‘Tis the season of giving, receiving, and SHARING! We know how much you love Audio-Reader, and we need your help sharing those sentiments with those around you. How, you may ask? Here are a few ideas!

1. **Tell a friend or family member.** Let them know where you volunteer, how you spend your time—you are even welcome to bring them up to watch you record or tour the studios! Share with them what you do and why. You never know who you might inspire to make a donation, volunteer, or connect to a service that could change their life.

2. **Engage on social media!** Social media is just what it says it is—social! Sharing our posts and re-tweeting our tweets helps us get Audio-Reader in front of more people. Getting in front of more people means raising awareness, and that leads to more funding, more users, and more volunteer resources. We are the Audio-Reader Network—use your network to help us grow!

3. **Find new ways to get involved.** Try a new broadcast, volunteer to hand out listening devices at an audio described performance, agree to staff our reception desk for an afternoon, or help at an outreach event—there are many ways to give your time! Every time you try something new, you gain a better understanding of the services we provide.

4. **Ask questions.** We are always happy to tell you more about how we do what we do, who performs what roles on staff, and how we got where we are as an organization. Just ask!

Regardless of the method you choose, take some time to share Audio-Reader with others. Our volunteers are one of our most treasured resources. With your help, we can share our services with even more people!

Celebrate the Holidays with Audio-Reader!

Join Audio-Reader for a holiday party, Monday, December 12. We’re breaking with tradition a bit to hold this year’s event at Theatre Lawrence, 4660 Bauer Farm Drive, in Lawrence. The event will be an open house from 4-7 p.m. To keep costs to a minimum, we’re asking everyone to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Audio-Reader will provide non-alcoholic drinks, and Theatre Lawrence will open a cash bar for those who want to imbibe. You can RSVP and let us know what you will bring by visiting http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4efa62fa5e0-audioreader or let Jen, Lisa, or Susan know.
It is with great affection that I introduce you to Otis Bing-
ham, a courageous, funny, interesting, and gentle man.
Mr. Bingham was the first listener I spoke to when I joined
Audio-Reader in March of 2013. My first conversation with
Mr. Bingham cemented my certainty that Audio-Reader was
the place for me.

Otis Bingham was born in 1928 and raised in Festus, MO.
Festus is a small suburb outside of St. Louis. As a child,
Otis spent most of his time with his two older sisters. Their
favorite thing as children was the ice man. They looked
forward to the big block of ice being delivered each week.
Their mom would always chip off a piece of ice for each of
them before putting the block in the icebox. To this day, Mr.
Bingham loves ice. He has a glass of ice water next to him
at all times. “Ice was a special treat growing up,” he said.

In 1947 Otis graduated from high school and left Festus to
attend Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO. Towards
the end of his first year in college, Otis’s vision started
deteriorating, making studies difficult. His college counselor
at Lincoln advised him to not return to school the following
year. In 1949 Otis moved to Kansas City, MO, to be closer
to his sisters. Once settled in Kansas City, Otis found a job
at Hyde Park Laundry as a dry cleaner, presser, and laundry
attendant. He worked at Hyde Park Laundry for 19 years. A
rare inherited condition, retinitis pigmentosa, forced him to
retire in 1969 at the age of 41.

Otis’s life changed in 1952 when he met and married his
late wife, Barbara Jean. They met in July and got married
in October. Mr. Bingham knew immediately that he had met
his match. “She never felt sorry for me. She understood my
disability. She was my rock, but she never expected less
from me. She became my eyes when I lost my vision. We
were married for 36 years until she passed away in 1988
from breast cancer,” Mr. Bingham reminisced. Over their
36 years together, Otis and his wife raised four children:
three sons and one daughter. Otis and Barbara Jean loved
attending church at the Member of Christ Temple Pentecostal
Church in KCMO, grocery shopping and cooking
together, and listening to Gospel music. “We did everything
together,” Otis shared. One of Otis’s favorite gospel songs is
If I Can Help Somebody by Mahalia Jackson. “If I can
Help Somebody reminds me of Barbara Jean. She was such
a giving person, always reaching out to help someone,” Mr.
Bingham commented.

Mr. Bingham has endured much hardship and loss through-
his life, but he doesn’t dwell on it. He recently lost both
of his sisters but he is grateful that he had so many years
with them. His oldest sister, Alice, lived to be 104 years of
age and his second sister, Gearle, was 90 years old. Alice
was a school teacher and Gearle was a registered nurse.
Gearle had to retire early in 1972 due to vision loss from the
same disorder as Otis, retinitis pigmentosa.

These days Mr. Otis Bingham isn’t able to get out and
about, but he enjoys visits and phone calls from friends
and family. His grandson, who Otis affectionately calls
“C&H Sugar”, stops by every day with two Kentucky Fried
chicken breasts, Mr. Bingham’s favorite food.

Otis Bingham has been an Audio-Reader listener since 1991.
He enjoys listening to the weekly grocery ads, Kansas City
Star, and daily horoscopes. If Mr. Bingham misses hearing
the horoscopes he will call in and I get the opportunity to read
him the daily horoscopes. “I don’t believe in the horoscope
nonsense. I know that they are just for fun. I still enjoy hear-
ing them every day. It gives me something to think about and
share with my family and friends,” Otis explains.

This Month in Audio-Reader History

By Lynne Ellis, Audio-Reader Volunteer

- December 1986: Closed Circuit celebrated its third anniversary! Among A-R volunteer
  “wish list” items that year were two things: “a computer that would give a verbal pronun-
  ciation of any word with the press of a button” (Jan Dean), and a “wish that everyone all
  over the state of Kansas would be able to hear Audio-Reader” (Betty Cushing).

- December 1996: A-R volunteer Ruth Lichtwardt donated a cat house for Baehr Cat
  when he “chose to spend an evening outside.”
1 Elizabeth Langa reads sports news from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Fridays.

2 Randy Austin co-hosts Breakfast Table Times in the Sunday morning rotation. He also serves as chair of the Audio-Reader Development Committee.

3 John Gedraitis assists with outreach in the Wichita area.

4 Mike Lewis serves as a substitute reader.

5 Jill LaPoint reads the New York Times Travel section each week.

6 Kelsey Griffith reads books.

7 Leigh Ann Monthey reads Diabetic Living magazine.

8 Chris Malik reads Columbia Magazine.

9 Charles Higginson reads USA Today on Mondays.

10 Barbara Schountz reads southeast Kansas regional news from our studio at the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg, KS.

11 William Woody reads sports from the Kansas City Star on Saturdays for Telephone Reader.

12 Maggie Schutz is one of our Sensory Garden volunteers.

13 David Corley reads the Sunflower Dailies and Newspapers of Western Kansas live on Wednesdays and the Topeka Capital-Journal for Telephone Reader on Thursdays; he is also an audio describer.

14 Kaye Drahozal is one of our substitute readers.

15 Elaine Roberts reads books.

16 John Lankard is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

17 Janelle Moore reads the World/Nation news section from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Sundays.

18 Carly Efros reads books.

19 Ron Scoles reads the FYI section from the Kansas City Star on Sundays for Telephone Reader.

20 Carol Anderson is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

21 Sara Kirpes is one of our Sensory Garden volunteers.

22 Elinor Schroeder reads USA Today on Tuesdays, co-hosts Breakfast Table Times on Wednesdays, and reads books.

23 Judy Weingarten reads Kansas City-area regional news from Alphapointe.

24 George McCoy is our Telephone Reader supervisor.

25 May all of your birthdays be joyful and full of good things!

26 And to everyone, we appreciate all of you so much! May all of your December holidays be filled with joy and warmth! Thank you for all you do to make our services happen!
**Recipe Corner**

*I tried to find something a little different to share with you for the December holidays. I found this recipe in a *Taste of Home* magazine and made them last year. They are very tasty! Enjoy!*

**Gingerbread Scones**

12 Servings Prep: 20 min. Bake: 15 min.

**Ingredients**

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup cold butter, cubed
- 1/3 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 egg, separated
- Coarse sugar

**Directions**

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large bowl, whisk the first seven ingredients. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In another bowl, whisk molasses, milk, and egg yolk until blended; stir into crumb mixture just until moistened. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead gently 6-8 times. Pat into an 8-in. circle. Cut into 12 wedges. Place wedges 1 in. apart on a greased baking sheet. In a small bowl, beat egg white until frothy; brush over scones. Sprinkle with sugar. Bake 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.

Yield: 1 dozen.

**What is SCA?**

Most of you know that Audio-Reader’s radio signal is delivered over a “special radio channel” and requires a special piece of equipment to hear our readings. But what does this really mean, and why do we transmit this way?

Audio-Reader’s signal is transmitted on the subcarrier of the radio stations with which we partner. This subcarrier is known as Subsidiary Communications Authority, or SCA. According to the FCC website, “SCA is a separate audio or data channel that is transmitted along with the main audio signal over a broadcast station.” Each FM radio station has two usable subcarrier frequencies, one at 67 kilohertz and one at 92 kilohertz. FM radio frequencies are in megahertz, which is a faster oscillation. A “Hertz” is the unit that measures the oscillation of electric and magnetic fields.

Why do audio information services transmit this way? First, the US copyright law states, “It is not an infringement of copyright for an authorized entity to reproduce or distribute copies or phonorecords of a previously published, nondramatic literary work if such copies or phonorecords are reproduced or distributed in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities.”

Secondly, and most importantly, radio reading/audio information services needed an inexpensive and simple way to distribute our readings to as many people as possible. The National Library Service was established in 1931 and began Braille embossing of books. In 1933, after much experimentation, the American Foundation of the Blind unveiled machines that transferred spoken word onto twelve-inch records. By 1934 the reproduction of printed material into sound recordings was well underway. But these sound recordings needed to be created, copied, and mailed. Not a major problem for books, but definitely a deterrent for newspapers and other timely information.

In 1971 when Audio-Reader’s founder, *Petey Cerf*, was reading to a friend in the nursing home, she decided there must be a better way to provide her readings and audio of other information to more than one person at a time. After some research she found Radio Talking Book in Minnesota, which had begun transmitting readings of the *Minneapolis Tribune* and *St. Paul Dispatch* newspapers using a closed circuit radio operating on the subcarrier of KSJR-FM (currently Minnesota Public Radio). This technology was championed by *C. Stanley Potter*, Director of Minnesota State Services for the Blind, and developed by *Robert Watson*, engineer for the Communication Center at the Minnesota State Services for the Blind.

*Continued on page 5*
**Additional Ways You Can Help Audio-Reader: Year–End Giving**

By Beth McKenzie, Director of Development

As you plan your charitable giving for the end of 2016, you may consider a donation straight from your IRA accounts. Taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to make annual distributions from their IRAs, which are then included in the taxpayers’ adjusted gross income (AGI) and subject to taxes. The IRA Charitable Rollover permits those taxpayers to make donations from their IRAs directly to charitable organizations, such as Audio-Reader, without counting them as part of their AGI and, consequently, without paying taxes on them.

Individuals may donate up to $100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA. If you have not already taken your required minimum distribution in a given year, a qualifying rollover gift can count toward satisfying this requirement. Please consult your tax advisor for specific advice.

**BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!**

Audio-Reader is still the best place to find gently-used books. Our used books are now located on the corner book shelves in the Audio-Reader living room. We suggest $1.00 donations per paperback book and $2.00 donations for each hardback book. Your donations help us purchase new books. Check out the book corner the next time you come in!

**SCA**

Continued from page 4

The transmission on subcarrier allowed the material to be in a “specialized format” and using the airwaves of an already existing radio station allowed for quick distribution. Of course, today, there are other options for listening to Audio-Reader’s programming. We have Telephone Reader, internet stream, podcasts, archive pages, and the Sero smartphone app; but the majority of our users, and users of audio information services across the country, are using the closed circuit radios because they are easy to use and require no extra equipment. Hopefully, advances in technology will produce a more efficient way to distribute this timely information, but since 1969 SCA has been the default method.

**Five Questions:**

Name: Dave Corley
Current reading assignment: Wednesday *Sunflower Dailies* and *Newspapers of Western Kansas*; Thursday *Topeka Capital-Journal*; audio description
Years of service: 4 years, 3 months

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: Topeka.

Q: What is your favorite book?
A: SO many... I'm going to call it one book: the soon to be five volume biography of Lyndon Johnson by Robert Caro. Also, *The Power Broker* by Caro; *Truman* by David McCullough; *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan; *The Golden Ratio* by Mario Livio...

Q: How or why did you get involved with Audio-Reader?
A: I've listened to KANU since the early 1960s and heard Audio-Reader promoted a few times years ago. I like to read and want to give back, so upon retirement in 2012, I decided to try!

Q: What is your favorite or most unusual reading assignment?
A: The very first time I read live, I started a story about the local arrest of a person for sexual assault. During the reading I discovered the language in the story about his crime was unambiguously descriptive. I was OK with the explicit wording, but as my throat constricted, my mouth dried, and sweat formed on my brow I thought, as I was reading, "I'm reading this live... on the radio...to a vast audience! I like doing this but management and the listeners are going to chastise and ostracize me after just my first reading!" BUT, the story was marked as a candidate AND the paper did publish it, so ... Before I finished that session I had new insights into time management, story selection and programming, reading technique, preparation, and rehearsal.

Q: What is your favorite thing about volunteering for Audio-Reader?
A: Providing information for others which is not available otherwise; learning as I read various stories; the challenge of reading aloud correctly and with expression.
News from Development

By Meredith Johanning,
Development Assistant

45th Birthday Campaign
We would like to thank everyone who was a part of our 45th Birthday campaign and our first-ever crowdsourcing fundraiser! Audio-Reader was able to raise crucial funds from October 21 until November 21, and with a match from an anonymous, generous donor, our final total came to $6,750! What a way to honor Audio-Reader’s 45 years of service! Equally important was the awareness raised about Audio-Reader. Through social media, we were able to share our mission and have others share on our behalf. We reached different audiences and brought in new friends. Audio-Reader has an amazing story to tell; a story with 45 years of history. Thank you to everyone for helping share and support that story so we can keep telling it for the next 45 years.

Help Expand Audio-Reader: We Hope to (HEA-R) From You!
It has been a busy year at Audio-Reader. Our services continue to expand and we are reaching new listeners. Our audio description continues to grow across the region, we won four national awards for excellence in information services, and we recently celebrated our 45th anniversary. But in this past calendar year, Audio-Reader has received significant budget cuts totaling $125,000. We have worked hard to combat these cuts by making our own internal cuts and changes so we can continue providing the services our listeners depend on, but we need your help!

In the coming weeks you will receive a letter in your mailbox kicking off our annual Help Expand Audio-Reader (HEA-R) campaign. Your support matters now more than ever, and can help Audio-Reader continue to operate under such significant cuts. We ask you to consider Giving the Gift of Sight through Sound this holiday season. Your gift is the key to our future! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Receive Airwaves Electronically
Would you like to receive your copy of Airwaves (Audio-Reader’s bi-annual donor newsletter) via email? If so, contact Meredith Johanning at mjohanning@ku.edu and write: “Email Airwaves” in the subject line. You can cut down on your paper mail clutter while also saving Audio-Reader printing and postage costs – a win-win!

White Elephant Gifts Requested!

By Lori Kesinger,
Outreach Coordinator and Listener Liaison

From time to time Audio-Reader is asked to provide a door prize with our exhibit to drive traffic to the booth or to offset the cost of the event for the organizers. In the past we have purchased KU-themed items such as can coolers, puzzles, or tote bags. If you receive gifts this holiday that you do not plan to use (KU-themed or not), consider donating them to Audio-Reader. Value is usually $25, but even little items like coffee mugs or vases can be spruced up with the addition of candy or a small plant.

Audio Description Dates for December and January
We have several audio-described performances coming up in December and January. If you know someone who could benefit, please spread the word!

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the Musical:
Friday, December 9, 7:00 p.m., Lied Center
Peter Pan: Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Lawrence
Peter Pan: Sunday, December 11, 2:30 p.m., Theatre Lawrence
The Last Romance: Saturday, January 28, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Lawrence
The Last Romance: Sunday, January 29, 2:30 p.m., 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
Deaths
Audio-Reader staff and volunteers offer our most sincere condolences to volunteers and their friends and family members who have experienced the loss of a loved one:
Audio-Reader volunteer Garry Huber’s brother Danny died on October 13.
Audio-Reader volunteer Emeritus Fred Ostby died on October 27. Fred read sports from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader for five years.

Audio-Reader Volunteer Receives Prestigious Award
Audio-Reader volunteer and outgoing interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey Rex Buchanan received this year’s public service award from the Geological Society of America. The society has about 250,000 members in 103 countries and makes a public service award each year. He reads TV Guide for Audio-Reader each week. Congratulations, Rex, on this tremendous honor!

NEW FACES
By Jennifer Nigro, Coordinator of Volunteers
Please give a warm welcome to the following new volunteer! Anne Haehl is a retired speech teacher. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering as a Sunday School teacher, ESL and Spanish language teacher, and singing for and visiting senior citizens. She is a member of a storytelling guild and an advocate for people with disabilities. She also enjoys reading and writing poetry. Anne is excited to combine her love of words and commitment to people with disabilities by volunteering with our audio description program.

BOOK LIST
By Beth McKenzie, Director of Development
Due to the recent budget cuts, we are looking to save on expenses wherever we can. As a result, we are not ordering as many new books as we used to.
If you would like to donate a book to Audio-Reader, you can check out our book wish list on Amazon (https://amzn.com/w/3A6VX10HALYHK). It’s easy to purchase directly through Amazon and start reading – be sure to let our program manager, Nick Carswell, know which book you’ve donated! If you already have the book, or would like to purchase elsewhere, just select “Buying this gift elsewhere?” to mark it off the list.
Our list has a wide variety of interests, styles, and genres to be read! However, if you are assigned to book reading and interested in reading a favorite book or new best seller that’s not on the list, talk to Nick to see if it’s already in service. Alternatively, Nick has a selection of books in his office available for reading.
If a book isn’t on the list, you can help by bringing the book from home, or perhaps borrow it from a friend or the library. Just be sure to check with Nick! You can call him at (785) 864-2686 or email nickcarswell@ku.edu.

AUDIO READER BOOKCLUB CONTINUES TO THRIVE
By Lisa Werner and Susan Tabor
2016 has been a year full of good reads, great discussions, fun gatherings, and new friends for our Audio-Readers Brown Bag Book Club. We most recently read The Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff, and are currently reading the novel World of Pies, by Karen Stolz. 2017 will begin with the tragic and uplifting story, Worth the Pain, about former KU student and author Andy Marso. We would love for you to join us in 2017! Book club meets at 11:30 a.m. the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Drop in any time. Happy Holidays!
Volunteer **Patty Boyer** recently embarked on an exciting carefree camping trip to Utah. She encountered some amazing views, including this one overlooking a deep canyon with a river flowing through it. Thanks for sharing your getaway with us, Patty!