National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 23-29, and we hope you’ll help us celebrate in style!

By Jennifer Nigro, Coordinator of Volunteers

Audio-Reader Spirit Days
We had so much fun last year dressing up for spirit week, we decided to do it again! Show your Audio-Reader spirit by participating in the following theme days:

- Sunday, April 23: Hat Day
- Monday, April 24: Mismatch Day
- Tuesday, April 25: Newspaper Day—Incorporate a newspaper into your wardrobe for the day.
- Wednesday, April 26: Throwback Day—Dress as you, but in the past! How far back will you go?!
- Thursday, April 27: Sports Team Day—Show your school spirit—even if you’re not a Jayhawk!
- Friday, April 28: Ultra-Casual Day—Wear what makes you comfy, be it pajamas, slippers, or sweats!
- Saturday, April 29: Wacky Sock Day—the crazier the better!

What’s Up Wednesdays
We will also use Volunteer Appreciation Week to launch a new, monthly gathering called What’s Up Wednesdays! We’ll meet in the Audio-Reader living room from 10-11 a.m. the final Wednesday of every month. This is your opportunity to learn more about what’s happening in the organization. Sometimes we’ll have a formal presentation or topic to cover, other times we’ll just chat about what’s on your mind. Those who can’t make it are welcome to submit questions or topics in advance for discussion, and meeting notes will be published in the following month’s newsletter (with names removed to protect the innocent). We’ll provide the coffee—bring a snack to share if you’d like!

Picture This
Do you have a hard time describing the photographs contained in your reading materials? Are you baffled about how to start and what to include? Then our Picture This workshop is for you! Join us at the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, on Wednesday, May 3 from Noon-1 for a workshop designed to hone your picture description skills. We’ll go through the basic fundamentals, then give you some hands-on practice. We’ll meet in Meeting Room B at the library. Parking is available at the parking garage next door. Space is limited, so please email Jen at jnigro@ku.edu to reserve a spot. For those who can’t make it, we will record the session and make it available under the volunteer resources section of our website. If you have ideas for other training sessions, please let me know!
MEET A LISTENER: EDNA BROCK

By Lisa Werner, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

Edna Brock has been an Audio-Reader listener for about three years. She started with Audio-Reader in order to get the news from her local newspaper, The Holton Recorder. Edna has lived in or around Holton, KS, most of her life. She was born in 1931 at home, a small farmhouse in Jackson County, KS. When Edna was in third grade her family moved to just outside Holton, then into town when she was in eighth grade.

Childhood was a difficult time for Edna. “I was born in 1931 after the great crash and in the middle of the great recession. We were very poor. We had a farm and it was a very difficult time to be a farmer. It was hard times. Not too many fond childhood memories for me,” Edna reminisced.

One thing Edna did enjoy as a kid was school. Spelling and arithmetic were her favorite subjects. Geography and history were more difficult for her, as she said she couldn’t ever imagine any place outside of Holton.

When Edna was a little girl she dreamed of becoming a schoolteacher, until one day she went to the courthouse with her father. She fell in love with the courthouse. “It was a beautiful building with lovely architecture. It was the nicest building I had ever been in,” chattered Edna. After that day Edna decided she was going to work in the courthouse, and she did. She got a job at the County Treasurer’s Office the summer after she graduated from high school in 1952. A few years later she moved up to the County Clerk’s Office, and in 1968 she ran for county clerk and won. She served in that post for over 20 years. Edna treasured working in the courthouse.

Classic country music is one of Edna’s favorite things. She loves Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, George Jones, and Loretta Lynn. “When I was a little girl I would sing with my sister and brother. My brother would play the guitar and we would all sing in the evenings after dinner. When my brother was killed in WWII, we quit singing. The classic country music reminds me of my brother and the good times we had singing together.”

Before losing her vision Edna loved to quilt, make Santas, and create beautiful sparkly Christmas trees out of jewelry. Christmas is her favorite time of year. She misses creating special handmade gifts for her children and grandchildren. She is so glad that she took the time to make each of her three boys and several of her grandchildren a jeweled Christmas tree prior to her vision getting too bad. She regrets that she is now unable to make the rest of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren a tree of their own, but hopes that maybe one of her daughters-in-law will take over the tradition. Edna has three sons, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to being crafty, Edna is also a great cook. Her favorite meal to make and eat is meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy, and green beans. “I like to keep it simple,” shared Edna. “I rarely eat dessert, but I do enjoy a bowl of Neapolitan ice cream. I like Neapolitan because it has all of my favorite flavors: chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry.”

When I asked Edna what makes her laugh she said Johnny Carson and her husband could always make her laugh. Her husband was a sheriff for many years and worked long odd hours. He was always on call. When he was home he helped her with her crafts and spent as much time as possible with she and the boys. “My husband has passed and Johnny Carson isn’t on the TV anymore, so I don’t get many laughs these days. My grandchildren can always make me smile though.”

Edna says, “Thank you to the ladies who read the Holton Recorder. I enjoy it very much. I miss receiving the Country Weekly magazine but hope Audio-Reader can find another country music magazine to replace it soon.”
**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

*We wish a warm, springy Happy Birthday to the following volunteers with April birthdays:*

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

4. **Sheila Marque** is the coordinator for our location in Pittsburg, KS.

Laura Pederson reads from the *Springfield News Leader* for Telephone Reader and co-hosts the *Breakfast Table Times* on Saturdays.

Joe Schremmer helps with outreach activities in Wichita.

Jean Van Lew is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

5. **Jane Faubion** volunteers in the Sensory Garden.

David Schaaf reads sports from the *Kansas City Star* for Telephone Reader on Thursdays.

6. **Kay Campbell** reads *Guideposts*.

Willow Garcia serves in the Sensory Garden.

Tamara Sanchez reads from the *Springfield News Leader* for Telephone Reader on Wednesdays.

7. **Tandy Reussner** serves as one of our substitute readers.

8. **Matt Suggs** helps us with our For Your EARS Only fundraiser.

David Williams reads the *Tonganoxie Mirror*.

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

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

13. **Jessy Wilkes** reads the *Seneca Courier Tribune*.

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

15. **Jo Anne Kready** hosts Senior Concerns.

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

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

17. **Tamara Seyler-James** reads from *The Leaven*, the newspaper of the local Catholic Archdiocese, for Telephone Reader.

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

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

26. **Mike Doudoroff** reads books.

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

28. **Camille Olcese** reads the *Anderson County Advocate* and *Soap Opera Digest*.

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

**STAFF BIRTHDAY:**

**April 11**

Susan Tabor is our administrative assistant.

Nancy Ness is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

On the Road Again - April schedule for Outreach

*By Lori Kessinger, Outreach Coordinator and Listener Liaison*

- **Saturday, April 8**: Community Wellness Festival, George F. Collins Sports & Convention Center, Baker University, Baldwin City. 8:30-11:30 am.
- **Thursday, April 13**: Health Fair, Greenwood Terrace Senior Living, Lenexa, 2-4 pm.
- **Wednesday, April 19**: Presentation to the Salina Downtown Lions Club, Bicentennial Center, Noon.
- **Thursday, April 20**: Presentation to the Concordia Lions Club, Cloud County Community College, Noon.
- **Monday April 24**: Health Fair at The Gardens at Creekside Senior Living, Olathe, 2-4 pm.
- **Wednesday, April 26**: Franklin County Resource Fair, Neosho Community College in Ottawa, 10:30 am-12:30 pm.
- **Thursday, April 27**: 18th Annual Haskell Safety, Health and Wellness Fair, Tecumseh Hall at Haskell, 10AM-2PM AND Healthcare Navigation: Knowledge Before Crisis Family Friendly Senior Health and Resource Fair, First Baptist Church of Blue Springs, Independence, MO, 3-7 pm.
- **Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29**: Kansas Optometric Association Conference at the Sheraton in Overland Park.

If you are interested in helping to staff these events or know of additional health fairs, senior fairs, or other events, please contact Lori Kessinger, 785-864-4625 or LRK@ku.edu.

Happy spring, one and all! Remember: What you do matters! Thank you for doing your part in making the written word accessible!
**Dodge, dip, duck, dive and…..donate for Audio-Reader!**

*By Meredith Johanning, Development Assistant*

Audio-Reader’s rescheduled “Not in the Face” Dodgeball Tournament, a collaboration with the *Delta Gamma Sorority* and the *Delta Upsilon Fraternity*, is set to take place on Sunday, April 23 at Ambler Recreation Center from 1-5pm. This will be a great event to raise awareness about Audio-Reader with campus organizations while helping to raise some funds for Audio-Reader. We are excited to collaborate with two wonderful Greek organizations on this inaugural event.

Thank you to all of you who were set up to volunteer with the initial event back in February. If you are interested and able to volunteer at the rescheduled event on the 23rd please contact Meredith at mjohanning@ku.edu or at 785.864.4634. We can use volunteers from 12:30-2:30 and from 2:30-5:00. If you are unable to donate your time please consider donating individually-wrapped baked goods that can be used in the prize bags. What college student doesn’t love free food?!

For additional information about the Dodgeball Tournament and/or to register a team, visit reader.ku.edu/other-upcoming-events.

**New and Improved Equipment Upgrades at the Audio-Reader Alphapointe Recording Studio**

*By Meredith Johanning, Development Assistant*

Audio-Reader hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 21 for several Missouri Lions Clubs and other friends who made possible the purchase of new studio equipment for our Alphapointe recording studio. We would like to extend a very big thank you to the *Independence Host Lions*, the *Eastview Lions*, the *Belton Bel Ray Lions*, the *Belton Host Lions*, the *Lions Club of Peculiar*, A-R volunteer *Randy Troyer*, and *Tradebot Systems* for their generosity and commitment to this project.

Cutting the ribbon to unveil the new equipment!


**Audio Description Dates for April**

- **A Raisin in the Sun**: Wednesday, April 5 and Wednesday, April 12, 10 am, Kansas City Repertory Theatre (school students only)
- **Erth’s Dinosaur Zoo Live**: Sunday, April 9, 4:00 pm., Lied Center. Join us at 3pm in the upper lobby for an audio description demonstration!
- **Chris Perondi’s Stunt Dog Experience**: Friday, April 28, 7:00 pm, Lied Center
- **Noises Off!**: Saturday, April 29, 7:30 pm, Theatre Lawrence
- **Noises Off!**: Sunday, April 30, 2:30 pm, Theatre Lawrence

Additional performances are listed at www.reader.ku.edu/audio-description. Want to volunteer to hand out listening equipment, or become an audio describer? Contact Jen at jnigro@ku.edu
**Five Questions:**

- **Name:** Jamie Lowe  
  **Current reading assignment:** Wednesday *Kansas City Star* sports for Telephone Reader  
  **Years of service:** 9 years, 1 month

  **Q:** Where did you grow up?  
  A: I grew up in Winona, KS, a small town in northwest Kansas in Logan County.

  **Q:** What is your favorite book?  
  A: Anything about the Civil War or Revolutionary War. My most recent read was *A Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

  **Q:** How or why did you get involved with Audio-Reader?  
  A: I heard about Audio-Reader at my Rotary Club here in Lawrence. I wanted to volunteer because I had a cousin who lost his sight due to complications related to diabetes.

  **Q:** What is your favorite or most unusual reading assignment?  
  A: My favorite assignment has been reading the *Kansas City Star* sports section. I find the names challenging at times, especially for athletes in tennis, hockey and soccer.

  **Q:** What is your favorite thing about volunteering for Audio-Reader?  
  A: The people. Everyone is so friendly and caring. It is my “once a week” family.

---

**Eat at On the Border to Benefit Audio-Reader on April 20!**  
*By Meredith Johanning, Development Assistant*

Make plans to dine out at On the Border (Lawrence location only: 3080 Iowa St.) anytime on Thursday, April 20 to benefit Audio-Reader! Grab lunch, dinner, drinks, or even carry-out and 20% of your purchase will be donated to Audio-Reader. Simply mention Audio-Reader to your server to make sure your meal goes to Audio-Reader. Get full and be fulfilled!
NEW FACES

By Jennifer Nigro,
Coordinator of Volunteers

Please give a warm welcome to the following new volunteers!

**Lisa Beck** is the associate director of KU’s Office of Admissions. In her spare time, she serves as a church usher and service dog puppy raiser. She also enjoys horses, construction, floral design, sewing, and other DIY projects. Lisa completed audio description training in November, and is now one of our audio describers!

**Victoria Dixon** is an insurance agent who enjoys writing and reading in her spare time. She has fond memories of reading to her mother, who lost her eyesight. Victoria begins as a substitute reader at our Alphapointe location.

**Shirley Elwing** is a tax preparer for H&R Block. She volunteers for Mercy Hospital’s pastoral care program in Springfield, MO, as well as for the Life Crisis Center and for her church. She begins by reading from the *Springfield News-Leader* for Telephone Reader on Mondays.

**John Havel** is a retired professor at Missouri State University in Springfield. He enjoys singing in his community and church choir and helping in its garden, as well as working as a journal editor and reviewer. Several years ago, he recorded science textbooks for visually-impaired students, and has an aunt with macular degeneration. He begins by reading portions of Wednesday’s *Springfield News-Leader* for Telephone Reader.

**Liz Lem** is a retired nurse. In her spare time, she volunteers with Kansas City Young Matrons and is a master gardener. Liz has both family and friends with vision loss, and likes the idea of making sure others have access to current events and books. Liz begins as a substitute reader for the Lawrence and Alphapointe locations.

**Maria Flores** is a proposal analyst who has volunteered with several teen/youth organizations. She spends much of her spare time raising her two young children, and enjoys cooking. She begins as a Telephone Reader substitute reader.

**Wendy Kim-Luellen** works at Yarn Barn. She loves knitting and spinning yarn, as well as reading aloud to her kids. She was referred to Audio-Reader by friend and fellow-knitter **Elinor Schroeder**. Wendy begins as a substitute reader.

**Emma Kloster** is the administrative assistant for Mea Bernina Sewing Center. She enjoys writing and painting in her spare time, and has played classical piano almost her whole life. She is currently learning guitar. Emma begins by reading the *Iola Register* weekender edition, and will help with layout and design for our donor newsletter, *Airwaves*.

**Linda McFarlane** is a retired educator who continues to do private tutoring and teach ESL adult classes as a volunteer at her church. She also knits baby blankets for pregnancy crisis centers, and enjoys playing the keyboard, writing, and trying new recipes. She begins by filling in on the House and Home section of Sunday’s *Kansas City Star*.

**Julie Noonan** spent eight years as the director of theatre education at Ottawa University before the program was suspended due to budget cuts. She looks forward to teaching again soon. She enjoys cantoring at her church and reading new plays for a theater in Kansas City. She also works as a standardized patient for the KU School of Pharmacy. Julie begins by reading *Soap Opera Digest*.

**Emily Othic** is a student at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, where she is majoring in religious studies and economics and works as a resident assistant. Emily has volunteered for the Diaper Bank of the Ozarks and delivered food in rural Haiti earlier this year. She begins by reading portions of the *Springfield News-Leader* for Telephone Reader on Thursdays.

**Vanetta Wick** is a retiree, most recently working as an analyst for a medical software company. She volunteers for CASA and sings in her church choir. In her spare time, she also enjoys sewing, gardening, opera, ballet, and classical music, among other activities. Vanetta begins as a substitute reader at our Alphapointe location in Kansas City, MO.
“Come Together” to “Help!” Audio-Reader!

By Beth McKenzie, Development Director

“Hey Jude”,
Celebrate “A Hard Day’s Night” to support Audio-Reader! Join us Friday, April 14th at Liberty Hall in Lawrence.

“We Can Work It Out” so you “Get Back” to “Yesterday”, dancing to “Twist and Shout”, “Hippy Hippy Shake”, and singing “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da”.

The “All You Need is Love” Music of the Beatles benefit concert will feature a local group of all-star KC and Lawrence-area musicians. Artists include Pat Tomek from The Rainmakers, solo artist Darrell Lea, Dave Tanner from Liverpool, Paul Lemon from Potters Field, Mike Penner from Broken Arrows, Todd Grantham of The Quivers, and special guest Fast Johnny Ricker.

“With a Little Help from (your) Friends”, your “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” might say “I Wanna Hold Your Hand”.

Don’t “Wait”, or think maybe “When I’m Sixty Four” – “Your Ticket to Ride” is only $20 in advance/$25 at the door.

Friday April 14, 2017
All Ages!
Doors open at 7 pm, show will be approx. 8-10:30 pm
Tickets available at Liberty Hall or online at http://libertyhall.net/events
Proceeds benefit Audio-Reader.

Get on the greens to raise some green for Audio-Reader!

By Meredith Johanning, Development Assistant

Audio-Reader’s 8th Annual Golf Classic is fast approaching on Monday, June 5 at the Eagle Bend Golf Course in Lawrence, KS. Erin O’Neil, head coach of KU Women’s Golf, is back with us again to chair the event, and we couldn’t be more excited! Since the golf classic started in 2010 it has continued to grow every year, and we want to make sure this year is no exception. You can be a part of helping grow this event by either playing in the tournament, becoming a sponsor, or helping us secure new sponsors. Do you work for a company that would like to get its name out in the community? Do you own a business that would like to support Audio-Reader? Contact Beth (bethmckenzie@ku.edu) or Meredith (mjohanning@ku.edu) at 785.864.4600 and we can provide sponsorship information, or we would be happy to contact someone within your organization.

The deadline to register to play is May 22. To register yourself and/or your team go to reader.ku.edu/audio-reader-golf-classic. We’re looking forward to another great event and we want you to be a part of it too. Help us raise some green on the greens for Audio-Reader!
Thanks to all who came out to Conroy’s Pub last month for a trivia night benefitting Audio-Reader! Several teams competed, and we drew not only Audio-Reader staff and volunteers, but others from the community. In all, the evening raised $250 for Audio-Reader.