

Library schedules public forum on freedom of information

Pioneer Memorial Library would like to invite you to participate in an up-coming public forum sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council and organized by K-State's Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy.

Pioneer Memorial Library will host an evening forum at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 2, on the topic of freedom of information.

This forum was prompted by a 90-minute online teleconference last spring titled "Are we safer in the dark?" featuring an expert panel discussing the Freedom of Information Act and current challenges to government transparency (for a summary, see: <http://www.openthegovernment.org/article/subarchive/85>).

That teleconference, which has been captured on videotape by the Freedom of Information Act, prompted a number of librarians in Kansas to suggest that we extend its reach to a wider set of communities throughout our state.



Jeff Friesen, library link

● Pioneer Memorial Library director

We believe that freedom of information, a phrase that some Americans have come to know principally with reference to the act, is a concept that citizens may easily take for granted.

Many people can readily cite examples where public information control was the hallmark of a tyrannical government.

Yet we can also cite opinions today that show an American ambivalence toward this principle — expressed as a mixture of conditions to which citizens think freedom of information should be applied, or not.

We also believe that your experience could offer special insights to a public discussion of the broader principles of freedom of information, so we encourage you to share these at the forum in the Pioneer Memorial Library at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 2.

The format of the forum will be that of a focus group discussion, in which a broad spectrum of perspectives is encouraged as a means of increasing awareness of all of the dimensions of the issue at hand.

A 20-minute excerpt of the "Are we safer in the dark?" teleconference will be played, followed by the discussion led by K-State facilitators.

The entire teleconference will be made available to the public on- and off-line. In addition, Pioneer Memorial Library will be highlighting more information on the subject during the weeks surrounding this event.

Kansas State University Libraries will have selected books from its

collection that you can order through Inter-Library Loan after the event. We hope that your attendance will be rewarded by a stimulating discussion with other members of our community.

If you have further questions about the forum, call the library at 460-4470. Hope to see you there!

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth St. and open seven days a week. Winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. — 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. — 4 p.m. For information, call 460-4470 or visit: www.colbylibrary.com.

Oberlin Arts plans dinner, theater

Award winner Eli Barsi will perform at the annual Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission Dinner Theater on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Morgan Theater in The Gateway in Oberlin.

Known as Canada's Cowboy Sweetheart, Barsi won the 2006 Will Rogers Award for Western Female Vocalist in Dallas on Sept. 26 at the Academy of Western Artists Awards event, said sources for the event.

She is truly a prairie girl who was raised on the southeastern plains of

Saskatchewan, Canada. Before relocating to the Branson area of Missouri, she spent several years honing her craft as a singer, songwriter, musician and yodeler in the province of Alberta near Stony Plain.

She loves to travel and promote western heritage by sharing her cowgirl music.

She has recorded a number of albums and has received numerous awards in Canada and the United States. She plays the guitar, keyboard, mandolin and banjo and

guest stars with the "Sons of the Pioneers" in Branson. She desires to allow God's love to shine through her.

The surf and turf dinner and theater is a season ticket event or \$25 per person.

Reservations are required by Wednesday, Oct. 25. Theater only tickets are available at the door for \$10/adults or \$5/students grades 1-12.

For reservations and/or information call Mary Henzel, 785-475-3329 or Ella Betts, 785-475-3557.

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