March marked the 20th anniversary of Audio-Reader’s first satellite broadcast, which originates from Pittsburg, KS! Director Dan Skinner, Chief Engineer Steve Kincaid, Program Manager Nick Carswell and Coordinator of Volunteers Jen Nigro joined the organization’s local volunteers, Homer Cole Community Center Director Teri McKinnis and Homer Cole board members on Friday, March 4 to mark the occasion with a luncheon. Sheila and Frank Marque and Lucy Bednekoff, all of whom are part of the location’s original group of volunteers, were also among the attendees.

In addition, Audio-Reader recognized three volunteers for years of service: Stephen Teller for five years, and Diana Kerle and Ed Koehler for 15 years.

Audio-Reader launched its Pittsburg location in 1996 in partnership with KRPS. Studios were located in a former dormitory on the Pittsburg State University campus. The studio later moved into the KRPS studios. In August 2015, the studio moved to the Homer Cole Community Center.

Volunteers in Pittsburg read newspapers from that region during Audio-Reader’s live, 2-4 p.m. regional news broadcast each weekday, just as volunteers in Lawrence and Kansas City do. The broadcast is carried to listeners in the KRPS signal area.
Kalene West is an avid Telephone Reader listener. She’s sort of like our neighborhood watch, notifying us when there is a problem with TR and giving us positive feedback on our wonderful TR readers.

Kalene is both a busy bee and an early bird. She loves having quiet time in the early morning to sit and listen to the birds. After a quiet morning, Kalene gets busy traveling the city of Topeka. She took bus travel training and has learned various routes to enable her to take the city bus almost anywhere she wants to go. The Resource Center for Independent Living in Topeka encouraged Kalene to take the bus travel training and she is so glad she did. “The experience really opened up the world to me. I am proud to have more independence,” she says. The training was on Kalene’s “to do” list for over a year. She was apprehensive at first, but once the training started, she couldn’t wait to learn more routes. Now Kalene goes somewhere almost every day. She often plans her outings around what is on sale where, and uses the weekly grocery ads and discount ads from Telephone Reader each week to prepare her errands.

Kalene is a city gal. She grew up in Kansas City, KS, with her sister and two brothers, and attended the School for the Blind in KCK. She currently lives in Topeka and loves the freedom allotted to her by city services like the public bus system and the public library. Kalene is a frequent patron of the Topeka Public Library and is working on becoming a volunteer there.

Books and reading are a big part of Kalene’s day-to-day life. She enjoys all genres of books and is open to reading anything. Her interests are wide and varied, but her favorite categories would be romances, westerns and Christian fiction and non-fiction. “I have always been a reader,” she says. Kalene would rather read or listen to books on tape than watch a movie, noting in her opinion, the book is always better.

If you were to pass by Kalene’s home, you might hear songs like Fleetwood Mac’s “Go Your Own Way” playing on the stereo. In addition to collecting books, Kalene also has a collection of ’70s rock & roll CDs. 99.3 is her favorite radio station. She usually tunes in to their ’70s rock and roll show from 7pm-10pm.

Kalene West is a joy. Her effervescent personality and eagerness to learn, do and experience all that she can is contagious, and Audio-Reader is honored to play a small part in assisting Kalene.

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Steve Sears, an Audio-Reader volunteer since 2013, is a lucky guy. He and his husband, John Lavryssen, enjoy living in two places: near the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, and on the downtown harbor of Victoria, British Columbia on the Pacific coast of Canada. Steve is American, from KC, and is a Class of 1983 Jayhawk alum. John is Canadian and is Canada’s #1 Jayhawk fan!

While Steve enjoys supporting the blind and sight-impaired community through his weekly Audio-Reader recordings of the Wichita Eagle newspaper, John supports the Victoria, BC, blind community in a totally different way. John is the captain of the blind/sight-impaired Dragon Boat paddling team known as Outta Sight. The team is comprised of 20 adult paddlers, half of whom are legally blind. They compete in a popular paddling sport known as dragon boating in which 10 rows of two rowers fill a long, narrow boat and compete in all-out open water sprint races of 500 meters. Dragon boat racing has its roots in China over 2000 years ago. Today, it’s enjoyed in many coastal locations around the world.

Team Outta Sight was formed in 2013 and struggled greatly in its first summer season. “We were all just learning the basics of canoe padding, building our individual technique and striving to paddle in sync as a team,” said John. “The other teams we competed against always cheered for us, both because of the disability we symbolized, and

Continued on page 5
Odds and Ends

By Lori Kesinger, Outreach Coordinator

Wednesday, April 6, 4:30-6pm: Resource Expo, Free State High School, Lawrence, KS

Friday, April 8, Noon-5pm & Saturday, April 9, 7:30am-Noon: Kansas EyeCon (KU Ophthalmology), The Venue, Leawood, KS (Thank you to Carol Nauman, Patrick O’Keefe and Rob Johnson for staffing!)

Saturday, April 9: Kansas Lions District 17-A Convention, Topeka (Thank you to Lisa Werner and Les Carlson for staffing)

Saturday, April 9, 9am-Noon: Community Wellness Festival, Baldwin City, KS (Thank you to Kathy Sanders for staffing)

Thursday, April 14: Kansas Talking Books Advisory Council, Iola, KS

Monday April 18: Lyndon Lions Club, Lyndon KS

Saturday April 23, 9-11am: Neighborhood Resource Expo at Washburn Tech, Topeka (Thank you to Les Carlson and Nancy Johnson for staffing)

Wednesday, April 27, Noon: Pratt Lions Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 3:30-5:30pm: Senior Adult Retreat at Crosswind Conference Center, Hesston, KS

Thursday, April 28, Noon-6:30pm & Friday, April 29, 9am-2:20pm: Kansas Optometric Association Convention, Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS (thank you to Nancy Johnson, and Bill Beningfield for staffing) (Volunteers Needed!)

Thursday, April 28-Saturday, April 30: Missouri Lions State Convention

On Wednesday, April 13, Mikel McCrory, the Assistive Technology Specialist at Resource Center for Independent Living in Topeka, will join us for an assistive technology “petting zoo”. Drop in any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to get your hands on some of the technology people with vision loss use in their daily lives.

On Thursday, April 20, you have an opportunity to meet some of our users! We have been invited to a potluck with the Blind Outreach Group at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Thursday, April 20. Slightly outside of volunteer week, but we’ll take it! Please check with me for details if you are interested in attending. Space will be limited, and an RSVP is required.

Broadcast Tip:
Those of you who record on the digital system know that when you go over time you need to back up and shorten your broadcast. However, this can leave a messy ending. If you shorten, please make a note on your recording sheet so we can cut off any “extra” that may be left over.

Volunteer Appreciation Week
Volunteer Appreciation Week will be April 10-16 this year, and we have some special events planned! On Tuesday, April 12, our Audio-Reader Book Club will meet at 11:30 in the living room. We’ll be discussing the book Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. Contact Susan Tabor at stabor@ku.edu or Lisa Werner at llwerner@ku.edu if you’d like to borrow a copy and join in!

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Audio-Reader On The Road

By Jennifer Nigro
Coordinator of Volunteers

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By Susan Tabor,  
Assistant Coordinator of Volunteers

**RECIPE CORNER**

*Editor’s Note: Frank Male, our chief gardener in the Audio-Reader Sensory Garden, is a man of many talents! In addition to his gardening gifts and talents, Frank is a wonderful cook and baker and likes to use home-grown herbs and spices when he’s cooking or baking.*

*One Saturday when students were here working on the new garden pavilion, Frank brought in two kinds of mini-muffins for us all to enjoy. And were they ever delicious!*  
*Frank is also a Red Cross volunteer; hence, the Red Cross muffins! Enjoy these wonderful, mouth-watering muffin recipes!—Susan*

**Franks’ Red Cross Muffins**  
(Banana/Carrot Cake Muffins)

**Wet Ingredients:**

- 2 ½ cups pureed bananas
- 2 cups finely shredded carrots
- ½ cup Canola or corn oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 TBSP orange zest
- 1 TBSP vanilla extract
- ½ cup sunflower seeds or chopped walnuts
- ¾ cup shredded coconut
- ¾ cup raisins

**Dry Ingredients:**

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 cups quick oats
- 1 cup powdered milk
- 1 cup powdered milk
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 TBSP cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp dried Stevia (not commercial blend)

**Preparation:**

Combine wet ingredients. In a separate bowl, combine dry ingredients. Fold into wet ingredients. Divide into muffin pans coated with cooking spray.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.

Makes about 30 Muffins or 48 mini muffins.

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**NEWS AND NOTES**

By Susan Tabor  
Assistant Coordinator of Volunteers

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!**

Audio-Reader volunteer **Dave Corley** and his wife **Cathy** celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on March 22! Congratulations, Dave and Cathy! We wish you many more happy years together!

**Lawrence High Teacher Receives Another Teaching Honor**

Audio-Reader volunteer **Keri Lauxman** was one of seven teachers named a Kansas Master Teacher in March. The Kansas Master Teacher award is presented annually by Emporia State University “to teachers who have served the profession long and well and who also typify the outstanding qualities of earnest and conscientious teachers,” according to a news release. The Lawrence school district named Lauxman the Lawrence Master Teacher in December and nominated her for the statewide honor.

Congratulations, Keri, on this wonderful professional achievement!
Five Questions:

Name: Linda Manley
Current assignments: books; currently reading The Bazaar of Bad Dreams by Stephen King.
Years of service: 8 years, 10 months
Q: Where did you grow up?
A: I grew up in Topeka, KS, where I still reside with my partner and the Brady Bunch of animals—three cats and three dogs!

Q: What is your favorite book?
A: It’s tough to name just one favorite book, as I have many favorites. Since Stephen King is my favorite author, I’ll name one of his: Duma Key.

Q: How or why did you get involved with Audio-Reader?
A: I am a teacher and have always loved reading aloud to my students. In addition, I’ve always empathized with those who struggle with their sight, since I would mourn the loss of reading if I lost my sight. This was one way I felt like I could help others who love to read and can’t.

Q: What is your favorite or most unusual reading assignment?
A: I truly love being the “Stephen King reader” since I so love his books. Also, I make it a point to read the book first before I am recorded; this way, I hope to deliver a better, more engaging performance. I also enjoy reading live newspapers.

Q: What is your favorite thing about volunteering for Audio-Reader?
A: Knowing there’s someone out there like me who loves to read, and loves to listen to what I read to them.

Upcoming Audio Descriptions
- Little Women, the Broadway Musical: Sunday, April 10, 2:30 p.m. at University Theatre (inside Murphy Hall)
- A Streetcar Named Desire: Friday April 15 and Saturday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. at Theatre Lawrence
- Beauty and the Beast: Thursday, May 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center

Help us spread the word about these opportunities to experience accessible theatre!

also out of sympathy -- we just weren’t very good!” That first year, the team lost every race they competed in. In Summer 2014, their times improved greatly and they beat a team or two in the various races and festivals in which they competed.

Skip ahead to Summer 2015 and Outta Sight suddenly emerged as a legitimate competitor. In five competitions this past summer, the team won one gold medal and three silver medals in their division. They added two out-of-town paddling competitions to their calendar, providing their blind members a chance to travel with the team to areas of British Columbia they’d never been to before. Going into 2016, there is a waiting list of both blind and sighted paddlers wanting to be part of the Outta Sight phenomenon.

“Dragon Boat paddling is a fantastic sport for anyone. However, it’s especially great that it enables sight-impaired athletes to get out on the water and compete without any disadvantage to fully-sighted athletes. As with any sport, success comes from dedication, technique and practice….practice….practice! And, oh yes, we make sure it’s a whole lot of fun, too!”
Thanks to The Community Mercantile Co-op, during the month of February, Audio-Reader was designated the February recipient for their Change for Communities program. This program gives all shoppers the chance to give back to a designated community program, a newly designated one each month, by rounding up to the nearest dollar when checking out, dropping spare change in the jar located at each register, or donating their five-cent bag refund. With help from all The Merc staff, Audio-Reader staff and all of our kindhearted volunteers, we raised $3,620.98. Thank you all for helping make a difference and continuing to believe in Audio-Reader’s mission!

Tee Up for Audio-Reader on June 6
If you like to play golf you won’t want to miss Audio-Reader’s 7th Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 6 at our NEW location, the Eagle Bend Golf Course in Lawrence! It’s only $125 to play, and that includes breakfast, lunch and a chance to win fun prizes. This is a great way to support Audio-Reader AND spend the morning on the beautiful greens of Eagle Bend! We are excited to have Erin O’Neil, head coach of KU Women’s Golf, chairing the event again this year. You’ll even have the opportunity to “beat the pro” when you tee off against one of her star players. To register your team or to become a sponsor, contact Meredith Johanning at (785) 864-5336 or mjohanning@ku.edu. Brochures for the tournament are available at Audio-Reader and on our website at www.reader.ku.edu/AR_GolfTourney_Brochure_for_web.pdf.

Save the Date: Sensory Pavilion Ribbon-Cutting
The Dirt Works Studio (KU Architecture 509 class) has taken on the task this semester of designing and building a new Sensory Pavilion in Audio-Reader’s Sensory Garden. These KU Architecture students have been working hard putting together a design and now building a Sensory Pavilion that will be “potent in its sensory impact and innovative in its materials and tectonics”. Please save the date for Friday, May 13 to join us in the Sensory Garden for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception unveiling the new Sensory Pavilion! More details regarding the event will be provided as the date draws near. We hope you can join us for this exciting event in the garden! To learn more about the Dirt Works Studio go to www.dirtworksstudio.ku.edu.

This Month in Audio-Reader History
By Lynne Ellis, Audio-Reader Volunteer

• April 1991- Volunteer Darcy Schild and staffer Diana Frederick covered the duties of the assistant coordinator of volunteers while awaiting the arrival of Mona Lonberger.

• April 2001- Peg Sampson joined the Audio-Reader development staff.

• April 2011- Volunteer Dave Baldwin put a new roof on the Sensory Garden gazebo.
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

We at Audio-Reader would like to wish a springy and festive Happy Birthday to the following volunteers and staff who have birthdays in April:

1. **Lisa Hallberg** reads the remembrances from the *Kansas City Star* on Tuesdays for Telephone Reader.

4. **Sheila Marque** performs day-to-day volunteer coordination duties at our location at the Homer Cole Community Center in Pittsburg, KS.

Joe Schremmer helps Audio-Reader with outreach.

Jean Van Lew is a substitute reader for the Thursday Breakfast Table Times.

5. **David Schaaf** reads the front page of the *Kansas City Star* on Thursdays for Telephone Reader.

6. **Kay Campbell** reads *Guideposts* magazine for Special Requests.

8. **Matt Suggs** helps with our annual Audio-Reader fundraiser, For Your Ears Only.

David Williams reads the *Tonganoxie Mirror* for Special Requests.

5. **Ruth Lichtwardt** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

10. **Ann Place** reads from the *Topeka Capital-Journal* for Telephone Reader on Tuesdays.

14. **Susan McGee** reads from the *Topeka Capital-Journal* for Telephone Reader on Saturdays.

15. **JoAnne Kready** hosts the *Senior Concerns* program that airs each week.

16. **Lori Allen** reads from the sports section of the *Kansas City Star* on Tuesdays for Telephone Reader.

Donald Braker reads the business news from the *Kansas City Star* for Telephone Reader on Fridays.

18. **Bob Roberts** reads news from southeast Kansas from the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

Joel Wells reads sports from the *Topeka Capital-Journal* on Sundays for Telephone Reader.

19. **Mark Zapien** reads regional news from the Kansas City area from our remote location at Alphapointe in Kansas City.

26. **Mike Doudoroff** reads books.

Kavitha Swaminathan reads books.

27. **Neil Salkind** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

28. **Camille Olcese** reads for Special Requests.

29. **Mary Jaramillo** edits newspapers for reading from the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

30. **Thelma Helyar** is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

STAFF BIRTHDAY:
April 11

Susan Tabor is the assistant coordinator of volunteers for Audio-Reader.

Enjoy the beautiful springtime, everyone! And thanks for all you do to keep Audio-Reader on the air 24/7!

New Faces

By Jennifer Nigro
Coordinator of Volunteers

Please give a warm welcome to the following new volunteers!

Devin Byrne is an access verification analyst for Sprint. He enjoys sports, music and reading in his spare time, and volunteers on the Sprint campus. Devin worked for Audio-Reader as a KU student, and we’re excited to have him back! He begins as a substitute reader.

Heather Eldridge is pursuing her master’s degree in occupational therapy from KU. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, biking and following politics. She also volunteers for Community Village of Lawrence, Trinity Episcopal Church and the JayDoc program at KU Medical Center. She hopes to work with populations who use Audio-Reader services. Heather begins as a substitute reader.

Mary Jaramillo joins our Pittsburg, KS, team as a newspaper editor! She found out about the opportunity at the Homer Cole Senior Center, home of our broadcast studio. Welcome, Mary!
Because of wonderful supporters like you, Audio-Reader was able to raise the necessary funds during the last summer fund drive to purchase a new vehicle! After almost 14 years, we retire the van and welcome home a red 2016 Toyota RAV4. Audio-Reader staff, especially Lori, can stay safe on the roads while continuing to spread the good word about Audio-Reader. Thank you!