Dear Volunteers,

As you have seen in local news reports, Audio-Reader has received a significant budget cut as a result of state cuts to higher education. The reduction, which amounts to $100,000, represents 1/5 of our support from the University of Kansas, and about 10% of our overall operating expenses. In the coming days, I will be working with the staff to examine our budget for cost savings.

While this cut will have an impact, it is not devastating. We’ll still be able to provide a quality product, but we’ll have to look for ways to reduce operating costs as well as increase our fundraising.

Several of you have already reached out to staff in person, via social media, or through email to express your concern. We want to thank you for your support as we navigate this challenge. It’s great to know we have a family of volunteers behind us as we work to make sure Audio-Reader remains a resource for people with vision loss and other disabilities.

Sincerely,

Dan Skinner
Audio-Reader Director

Mark your calendars! Audio-Reader’s annual sale of vinyl records, vintage and modern audio equipment, CDs, DVDs, and musical instruments is THIS MONTH.

Friday, September 9, 6-9 pm
Saturday, September 10, 9 am – 2 pm

Douglas County Fairgrounds

Building 21 South
2120 Harper Street

Friday night is a ticketed event. You can buy advance tickets for $7 at the Audio-Reader reception desk until 5 pm on Friday, September 9. Tickets are $10 at the door. Friday night’s festivities include free food and cool prizes!

Continued on page 5
Susan “Susie” Stanzel has been a Telephone Reader listener since 1991. Susie prefers Telephone Reader over the closed circuit radio because she can call and listen to her favorite publications whenever it is convenient for her.

“Stay as active as possible,” is Susie’s motto. She stays very active with Toastmasters, Pilot Club, NFB, St. Johns Methodist Church, her family, her friends, and her hobbies.

Morning is Susie’s favorite time of day. “I like to get things done early,” Susie explained. She is often on the go, but she is never too busy for her family. She loves spending time with her three daughters: Loretta, Virginia, and Crystal. However, Jacqueline Rebecca Jesen, her four-month-old granddaughter, gets most of her attention these days. “She is the apple of my eye,” Susie beamed.

When Susie does have time to herself, she enjoys reading or knitting. Her favorite way to relax is reading historical romance novels. Danielle Steele, Nora Roberts, and Barbara Taylor Bradford are a few of her favorite romance novelists. Currently, however, she is doing more knitting than reading. Her new granddaughter needs a new baby blanket or two.

Susie was born in Prairie Village, KS. One of her fondest childhood memories is of playing with her dog King. The most important thing she learned as a child was Braille.

One of the questions I asked Susie when we spoke was, “What is something you are really proud of?” Susie has several things she is really proud of: 32 years of marriage, 43 years of perfect attendance at work, and 42+ years with the NFB. Susie was married to her husband Dean for 32 years. Dean passed away in 2007; this year would have marked their 41st anniversary. Susie recently retired. She worked for the City of Kansas City, MO from 1971-1974, and for the Department of Agriculture from 1974-2015. Susie is still active with the National Federation of the Blind. She became a member of the NFB in 1974 and served as the state (KS) president of the NFB from 1990-2006. She is currently the Johnson County chapter president for NFB. Wow! Susie does have much to be proud of.

“Stay Active!” Susie says. Susie would like to share information about the organizations she loves. You can learn more about Toastmasters, Pilot Club, and NFB at the websites listed below.

- https://www.toastmasters.org/
- http://www.pilotinternational.org/
- https://nfb.org/

This session consists of an overview of audio description concepts, relating to all forms of visual art. Joel Snyder, Ph.D., president of Audio Description Associates, will take attendees through the elements of Audio Description, including observation techniques, decision-making, editing, and word choice. You will leave with an in-depth understanding of Audio Description, and be well on your way to becoming a trained describer. Certification can be completed by attending one or both of the sessions listed below, or by contacting Audio-Reader or Spencer staff to schedule additional training.

Audio-Reader and the Spencer Museum of Art are teaming up to offer a three-day Audio Description training event for anyone interested in becoming certified to describe theater, film, museum exhibits, and other visual presentations.

Dr. Joel Snyder, Ph.D., will work with staff, volunteers, and members of the Lawrence and surrounding communities to teach them the art of Audio Description. The event will be held at various venues in Lawrence November 18-20. Here’s an overview of what you can expect:

**Friday, November 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Malott Room, Kansas Union**

*The Visual Made Verbal: Learning the Art of Audio Description.*

By Lisa Werner

Special Requests Coordinator

Scott Anderson hosts Online: The Computer Show, broadcast weekly on Audio-Reader, and reads books. Bill Pearce reads Kansas City area regional news from our remote location at Alphapointe in Kansas City.

Brower Burchill is one of our Emeritus volunteers. Carol Jones reads the Lawrence Journal-World on Wednesdays. Lynn Segebrecht hosts the Inspiration and Religion show that airs on Sundays.


Jacqueline Pierce reads Tuesday business news from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader.

Mary Frederickson is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Dan Karasek reads the Sabetha Herald and the Hiawatha World for Special Requests. George Smith hosts the weekly Man Cave show.

Bill Kalahurka reads Kansas City area regional news from our studio at Alphapointe in Kansas City. Susan McCarthy reads the Target and Walgreen’s ads for Telephone Reader each week.

Robert Campbell is one of our substitute volunteers.

Lynne Ellis is an administrative volunteer. John Roper reads the Wichita Eagle on Thursdays.

Cathy Callen reads eastern Kansas regional news on Thursdays. Lisa Suditt reads books.

Yvonne Saenz reads the Hy-Vee and CVS ads for Telephone Reader each week.

James Lowe reads sports from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Wednesdays. Stuart Mills co-hosts the Breakfast Table Times on Saturdays. Bruce Olson reads Toastmaster Magazine for Special Requests. Julie Whistman is one of our substitute readers.

Tina Mitchell is one of our Substitute readers. Ann Blackhurst is one of our Emeritus volunteers.

Darlene Koehler reads news from southeast Kansas from our studio at the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg. Jim O’Malley reads the New York Times Magazine each week.

Thelma Taylor co-hosts Breakfast Table Times on Mondays and reads books.

Michael Beckett reads Reader’s Digest for Special Requests. Clark LaFever reads world, nation, and local news from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Tuesdays.

Michael Cornelius reads from the Topeka Capital-Journal on Mondays for Telephone Reader. Nancy Hause reads USA Today on Thursdays. Frank Marque volunteers from our studio at the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg.

Mary Beth Leininger reads the A.K.C. Gazette for Special Requests.

Barbara Johnston reads The Lion for Special Requests and reads books. Mike Obermeier reads business news from the Kansas City Star for Telephone Reader on Saturdays.

Yvonne Saenz reads the Hy-Vee and CVS ads for Telephone Reader each week.

There are no staff birthdays in the month of September.

One and all, enjoy lovely September as we move into autumn! We hope to see all of you at our FYEO fundraiser September 9-10 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds!

Thanks for all you do for Audio-Reader!
**RECIPE CORNER**

**Black Bean and Corn Salad**

**Dressing:**
- 1/3 cup fresh lime juice (2 1/2 limes, depending on size)
- 1/2 cup olive oil (I think salad oil would do)
- 1 clove of garlic, minced (Judy used two; we LOVE garlic!)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground cayenne pepper (pepper sauce could be used)

**Salad:**
- 2 (15 ounce) cans of black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 1/2 cups frozen corn kernels (12 ounce bag)
- 1 avocado, peeled, pitted and diced (Judy added another diced avocado each day we ate the salad!)
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped (Judy added some diced tomato each day we ate the salad.)
- 6 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup chopped, fresh cilantro (optional, but just the right amount for me…….I also think parsley would be good.)

**Directions**
Place dressing ingredients in a jar, screw lid in place, and shake well to combine ingredients.

In salad bowl: combine beans, corn, avocado, bell pepper, tomatoes, green onions, and cilantro. Shake lime dressing again and pour over the salad. Stir salad to coat veggies and beans with dressing. Judy served with Tostitos whole grain scoops, but any tortilla chip would do. This could even top salad greens with chips on the side, I think. Just a note: Judy used all the dressing in the salad but never added any more as she added avocado and tomato later and the salad was still delicious.

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**AUDIO-READER VOLUNTEER TAKES RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS SERIOUSLY**

Audio Reader volunteer **Leigh Ann Monthey** is taking kindness to the extreme. She recently captained a group of 15 volunteers who participated in the Greatest International Scavenger Hunt the World Has Ever Seen, GISHWHES. This week-long hunt included over 170 items requiring participants to create art, push their personal boundaries, be interactive in the community and, more than anything else, perform Random Acts of Kindness. Items on the list this year include painting a Picassoesque portrait, crossing something off your bucket list (while wearing a Zoot Suit), helping 10 new voters register to vote, and reading to someone who can’t read for themselves.

Leigh Ann spent several hours that week reading *Diabetic Living* for Audio-Reader listeners. Monies associated with GISHWHES go to fund the charity Random Acts, www.randomacts.org. This organization holds as its mission to conquer the world one act of kindness at a time. They inspire acts of kindness around the world and provide encouragement and support for people to change lives for the better.

If you are interested in becoming involved locally, you may contact Leigh Ann at lmonthey@cochlear.com.

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**Audio-Reader T-shirts Still Available!**

**Save the Date!**

**Audio-Reader Network volunteer newsletter**
**Name:** Mary Howe  
**Current reading assignment:** Monday Breakfast Table Times  
**Years of service:** 8 years, 2 months

Q: *Where did you grow up?*  
A: Gladwyne, PA, and Providence, RI.

Q: *What is your favorite book?*  
A: One? How can I choose? Here are three: *The New Yorker Book of Cartoons 1925-1950*, *Thurber Carnival* (James Thurber), and *The Last Report of the Miracles at Little No Horse* (Louise Erdrich). I could go on and on.

Q: *How or why did you get involved with Audio-Reader?*  
A: I’ve always enjoyed reading aloud. When my son was in elementary school I learned that volunteering for something you like is much more valuable than volunteering for something you think you ought to do. (I am a bad snack and party mom!) So Audio-Reader was a natural choice for me.

Q: *What is your favorite or most unusual reading assignment?*  
A: I just love reading *Breakfast Table Times*. For some reason, perhaps because it’s live or because it’s done with a partner, I find it much more fun and relaxed than doing recordings. I've read with interesting and enjoyable partners. *Thelma Taylor, John Nixon, Carl Graves*, I'm looking at you! Oh, I don't want to leave anyone out, so this is also a nod to others I've just read with a few times. Always great.

Q: *What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Audio-Reader?*  
A: The idea that there are human beings out there listening to us. What we do and how we do it matters. Oh, and I love all the nice people who work at Audio-Reader!

Audio-Reader listener and donor **Mary Chappell** recently retired after 34 years of service at KU’s Office of Recreation Services. Mary generously donated a portion of her PTO payout, a $5,000 gift, to support volunteer training and appreciation at Audio-Reader.

Mary is a lifelong lover of all things athletic and lost her sight in a waterskiing accident in the mid-1990s. In addition to mastering a variety of technological supports, Mary has utilized Audio-Reader for news and information to keep her in touch with her community. She feels passionate about supporting the volunteers who have been a daily source for news since losing her sight.

Audio-Reader has the most outstanding volunteers, and we are thrilled and grateful for Mary’s thoughtful gift.

Mary’s gift is unique in that it was through a PTO value payout. This can be a great option for people who want to give but aren’t able to do so through regular earnings. Many employers offer opportunities such as donating the value of a PTO payout once a year or upon retirement. If you’re interested in learning more, contact **Beth McKenzie** at bethmckenzie@ku.edu or (785) 864-5336.

**NEW FACES**

*By Jennifer Nigro, Coordinator of Volunteers*

Please give a warm welcome to the following new volunteers!

**Sarah Thomas** works in the visual arts department at KU. In her spare time, she enjoys film, literature, music, feminist theory, socio-political events, and fashion and design. Sarah begins by reading the *Logan County Republican* for Special Request.

**Jake Waters** is a library assistant at Basehor Community Library. He was a DJ for KJHK throughout his time at KU, and has volunteered for Open World Cause. Jake enjoys creating podcasts, reading and writing. He begins by reading *Newspapers of Southeast Kansas* on Fridays.

**Five Questions:**

**Name:** Mary Howe  
**Current reading assignment:** Monday Breakfast Table Times  
**Years of service:** 8 years, 2 months

Q: *Where did you grow up?*  
A: Gladwyne, PA, and Providence, RI.

Q: *What is your favorite book?*  
A: One? How can I choose? Here are three: *The New Yorker Book of Cartoons 1925-1950*, *Thurber Carnival* (James Thurber), and *The Last Report of the Miracles at Little No Horse* (Louise Erdrich). I could go on and on.

Q: *How or why did you get involved with Audio-Reader?*  
A: I’ve always enjoyed reading aloud. When my son was in elementary school I learned that volunteering for something you like is much more valuable than volunteering for something you think you ought to do. (I am a bad snack and party mom!) So Audio-Reader was a natural choice for me.

Q: *What is your favorite or most unusual reading assignment?*  
A: I just love reading *Breakfast Table Times*. For some reason, perhaps because it’s live or because it’s done with a partner, I find it much more fun and relaxed than doing recordings. I've read with interesting and enjoyable partners. *Thelma Taylor, John Nixon, Carl Graves*, I'm looking at you! Oh, I don't want to leave anyone out, so this is also a nod to others I've just read with a few times. Always great.

Q: *What is your favorite thing about volunteering for Audio-Reader?*  
A: The idea that there are human beings out there listening to us. What we do and how we do it matters. Oh, and I love all the nice people who work at Audio-Reader!
The event season is fast approaching and Audio-Reader will be exhibiting at a variety of events and fairs in the next few months.

• Tuesday September 20th is the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging’s Sunflower Fair at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. This is the premier health and wellness event in North Central Kansas. Last year over 700 senior citizens and their caregivers attended. There is a $20 charge for attendees, including lunch. The event features nationally known speakers, educational workshops, a silent auction, and over 70 exhibitors. The theme for this year is Good Vibrations.

• Wednesday September 21st is the 5th Annual Senior Fair hosted by the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. This event is free and open to the public. A variety of exhibitors are placed throughout the library. Last year over 300 people attended. Hours are 9:30AM-Noon.

• Thursday September 22nd is The Central Plains Area Agency on Aging’s Senior Expo. This event takes place at three venues around Wichita, Exploration Place, Botanic, and the Wichita Art Museum. With over 3,400 attendees this is a great opportunity to reach the 55+ age group. The event features free health screenings, prizes, interactive displays, music, and a 50’s Fashion show. There is a free shuttle to all three locations. Event runs 9AM to 3PM.

• Saturday October 8th is the Kansas Optometric Association’s Fall Eyecare Conference at the Doubletree by Hilton in Wichita. This is one of two meetings put on by the Kansas Optometric Association and is a great opportunity to meet with optometrists and their office staff. Development Committee member Cindy Penzler is to be thanked for the opportunity to reach out to this group.

• Thursday October 13th is the Senior Fest sponsored by the Johnson County Parks and Recreation’s 50 Plus Program at the Ritz Charles Convention Center in Overland Park. This is a full day event (9AM-3PM) featuring music, prizes, food, and lots of exhibits.

• Wednesday October 19th is the Flint Hills Senior Life Fair at the Lyon County Fairgrounds in Emporia. This is the 15th year of this event and brings together senior citizens, businesses, and non-profit organizations from the Flint Hills area. There are speakers throughout the day, prizes, and a luncheon.

Interspersed throughout are presentations to Lions Clubs, The Topeka VIP (Visually Impaired Persons) group, and Low Vision Support groups in Pittsburg, Fort Scott and Yates Center.

Audio Description Training

Continued from page 2

Saturday, November 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Lawrence Public Library
The Visual Made Verbal: Practicum in Theater and Film Description

Those wanting to attain certification in description of live theater and film should attend this session in addition to Friday’s overview session. Dr. Snyder will present examples of Audio Description in use today and coach attendees through the finer points of scripting and describing. Those who attend this session along with the Friday session will be certified as a theater/film describer and eligible to volunteer as such with Audio-Reader.

Sunday, November 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Spencer Museum of Art
The Visual Made Verbal: Practicum in Museum Description

Learn how to describe the visual elements of art from within the Spencer Museum of Art galleries! This training is an important first-step in the museum’s plans to increase the accessibility of its facility and programs, as well as enhance the experience of all visitors. Dr. Snyder will work with attendees both inside and outside of the Spencer galleries to script descriptions of several works of art. Those who attend this session along with the Friday session will be certified as a museum describer and eligible to volunteer as such with the Spencer Museum of Art.

Registration will open in early September on the Audio-Reader website. You are welcome to choose one, two, or three sessions based on your interests and availability; however, space is limited, so preference will be given to those seeking certification in one or both areas. Interested but can’t make the sessions you want? Contact Jen Nigro, Audio-Reader Coordinator of Volunteers, at jnigro@ku.edu, or Spencer Museum of Art Director of Education Kristina Walker at kewalker@ku.edu so we can contact you about future training opportunities.

Participation in these trainings is free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation.
Former Volunteer Dies

Lorena Meyers, former reader and Sensory Garden volunteer, died July 21 at the age of 104. Lorena was one of the original garden volunteers and donated the original gazebo. She was recently honored during the dedication of our new Sensory Pavilion for her contributions to the garden.

Condolences

Audio-Reader staff and volunteers offer our sincere condolences to the following volunteers and their families:

**Kelly Loeb** on the death of her grandmother.

**Nova Maack** on the death of her husband, **Dennis**, on August 6.

**Frank Ybarra** on the death of his father, **Frank**, on August 10.

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

**Randy Austin** on the death of his nephew.

This Month in Audio-Reader History

By Lynne Ellis, Audio-Reader Volunteer

- **September 1986**: Then-Coordinator of Volunteers **Diana Frederick** wrote of the recent "transformation" of the broadcast trailer after staff cleaned it up. Replacing curtains, scrubbing, and polishing took place in anticipation that this would be the last winter in the trailer. (How many of you knew we used to broadcast from an old Department of Corrections trailer?!)  
- **September 1991**: Audio-Reader held a Newlywed Game Show-style event featuring newspaper broadcast partners during the 5th annual Volunteer Summer Potluck Picnic.
- **September 2011**: Over 70 volunteers showed up at the Douglas County Fairgrounds to help with the annual benefit For Your EARS Only. The sale grossed over $20,000.

Giving Tree a Big Success!

By Lisa Werner, Special Request Coordinator

The Audio-Reader Christmas in July fundraiser raised $1,788.00. This will purchase 30 magazine and newspaper subscriptions needed for our on-air shows and special request needs. We want to express our sincere appreciation to **Charles & Donna Deceuedue, Christi Hansen, Mary Jo Hobbs, Janis Hutchison, Melinda & Thomas Kearney, Kelly Grace Loeb, Frank Male, Wayne Morris, Carol Munchoff, Jen Nigro, Kathy Sanders, Lisa Werner, Bev Wilson, and Jack Wilson** for their generous gifts. Their donations purchased Audio-Reader one-year subscriptions to each of the following publications: AARP, American Cowboy, American History, Archaeology, Bon Appetit, Catster, Christian Science Monitor, Consumer Reports, Cooking Light, Diabetic Living, Every Day With Rachel Ray, Funny Times, Good Housekeeping, Green America, Harvard Health Letter, Health After 50, History, History Today, Kansas City Star, Mental Floss, Modern Cat, New York Times, Nutrition Action, Outdoor Life, PC World, Redbook, Smithsonian, Soap Opera Digest, The Week, and Topeka Capital Journal. Thank you.

Another easy way to help us with subscription costs is to list Audio-Reader as the recipient of a free gift subscription when you renew magazines you subscribe to. Many magazines will give a free gift subscription to a person or organization of your choice with the renewal of your subscription. If you find a renewal card in your magazine similar to the one pictured below, please consider gifting a free subscription to Audio-Reader. Contact **Lisa or Jennifer** at Audio-Reader for a list of magazines needed. Much obliged.
Congratulations to volunteer *Cari Vukelich*, her husband *Steve* and daughter *Nina* on the arrival of their newest family member, *Vivian*! Little Vivian couldn’t wait to come into the world, surprising her parents by arriving more than a month early. We think it was all that good south-east Kansas news Cari read to her every week. Mom and baby are healthy, and big sister Nina is thrilled! Congratulations!