



November/December 2024 | Volume 42, Issue 6

### Save The Date!

**Nov 18, 1 PM**

A-R Book Club

*James: a Novel*

Percival Everett

\*rescheduled due to  
conflict on Veterans Day

**Nov 20, 2 PM**

Virtual Coffee Bar

Discuss Topics for  
our 2025 VCB

**Nov 28 and 29**

CLOSED

Thanksgiving  
Holiday

**Dec 7, 1 PM**

Audio-Description

Reception

Coterie Theater, KC

**Dec 10, 4-6 PM**

Holiday Party  
at Audio-Reader  
Cookie Exchange  
and Door Voting!

**Dec 24**

OPEN 8am to 12pm

**Dec 25**

CLOSED

**Dec 26, 27, 30, 31**

OPEN 8am to 12pm

**Jan 1**



What a celebration-- and such a demonstration of the broad and welcoming Audio-Reader community. Recognizing 53 years of broadcasting news, information, arts, and entertainment, Audio-Reader chose a vision awareness open house for our birthday event this year. October was **Blindness Awareness Month** and also Vision Awareness Month; several events this month included White Cane Awareness Day and also National Federation of the Blind-KS Conferences, (see article below).

Highlighting our special day, Karen Puckett, Live Reader and owner of Karen's Konfections, provided the beautiful and so tasty birthday cake and cup cakes. Our Board Chair, Randy Austin stopped by as did several of our regular readers, and listeners. Janie Jones, a broadcast reader, and her daughter and granddaughter took in the fall beauty of the garden; Linda Aikins, a telephone and broadcast reader, and her husband David and step-son Kurt, also a listener, took a tour of

CLOSED  
Jan 13, 1 PM  
A-R Book Club  
*Yellowface*  
RF Kuang

Jan 15, 2 PM  
Virtual Coffee Bar

April 3, 6 - 8 PM  
Volunteer Banquet  
at Maceli's

the studios. Kurt shared that he enjoys listening to Audio-Reader, "I listen to *Sunday Drive* with Jennifer Estes and Max on and the *Missouri News Hour* and love *Two on the Aisle* with Melinda." We popped into a studio to see a behind the scenes view of A-R. Kurt even recorded a [Happy Birthday Wish for Audio-Reader](#).

We also shared information from the The Foundation Fighting Blindness campaign including the an educational website dedicated to bringing awareness to [types of vision loss](#) and also the [stories of individuals with vision loss](#). Cheers to another 53 years sharing the gift of sight through sound!



Karen Pucket, reader and owner of Karen's Konfections stands with Trish Dowd Kelne. Trish holds a decorated birthday cake, both are smiling, leaning into each other in front of a table with lots of A-R giveaways.



Jo Anne Zingo, reader, stands near several baskets which she donated to A-R. She holds a cupcake and smiles.



In the A-R living room, Feloniz Lovato-Winston, Director, stands between Beth McKenzie, Development Director, and Randy Austin, Board Chair. All three are smiling.



AR Volunteers Clair Keizer and Elaine Kautsch smiling for the camera, each holding a cupcake.



Feloniz Lovato-Winston, Director, stands with AR Volunteers Pam Blome and Janie Jones. They smile while facing the camera.



AR Volunteer Marilyn Bradt poses with Trish Dowd Kelne while holding a cupcake.





**Kick off the holiday season  
with Audio-Reader!**



**Tuesday, December 10  
4:00 - 6:00 PM**



**Punch &  
Treats!**



**Cookie  
Exchange!**



**Door  
Decorating  
Competition**



**Don your favorite yuletide  
sweater and join us!**



Images of holiday items, evergreen trees, wreaths, sweaters and gingerbread cookies. An invitation to Kick Off the Holiday Season with Audio-Reader; Tuesday December 10, 4pm to 6pm; punch and treats, cookie exchange and door decoration completion. Don your favorite yuletide sweater and join us!

Follow Audio-Reader on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to stay up to date. Questions?

## A-R in the News: Pittsburg Celebration



Three photos show Trish Dowd Kelne, with Pittsburg Volunteers, Annette Tucker, Frank Marque and Nancy Scott. Volunteers hold up their certificates from the recent celebration and Frank holds a decorated cake reading, "Sharing the Gift of Sight through Sound."

In October, the A-R team traveled to Pittsburg to celebrate our longstanding partnerships, our volunteers and some changes. Due to shifts in technology and listener demand, changes in how volunteers record local programming became necessary. As of October 2024 Audio-Reader volunteers no longer read from the Homer Cole center, but volunteers in the Pittsburg area now record local content remotely. This allows the content to be shared through a variety of new channels include on Amazon Alexa devices and on the digital archive. Programs will launch in November 2024.

In the meantime, local listeners can continue hearing Pittsburg area content on the closed-circuit radios that broadcast through the generous support of KRPS and their subcarrier. The local paper highlighted A-R on the front page too. Here is a link to the [article](#) and a volunteer broadcaster, Steve Cole, provided the news to our listeners as part of our [Southeast Kansas News](#).



Feloniz Lovato-Winston, celebrates partnership and new remote readers with Teri McKinnis, Director of Homer-Cole, Douglas Stuckey and Michael Brewer, remote readers. Not pictured: Joshua McCloud, Sherry Franks, Cindy Chalker



Martha Kehr, KRPS General Manager Fred Fletcher-Fierro, Feloniz Lovato-Winston and Trish Dowd Kelne stand in front of the KRPS sign in Shirk Hall, Pittsburg State.



## A-R Responds to Listener Request

### Meals on Wheels Menus now available

KU News

Audio-Reader expands services to include regional Meals on Wheels menus



When we received a request from a listener to provide the menus for Meals on Wheels, we went to work and connected with service providers and volunteers to determine how to make it possible. Susan Craig, a volunteer reading Ads and KC Star Obituaries via Telephone Reader, had recently offered to take on a new assignment. After working through a few access issues, she has succeeded in doing just that.

As with all the work of our volunteers, it makes a difference to our listeners. KU News included this expansion of programming in a recent [article](#),

With the support of volunteers willing to make changes and develop creative solutions, we continue to provide the news, information and entertainment on which our listeners depend.

## NFB Tours Audio-Reader

*Shared thanks for A-R volunteers and services*



The National Federation of the Blind- Kansas, convened in Lawrence at the start of November for their annual conference. Audio-Reader set up a table and also provided a tour of our studios. Included in the picture are several of the members that joined Martha for the tour: Christian Puett, Sharon Freeman, Susie Stantzel, Jodi and Don Mulik. While visiting, folks shared encouraging feedback about A-R services; several attend the Audio Description events at Starlight and also

regularly tune-in to keep current on events and local news. Thanks to our volunteers, we provide these needed services.

## Accessibility at The Nelson Atkins

### Dr. Kim Morrow Participates with Audio-Reader Staff



This fall, in partnership with the Whole Person's BLV (Blind & Low Vision) outing, Audio-Reader staff joined Dr. Kim Morrow at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The Nelson offered an interactive presentation to provide greater accessibility to their collection.

This event offered a chance to experience art in a whole new way including a guided tour, hands on opportunities and art creation in a supportive and accessible environment. Kim enjoyed the opportunity to feel the artworks and Nick and Martha provided audio description for the event.

Picture is of Dr. Kim Morrow reaching out to touch a low relief artwork. She wears protective gloves. A small microphone is in the corner of the picture. Nick Carswell holds the mic off camera as he provides Audio-Description of the event.

## Topics for 2025 Virtual Coffee Bar

### What would you suggest?

*Wednesday, November 20 at 2pm*



Image shows two coffee cups, one with the Audio-Reader logo.

### VIRTUAL COFFEE BAR LINK

Reoccurring Zoom Meeting Link:  
<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/91499262397>

As the calendar year's end approaches, this month's Virtual Coffee Bar will be an opportunity to share ideas about the topics of interest for 2025.

Join us on November 20 (the Third Wednesday) at 2pm via Zoom. In 2024, we piloted the Reader Gathering series as a complement to Virtual Coffee Bar. While some scheduling events (including Trish being out, to get her appendix out) altered the inclusion of all planned Reader Gatherings, several were implemented with positive feedback.

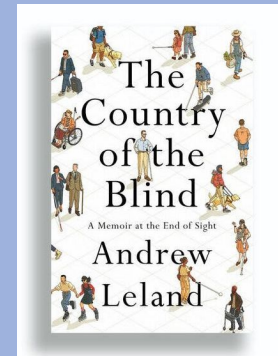
We hope to incorporate the groups that were not able to meet this year into the schedule for next year and also introduce a few new ideas too. In particular, with the updates to our Green Room (our shared meeting space with KPR), we plan to provide hybrid options so folks can zoom

We plan to try this out with our February Reader Gathering which will be a sharing of insights around the book *The Country of the Blind*, see the article below.

## Volunteers Broadening Perspective

Conversation to Share:  
Virtual Coffee Bar,  
February 19, 2025

*The Country of the Blind by Andrew Leland*



On February 19, 2025, we invite you to join us as we gather to share conversation and refreshments. In October during Vision Awareness month we shared resources about the many different reasons that our listeners use our services. We continue to share ways for our volunteers to develop their awareness and understanding.

Recently, Mary Howe, a volunteer reader, recommended a book she read with her reading group. She thought it might be of interest to readers. She shared it with Jim Huber too. Here are their comments. If you'd like to pick up the book and join us for this gathering, that will be our February Virtual Coffee Bar. See the article above to learn more about our plans for VCB in 2025.

### Mary's comments:

*The Country of the Blind* was our book group choice, one I would never have otherwise read. I found it deeply interesting and illuminating. It is a memoir of the author's life with decreasing vision due to retinitis pigmentosa, as well as a survey of how other people at various stages of blindness navigate. I lent it to a friend who has RP. She still has vision, but no longer drives. I was worried that she would find it depressing or scary, but it turned out that it resonated deeply with her. She said "I can't put into words how it makes me feel to hear someone else talking about the same things I experience with RP."

### A few random observations:

- The author's increasing ease with using a cane was very interesting. He talks about how awkward and embarrassed he was to use it, but what a difference it made to learn the technique correctly.
- I was unaware that very few people are 100% blind.
- There are numerous organizations of and for the blind, with a wide array of (sometimes directly conflicting) philosophies for how to help.

I recommend this book very highly and would love to hear what other people think about it. My book club gave it mixed reviews, to my surprise. One person thought it would be more story. less reportage. Another person couldn't make herself read it because her father was blind from macular degeneration, which she also has.

### Jim's comments:

I found *The Country of the Blind* by Andrew Leland spoke to me in many ways. The title itself made me think of myself as a foreigner in a country I only visit and find myself



faced with limited understanding. His personal experience of Retinitis Pigmentosa and the very real fact of other possible routes to immigrant status struck a personal level. His description of the strong and vibrant country of the blind reinforced my experiences and allaying of fear.

One very practical item was his discussion of the area of description by a sighted person to an audience with varying degrees of need and preference. I have admired those at AR who do it so well. I'm still trying to recover from the picture I struggled with at my audition. But this book encouraged me to keep trying. And also to keep enjoying this wonderful country and its citizens that AR has opened to me.

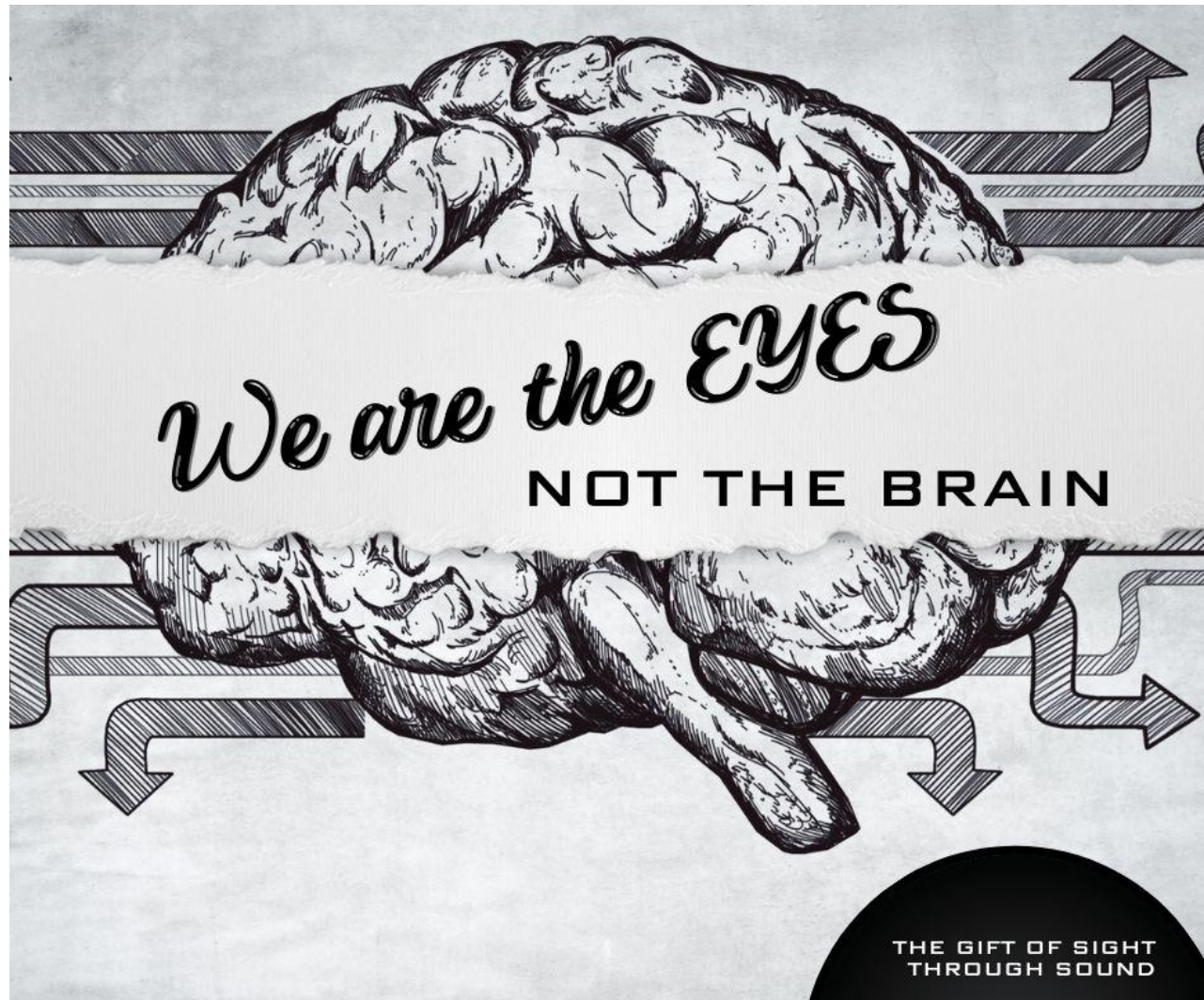


Image shows an illustration of a brain with the words "We are the eyes and NOT the brain written over it"

## OUTREACH: Connecting with Community

This fall, Martha zoomed around the region promoting A-R services with presentations to groups like an assisted living community in El Dorado, the KABVI leadership team, and at Vision Connection hosted by Alphapointe.

In addition to volunteering at the Kansas





School for the Blind's annual 5K, she tabled at 8 events including staff fairs at KU and Wyandotte County, senior resource fairs in Salina, Independence, MO, Emporia, and at the Bert Nash Community resource fair.

**Thanks to Connie Rodriguez for tabling with Martha!** If you are interested in volunteering to table with Martha or to set up at an event in your area- let us know and we would be glad to connect.

Martha has also been busy interviewing guests for the Good Works in the Heartland podcast. Check it out on <https://reader.ku.edu/goodworkspodcasts>.

Martha is excited about the audio description event at the Coterie Theatre in December, and she and Nick are planning to hold a training for new audio describers early in 2025. Let them know if you are interested – [mkehr@ku.edu](mailto:mkehr@ku.edu) or [nickcarswell@ku.edu](mailto:nickcarswell@ku.edu).



Picture is of Connie Rodriguez seated at a table with Audio-Reader brochures; she is smiling at the camera as if welcoming an interested person to stop by the table and learn about A-R. A second image shows the logo of the pod cast- Good Works in the Heartland, it shows the title over a blue map of the US and also the Audio-Reader logo.

## Holiday Festivities

This holiday season, we will host a special reception at the Coterie Theater, in Kansas City. We hope volunteers will come out to share in an Audio Description experience. The event includes a reception at 1:00 and the show at 2:00pm.

### Saturday, Dec 7

Audio-Reader Reception at 1:00pm before 2:00 pm performance of *Finding Nemo*.

The Coterie Theater

Level one of Crown Center, located at 2450 Grand Blvd. Kansas City, MO

Contact Martha for more details at [mkehr@ku.edu](mailto:mkehr@ku.edu).

### Tuesday, Dec 10

4:00 to 6:00 pm

HOLIDAY PARTY

Audio-Reader, 1120 W 11th Street, Lawrence KS

The following week we will hold our annual Holiday Party at Audio-Reader in Lawrence, plus a Cookie Exchange and voting for our Door Decoration Contest! Audio-Reader will provide punch, and hearty appetizers. Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share.

If you would like to participate in the cookie exchange, it is lots of fun. We will send out a sign up for that. It is where you bring a couple dozen cookies and get to exchange your cookies with other participants. You bring 24 cookies and take home 24 other cookies! Can't wait to celebrate with you all. Family welcome.

**JOIN US!**

**AUDIO DESCRIPTION RECEPTION**  
**The Coterie Theatre at Crown Center**  
**2450 Grand Ave, Kansas City, MO**  
**Saturday, December 7, 2024**  
**1:00 - 3:00 PM**



**Includes reception,  
theater tour, and  
tickets to the show**



Image is of an illustrated underwater scene including a clown fish and the title of the Coterie Theater production Finding NEMO. Location 2450 Grand Ave, Kansas City MO; Saturday December 7, 1pm to 3pm including reception, theater tour and tickets to the show.



# Happy Thanksgiving

**Audio-Reader  
office & studios will be CLOSED  
Thu Nov 28rd & Fri Nov 29th**

**Remote Readers and Telephone Readers,  
please read as usual.**

**Please see Trish or Nick  
if you have questions or need a sub.**

*We are Grateful  
for you!*

Audio-Reader Network | [reader.ku.edu](http://reader.ku.edu)

**We recently updated our volunteer newsletter list; if you would like to  
be removed from our list- please [email us](#).**



Audio-Reader Network | 1120 W. 11th Street | Lawrence, KS 66044 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!