

# Libraries & Archives Monthly

News from the Kentucky Department  
for Libraries and Archives

December 2013

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## Children's Librarian Receives Award at Conference

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Newport's children's librarian Joan Johnsen is the winner of the 2013 Charlotte Decker Award. Presented each year at the Ohio Kentucky Indiana (OKI) Children's Literature Conference, the award recognizes an individual whose extraordinary efforts have encouraged others to support literacy in youth

## Librarians Return from *Explore!* Space Training Program with a Wealth of Information

By Paige Sexton  
Communications Officer  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Six Kentucky public librarians attended the Lunar and Planetary Institute's (LPI) *Explore!* space training program in November. They returned with stellar descriptions of their experiences.



MAVEN Rocket

through time, service, and philanthropy.

"Miss Joan's welcoming smile, ready laughter, and abundant energy keeps families coming back to the library," said Barb Childers, a former Kent State University MLIS classmate and retired librarian.

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## Trustee Connection

By Mindy Woods  
Carter County Public Library  
Secretary, KLTRT  
[graysonwoods@yahoo.com](mailto:graysonwoods@yahoo.com)

I attended the annual meeting of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries on November 16, in Frankfort, where Friends from 29 counties were represented.

We heard from State Librarian and Commissioner Wayne Onkst, who noted that we need libraries now more than ever, but have more people challenging them. As library supporters, he urged us to keep telling about their importance for the future of our communities, state, and nation. We need to highlight the services libraries provide, including early literacy skills for children, job searches, and the vast numbers of Kentuckians who access the Internet in their public libraries. If libraries are not valid, why do circulation numbers and people served keep increasing? Citizens must, as library users and



Creating a Martian



Strange New Planet Observation Experiment



Group Activity: Create a Mars Explorer: Kinzie Gaunce's group created a Mars Rover that was intended to take soil samples and test for levels of UV radiation.

[Read more...](#)

## E-rate Funding Commitment Surpasses \$1 Million

By Katherine Kimball Adelberg  
Technology Consultant  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

taxpayers, speak up! It is more important now than ever for libraries to provide strong customer service and have Friends of the Library involved.

At this meeting, Senator Robin Webb, co-chair of the Public Library Caucus, was named as the first recipient of the Outstanding Library Advocate Award. Her award was presented by the Friends of Kentucky Libraries President, Mary Lynn Collins. Senator Webb was recognized for being an advocate for libraries for many years. She was very supportive in the establishment of the public library in Carter County, her home county, and in 2012, she gave an eloquent speech on why libraries are important, especially in rural areas, when Senate Bill 49 was discussed.

[Read more...](#)

## Focus on Friends

### Annual Meeting

By Nelda Moore  
Communications Director  
Friends of Kentucky Libraries

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries held its Annual Meeting on November 16 in Frankfort. Sixty-four attendees from 29 counties participated.

The event started with a late morning workshop, *Lawsuits, Legalities, and Legislation*. State Librarian and Commissioner Wayne

With funding commitments being mailed to Clinton, Johnson and Warren Counties, Kentucky public library E-rate commitment for 2013 is \$1,018,473.74 - finally, over one million dollars!



Records are currently being set in relation to E-rate. The amount for 2012 is the most Kentucky public libraries have ever claimed from the E-rate program. For 2012, the goal was to have over \$1 million committed to public libraries. For 2013, the goal is to actually claim \$1 million. We are well on our way to reaching that goal!

## Award-Winning Art from Children's Books Featured at Library

By Doug Tattershall  
Media Relations Coordinator  
Lexington Public Library

Artwork recognized over the course of more than three decades as some of the best in children's book illustration is being featured in an exhibit through Sunday, January 12, 2014, at the Central Library Gallery of the Lexington Public Library.

The exhibit, "Golden Kite, Golden Dreams: The Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators Awards," features 75 works by 50 artists in a variety of mediums, including ink, pencil, acrylic, gouache, water colors, and paper cutting. The touring exhibit was created by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, Texas, to mark the coming 40th anniversary of the Golden Kite Award.



Dinosaur Dream by Dennis Nolan

Onkst and Kentucky Public Library Association Advocacy Committee Chair Lisa Rice gave a brief overview of the current challenges to the funding of the state's taxing district libraries.

The luncheon speaker was Kentucky writer and poet George Ella Lyon, who read from her newest book of poems, *Many-Storyed House*, and talked about the importance of books, reading, and libraries in her life.

Following Lyon was the presentation of three awards: Outstanding Friends Chapter to Friends of the Madison County Public Library; Outstanding Friend of the Library to Judy Stratton from Friends of the Paul Sawyer Public Library; and a new award, Outstanding Library Advocate to Senator Robin Webb.

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### **KDLA Welcomes New Trustee**

KDLA would like to welcome Sherry Parker, Bullitt County.



The Napping House by Don Wood



The King and the Three Thieves by Kristen Balouch

### **Archival Photo of the Month**



The Kentucky Floral Clock, Christmas 1961.

Join Our Mailing List!

Source: Public Information Photo Collection, Public Records Division - Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives helps libraries provide equitable access to quality library and information resources and services, as well as helps public agencies ensure that legislatively mandated documentation of government programs is created, efficiently maintained, and made readily accessible. For more information, visit <http://kdla.ky.gov> or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

Please send questions, comments, and story ideas for Libraries & Archives Monthly to editor Paige Sexton at [paige.sexton@ky.gov](mailto:paige.sexton@ky.gov) or call 502-564-8300 ext. 315.

## Full Articles Beyond This Point

### Librarians Return from *Explore!* Space Training Program with a Wealth of Information

Six Kentucky public librarians attended the Lunar and Planetary Institute's (LPI) *Explore!* space training program in November. They returned with stellar descriptions of their experiences. What follows is a summary from a few of the participants:

#### **Kinzie Gaunce, Children's Services Librarian, Lexington Public Library**

Last month, I had the opportunity of a lifetime! I was able to attend a special NASA Space Science Training: *Explore!* Mars and the launch of the MAVEN Mission in Cocoa Beach, Florida, along with 39 other children's and youth librarians and camp professionals. Together we participated in two days of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program activity training, a tour of the Kennedy Space Center, and had the opportunity to see the launch of the MAVEN Rocket! This training gave me the tools I needed to present educational programs on Mars, the Moon, and space travel all while having fun at the library. (*Editor's note: thanks to Kinzie for the story photos*).

#### **Debbie Horn, Children's Librarian, Paris Bourbon County Library**

Thank you for this opportunity to talk about my wonderful experience with NASA and the group from the Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI).

My experience with the NASA/MAVEN training was above awesome. I have been following the space program beginning with John Glenn, who circled the earth February 20, 1962 in Friendship 7. The John Glenn mission was one of those times in my life when I knew exactly what I was doing when the news came that the mission was a success - I was a young child looking to the stars and all the possibilities that they held. This experience with NASA and the LPI team showed me all that has happened since I looked up into that sky many years ago. The vision of the MAVEN program has inspired me to encourage children in my own community to once again reach for those stars and galaxies beyond.

The information we received from the training, the great staff (Andy, Eve and Stephanie) and the connection with libraries around the country will enable me to

have a wonderful year with science. The MAVEN satellite is going to be a great jumping off point for Summer Reading, FIZZ, BOOM, READ.

**Ashley Crace, Children's/Teen Services Librarian, Lincoln County Public Library**

I got A LOT out of the *Explore!* Mars program. The training is designed for people who work with kids outside of a school setting, which is great because you don't have a captive audience at the library, so you have to get the kids excited about topics like Mars. During the training, we got to do several hands-on activities, which I liked because we learned as our kids will learn, and that's just more engaging.

What I found most helpful about the training was that the activities took a big idea about Mars, like habitability, and broke it down so that you understood exactly what habitability meant, AND how it applied to Mars. For example, we discussed what we need to live: water, oxygen, protection, love (yes, someone said that), etc. Then we assessed Mars and discussed whether Mars had what we (as humans) needed to live (it does not have liquid water, for example). The hands-on activity was to design a creature that would live on Mars, using craft supplies like pipe cleaners, streamers, and UV beads. We designed creatures that could melt ice with body heat, convert dirt into energy, or drill into ice to get water. Finally, we took the creatures outside and exposed them to the sun to see what would happen to their UV beads. This program was great, because we learned about Mars, and then used our problem solving skills to design a creature. We got to be creative, social, and innovative.

I plan to use these activities this spring in my science club to get kids and their grown-ups excited about science and summer reading. I will also be using many activities in the Summer Reading program. The *Explore!* website has activities available and even ties them to core content. The activities are designed for children ages 8-13, but I think many can be adapted to be used for families or even younger kids. For example, we discussed light and shadow in relation to volcanoes, but preschoolers could do light and shadow activities, as well. The activities are on this website:

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/mars> along with activities about Jupiter, Earth, the Moon, and more.

**Marie Rogers, Children's Librarian, Meade County Public Library**

The *Explore!* program was a truly terrific experience in every way. The thoughtfulness of the coordinators and the quality of the training were outstanding. The activities were very well suited to library and camp settings in that they were inexpensive, could be done in little time, and could be adapted to groups of various sizes. I often find that I attend a good conference and come away excited and full of ideas, but then lose momentum in the rush of everyday life. This training was unique because it actually included planning time at the end for participants to think about how they were going to incorporate what they had learned into their existing programs, and then share those ideas. We also came away with a binder of activities, access to many online space exploration educational resources, and a listserv to share program ideas and concerns. Of course, it was also great to leave the 30 degree temps behind and walk around barefoot on the beach in the evenings for a few days! All in all, I am so happy that I took that chance and applied for the program.

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Newport's children's librarian Joan Johnsen is the winner of the 2013 Charlotte Decker Award. Presented each year at the Ohio Kentucky Indiana (OKI) Children's Literature

Conference, the award recognizes an individual whose extraordinary efforts have encouraged others to support literacy in youth through time, service, and philanthropy.

"Miss Joan's welcoming smile, ready laughter, and abundant energy keeps families coming back to the library," said Barb Childers, a former Kent State University MLIS classmate and retired librarian. Barb, the 2012 award recipient, nominated Joan for the award and is part of Bear Foot, a musical storytelling duo that often performs at the Newport Branch.

Joan has been the children's librarian for 10 years. Miss Joan is famous for bringing characters to life through her storytelling (no one reads James Dean's **Pete the Cat** series quite like Miss Joan) and for dressing up at the weekly Adventure Club programs. Her natural understanding of what interests children enables her to create programming that consistently draws more than 40 children to each program.

Congratulations, Miss Joan, on a well-deserved award!

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## Trustee Connection

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Commissioner Onkst was quoted as saying, "On occasion, Senator Webb has been the lone voice for libraries in the face of powerful opposition. She has spoken on behalf of public libraries when no one else would do so."

Remember, as Public Library Trustees, it is our responsibility to speak on behalf of libraries. We need to contact our representatives and let them know how important libraries are to their constituents, and ask for their support. We must also be diligent in knowing about legislation that could be detrimental to libraries and let our representatives know how we want them to vote on issues relating to libraries.

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## Focus on Friends

### *Annual Meeting*

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The afternoon workshop, *Casting the Net*, invited attendees to share programs and projects they had sponsored, along with problems they had resolved and challenges they were facing. A Swap 'N Shop table displayed various promotional materials. So many unique programs and projects were shared that it was quickly evident that Kentucky's library Friends are innovative and dedicated groups that accomplish a lot to promote their libraries.

From the two workshops, Friends learned more about their role as advocates for their libraries and libraries all across the state. A great way to continue the discussion is via the Friends Discussion List and the Friends of Kentucky Libraries' webpage and Facebook page. Go to <http://www.FriendsKyLibraries.org> to learn more about how you can help your community understand the value of its library.

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