A little bit about a lot

By Jennifer Nigro,
Coordinator of Volunteers

If I’ve seemed a little tuned out to day-to-day operations the last month or so, it’s because there is so much going on! Here are a few highlights:

Audio description is growing, and that means I’m putting some extra time into it. I’ve done demonstrations for the Spencer Museum of Art and Lied Center. We’re working with both entities to expand the availability of audio description here in Lawrence. You’ll find a list of upcoming audio described events at www.reader.ku.edu/audio-description. And, if you’re interested in becoming a describer, registration for our training event in November is now open! Visit www.reader.ku.edu/description-training to apply. Can’t make it? Fill out the form anyway and we’ll contact you regarding future training opportunities.

Audio-Reader was also asked to provide Audio Description for a series of physics videos for a local high school student taking a blended learning course. This means working closely with our describers to script description for the videos, then editing the description into them. The process is quite time consuming, but a fun new venture for Audio-Reader.

On September 15, Outreach Coordinator/Listener Liaison Lori Kesinger and I traveled to Springfield, MO, to audition seven potential volunteers. After eight hours of driving and five hours stationed at the library, we were able to select seven volunteers. The process is quite time consuming, but a fun new venture for Audio-Reader.

Exciting new features come to the Audio-Reader Website

By Danny Mantyla,
Webmaster

The digital archive is updated and expanded! After our new website went live, I began work on the new version of the Digital Archive. We are now archiving not just a week’s worth of audio, but an entire year’s worth, and for every program in our catalog. That’s 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, now available to our listeners! Although the JavaScript code that makes it all work is complex and over a thousand lines long, the interface is very easy to use and convenient. It should be very easy to navigate through our catalog of programs and play any show from any time in the last year.

Another new feature is Podcasts. Podcasts allow our listeners to subscribe to the specific Audio-Reader programs they want to hear each day, and the episodes will be automatically downloaded to their device once a new one is available. Listeners can use their smart phones, tablets, and computers via iTunes and other podcatchers to subscribe to the programs they want. Hopefully, our more tech-savvy listeners are finding it to be a very convenient way for them to get the content they want.
What does Cheri Karns, our October Listener of the Month, have in common with U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins and U.S. Senator Pat Roberts? They are all from Holton, KS!

Cheri grew up on a farm in Holton and spent a lot of time outside. She and her three sisters loved spending their days outdoors in the garden or tending the animals. They also treasured spending time cooking with their mom. Cheri’s mom loved to cook and was an avid reader. Cheri inherited her love of recipes from her mom. These days, Cheri struggles with new recipes. She enjoys listening to the recipes aired via the Audio-Reader cooking and home shows, but she is unable to remember recipes in full, resulting in “creative cooking”. “My recipes never have the same measurement of ingredients twice. It is usually a hodgepodge. Before my vision started going, it was easy to read and refer back to my recipes. Still, things usually seem to turn out okay,” Cheri shared.

Cheri still lives on a farm today, and her favorite part of each day is the early morning. “Growing up on a dairy farm, we were always up early, and I enjoyed the hustle and bustle. These days, I enjoy the peacefulness of early morning,” Cheri said. She was a medical technologist for over 30 years, but had to retire six years ago due to her vision decline. Now, Cheri keeps busy working in her garden and helping at her sister’s plant nursery. But she fears she will have to give up gardening soon due to her failing vision.

When she isn’t gardening, Cheri is searching for blue glass. Cheri has been collecting blue glass for many years and has quite a collection. Her daughters help her add to her collection, too. Cheri’s daughters are her greatest pride and joy. “I am really proud of both of my daughters. My husband passed away when they were six weeks and three years old. I am so proud of the independent, hard-working women they have become in spite of not having a father. My oldest daughter is a writer, teacher, and librarian. My youngest daughter has her own acupuncture and herbal medicine office in Atlanta, GA. Both young women are open thinkers and world travelers. Both have studied and worked in impoverished areas of various countries. My daughters are grateful for what they have and they accept everyone. They inspire and motivate me. When I started losing my vision, they told me this was just a glitch, you will manage it, no problem. With the help of them and others, I am managing and keeping my spirits high,” beamed Cheri.

By Lisa Werner,
Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

This Month in Audio-Reader History

By Lynne Ellis,
Audio-Reader Volunteer

- **October 1971**: Audio-Reader began broadcasting from the kitchen of the Sudler House (now the Max Kade Center) at 8 a.m. on October 11. Founder Petey Cerf partnered with the University of Kansas and KANU to start the program, which was the second of its kind in the country. Programming included readings from the Kansas City and Topeka newspapers as well as magazines, books, and short stories. About 250 radios had been distributed to broadcast 80 hours’ worth of programming per week. At the time, we had just two staff members and a handful of volunteers. Today, we broadcast 24/7, PLUS, provide materials via telephone and special request, utilize approximately 400 volunteers across four locations, and reach across Kansas and into Missouri. Happy Birthday, Audio-Reader!

- **October 1991**: The Wichita Eagle returned to the airwaves after a time away, thanks to those who wrote letters. The Eagle awarded a free subscription and was delivered to Topeka. Commuters between Lawrence and Topeka made sure that a paper was delivered daily. Now, we read it online!

- **October 1996**: A group of volunteers participated in the national day of caring, or “Make a Difference Day”, sponsored by the Points of Life Foundation, by working in the Audio-Reader garden. One hundred bulbs were planted.
We would like to wish a very autumnal Happy Birthday to the following volunteers with birthdays in October:

1 Jane Tedder reads Monday regional newspapers, the Tuesday Lawrence Journal World, Time Magazine, A Look Back, and the front page and the world/nation news sections from the Kansas City Star on Fridays for Telephone Reader.

3 Boyd Conrad reads Reader’s Digest for Special Requests.

Robert Renz reads the Anderson County Advocate for Special Requests.

5 Nancy Johnson assists with outreach.

Bill Padgett reads books as well as the Topeka Capital-Journal on Thursdays for Telephone Reader. He also helps with the Sensory Garden.

6 Karen O’Keefe reads books.

7 Jessica Mayhew reads Parade Magazine each week.

Carol Nauman reads regional newspapers on Mondays.

Jennifer Stefanchik reads regional newspapers on Wednesdays.

9 Patricia Cahill reads Kansas City-area news from our remote location at Alphapointe in Kansas City.

Shimon Rosenblum reads obituaries from the Saturday Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader.

Tom Van Fleet serves as one of our substitute readers.

Karen Wuenstel reads from the Topeka Capital-Journal on Sundays for Telephone Reader.

10 Ruth Hughes reads books.

11 Audio-Reader went on the air October 11, 1971! Happy 45th!

Don Doesken reads books.

Peg Sampson assists with the For Your EARS Only fundraiser.

12 Tom Kearney reads Field and Stream magazine and Hunting Magazine for Special Requests.

14 Al Kaine reads Saturday opinion from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader.

16 Sonia Brand reads books.

John Burns reads sports from the Kansas City Star on Mondays for Telephone Reader.

Shelley Sandberg hosts At Home on the Range each week.

18 Edith Bond hosts Farming and Ranching each week, reads books, and is an audio descriptor.

Art Hadley assists with the For Your EARS Only fundraiser.

Sarah Thomas reads the Logan County Republican for Special Requests.

19 Laveda Peterlin cohosts Breakfast Table Times on Saturdays.

21 Donna Conway reads the New York Times business news each week.

Nina Davis serves as one of our substitute readers.

Rebecca Jordan hosts Two on the Aisle each week.

22 Leigh Diepenbrock is one of our audio describers.

23 Pete Knutson serves on the Audio-Reader development committee and on the golf tournament committee.

Jim Taylor reads Thursday regional newspapers.

27 Janet Campbell assists with the For Your EARS Only fundraiser.

29 Lori Shattuck reads the Anderson County Advocate for Special Requests.

31 Cal Karlin assists with the For Your EARS Only fundraiser and serves on the Audio-Reader development and golf committees.

There are no staff birthdays in October.

Thanks to all of you for all you do to keep our services up and running! It takes a village, and we’re so grateful that you are part of our village!

Upcoming Audio Description Dates

The Blind Boys of Alabama, Saturday, October 1, 7:30 p.m., Lied Center

A Chorus Line, Sunday, October 2, 2:30 p.m., Theatre Lawrence

The Capitol Steps, Saturday, October 8, 7:30 p.m., Lied Center

The Shanghai Acrobats, Friday, October 14, 7:00 p.m., Lied Center
One thing I love about autumn is that it’s a great time of year for a party! The following recipe would be great for Halloween entertaining or any other event where apples are present. I originally found this recipe in Taste of Home magazine. It is a delicious way to watch your fall apples disappear! Enjoy!

**Apple Brickle Dip**

Prep/Total Time: 10 min. Yield: 16 servings

**Ingredients**
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 package almond brickle chips (7-1/2 ounces) or English toffee bits (10 ounces)
- 3 medium tart apples, cut into chunks or wedges

**Directions**

In a bowl, beat cream cheese, sugars and vanilla. Fold in brickle chips. Serve with apples. Refrigerate any leftovers. Yield: 2 cups.

Who are “the blind and visually impaired?” That’s a fair question – just who ARE we? An easy answer is that we are people who are not able to see or not able to see very well. Within that “easy” answer lie myriad possibilities.

Doctors measure eyesight in a variety of ways, and you need to consult your eye specialist to understand your specific situation. Though it isn’t used much anymore, the old Snellen big E chart suffices for this discussion.

If the patient, standing 20 feet from the chart, could read the bottom line, that patient had 20/20 eyesight as do most people. The larger the bottom number of the fraction becomes, the less eyesight a person has. The fraction for “legally blind” is 20/200. It says, the “average” person can see from 20 feet what most people can see from 200 feet. For example, my left eye is 20/1500, the right is 20/2800, and the two eyes together 20/1000. I have some usable eyesight. It’s possible to have better than 20/20 vision. Some people have 20/15– they see at 20 feet what most people see at 15. Visual field (the area covered by your vision) is also measurable. At some point, which is different for each of us, vision loss affects the ability to perform daily tasks and can be called a visual impairment.

In today’s vernacular, “blind” means totally without eyesight. The eye is a complex organ, and between acuity

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**Additional Ways to Help**

*By Beth McKenzie, Development Director*

The 2016 FYEO benefit sale was our biggest success to date! Thank you to everyone who made it possible. This was the 14th year for the sale, and some of our equipment is as old as, or older than, the sale itself! Audio-Reader is excited to see FYEO continue to grow, but we’re going to need a little help to keep the momentum. Here’s how you can help:

We need a new hand truck/dolly for hauling records and equipment (approximately $200), new 12-foot blue plastic tablecloths to decorate the venue (approximately $50), and new tires for the trailer used to store all of our equipment (approximately $600). Please contact Meredith at mjohanning@ku.edu or Beth at bethmckenzie@ku.edu if you can help FYEO to help Audio-Reader!
**NEW FACES**

*By Jennifer Nigro, Coordinator of Volunteers*

Please give a warm welcome to the following new volunteers!

**Christy Allie** is a director at the Youth Center at Fort Leavenworth. She sings in her church choir and plays the organ. Christy loves to read and begins by reading *Consumer Reports*.

**Nina Davis** works for the federal government in Kansas City. She has volunteered for CASA. She is also a volunteer ESL teacher. Nina loves to read and begins as a substitute reader.

**Jane Faubion** is a project director for Headquarters Counseling Center. She is also a board member for StopGap. Jane calls the Sensory Garden one of her favorite places in Lawrence, and is excited to get involved as a volunteer!

**Willow Garcia** has a background as a film producer. In her spare time, she volunteers teaching English at Plymouth Church, and is looking to get involved with Visiting Nurses and Douglas County Senior Citizens. In fact, she has quite a track record of giving back to her community, including overseas work in India. Willow is our newest Sensory Garden volunteer.

**Cara Newell** works as an accountant and housewife and enjoys volunteering at school, as a driver for the elderly, and as a pro bono bookkeeper. She read for Audio-Reader more than 25 years ago, and is excited to return! Cara joins our team of readers at Alphapointe.

**Margaret Schutz** is a retired school psychologist who enjoys reading and mindlessness in her spare time! She loves to help out friends and neighbors, and is looking forward to sharing her skills in Audio-Reader’s Sensory Garden.

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**A Little Bit**

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there, we are pleased to have a cadre of volunteers ready to start reading the *Springfield News-Leader* via Telephone Reader. We’ll also record area grocery ads. It’s a great area for expansion, and we’re excited to get to know our new volunteers!

All of that, plus planning for the volunteer appreciation brunch, have certainly kept me out of trouble. I’m looking forward to coming up for air next month, and hopefully being able to enjoy a slightly more leisurely pace. Until then, please don’t hesitate to interrupt if you need something—I guarantee I could use a break from whatever I am doing!

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**Eat good food, Have great fun, and Support Audio-Reader!**

The Lawrence Lions Club is a longtime supporter of Audio-Reader. Two events in October will help support the Lions’ philanthropic outreach, including support for Audio-Reader.

Please invite your friends and family to the Lions Pancake Breakfast

Saturday October 1st
8 am – 10 am
Applebee’s on 6th St
3900 W 6th St
Lawrence, Ks 66049
$6 per person

Please bring or join a team for come out for the Lions Trivia Night

Friday October 7th
7:00 pm
Conroy’s Pub
3115 W 6th St
Lawrence Ks 66049
$7 per person, teams up to 8 people
In the words of The Beach Boys, Audio-Reader is feeling “good, good, good, good vibrations” after wrapping up the 14th annual, and most successful, benefit sale, For Your EARS Only (FYEO) on September 9th & 10th! Even the rain held off on opening Friday night so over 100 customers could line up outside Building #21 of the Douglas County Fairgrounds and eagerly await the opening of doors at 6:00pm.

The good vibrations continued into Saturday, and by the close of the event, FYEO grossed $36,000 - $7,500 more than last year’s successful sale! While it’s exciting to note the success of the 14th sale, it’s equally important to acknowledge the support from volunteers who make this event possible. Whether it’s sweating through the set-up and clean-up of the sale, working the actual sale, baking and/or bringing treats for Friday night, donating items to be put in the sale, or simply spreading the word about the event, this event takes a village. And what an amazing village Audio-Reader has! A special thank you and recognition goes to our star FYEO volunteers, Dave Dunford and Lori Tesdahl, who work tirelessly and for hours on end to prepare the equipment and records for the sale!

Thank you also to our friends at KPR and KCUR, who worked especially hard to help promote the event and serve as donation drop-sites. Their efforts helped us reach a broader audience, and we saw the success of that from the number of customers who showed up for the event. Not to mention the incredible support we received from our event sponsors: Capitol Federal Savings and Loan, Central National Bank, Groove Washer, Lawrence Taekwondo, LLC, Minuteman Press, Scotch Fabric Care, and Stephens Real Estate.

We would like to especially thank these volunteers who invested many hours to make the sale the success that it was: Michael Cornelius and Kelly Loeb brought donations from KCUR to Audio-Reader several times throughout donation season.

Mike Cook with the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute hauled Audio-Reader’s trailers full of audio equipment to the fairgrounds.

Johnny Davis worked closely with audio equipment volunteer Dave Dunford to check all of the audio equipment ahead of the sale and also worked the entire sale from set-up to clean-up.

Dave Dunford provided his equipment expertise to personally test, clean, repair, and price over 350 pieces of audio equipment. KPR featured him in a story ahead of the sale. Read about “our celebrity” here: http://kansaspublicradio.org/node/32989.

Janis Hutchison served as a resource for input from her decade of record-sorting and provided the colorful balloons for the sale.
Compiled by Susan Tabor, Administrative Assistant

Fifty Years! Congratulations!
Audio-Reader volunteer Don Miller and his wife, Dr. Diane Miller, celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 21! May you have many more wonderful years together! Congratulations!

Condolences
Audio-Reader staff and volunteers offer our most sincere condolences to the following people who have experienced the death of a loved one:

Volunteer Lori Lange upon the death of her mother-in-law, Phyllis, on August 15.

Volunteer Amy Henderson upon the death of her father.

May these volunteers and their families experience comfort and support from others as they move through their grief.

Science fiction, anyone?
Audio-Reader volunteer Evelyn Fitzpatrick and her book club collect science fiction books which they send to Fort Riley and to area VA hospitals. If you have any science fiction books you would be willing to donate to the cause, please bring them to Audio-Reader and we will give them to Evelyn so she and her book club can get them into the hands of science fiction-loving soldiers and veterans! Thanks in advance for your help!

KU Food Drive
October is Hunger Awareness Month. The KU Food Drive begins October 3 and runs through October 31. Audio-Reader is sponsoring a food drive barrel again this year. Please bring in your canned and dry goods to Audio-Reader during the month of October!! Every donation helps to feed a hungry American.

Meet a Listener
Cheri also enjoys eating Italian food, listening to acoustic guitar music, and Talking Books. She was most recently really affected by the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. It really hit home for her as a woman and as a former medical technician.

Cheri has been an Audio-Reader listener since March 2016. She receives several special request publications, including the *Holton Recorder*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *National Geographic*. She also likes listening to various shows via her Audio-Reader internet radio.

Cheri, who lost her vision to Retinitis Stigmatisis (also known as Retinitis Pigmentosa), hopes further funding can be raised for research on the degeneration of the retina. Retinitis Stigmatisis isn’t as common as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataracts, or macular degeneration, so little research and funding is devoted to it.

Cheri is thankful for the availability of low vision services and is especially thankful to her friend Mandy for referring her to Audio-Reader.

Who are the Blind
of 20/200 and totally without sight are many degrees and possibilities for vision impairment. Generally speaking, the “blind and visually impaired” are people for whom vision loss creates significant barriers to daily activities and who may need to use nonvisual techniques and/or specialized technology to compensate for vision loss. We hope for the “medical miracle” and we cope as we hope. We share what we know, and we strongly advocate for what people who are blind and visually impaired need. Our goal is people of the future won’t have to deal with the barriers with which we have had to deal.

Who are the Blind
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Mike Krings promoted the sale through various media outlets to help our event reach a broader market.

Gayle Matchett allowed the use of her garage to store thousands of records when Audio-Reader’s living room was too full!

Wake Mitchell and Matt Suggs sorted and individually priced our higher-end records.

Peg Sampson drove all the way from Austin, TX, to head up the kitchen during the sale so volunteers and customers alike could have happy, full stomachs!

Lori Tesdahl handled the thousands of record donations we received and kept them organized and sorted. She is also the mastermind behind the floor layout each year to maximize the space in regards to the current year’s inventory.

For Your EARS Only brings in necessary funds for Audio-Reader that are now more crucial than ever. It also allows us to promote Audio-Reader to Lawrence and the surrounding communities. We are overcome with gratitude for everyone who helped put on this wonderful event. We’re digging these good vibrations!

Meet a Listener
Continued from page 2

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**PICTURE PERFECT**

Emily Carswell, daughter of Program Manager Nick Carswell, is getting an early start on volunteering! Her pick? *Goodnight Moon.*