

EXCHANGE

Kansas Museums Association

Preserving & Promoting History - Art - Science for Kansas Communities

eNewsletter

December 2010

Greetings!

I am honored to serve as the president of KMA for the upcoming year. We held our first board meeting a few days ago and I am thankful for a dedicated group of board members who will be working hard on your behalf.

Kansas Museums Association is the voice for all museums in Kansas and this becomes our challenge. How do we meet the needs of institutions of all sizes? Our membership ranges from museums with all volunteer staff or one staff member who does everything to those with many specialized staff members. Despite these differences, we all have much more in common than we sometimes think. Vast stretches of highways and back roads separate us, yet these same roads can bring us all together and open our eyes to what a beautiful state we live in.



Katie Herrick visits another museum

Kansas will be celebrating the state's sesquicentennial in 2011 and I see this as an opportunity for us to educate the public as to the vital role that museums have in our state. Preserving and showcasing 150 years of Kansas history and culture-what could be more valuable than that?

I look forward to a great year as we increase communication with our members and continue to meet the needs of all museums in Kansas. I would encourage you to get to know your area representatives and contact them, or any of the board members, if you have ideas to discuss or concerns to share. Together, we can do great things

Sincerely,
Katie Herrick
President



Institutional Project Grant Awards

Two Institutional Project Grants were awarded at the 2010 Annual Conference. The first is for Exploration Place: The Sedgwick County Science and Discovery Center, 300 North McLean Boulevard, Wichita, Kansas, Pat Purnell, Director of Education.

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The award of \$500 is for the grant project of "The Ornate Box Turtle: the state reptile displayed".

Description of the project is:

The Exploration Place Pavilion "Kansas: Exploring Our Only Home" includes a collection of live animals on display, with a focus on reptiles, amphibians, and arthropods. Missing are any examples of turtles, most notably the Kansas State Reptile, the ornate box turtle. Exploration Place owns both an ornate box turtle and another Kansas native, the red-eared slider turtle, but currently does not have the resources necessary to place them on public display. Funding from KMA would allow us to put both turtles on permanent exhibit in specially designed tanks side by side, thus opening up another avenue for our visitors to observe, compare, and contrast Kansas organisms and ecosystems. In addition, if this project is funded, the museum will collect another example of an aquatic turtle, a soft-shelled turtle (who will share the tank with the red-eared slider), which will expand the learning opportunities. This project meets one of the fundamental goals of Exploration Place, which is to "...provide informal, enjoyable learning experiences with extraordinary resources for exploration for people of all ages." Funding from KMA, supplemented by work done by our in-house exhibit technicians, will provide the resources we need to make this learning experience possible.

The second is for Wyandotte County Historical Society and Museum Inc, 631 N. 126th Bonner Springs, KS, Trish Schurkamp.

The award of \$500 is for the grant project of "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings".

Description of the project is:

For Americans, the iconography of Nazism is found in the swastika, the jackboot, the Nazi banner. But another symbol—flames and fire—accompanied the Third Reich from its strident inception to its apocalyptic demise. On January 30, 1933, torchlight parades announced the onset of the Nazi revolution. One month later, the flames of the Reichstag fire consumed the last vestiges of the Weimar Constitution. On May 10, 1933, German university students launched an "Action Against the Un-German Spirit" targeting authors ranging from Helen Keller and Ernest Hemingway to Sigmund Freud. Americans quickly condemned the book burnings as antithetical to the democratic spirit. The exhibition Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings focuses on how the book burnings became a potent symbol during World War II in America's battle against Nazism, and concludes by examining their continued impact on our public discourse.

Congratulations to both of these recipients.

KMA Announces Election of Board of Directors



Organized in 1969 to serve the Kansas museum community, the Kansas Museums Association has grown in size and influence, but our mission for over 40 years has essentially remained the same: to create, foster and promote interest in advancement of, and appreciation for

the Kansas Museums Association on Facebook

KHC Scholarship Winners for KMA

Thank you to the Kansas Humanities Council for sponsoring these scholarships to attend conferences.

- Jeff Kluever, Director, Allen County Historical Society, Iola, KS
- Lisa Lazareva, Graduate Student, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS
- Abby Miller, Museum Educator, Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, Wichita, KS
- Joan Nothern, Secretary, Glasco Community Foundation, Glasco, KS
- Laura Phillippi, Site Supervisor, Lansing Historical Museum, Lansing, KS
- Terri Scott, Interim Director, Coultts Memorial Museum of Art, El Dorado, KS
- Mindy Tallent, Curator of Collections, Butler County History Center, El Dorado, KS
- Deborah L. Willard, Gift Shop Manager & Activities Director, Seward County Historical Society, Liberal, KS

Exchange Submissions

Newsletter Submissions are due the first of the month.

Newsletter is published monthly around the 15th of



museums in Kansas. An additional purpose is to increase and disseminate knowledge about the museum field, and to encourage cooperation among museums and those interested in them.

To help fulfill our mission, each year the membership elects a Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee. In addition to the elected officers, the Board consists of appointed members, including Immediate Past President, representatives of recognized Interest Groups, and representatives of recognized Affiliate Organizations, who serve without vote.

Your KMA Board officers consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and eight Area Representatives, two each from the Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast regions. (For a regional map, click here <http://www.ksmuseums.org/images/regionmap.JPG>). Service terms vary for elected officers.

The President and Vice-President may serve one year but may be re-elected to succeed themselves once without a year between. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected to a one-year term and may run for successive terms. Area Representatives are elected to a two year term and may be elected to second two year term. Details on service and duties of officers may be found in the KMA By-Laws, available here <http://www.ksmuseums.org/pdf/bylaws.pdf>.

Like organizations of any kind, KMA expects Board members to actively participate in and show commitment to the Association's mission. Requirements for Board members include individual membership in good standing, attendance at board meetings (held across the state in January, March, May, July, September and November), and attendance at the Annual Meeting held in the fall.

Service on the KMA board and committees is without question a stimulating and educational experience! If you're interested in a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the growth and direction of the Kansas Museums Association, or want to learn more about service on the KMA board, please contact a current board member or KMA Executive Director Lisa Dodson at director@ksmuseums.org.

Award of Excellence

The Smoky Hill Museum has been honored for their exhibit of "here and Beyond...The Paranormal". Visit their website at <http://www.smokyhillmuseum.org/paranormal%20online> to see it for yourself.

Kansas Cultural Heritage Emergency Resources Network

Cindy Roupe, Director of Public Services, State Library of Kansas



The mailing list for Kansas Cultural Heritage Emergency Resources Network
<http://kansaschern.wordpress.com/>

each month.
Send information to
director@ksmuseums.org

Employment Listings

[Development Director - The Kansas African American Museum](#)

Send employment listings to
director@ksmuseums.org

KMA Links

www.ksmuseums.org

Board of Directors

Join Our Mailing List! Message

Lisa Dodson has been recovering from knee surgery. She will be back to work after January 1, 2011.

She can be also be contacted at 316.304.4639.



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If you are interested in subscribing, send an email message to listproc@ku.edu. Leave the subject line blank. The message should be: sub kcher-1 firstname lastname

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Is publishing right for your museum?

Dos and Don'ts, Tips and Tricks

Jamin L

KMA Professional Development Scholarship Recipient

We have heard the requests time and time again: "Do you have a book about the early companies in this area?" "I'd love to know more about this exhibit - is there a guide I could buy?" "Do you know of anywhere that I could get a calendar with some historical photographs?" Museums large and small have great collections covering fascinating topics, as well as staff members that become experts on those subjects while preparing exhibits, doing research, and educating others. If your museum has ever thought that combining your community's wish for a written or photographic history publication with the expertise you have at your fingertips, this is for you!!!

Approaching a project like publishing a book - whether you are thinking of working with a publisher or creating something that you can print on your own - can be daunting. However, three individuals with different organizations who have survived their own unique processes shared some of their ups and downs at the recent Mountain Plains Museums Association conference in Rapid City, South Dakota. Here, I've distilled the information they gave into bite sized nuggets of wisdom to help you determine if publishing is right for you.

Dos

- **DO** think about your audience. Why would this subject be interesting to them? What need does it fill? Are there other books that cover the same subject? What is the unique aspect that only you can provide? Would people buy this book?
- **DO** consider your price point. If you plan to sell your book through your museum gift shop only, think about your visitorship and the audience for the book. Will it be a children's book about history? If so, you might want to appeal to families on a budget and not make a coffee table sized book with full color, glossy pages.
- **DO** base your timeframe off of a realistic schedule. One commenter in the session said that it had only taken her staff 7 days from beginning to end to put a book together for Arcadia Press. Of course, there were 3 of them, they worked on that

project exclusively for 7 days - sometimes working into the night, and before they got the deal they already had a pretty good idea of exactly what images they wanted to use. One of the panelists countered that their Acadia Press project had taken 13 months - they were working on it mostly on evenings and weekends.

Figure out what will work for you, and budget time accordingly.

- **DO** look for grants and business sponsors. They can often help underwrite the cost of printing the book, and they get their name in the acknowledgements. Your museum gets to print the book without all of the money coming out of your budget, and you reap the profits from your project more quickly - everyone wins!

Do Nots:

- **Do NOT** take out a loan to print your book. Even museums that have published several books cannot predict how well or at what rate a book on one topic might sell, and no museum wants to find itself in the position of having a loan that can take 5 or 10 years to pay off - with interest - before you break even.
- **Do NOT** think that a book will substantially increase your museum attendance. If that is the primary reason you are thinking of publishing, consider that myth dispelled. If your book ends up on the best seller list and puts your town on the map you can consider that a bonus, but your primary motivation should be different: preserving an untold history, for example, or adding a different take on a disputed topic.
- **Do NOT** think that after the book is published it will sell itself. Even if you self publish an exhibit guide that you think of as a public service and you don't need to make a profit off of it, you probably at least need to recoup your costs. That will require promotion and marketing, and allocating the time and resources that those take should be an important part of your planning.
- **Do NOT** print more than 1500 copies. You might be lured in by the idea of printing more books to get a better price, but sales might slow after you've sold 200-300. After that, the time, effort, and space to store the remaining copies, or the hassle of trying to liquidate them, will make you wish that you had ordered 1000 instead of 3000.

Many thanks to KMA for the scholarship to attend MPMA. Thank you also to Mary Kopco, Director of the Adams Museum and House in Deadwood, SD; Steve Friesen, Director of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave in Golden, CO; and Roberta Sago, Special Collections Librarian at the E. Y. Berry Library at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD for their frank and informative presentation which was the basis for this article.

Vintage Christmas Images

- ©2000 Denise Van Patten - <http://collectdolls.about.com>

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