Audio Description Training Draws Dozens

By Jennifer Nigro, Coordinator of Volunteers

More than 40 people turned out to learn about the art of audio description through a three-day training event hosted by Audio-Reader and the Spencer Museum of Art. Thanks to a grant from the Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation, the two organizations were able to bring in Dr. Joel Snyder to lead the sessions, which were attended by professionals from the Spencer Museum of Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Watkins Museum, Johnson County Parks and Recreation, various KU offices, and current audio describers, among others. Snyder, the president of Audio Description Associates, LLC, and founder of the American Council of the Blind’s Audio Description Project, is well-known in the audio description community as one of the nation’s first audio describers.

Attendees on the first day learned about the need for audio description, the history of the service, and the four facets of providing description. Day two attendees had a chance to work hands-on, scripting description for a series of video clips and applying the concepts covered on the first day of training. Day three attendees worked similarly using still photos as well as works within the Spencer Museum of Art galleries.

Many of those in attendance are working to make exhibits at their own institutions more accessible, and found the training helpful as they develop exhibits and tours. Others came because they are interested in becoming audio describers with Audio-Reader and/or the Spencer Museum of Art. Additional training sessions will be held for those unable to attend last month’s training. Audio-Reader provides ongoing training for its corps of describers. We’re planning another session for February 4 and 11, 2017. Those interested in getting involved should contact Jen Nigro at (785) 864-4604 or jnigro@ku.edu.

Audio-Reader and the Spencer Museum of Art are grateful to the Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation for providing funding for this training opportunity, which will help make
Doris Hanson was a new listener to Audio-Reader as of October 2016. Even though macular degeneration has greatly diminished her eyesight, Doris is on the go as much as possible. “I have never been one to be able to sit still for very long. Even as a little girl I was always moving,” Doris shared.

Doris grew up in the small Swedish town of Scan-dia, KS. “As a little girl I was always my daddy’s shadow. I went everywhere with him. One day when I was around 11 or 12 years old I had gone to town with my dad. On our way out of the store my dad asked me if I would like to try driving home. It was a memorable experience for both of us. I kept asking my dad questions, and every time I would ask him a question, I would look at him. Every time I looked at him, I would turn the wheel towards him, and away we would go across the road towards the ditch. Daddy would have to grab the wheel and straighten us back out before we ended up in the ditch. My dad passed away when I was 13, and it was good that I knew how to drive because my mom didn’t know how to drive and never did learn to drive. I am 93 years old and have never had a ticket. There are times I should have been given a ticket, but I was just never caught,” Doris chuckled.

According to Doris, she likes to sleep late and stay up late. It takes her awhile to get around in the morning so her mornings seem short. She feels like she has more energy in the evenings and can often be found cleaning house after 8:00pm. While cleaning, cooking, or just piddling around the house, Doris likes to have her TV or Audio-Reader radio on for background noise. “If there is no Jayhawk basketball game or Royals baseball game on, I put in one of my VHS tapes. My favorite movies are Dancing with Wolves and Pretty Woman. I can’t see the picture very well these days but my memory and hearing are good and so I still enjoy the stories. Late at night when I can’t sleep it is nice to have the Audio-Reader radio and special request CDs to listen to,” Doris remarked.

Doris was a clerk for the District Court of Woodson County, KS, for many years. Her job often would require her to travel to other communities. When she would travel she would look for mementos from the area, and this led to her collecting bells. She has bells from most everywhere she has traveled.

In addition to collecting bells, Doris enjoys dancing. She and her friends frequent the monthly dances held in her home town of Yates Center, KS, and also occasionally attend dances at nearby communities like Neosho Falls, Toronto, and Piqua. She appreciates all types of dance but her favorite is the Waltz.

Doris also enjoys going out to eat with her friends. “Shrimp is my favorite food. I don’t do a very good job of cooking it, but if I go out to eat and there is shrimp on the menu, that is usually what I will get,” she interjected.

This Month in Audio-Reader History

By Lynne Ellis, Audio-Reader Volunteer

- **January 1992:** A-R had recently retired "Big Blue", the van, after many productive miles.
- **January 2002:** A 9,000 square foot addition to house Kansas Public Radio was planned for the Baehr Audio Reader Center. Demolition of the garage was to begin in February. In addition, the FCC issued a construction permit to install a 3,000 watt translator in Emporia, extending Audio-Reader’s reach.
Jayne Boggs Varney reads from the Topeka Capital-Journal for Telephone Reader on Wednesdays.

Mark Hutchins reads the business section from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Thursdays.

Paula Peterson is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Lin Fredericksen is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Darcy Schild reads books.

Carol Beth Whalen is part of the Breakfast Table Times rotation on Sundays.

Anne Burgess reads the New York Times book review section each week.

John Drees is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Linda Manley reads books.

Les Carlsen reads from the Topeka Capital-Journal on Mondays for Telephone Reader.

Elwyn Davis reads area news from Pittsburg from the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

Ray Wilbur reads from the Kansas City Star sports section for Telephone Reader on Thursdays.

Dean Bevan reads books.

Annamarie Hill is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Daniel Baeza reads from the sports section of the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Sundays.

Lyn Fields reads the K-Mart ad each week.

Anna Napolitan reads books.

Marilyn Bradt reads books.

Donna Riehm hosts The Children’s Hour each week.

Glenda Richardson is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Molly Mulloy serves on the Audio-Reader development committee.

Amy Pesek reads the Springfield News-Leader for Telephone Reader on Fridays.

Patty Boyer reads Airwaves, Massage Today, and Travel Magazine for special request.

Cindy Koester reads front page news from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Wednesdays.

Keith Seedge reads the Hiawatha World and the Sabetha Herald newspapers for special request.

Ellen Strubert is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Nancy Colyer reads the Sunflower Dailies and Newspapers of Western Kansas on Fridays.

Jane Pennington is one of our audio describers.

Maureen Guth reads books.

Adam Desnoyers hosts the Short Stories show each week.

Carl Graves hosts Environmental News, co-hosts Breakfast Table Times on Fridays, hosts Prairie Fire, and is a substitute reader.

Lucy Bednekoff reads southeast Kansas regional news from our studio at the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

Randy Troyer reads Kansas City area regional news from our studio at Alphapointe in Kansas City, MO.

Nicole Banman is the accounts and office manager for Audio-Reader and Kansas Public Radio.

Dan Skinner is the executive director for Audio-Reader and Kansas Public Radio.

Steve Kincaid is the director of engineering for Audio-Reader and Kansas Public Radio.

Happy New Year, everyone! Thank you for all you do to keep us on the air 24/7, no matter what the weather brings us!
With January here, we’re all hunkering down to push our way through the rest of the cold winter season. The cold winds of winter cry out for love pats for the tummy!

For me, a big pot of homemade soup always meets this requirement. I found out about the recipe I’m sharing here from a friend who makes it regularly. When Brook makes it, he makes it in the slow cooker. He just throws all of the ingredients in the slow cooker and cooks it for six hours.

Our very own Telephone Reader supervisor, George McCoy, made this soup. He said he slow cooked it on high for 4 ½ or 5 hours in a Crock Pot, then pureed the soup with an immersion blender. He added a couple of slices of pre-cooked bacon for a touch of pork richness, and used organic canned black beans and organic chicken broth. He garnished the soup with sliced avocado and chopped cilantro.

This recipe comes from the blog of a woman in Kansas City. It’s called Cookie and Kate (Cookie is her dog). Enjoy this soup! The aromas from all of the spices will make your house smell wonderful!

### Spicy Black Bean Soup

Prep time: 10 mins  
Cook time: 45 mins  
Total time: 55 mins  
Serves: 6 servings

This healthy black bean soup recipe is easy to make with canned beans. Thanks to some basic aromatics and Cuban spices, it's incredibly flavorful and delicious. This soup is naturally vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free. The recipe yields quite a bit of soup (6 to 8 servings)—it is easily halved, or you can freeze the leftovers.

**Ingredients**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium yellow onions, chopped
- 3 celery ribs, chopped fine
- 1 large carrot, peeled and sliced into thin rounds
- 6 garlic cloves, pressed or minced
- 4½ teaspoons ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes (use ¼ teaspoon if you're sensitive to spice)
- 4 (15-ounce) cans of black beans, rinsed and drained
- 4 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro (optional)
- 1 to 2 teaspoons sherry vinegar, to taste, or 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- Optional garnishes: diced avocado, extra cilantro, thinly sliced radishes, tortilla chips...
- 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**

Heat the olive oil in a large Dutch oven or soup pot over medium heat until shimmering. Add the onions, celery and carrot and a light sprinkle of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetable are soft, about 10 to 15 minutes.

Stir in the garlic, cumin and red pepper flakes and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Pour in the beans and broth and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Cook, reducing heat as necessary to maintain a gentle simmer, until the broth is flavorful and the beans are very tender, about 30 minutes.

Puree about 4 cups of the soup in a blender until smooth (beware the steam that escapes from the top of the blender, it's very hot). Return the pureed soup to the pot, stir in the cilantro, vinegar/lime juice and salt and pepper, to taste. Serve.

**Notes**

Recipe adapted from The America's Test Kitchen Healthy Family Cookbook.

SUGGESTED SIDES: a little green salad, quesadillas or a grilled cheese sandwich.
Gifts that Give Back

By Meredith Johanning, Development Assistant

Bricks for Audio-Reader’s Sensory Garden are a wonderful gift to give while also giving back! When you purchase a brick for the Sensory Garden, part of your purchase goes to help maintain and beautify the garden. Bricks can be customized with three lines and up to 12 characters per line. These are a wonderful way to celebrate or remember a loved one’s birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other special life milestones. Bricks can be purchased for $125. If you are interested in purchasing a brick please contact Meredith Johanning at mjohanning@ku.edu or at 785.864.4634 to receive an order form.

Save the Date:
Audio-Reader’s 8th Annual Golf Classic

By Meredith Johanning, Development Assistant

Make plans to tee-off for Audio-Reader at our 8th annual golf classic on Monday, June 5, 2017 at the Eagle Bend Golf Course in Lawrence, KS! Erin O’Neil, KU Women’s Golf Head Coach, will be joining us again as the event chair. This golf classic continues to grow each year and bring in crucial funds for Audio-Reader. We are looking forward to another fun and successful event for 2017. You can help support Audio-Reader by sponsoring the tournament or signing up to play. This is a wonderful opportunity to show your support for Audio-Reader and KU Women’s Golf. Contact Beth McKenzie for more information at 785.864.5336 or bethmckenzie@ku.edu.

Five Questions:

Name: David Dinneen

Current reading assignment: books; currently reading A Century of Dishonor by Helen Hunt Jackson.

Years of service: 5 years, 9 months

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: I was born in Elmhurst, Queens, NY, brought up in College Point also in Queens, near Flushing (site of the World’s Fair of 1939-41), within view of what became LaGuardia Airport (used to see the Yankee Clipper land in Flushing Bay, back from Europe).

Q: What is your favorite book?
A: Flaubert's Madame Bovary, in French (but I did a study of it for a faculty seminar and worked with a few quite good translations into English).

Q: How or why did you get involved with Audio-Reader?
A: Encouraged by Bill Carswell (KU Architecture, now in NY) who used to be a volunteer, and by my son-in-law, Thomas Howe, currently a volunteer.

Q: What is your favorite or most unusual reading assignment?
A: My favorite was Graham Greene's The Quiet American, because it is such a good critique of America's early involvement in the war in Vietnam and centers on a time when I was in the US Army there as an interpreter.

Q: What is your favorite thing about volunteering for Audio-Reader?
A: I simply enjoy that hour alone in the studio with the book I'm working on, with the only interruption being my need to get up and stretch after a half hour. Okay, I like the people there, too.
Audio Description Dates for January and February

We have several audio described performances coming up in January and February. If you know someone who could benefit, please spread the word!

**The Last Romance:** Saturday, January 28, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Lawrence

**The Last Romance:** Sunday, January 29, 2:30 p.m., Theatre Lawrence

**Pippin:** Thursday, February 2, 7:30 p.m., Lied Center

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.
Audio-Reader and Dole Institute of Politics partnership receives national recognition
An article published in the November/December issue of Archival Outlook discusses the use of accessibility features to make museum archives and special collections accessible. The article included information about recent work by the Dole Institute of Politics and Audio-Reader to make their temporary exhibit commemorating the 25th anniversary of the ADA accessible to visually-impaired patrons through audio description. To read the article in full, go to: http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/index.php?i=358515&m=&l=&p=2&pre. The article begins on page 4.

News from Paola
Valeria Sokolova Ore, wife of Kevin L. Ore and the daughter-in-law of volunteer emeritus Bettie G. Ore, performed the Russian National Anthem for a boxing match between Sergey Kovalev and Andre Ward on November 19 at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, NV. The boxing event was broadcast by HBO to over 160,000 pay-per-view subscribers and over 13,000 match attendees in the arena. Ms. Sokolova Ore is a Professor of Piano at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. After arriving in the US with little or no English fluency, she has attained her US citizenship while attending UNLV to receive a double Masters in Vocal Performance & Collaborative Arts.

Volunteer’s art on display
Audio-Reader volunteer Susan McCarthy’s art is on display in the lobby of Theatre Lawrence until mid-January. So if you’re in the area of Theater Lawrence, stop in and take a look!

Lawrence High student who is blind plays with Midwest Chamber Ensemble
Luther Fuller, a Lawrence High student and talented young pianist, got to perform with the Midwest Chamber Ensemble. The ensemble played Franz Joseph Haydn’s Piano Concerto #11, 1st movement. You can listen at https://youtu.be/U6R6UkvqCRA.

Audio Description Training
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more exhibits and performances accessible as well as expand awareness of audio description. We’d also like to thank Eileen’s Cookies, Lawrence 6th Street Hy-Vee, and Kansas Quality Roofing for contributing snacks to help keep everyone well-fed during the training sessions. For a listing of upcoming theater performances with audio description, visit www.reader.ku.edu/audio-description.
We had a great turnout for this year’s holiday gathering! Thanks to all who joined us at Theatre Lawrence to celebrate the season and enjoy one another’s company. Special thanks to Kay Traver and Mary Ann Saunders for tending bar, and to the River City Reeds (including A-R volunteers Elaine Roberts and John Roper) for getting us in the spirit with their spirited saxophone music. I think it’s safe to say, a good time was had by all!