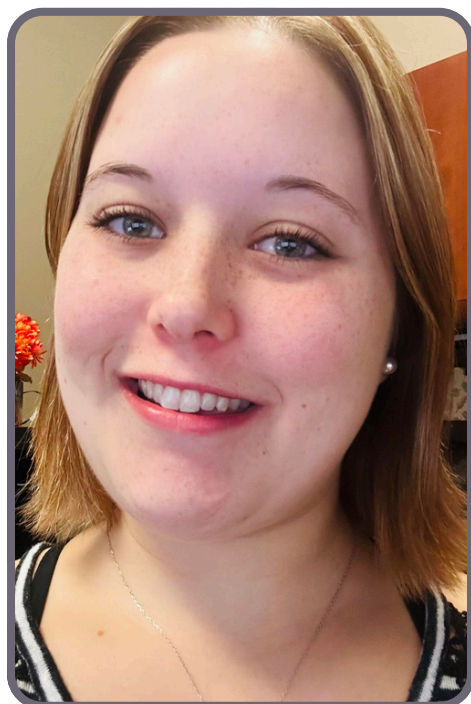




WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



A message from our
President:
Melissa Emo

As We Gather, We Grow

Hello WALA Readers!

In 2025, we'll be focusing on creating new opportunities for networking and fostering community connections. We invite everyone to come explore the newly completed Newton Public Library during our March tour.

Derby Public Library will host our annual Tanner Spring Symposium in April, with this year's theme focused on building community connections. We invite both current and prospective members to join us for our Annual Meeting Luncheon in May. The event will feature a guest speaker and an opportunity to vote for the 2025-2026 leadership board.

If you're interested in joining WALA, feel free to reach out to me or any of our board members to learn how to make the most of your membership. We provide a range of events and opportunities for those eager to connect with a supportive, close-knit community of librarians.

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

- Legislative Lunch, p. 3
- Newton Library Tour, p. 4
- Tanner Symposium, p. 6
- WALA Vote, p. 10

WALA 2024- 2025 Leadership

Officers

President 2024-2025

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Library & Archives
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memo@emporia.edu

Vice President/ President Elect 2024-2025

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Past President 2024-2025

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Webmaster 2015-

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tomtaylor@andoverlibrary.org

Newsletter Editor 2023-

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Friends University Library
librarian.hlpowell@gmail.com

Ex Officio 2016-

Nicole Penley
SCKLS
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Board of Directors

2024-2026

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2024-2026

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2024-2026

Samuel Willis
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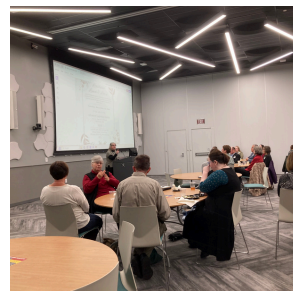
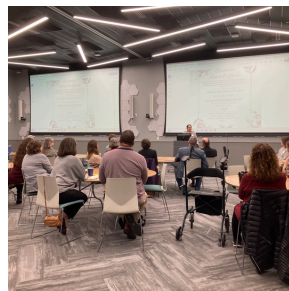
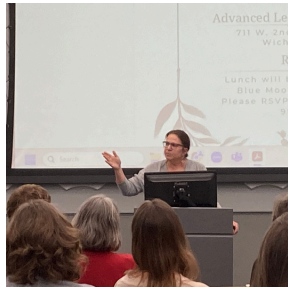
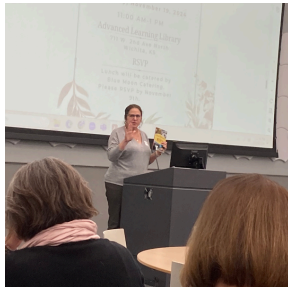


WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

2024 Legislative Lunch

On Tuesday, November 19, 2024, the Wichita Area Library Association (WALA) hosted a well-attended legislative lunch at the Advanced Learning Library. Guests enjoyed insightful presentations from speakers Jamie Nix, Director of the Advanced Learning Library, and Denise Neil, Wichita Eagle's "Dining with Denise" columnist. The delicious lunch was catered by Blue Moon Catering and was generously funded in part by the cooperating member libraries of the South Central Kansas Library System. Thank you to all who attended and made this event a success!

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Join WADA



Newton Public Library

For a Library Tour!



March 6th @ 5:30 PM

223 E 7th St, Newton, KS 67114



WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

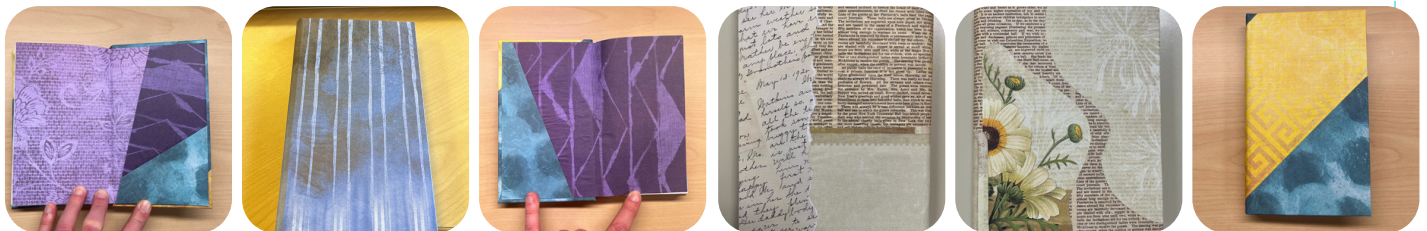
WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY?

WSU LIBRARY

We have two new faculty – an Assessment and User Experience Librarian, and a Student Success Librarian. We are very glad to have them, as well as new campus partners who collaborate with us in the Research Hub within the library and in the Student Success Center next door.

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

We have conducted a Reading Day Bookbinding Workshop for a few semesters now and the workshops have become very popular. So much so that we have collaborated with our English Department for a recruiting event and plan on collaborating with the Art Department to make handmade sketchbooks & journals. Next bookbinding workshop is on Monday, May 5th from 1-3pm. Supplies are provided and we will learn how to sew a book.



DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Congratulations to Hannah Adamson on her new promotion to Assistant Director! Also, Derby Public Library has accepted a bid and signed contracts on their new park. Stay tuned for details!

PARK CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

We are planning a tea party with The Spice Merchant in March and still have our Spice of the Month take home bags that we stock from The Spice Merchant.



TANNER SPRING SYMPOSIUM

PRESENTERS TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON.

***JOIN WALA FOR A
DISCUSSION ON
COMMUNITY BUILDING!***



DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

1600 WALNUT GROVE RD, DERBY, KS 67037

FROM 1-4 PM

APRIL 24TH 2025

SNACKS AND DRINKS PROVIDED



Library Events



Ellen Youngman: Colorful Cats and Canines



February 28-April 24
Project Wall

Opening Reception:
February 27, 5-7 PM
Friends Room



ANDOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY



Adaptive Art Workshop

Join us for a fun and engaging hands-on session!
Explore creative expression with adaptive art tools designed for all abilities.



- All ages welcome!
- Limited to 20 participants
- Register via link

Monday, March 24, 5:30AM-6:30PM, Art Gallery

More information: ericakim@andoverlibrary.org

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

NEA 2025 BIG READ BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 1
12 PM - 1PM
Multipurpose Room
(Library - 1st floor)



Please join Dr. Vicki Ronn to discuss
Sitting Pretty: The View From My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body by Rebekah Taussig.

This event is free and open to everyone.
The library has limited free copies available.
Stop by to pick up your copy today!



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Library Events

DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Big Read Programs 2025

Giving away copies of *Sitting Pretty* starting Monday, March 31

Preschool Storytime: *We Are All Different*

April 1 and April 2 at 10 AM

Join us for books, songs, and stories about how even though our families may be my different or our bodies and minds might be different, we are all still important and good.

Tween Zone: Big Read Day

April 2 at 4 PM

All brains are beautiful at this explorative tween program. Tweens will make brain headbands, have some snacks, and learn about the many different ways of thinking, feeling, and expressing.

Adventures at the Library: X is for X-Ray

April 3 at 4 PM

Celebrate how all of our bodies are different by examining them from the inside out. We shares books, do crafts, and eat snacks.

Teen Tuesday: Different Ways to Play

April 8 at 4 PM

Teens will experience different ways that bodies can move and play with some eye-opening challenges. Teens will also get to make positivity cards for special needs students and snack on some popsicles.

Library Lounge Accessibility Series: Crip Camp

April 8 at 6 PM

In celebration of Big Read 2025, the Library Lounge presents this 3-part film series highlighting incredible stories of accessibility and the diversity of all bodies and minds. Crip Camp is a groundbreaking film about how a summer camp for teens with disabilities inspires a group of its alumni to join the disability rights movement and advocate for historic legislation change. Patrons will also enjoy refreshments, coloring pages, and entry to a grand prize drawing!

Library Lounge Accessibility Series: 55 Steps

April 15 at 6 PM

In celebration of Big Read 2025, the Library Lounge presents this 3-part film series highlighting incredible stories of accessibility and the diversity of all bodies and minds. 55 Steps featuring Helena Bonham Carter and Hilary Swank tells the true story of Eleanor Riese and the fight for her right to refuse the psychiatric medication that was causing her harm. Patrons will also enjoy refreshments, coloring pages, and entry to a grand prize drawing!

Chair Yoga for All

April 21 at 6:30 PM

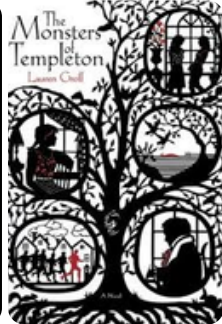
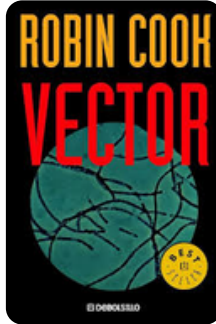
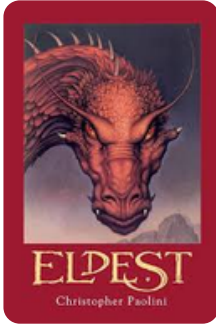
A beginner-friendly class with various mobility and flexibility poses done in a seated position. This class can be adaptable for wheelchair-bound yogis or yogis with limited range of motion. Instructed by a 200-hr Registered Yoga Teacher from Yoga Alliance with limited mats and yoga props available to borrow.

Library Lounge Accessibility Series: Imperfect (2021)

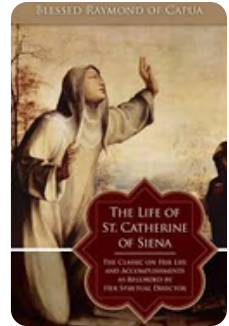
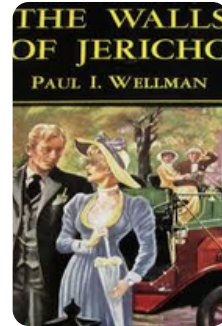
April 22 at 6 PM

In celebration of Big Read 2025, the Library Lounge presents this 3-part film series highlighting incredible stories of accessibility and the diversity of all bodies and minds. Imperfect tells the story of a professional company of actors with disabilities defying expectations by taking center stage in Chicago the Musical. Patrons will also enjoy refreshments, coloring pages, and entry to a grand prize drawing!

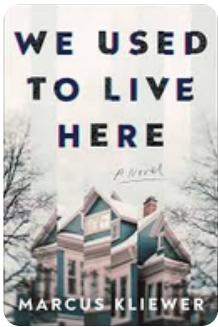
What's the board READING?



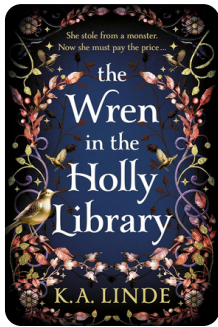
Jeannie B's now reading.



Samuel W. is currently reading.



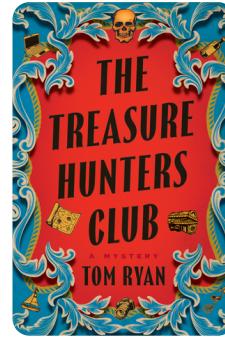
Hannah A read.



Julie M is reading



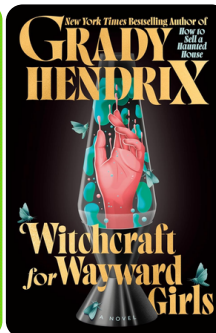
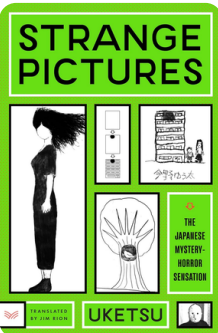
Tom T. is reading



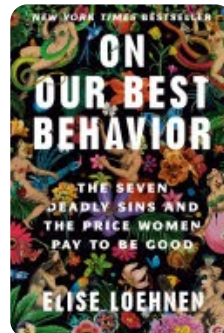
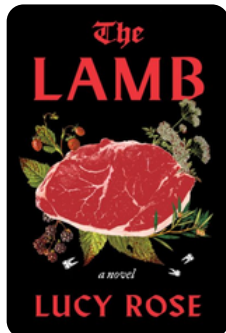
Nicole P. is reading



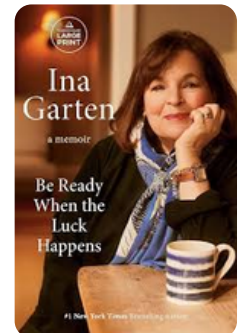
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Heather P. is reading



Melissa E. is reading



Eric G. is reading




WALA needs you

Do you have a passion for books, literacy, and community engagement? The Wichita Area Library Board is seeking dedicated individuals to fill two key positions: Vice President and a Board Member. This is your chance to make a real difference in how our library serves our community.

We're looking for individuals who are:

- Passionate about the library's mission
- Committed to serving our diverse community
- Able to collaborate effectively
- Eager to contribute their skills and expertise

**ELECTION DAY
MAY 2025 AT THE WALA
ANNUAL MEETING**



Want to know more information? Contact WALA President, Melissa Emo for details!

**OPEN
POSITIONS:**

- VICE PRESIDENT
(3 YEAR TERM)**
- BOARD MEMBER
(2 YEAR TERM)**

Support Services

Onsite \$117,392
Online \$ 21,833

Grants

Grants-in-aid \$1,460,040
Other grants \$ 294,900

72 School
3 Special
14 Academic
56 Public



Member Libraries

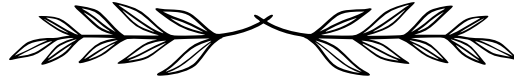
In October 2023, 96% of member libraries surveyed agreed SCKLS fulfills its mission "To provide grants, consulting, continuing education and cost-effective support services."

Training/Continuing Education

70 CE programs
1,487 CE participants



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**