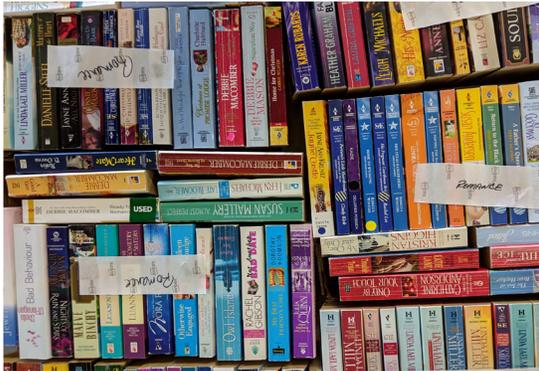




BOOK REPORT

On Your Mark, Get Set...Go!

The Friends of Manhattan Public Library host an annual book sale every year as a way to raise funds for the library. The sale will be held in the auditorium of the library. Cashiers will be able to accept credit and debit cards with a minimum purchase of just \$1.00.



Romance novels for sale boxed and ready at last year's sale.

Friday, Feb. 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 is a special preview night, open to MLA members only, who will get first pick of the sale items. New memberships will be sold at

the door, starting at \$10 for an individual, \$15 for families, and \$25 for organizations.

The library's book sale will be open to the public on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, Mar. 1, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday prices will reflect special deals on the remaining materials.

This is truly a community event, staffed by wonderful volunteers like Keri Mills, Elaine Shannon, and Rosie's Corner volunteers who devote countless hours of work to organize the sale. Helpers from Boy Scout Troop #77 and Job Corps make the heavy lifting much easier, and community supporters do an excellent job getting the word out.



Wilma, Rosie's Corner Book Sorter Volunteer, poses with a cart of donated books ready to be sorted.

All of the money raised will be used to fund library programs and purchases such as new books, furniture, special events for children, and summer reading programs.

For more information about the book sale or if you would like to be a book sale volunteer, visit the Manhattan Public Library at 629 Poyntz Avenue or call (786) 776-4741 ext. 100.

Staff Spotlight

Lori Balzer Administration



Lori Balzer has been working as an administrative assistant at Manhattan Public Library for just eight months, but she already has the hang of things. She wears many hats—some of her roles include processing MLA membership applications, data entry, taking care of mailings, and preparing packets for meetings.

Before working here, Lori worked an assortment of jobs, including a stint at county health department, a meat packing plant, to being a school lunchroom lady.

One of her greatest achievements is raising her four children to be successful young adults and being known as a “mom-to-all.”

Lori is also an accomplished pianist. She began taking piano lessons at the age of five and has continued to practice since. Johann Sebastian Bach is her favorite composer, and she enjoys the movie, Amadeus. She was also delighted to be hired at the library because she is an avid reader, mostly of mystery novels and historical fiction.

Next time you're in the library, stop by the Administration office and meet Lori.

We want to hear from YOU!

Send your suggestions for future newsletter issues to Maddy at mogle@mhklibrary.org.

Manhattan Public Library 50 Years Ago

by Pat Brown

Manhattan Public Library (MPL) begins the decade of the 70s in a new building with a new director. In June of 1969 Margaret Gates, who had directed the library since 1965, resigned and Marjorie Reed was named Director, overseeing the operation of the library in a new, modern building.



After opening in December 1904, the Carnegie Free Public Library was becoming popular.

New programs and increased services quickly became part of Ms. Reed's legacy. Perhaps the program of most impact was Talking Books, which began in October of 1970. Funded nationally by the Library of Congress, the Talking Books program offered recorded books and magazines to blind and physically handicapped people. Specially designed record players and professionally recorded reading materials were provided to those registered for the program. MPL and the North Central Kansas Library System (NCKLS) established the first Talking Books program in the state, originally offering 700 titles to 113 readers. Within two years the program more than doubled the offerings to more than twice the number of readers. Ms. Reed and the NCKLS staff served as consultants to the Washington based Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped arm of the Library of Congress.

A second innovative program making books and reading available to those who were unable to participate in the traditional library experience was the Mail-a-Book service, instituted in the early 70s. MPL and NCKLS teamed up to offer this mail delivery service at no cost to the participants. Catalogs of book listings were mailed to every household in communities without public library service. An effort was made to include books from all popular genres in these listings, approximately 800 titles. It isn't clear how long this innovative program was in existence; however, records account for more than 15,000 books loaned in the first year of operation and more than 28,000 books loaned in the second year.



In 1969, the new building was built and opened at Juliette and Poyntz.

Talking Books and Mail-a-Book were supplemented by the Book Rotation Van and Interlibrary Loan in supporting the MPL and NCKLS mission to provide access to reading opportunities to all patrons in the service area.

As the new Library opened in the early 70s it offered a collection of 68,000 books and print materials and 500 recordings to approximately 16,000 registered borrowers. As this was prior to the introduction of automated cataloging and circulation systems, the Library staff completed the painstaking work of manually maintaining all records. An article published near the time of the Library opening indicates that Ms. Reed was assisted by a 14-member full-time staff and seven part-time employees.

The MPL building of the early 1970s was acclaimed by architects and studied by library planners from across the country. The innovative programs and patron services offered by the staff were heralded by the community, the State, and the national Library of Congress.

"It is fitting now to remember and to honor the early pioneers of Manhattan who lived and labored, planned and thought and dreamed, through the years of the first half century of our civic life, as well as to give credit to the later citizens who voted for the Free Public Library and who have supported it through the first quarter century of its existence.

So, still achieving, still pursuing, we of this day hold the torch, and follow the gleam."

- Library's first leader, Mary Cornelia Lee



Preserving Library History

This is Janet, and she is working on cataloging and transcribing historical documents about the creation of the library. There is a lot of material to go through—you can see some of them in the two massive tubs behind her. There's still quite a lot of information to wade through, but she is finding out fascinating facts and typing them up, all on a volunteer basis! Janet is using information previous library employees have gathered to piece together the history of the library and is finding some fascinating things as she works on this ongoing project.

Upcoming Events

Annual Book Sale

Friday, February 28

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Preview for members

Saturday, February 29

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Open to the public

Sunday, March 1

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Box sale for remaining items

Learn About Joy Harjo

March 18

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Humanities Kansas Book Talks

Starting March 19

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Groesbeck Meeting Room

Talk20MHK

March 26

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Annual MLA Meeting

April 8

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Adult Trivia Night

April 10

5:30 p.m.

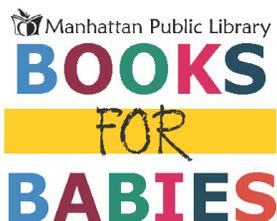
Auditorium

For more events, get a new seasonal calendar at the library!

Project Update, Future Impact

by Pat Brown

It is widely accepted that children who experience a book-rich environment early on in life have an increased likelihood of success as they enter school. Members of the American Academy of Pediatrics emphasize the importance of books and reading to children as infants.



Manhattan Public Library Books For Babies Logo

In 2019, *United for Libraries*, an Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations developed the Books for Babies program. This national literacy program is designed to make parents of newborns aware of the important role they play in the literacy development of their children.

The Manhattan Public Library and the Manhattan Library Association instituted participation in the Books for Babies program in the Spring of 2019, securing initial funding through a K-LINK Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 grant in the amount of \$860.

Following the *United for Libraries* guidelines for developing Books for Babies kits, materials including board books, library card applications, complimentary one-year memberships in MLA, coupons for books from Rosie's Corner and childhood literacy information were procured and made ready for packaging in brightly decorated gift bags.

Working toward the goal to provide a gift bag to every newborn at Ascension Via Christi Birth and Women's Center, approximately 100 bags have been delivered each month since May 2019.

The first board book offered to the parents was *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* followed by *Chicka Chicka ABC*, and *Llama Llama Gives Thanks*.



Thanks to a memorial donation of \$1,100 and the securing of a 2020 K-LINK grant in the amount of \$2,300, the Books for Babies program will continue into this year with the offering of *The I Love You Book*.

While the gift of a board book is focal to the Books for Babies effort, the inclusion of a library card, an MLA membership, and Rosie's Corner coupons encourages parents to become regular library users. Those parents then help their babies learn language through social literacy experiences. Early literacy is not defined by teaching babies to read. It involves parents interacting with young children using books, developing an enjoyment of books and reading.

If you are interested in being involved with the Books for Babies project, call (785) 776-4741 ext. 100.

Annual MLA Meeting

All members of the association are invited to participate in the annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 8 at 4:00 p.m. in the library's auditorium.

We will vote on a new slate of officers for the executive board, evaluate the current bylaws, hear the annual financial report, and celebrate the contributions of our many volunteers.