



Spotlight on Earlene Arnett



Born and raised in Scott County in Kentucky, Earlene Arnett says her greatest achievement has been her career and becoming the Scott County Public Library Director. She loves the opportunity to try new things, which has translated in the last year to tremendous progress for the library and its community. She has been the point person implementing the 'Library Express' project with remote library locations – through the LEID Products' iLibrary System – in Sadieville, and soon in Stamping Ground, KY. We are taking the opportunity this month to shine the spotlight on Earlene.

When Earlene graduated from Georgetown High School, she sort of fell into a position at the Scott County Public Library when her mother fielded a phone call from a friend of her sister suggesting Earlene apply for a newly available position. Little did Earlene know at the time, that phone call would send her down a path that would become a life-long rewarding career. She immediately started working at the library where she was a part-time clerk. She was responsible for typing catalog cards, checking books in and out, and after a few years, she started helping the library director with book orders, paying the bills and other secretarial duties. While working at the library, she attended Georgetown College for two years. She has also audited many library sciences classes at the University of Kentucky.



With the guidance of her mentor, former Scott County Library Director, Patsy Hall, Earlene flourished in the library environment, reaching her greatest professional achievement when becoming director in 1977. "My library career has allowed me to move the library in many directions including developing a professional staff, automating the library, ensuring financial stability, and building a new 28,000 square foot facility in 2000," Earlene said. "Beyond my career, when I think about the relationship we have with our sister city in Japan, the quilting group connection is the personal accomplishment that I am most proud of!"

The city of Georgetown has had a sister city relationship with Tahara, Japan since 1990 – both communities have a Toyota plant, both were about the same size when the relationship was developed, and both were agriculture communities at the time. In 2005, the Elkhorn Creek Quilters (she is one of the founding members) formed a sister relationship with the Friendship Quilters of Tahara. In 2007, the Scott County Public Library formed a sister relationship with the Tahara Public Library and Earlene was able to visit Japan through that program. In 2010, nine quilters from Tahara came to visit Georgetown during its Kite Festival and the two clubs participated in a joint quilt show.





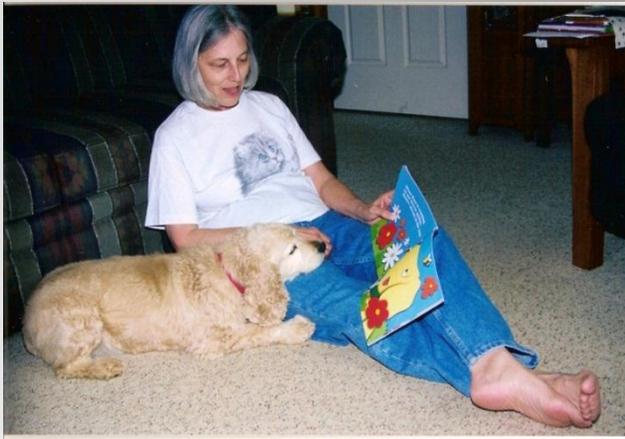
Spotlight on Earlene Arnett



Earlene tells us that the biggest challenge she has faced in her career has been to know her community and understand their needs. It's an on-going adventure where no two days are the same. She loves that her job is all about the community.

Her work ethic comes from her Mother who was still working one day a week at the bank when she passed away at the age of 92 nearly three years ago. Earlene gives credit to her mother, saying she has been her inspiration for her entire life. In Earlene's personal life, she spends time with her husband of 30 years, Carson, and their three horses, cat and dog and her sister and brother-in-law.

She is planning to retire this summer and devote her time to the hobbies she is extremely passionate about: quilting and reading. Earlene's dedication and commitment to library innovation and service excellence has surely left a great legacy for the Scott County Public Library staff and community. We are thrilled that we will be able to work with Earlene for a few more months, and after that, we wish her all the best for a very happy and healthy retirement!



Earlene pictured reading to her dog BB. As Earlene Explains, "We have a program called 'Books and Best Friends' where children read to dogs. We partner with a pet therapy group called Pawsability Unleashed Pet Therapy. We have done the program for eight years. I made quilts for the children to sit on while they are reading. It's a great program to build self-esteem, improve reading skills, and show children reading can be fun."



Visit to Tahara Japan and the first meeting of Earlene and quilting friend Kyoko Tsutsumi, founder of the Friendship Quilters. This picture was taken at Public Library where Kyoko works.