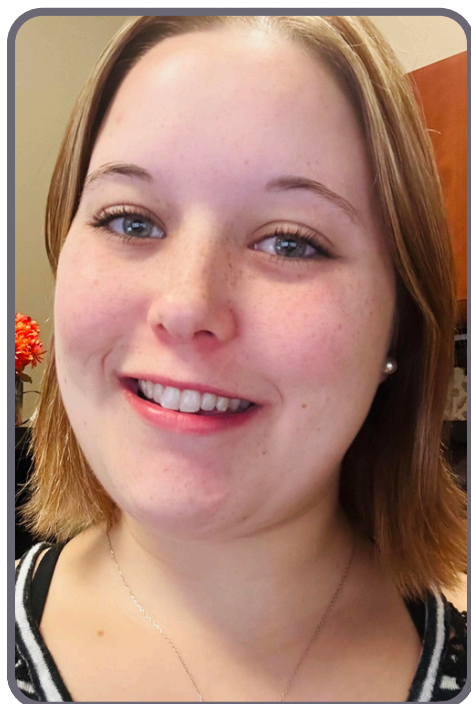




WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Volume 30, No. 1, Fall 2024



**A message from our
President:
Melissa Emo**

As We Gather, We Grow

Hello WALA Readers!

Fall is here in full swing, and so is WALA! Our upcoming events offer a fantastic opportunity to connect and network. We started our summer with a trip to the Sedgwick County Zoo and then to Botanica, the Wichita Gardens. We then met at the Park City Public Library for our Meet and Greet Membership Drive. Stay tuned for our upcoming events!

We are kicking off the holidays by bringing together the Wichita library community and local legislators at our 2024 Legislative Luncheon. We will have our annual Holiday Book Swap and Holiday Party as well. More information to come on Facebook. In the Spring, we will be touring a local library and gathering at our Spring Tanner Symposium.

The WALA board is dedicated to fostering connections among our local libraries and showcasing current topics relevant to the library community. If you know of anyone looking to become more involved in the local librarianship community or find yourself needing to renew your membership, it is never too late to join WALA today!

Find us on Facebook!

Don't keep WALA the best-kept secret in Kansas library land! Like us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same.

We are always happy to post events or job openings at WALA libraries - just send a link to

Melissa Emo

memo@emporia.edu

Upcoming WALA Events

- Meet the Board, p. 3-4
- Annual Meeting, p. 5
- Summer with WALA, p. 6-7
- See you at KLA, p. 8
- Legislative Lunch, p. 9
- WALA Holiday Party, p. 11

WALA 2024- 2025 Leadership

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President 2024-2025

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2024-2026

Parker Daniel
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WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Welcome new WALA Board Members!

Want to know more about the people shaping the future of the Wichita Area Library Association (WALA)?

We recently sat down with our newly elected board members to learn about their motivations, passions, and favorite reads. Discover why they chose to join the WALA board, who they'd love to have lunch with, and what they're currently immersed in.



Hannah Adamson

Derby Public Library, Youth Services Coordinator
2024-2025 WALA Vice President/President Elect

I joined the WALA board to meet new librarians in the Wichita area and to assist in promoting the organization and continuing to spread the

message of how important libraries are to our community. As for a famous person I'd like to have lunch with & why, it would be Rhett and Link from Good Mythical Morning! They've created such an awesome culture of creativity, inclusion, and fun with their YouTube channel. I'd love to pick their brains. Since it's October, so I'm about to pick up my Halloween horror choice of 2024. We Used to Live Here by Marcus Kliewer. I'm passionate about early literacy and my storytime puppet, Clyde the Library Duck.



Julie Mills

Park City Public Library, Director

I joined the WALA board to help spread library Joy
 I would eat lunch with Barack Obama because I admire him tremendously to this day and I want to hear his opinion on everything.

I am currently reading The Black Bird Oracle by Deborah Harkness. It is the 5th book in her All Souls series. I am passionate about providing free services to All and being an open, inclusive, safe space.



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Tom Taylor

Andover Public Library, Director

I am on the WALA board because Eric asked me to be secretary. I have been secretary before. Lunch with: Mario Andretti a living legend, I've really enjoyed listening to interviews and I would love to get an autograph.

Currently reading: *Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?* Mumia Abu-Jamal. Passionate about: KC Chiefs, IndyCar



Parker Daniel

Wichita Public Library, Community Services Librarian

I joined the WALA Board to make connections with fellow librarians in the area and serve as a bridge, connecting people to resources where I can. If I could have lunch with anyone famous it would be Erykah Badu. I adore her music. She's a true creative and a

and a paragon of authenticity. I'd love the opportunity to pick her brain and learn about her process. I've been leisurely leafing through Juju Bae's *The Book of Juju: Africana Spirituality for Healing, Liberation, and Self-Discovery*. This has been a great guide as I dip my feet into traditional ancestor veneration and a spiritual practice. I'm passionate about Kawaii things. I love Pokémon, Sailor Moon, Sanrio, Animal Crossing, all things cute! They thaw my freezer-burned heart.



Eric Gustafon

Derby Public Library, Director

I joined WALA to network and work with Wichita area librarians. I've also had a lot of fun as a WALA member!



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WALA had a Roaring Good time!

Our annual meeting and luncheon was a huge hit! Held at The Lodge in Warren Riverview Park in Derby, KS, the event featured a special guest speaker, Mike Everhart, a renowned Kansas paleontologist. We had a blast learning about prehistoric creatures and enjoying delicious food in a beautiful setting.

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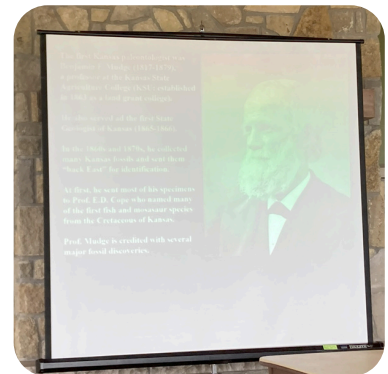


Photo courtesy of Heather Powell



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

SUMMER FUN



Volume 30, No. 1, Fall 2024



Nature POP!

AT BOTANICA,
WICHITA, KS

WALA members had a delightful summer outing at Botanica, exploring the vibrant Nature POP! sculptures by Sean Kenney.

Photo courtesy by Melissa Emo





WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Twilight at the Zoo

WALA met at the Sedgwick County Zoo on Tuesday, July 16th for Twilight at the Zoo, an after hours event that featured an evening concert by the Llew Brown Band. This event was sponsored by Cox Communications.



Photo Courtesy Melissa Emo



Photo Courtesy Park City Public Library Facebook

September Meet & Greet AT PARK CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our meet and greet at Park City Public Library was a wonderful way to socialize and learn about the library. We enjoyed a tour, snacks, and friendly conversations with fellow WALA members.



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

— SEE YOU AT THE —

KANSAS LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30-
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

It will be a scary good time with WALA at KLA.
Sit for a spell with us at lunch or conjure up some
ghosts with us at the Exhibitors Hall.
Don't let your TBR be the death of a good
conversation, we be happy to pick your brains.





Legislative Lunch & Learn

Join the Wichita Area Library Association and Sedgwick County Legislators for WALA annual luncheon with special guest speakers, Jaime Nix, Director of Wichita Public Library & Denise Neil of Wichita Eagle

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

11:00 AM-1 PM

Advanced Learning Library

**711 W. 2nd Ave North
Wichita, KS**

RSVP

Lunch will be catered by
Blue Moon Catering.
Please RSVP by November
9th.



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Katherine Williams

Providing grants, continuing education and support services to 145 member libraries.

South Central Kansas Library System

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sckls.info



SAVE THE DATE

Wales

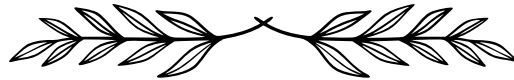
Holiday Party
&
Book Exchange

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Do you know a library staff member who would enjoy the social interaction and networking opportunities that WALA offers? Do

you have a coworker who could contribute to our local organization? Do you have an employee who has great ideas and loves to be involved with the community? If so, encourage them to become a member of the Wichita Area Library Association!

For \$15.00 a year, membership for WALA is a steal! All they need to do is fill out a membership application and mail it and a check for \$15.00 (made payable to WALA) to

Julie Mills, WALA Treasurer
Park City Public Library
2107 East 61st St N
Park City, KS 67219

Membership forms can be found on our website:
<https://walaks.org/membership/>



The Wichita Area Library Association (WALA) is an organization of library professionals established in 1982 in Wichita, Kansas.

WALA is dedicated to supporting libraries and library employees in the Wichita area and works to improve library services and access for library users in the Wichita community.

**Submit materials for WALA News to: Heather Powell,
librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com**