Board of Trustees
FROM LEFT:
Shawn Leisinger, Vice Chair
Peg Dunlap, Treasurer
Joan Hicks, Secretary
Hannah Uhlig
Jim Ramos
Beth Dobler
Jim Edwards, Chair
Liz Post
Jennifer Miller
TERM ENDED APRIL:
Kacy Simonsen
Kristen Brunkow O'Shea

Library Officers
BACK ROW: Jesse Maddox, Chief Human Resources Officer
Marie Pyko, Chief Executive Officer
FRONT ROW: Kim Strube, Chief Financial Officer
Thad Hartman, Chief of Staff

Leadership

ON THE COVER: Autumn Friedli shares her recommendations on the Bookmark podcast.
What a difference a year can make in the library. When I wrote my annual report message for our 2021 year, we talked about the COVID-19 pandemic retreating and returning to “normal.” We have learned that our library’s former “normal” looks much different now and has impacted the way the library operates, the expectations and needs of our customers in how they use the library, and the retention and recruitment of staff. Each month programs and services looked a little different.

Our new normal has us looking to the future and the changing needs in our community including focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion at the library. We’ve been working with community partners to address the technology-gap in our community (distribution of WIFI hotspots and TSC Get Digital), developing new strategies to keep our community engaged readers, improving access to the library for students and providing opportunities to meet bestselling authors.

Like the rest of the world, the library has been impacted by turnover like we have never experienced before. However, we celebrate the retirements of staff who dedicated their career to this library (see back cover). We also developed programs to prepare staff for leadership through our Emerging Leaders program, a year-long course teaching skills, budgeting, supervisory skills and project management. Our first class of eight individuals is highlighted below.

Emerging Library Leaders Class of 2022

- Abigail Siemers
- Angie Hardy-Foltz
- Areli Bermudez-Villareal
- Cadie Maas
- Hayley Swisher
- Meredith Snepp
- Patrick Berry
- Rachael Schmidtlein
In August, the Level 2 Tech Center opened offering a work space you can take your skills, hobbies and work to the next level. This area includes a fully-equipped Digital Art Studio, two recording studios, 30 computers and 5 small meeting rooms. Regardless of your skill level, the library has the staff, equipment, software and training to help level up your tech game.

The first official podcast in the new audio recording studio was recorded by India Yarborough, Greater Topeka Partnership, and Gretchen Spiker, City of Topeka, hosting their fun and informative podcast Topeka Talk: A Community Conversation. Marie Pyko and Todd Smith were interviewed about the Level 2 Tech Center and the tools and services available.

Gretta Hug used the Cricut to create this sign in the Digital Art Studio.
The opening of the Level 2 Tech Center was the lead story in the August 10 Urban Libraries Council newsletter!

**This Week at ULC**

*Newsletter | August 10, 2022*

**Member News Roundup**

**Expanding Tech Skills in Topeka**

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

On August 10, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library hosted the opening of Level 2 Tech Center, the space is designed to expand learning opportunities in tech, computer, and creative fields. It offers library members, ages 12 and up, to explore and explore their interests.

**Joe Cheray @wildheart4yr**

12h

i have to brag about my town for a moment. Our library has the coolest new creative space. I got to take a orientation class in the new space and it is a game changer for so many in our town who can’t afford AV equipment and software. @TopekaLibrary nailed it.

1 ❤️️ 3 ❤️️ 11 ❤️️ 000

FROM LEFT: Liz Post, Peg Dunlap, Jim Edwards, Jim Ramos, Marie Pyko, Mayor Mike Padilla and Greater Topeka Partnership helped with the ribbon cutting.

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Personal Connections

Library staff strive to connect to community members through reading recommendations, book discussions, bookmobiles, author visits, art exhibits, events, outreach programs, music, business and career resources, and technology classes. Here are some examples of the connections we made this year.

The traveling exhibit *Resilience A Sansei Sense of Legacy* about Japanese Americans internment in World War II generated many customer comments and appreciation:

“An important exhibit that is not talked about enough.”

“I just learned something new. Thank you.”

“Really impressive!”

The exhibit also generated visitor discussions with library staff about book lists, the kimono artist’s series, World War II memories from childhood, and even comments about sleeping on cots during the Korean War.

Eloise had a fantastic impact on registrations for *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*. Three days after this Facebook post, registrations for the program increased dramatically. As of Dec 2022 we had **410** registered!
“Our discussion group may have been one of the first to use this invaluable service [Book Group in a Bag]! Hope recently updated the list of books we’ve read. That’s 135 titles since 2008, 14 years!! Also, we’ve donated four kits to the collection – *Becoming, My Antonia, City of Thieves* and *Worth the Pain*.
–First Lutheran Church Book Discussion Group

“October’s music article was found and Tweeted about by a fan group of The Cure within hours of being posted on the library website.

“My Littles tell pretty much everyone we meet that we live at the library and that the librarians are our friends! They are free to be who they are there, are never judged, and are encouraged to be curious and follow their interests and learn whatever they want.
–Crystal Gehrt

“I love books & literature & the staff there make me feel so at home. The staff is so professional & just good, good people. They are the type that I would pick as friends.
–Ernie Beery

“FREE delivery to your loved one

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A mother and young son from a neighboring community visited the library for the first time. Staff set them up with cards, showed them around the Kids Library and assisted them with checkout. As they were leaving, the child who was no more than 4 years old said, “On a scale of 1 to 10, I give this library 1,000!”

I just had a great conversation with a patron in the Gallery. His wife sent him in to pick up a fiber craft pack and he got one for himself too. He told me he’s a disabled vet and has a hard time using his left hand due to an injury he suffered while serving. He can’t work so he’s always looking for something to do. I told him about the take and make packs for the next 3 weeks, the Arts and Craft kits he can check out, and I showed him Creativebug. He hadn’t been to the library in about 10 years, so he didn’t have a library card anymore. I suggested he get a new one and he went straight to the Customer Service desk when he left the Gallery. —Brea, librarian
I love going into the library but my favorite thing about the TSCPL is the library at work program. I love that it takes just a few clicks online to get books delivered directly to my work. It’s great!!!
—Lindsay Winters

We love sick days when Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library brings the fun to us!
—Crystal Gehrt posted about TSCPL@Home with a photo of her young sons and their delivery bags.
Encouraging a Community of Readers

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, three major mystery writers visited us this fall – C.J. Box, J.A. Jance and Faye Kellerman. Box was at the library in person where he spoke to a full crowd in Marvin Auditorium (we even had people in the Learning Center watching a live stream). Members of the Friends attended a special reception before the event and were able to meet the author and have photos and books signed.
Other amazing authors who visited the library

J.A. Jance & Faye Kellerman
Kansas Public Radio’s Kaye McIntyre moderated virtual conversations with Jance and Kellerman. Attendees participated by Zoom or joined McIntyre in Marvin Auditorium to enjoy the authors on the big screen.

Kalynn Bayron
Bestselling author of the Young Adult fantasy novels *Cinderella Is Dead*, *This Poison Heart* and *This Wicked Fate*, and the middle grade paranormal adventure *The Vanquishers* was well-received by adults and teens. She met with students at Topeka High School plus an evening event at the library.

Lucas Bessire & Megha Majumdar

Traci Brimhall
Poet Brimhall (2023 Kansas Poet Laureate) whose beautiful, accessible poetry has received national readership and acclaim spoke about her work and led a writing workshop. She is the director of Kansas State University’s creative writing program.

B.J. Hollars
Hollars is the author of *Rediscovering America on the Oregon Trail* that tells the story of his and his young son Henry’s 2500-mile road trip on the Oregon Trail. They talked about their adventure to community members.

R.B. Lemberg
Lemberg is a local author who writes genre bending novels with unique voices and perspectives. Lemberg discussed *The Unbalancing*, which is rooted in mystical cosmology, neurodiversity and queer-ness.

Nick Pyenson
People appreciated Pyenson’s discussion of his book *Spying on Whales*, which shares insights into the mysterious lives of whales.

Dan Santat
Bestselling author and illustrator of more than 100 juvenile fiction and picture books including *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*, spoke about his work and provided drawing tips to kids and adults.

Annie Ward
Bestselling suspense author Annie Ward talked about her writing process and her books *Beautiful Bad* and the 2022 twisty page-turner *The Lying Club*. 
I just finished my third book. I am excited to get my mug and pick up my library card. We just moved here so I haven’t been to the library yet.

—Anabell Parrish

We offer three reading challenges a year: Winter, Summer and Fall. The challenges encourage more discussion between librarians and readers, and between readers. Participants also appreciate the small rewards they earn by completing challenges.

Rewards of Reading
### Winter Reading Challenge
- **Active Readers**: 936
- **Books Read**: 4,569
- **Completed Challenge**: 805

### Summer Reading Challenge
- **Active Readers**: 1,770
- **Books Read**: 1.5 million
- **Completed Challenge**: 1,141

### Fall Reading Challenge
- **Active Readers**: 658
- **Books Read**: 2,509
- **Completed Challenge**: 588

“I love these mugs SO MUCH. They are the only thing I will use for coffee now.” — Brooke Myers Smith
You logged 224,438 minutes of reading the week of June 13-21 and one of the awards kids could earn was an ICE CREAM CONE!

Meet a Marine Biologist program

Fossil dig activity

Reed Studio activity

Learning from a marine biologist
learning fun

Blockbuster Wednesday The Amazing Arthur

Learning from a marine biologist

Ocean Tie Dye activity

Zan Popp was interviewed by KSNT FoxLIVE 43 AM Host Dane Kroll

Shark Week visitor

715 visitors helped build the annual art exhibit for kids.
Community Leadership


Library CEO Marie Pyko was a member of the book discussion with KPR’s Kaye McIntyre, Kelly Barker and Logan Camarda.

Library named 2022 YWCA Employer of Excellence

At the YWCA Northeast Kansas 34th Annual Women of Excellence the library was named an Employer of Excellence for supporting employee learning and staff development.

Sherry Hess named a 2022 YWCA Woman of Excellence

Hess was recognized for her focus on engaging young children and their families in play-based early learning experiences. The Learn & Play Bus and its service are at the heart of her work.

Autumn Friedli
Leadership Topeka
Class of 2022
Snapshots

1. Thad Hartman, Jacqueline Belden and Shari Schawo served on the City of Topeka’s Digital Equity program “TSC Get Digital,” distributing 1,200 desktop computers to qualifying applicants. Shari also taught beginning computer skills including computer navigation, email and using the internet.

2. The library opened a new book locker at Fairlawn Plaza adding a convenient book pickup and drop off location in southwest Topeka.

3. Kindergarten Ready - The library is part of the Shawnee County Kindergarten Transitions Team that created a one-stop website for parents to find all the information they need to get their child ready for kindergarten. The site includes a simple school finder to locate a school near them.

From left to right: Board Chair Jim Edwards, County Commissioner Bill Riphon, CEO Marie Pyko and Greater Topeka Partnership Ambassador Leanna James.
4. WiFi Hotspots - In January, the library started checking out hotspots that allow customers to wirelessly connect to the internet from anywhere.

5. The library brand is used on library vehicles and a bookmobile received the Stay Curious brand so all who see it will know it’s the library.

6. To invite people back to the library, we launched the “Now Offering” ad campaign using video and social media.

7. The Library Foundation celebrated 40 years of “FORTI-fying” the future.

8. Halloween was a photo opportunity for kids in costumes with library photographer Michael Perkins capturing the fun.

9. The crowds rolled in for the Lowrider Car Show in September.

10. Due to daycare/preschool COVID restrictions, it was November before Outreach Storytellers could return in-person storytime. The storytellers provide 139 early-learning experiences at 63 licensed daycare and preschool centers.
11. Through Kansas Connections library staff present to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes about science, math, animals and social studies to supplement teachers’ curriculum.

12. The Alice C. Sabatini Gallery offered its first artist in residence program with Brad Leduc, painter, printmaker and Washburn Rural High School art teacher in April.

In November Mona Cliff, owner of Spottedcloud Studio in Lawrence, shared her multidisciplinary art that is influenced by the diverse cultures of her heritage, Aaniiih- People of the White Clay, Nakota and Eastern Europoean.

13. The library’s Topeka EmpowHERment Summit offered advice, motivations and goals for attendees from women who are powerful leaders in our community.

14. The library’s genealogy team organized and hosted the Identity Quest conference and heritage celebration with two national keynote speakers, Kathleen Brandt and Dan Debenham, and more than 25 local and regional presenters.

15. The library had 1,336 in-person & online appointments to help people with personal browsing, ebooks, gadget help, gallery, genealogy, job, notary and genealogy.
2022 Highlights

Financials

Sources of Financial Support

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees &amp; Reimbursements</td>
<td>$323,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; State Aid</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interfund Transfers</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Library Expenditures

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$11,874,702</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$2,836,779</td>
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<td>Debt Service</td>
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<td>Library Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment &amp; Capital Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming &amp; Events</td>
<td>$127,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund Transfers</td>
<td>$554,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,013,878</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cardholders

- 38% of all households in Shawnee County have an active cardholder

Collection

- Our combined physical & digital collections give customers more than 1.7 million items to choose from

Circulation

- You checked out 1.8 million items (5.4% increase over 2021)
- Digital downloads 608,617 (4.2% increase)
- Curbside service 33,975 (82% down)
- TSCPL@Home 37,348 (23.6% down)

Programming

- 40,645 program attendance (excludes exhibits, outreach, internal and training)
- 25,064 people visited the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery (18% up)

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2022 HIGHLIGHTS

**VISITS & ASK A LIBRARIAN**
- 349,950 visits to the library, up 71.8% from 2021
- We responded to 166,542 questions via walk-in, phone, email & chat

**MEETING ROOMS**
- 16,444 meetings were held in the public meeting rooms
- 4,706 in larger meeting rooms & auditorium, up 61.7%
- 9,875 in team rooms, up 870%
- 1,863 in Colab rooms (opened in August)

**PUBLIC WIFI USE**
- 316,177 sessions, up 92.8%
- 69,814 hours, up 102.1%
- 74,634 hours, up 44.5%

**DIGITAL BRANCH**
- 446,908 visits to the website, up 4.7%
- 212,517 visits to the catalog, up 35.2%
- Visits to the website were up 4.7%
- Visits to the catalog were up 35.2%
2022 Annual Report | Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

Age of children enrolled

- Younger than 1 year old: 723
- 1 year old: 1,056
- 2 years old: 1,267
- 3 years old: 1,469
- 4 years old: 1,263

Percent of children signed up by zip code

- 66603: 26%
- 66604: 48%
- 66605: 38%
- 66606: 43%
- 66607: 43%
- 66608: 29%
- 66609: 47%
- 66610: 45%
- 66611: 64%
- 66612: 45%
- 66613: 28%
- 66614: 52%
- 66615: 58%
- 66616: 63%
- 66617: 51%
- 66618: 49%
- 66619: 59%
- 66620: 80%
- 66621: 43%
- 66622: 53%
- 66623: 58%
- 66624: 68%
- 66625: 74%

Total books delivered in Year 5 (Apr 2021-22): 78,649

Total dollars raised: $1,161,458

Costs (paid by donations): $28,049.65

Shawnee County Imagination Library

April 2017 — Program enrollment began

Actual number of children enrolled by December 2022: 5,778

2022

2022 Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

Shawnee County

Age of children enrolled

723 1,056 1,267 1,469 1,263

4 years old 1 year old 2 years old 3 years old younger than 1 year old

Percent of children signed up by zip code

66603 66604 66605 66606 66607 66608 66609 66610 66611 66612 66613 66614 66615 66616 66617 66618 66619 66620 66621 66622 66623 66624 66625

26% 48% 38% 43% 47% 45% 64% 45% 28% 52% 58% 63% 51% 49% 59% 80% 43% 53% 68% 74%
RETIREMENTS  with much appreciation for their service and best wishes in retirement!

Kathryn Barnes 17 years
Mary Campbell 13 years
Bonnie Cuevas 21 years
Diane Givens 21 years
Jayme Lyons 23 years
Luella Minner 39 years
Betty Jean Neal 24 years
Judy Trecek 14 years

REMEMBERING

David “DJ” Johnson
July 24, 1968 – September 17, 2022
DJ had been with the library for eight years, starting on September 8, 2014.

James “Jim” Serrano
July 27, 1967 – February 18, 2022
Jim had been with the library for 21 years, starting on December 19, 2000.