



Fresh from the Shelves

Welcome back to the Keeneland Library Newsletter – a biannual update highlighting Library happenings and impacts in the Bluegrass and beyond.

You know Keeneland Library is home to the world's most comprehensive resources chronicling the Thoroughbred industry's past and present, but do you know we are much more than a repository? We strive year-round to be a trusted, valued, and essential resource and forum for the global racing and breeding industry and our community here in Lexington and across the country.



Beyond the collections, Keeneland Library connects our patrons and community and industry stakeholders to resources and each other through collaborative onsite and traveling education programming and exhibits, our tailored remote service delivery with researchers worldwide, and our work to grow, preserve, and share our invaluable information, image, and cultural resources to inform the industry's record, narrative building, and decision making.

Whether you are online or in town, take the time to reach out and visit us. You will love what you discover.



In this newsletter you will find:

Information on education and outreach, collections and preservation, research services, development initiatives and more!

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Keeneland Library Lecture Series

We crafted an amazing lineup to kick off our Library Lecture Series in 2026. On the heels of an insightful discussion between historians James C. Nicholson and Katherine Mooney on the career and times of Hall of Famer Old Rosebud, Gary O'Dell brought to life the ups and downs of the bold international breeding experiment of Alexander Keene Richards in the Civil War era. With his *The Turcottes: The Remarkable Story of a Horse Racing Dynasty*, we delved into the unlikely trajectory of brothers from the logging woods of Canada onto some of racing's greatest stages with Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame journalist Curtis Stock in February.

In March, the Joe Hirsch Media Roll of Honor journalist Steve Haskin treated a full house to off-the-beaten-path storytelling from *Tales from the Triple Crown*, while Paul Halloran gave us a memorable evening centered on the poignant bond between Cody Dorman and the champion Cody's Wish in May.

Book your tickets for upcoming Library Lecture Series events at keeneland.com/library. Series event proceeds benefit the Keeneland Library Foundation which supports Library preservation, education, and outreach projects.



Handicapping the Derby with Tom Leach

Keeneland Library last hosted an evening of Kentucky Derby handicapping hacks and stories with the Eclipse Award winning journalist Tom Law before the 150th running of the Derby and Oaks. We were back this year with folks eager to make their picks with veteran handicapper, Voice of the Wildcats, and two-time Eclipse Award winner Tom Leach. Keeneland Hospitality outdid themselves with charcuterie and cocktails for another sold-out audience.



Starting Gate Storytime



Starting Gate Storytime continues to promote early literacy and industry awareness with locals and families visiting Lexington through our readings of children's stories paired with hands-on activities.

If you have little ones in your life looking for engaging Saturday morning family outings, join us and Keeneland Kids Club's beloved mascot Buckles for stories about horses and their people.

Hank the Horse brought special joy with his message of kindness and literacy in May. With support from VisitLEX, families took home copies of Hank's inspirational activity books, horse plushies, and art supplies for the summer.

Visit keeneland.com/library for our 2026 Starting Gate Storytime lineup and join the more than 300 families who have been a part of the program series since its launch.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Foundations

It was our pleasure to host panelists Edwin Anthony, Robert Keck, James Keogh, Byron Rogers, and Duncan Taylor for the Library's free program *Foundations: Sires & Dams Who Shaped the Evolution of the Thoroughbred* in May.

With a depth of experience across their businesses and breeding operations and their unique selections of breed shapers, our Foundations speakers packed the house with their compelling takes on pedigrees.



Community Outreach Programs

Keeneland Library delivered 60 free education and outreach programs in six states that reached 5,830 learners of all ages between January and April, offering industry research workshops, programming to foster industry awareness, lectures on horses and their connections from the antebellum era to today's greats, and talks on lesser told stories of the men, women, and horses who continue to shape the industry today.

Our stellar Library Intern Evie Clare continued to make strides across the Library's outreach services, and the Library welcomed our new Library Outreach Coordinator Alli Bramel in January. With her background at the Kentucky Historical Society, 21c Museum Hotels, and Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Alli brings a wealth of experience and a keen passion to invest her acumen in our public-facing work.

Library Director Roda Ferraro gave talks, spoke at conferences, and conducted information literacy, industry research, and preservation best practices workshops for equine studies, history, information science, and social science students and faculty at universities in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina this winter and spring.

Lexington's Gatton Park has a new addition with its larger-than-life Big Lex installation. Library Director Roda Ferraro had the honor of welcoming our city's beloved mascot based on the legendary stallion Lexington at the statue's ribbon cutting in March. Ferraro also spent much of February and March in schools, public libraries, and community centers taking the Library's programs on the road for Black History Month and Women's History Month, including a week in March at the Versailles Road corridor's Cardinal Valley Elementary School's phenomenal library for interactive education sessions with upper elementary students.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

CURRENT EXHIBIT

Exhibit Updates: Raíces: The Making of Latino Legacies in Racing

Developed in English and Spanish with contributions from writers and photographers from six countries, Keeneland Library's first bilingual exhibit, *Raíces: The Making of Latino Legacies in Racing*, features biographical vignettes and never-before-displayed photographs and memorabilia of more than 100 men and women from across the Americas working at every level of the sport to highlight their indelible marks on the industry's past and present. The Library's Education & Outreach team provided 45 free *Raíces* experience tours for 1,463 children and adults through April, and we welcome your industry or community group to take part in this special experience this summer. **To book a group exhibit experience, email the Library Director at rferraro@keeneland.com.**

Sponsored by the Keeneland Association and Susan Naylor/Safari North LLC with additional support of a 250LEX Cultural Grant, the exhibit is freely accessible to the public and racing fans of all ages during the Library's operating hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Exhibit Companion Book & Podcast Series

Keeneland Library teamed up with the Jockeys' Guild to host a trackside *Raíces* exhibit companion book signing on a perfect April day during Keeneland's Spring Meet. To date, the Library has donated 250 copies of the exhibit's companion book with text in English and a 31,000-word audio component in Spanish to classrooms and homes in 13 countries. Additional support for the companion book's research, development, and production was provided by Friend of Keeneland Library Myla Edwards.

Library Associate Génesis Peña-Lozada is working under the editorial eye of veteran journalist Juan Carlos Feijoó González to translate the companion book into Spanish, and Keeneland Library will publish the title in Spanish this year. Peña-Lozada joined the Library team in January for an associateship during her gap year before pursuing graduate studies. We are grateful to have her mind and energy on board this year.

If you can't make it to Keeneland Library to explore *Raíces* in person, tune in to the *Raíces: The Making of Latino Legacies in Racing* podcast series launched this spring. The series blends stories of headline-making, record-breaking athletes, trainers, and international racing and breeding stables alongside the men and women charged with the around-the-clock care and management of horses on the backside of racetracks and at horse farms across the country. All chapters open with a segment of stories introduced in English by Carlos Morales, producer and host of *Agentes305*, followed by the same stories in Spanish recorded by the Lexington-based, Guatemalan-born voice recording artist Ana León-Bellamy.



DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Awards & Funding Updates



THOMAS D. CLARK AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

We are thrilled to announce that Keeneland Library has been honored with this year's Thomas D. Clark Award of Excellence by the Kentucky Historical Society. This prestigious award, presented annually to one Kentucky history organization, recognizes outstanding achievement in preserving, sharing, and promoting Kentucky's rich heritage. Past recipients of this top state honor include the Filson Historical Society, the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, and Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate.

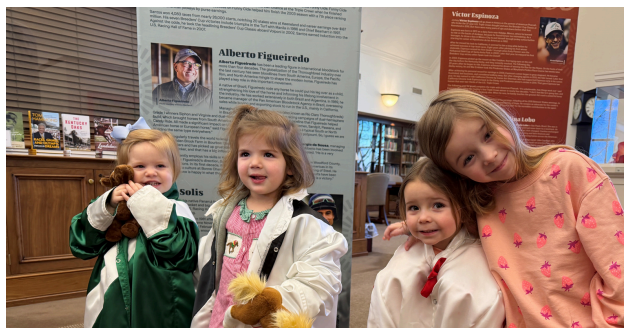
Library Director Roda Ferraro received the award on behalf of Keeneland Library in Frankfort on June 6 to kick off Kentucky History Day – a celebration of the state's role in America's story on the eve of the nation's 250th anniversary.



AMERICA250KY GRANT

We are in the final months of support from an America250KY grant that helps us travel the Library's popular exhibit *The Heart of the Turf: Racing's Black Pioneers* and its education programs across the country. Since January, the exhibit has traveled to eight hosting sites in Kentucky, Florida, and South Carolina, reaching thousands in rural and urban communities. Check out our traveling exhibit schedule at keeneland.com/library to find an exhibit hosting site near you.

To book a talk on the lives and impacts of Black horsemen and women from enslavement to today at your school, university, company, or organization, email the Library Director at rferraro@keeneland.com.



BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE GIFT FUND

Keeneland Library was awarded support from the Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund in January to supplement its education and outreach initiatives in 2026.



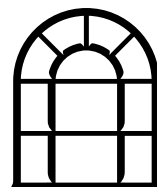
ADELE DILSCHNEIDER

The Keeneland Library Foundation Board extends a heartfelt thank you to Adele Dilschneider who, for two consecutive years, has supported the Library's free public programming for children and adults through generous donations. This support has equipped the Library to reach more people in more places with its onsite and in-community education and outreach programs.

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

BECOME A FRIEND OF KEENELAND LIBRARY IN 2026

We thank longtime supporters and newcomers alike who have already joined this year's Friends of Keeneland Library campaign. Please help us preserve and share more by becoming a Friend of Keeneland Library with a donation of \$100 or more in 2026. Learn more about this annual effort at keeneland.com/library.



KEENELAND
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Supporters who have gone above and beyond this spring in their commitment to our 2026 Friends campaign include:

**Alan Ackerman
Price Bell
Ruthie Bowen
Louise Coates
Paul Costel**

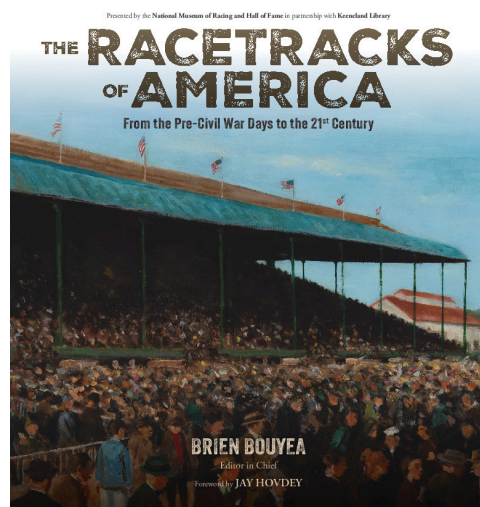
**Adele Dilschneider
Tom and Melissa Dixon
Robert Fulmer
Bill Justice
John Matkviko**

**James C. Nicholson
Joseph B. Nicholson
Richard Stone
Harvie Wilkinson
Lynn Yelton**

Buy a Book, Support Keeneland Library Foundation

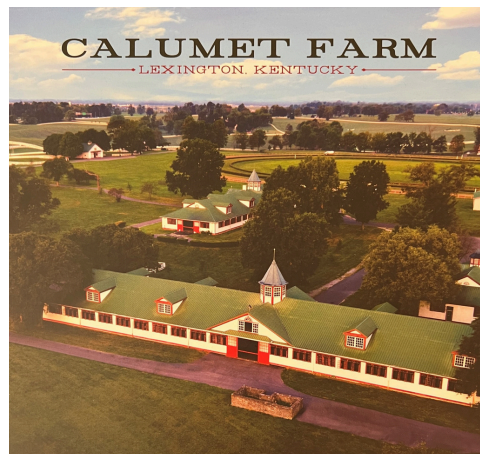
Racetracks of America: From the Pre-Civil War Days to the 21st Century

Inventory is moving quickly, but there is still time to bring home the joint publication by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame and Keeneland Library. Thanks to all who joined us for our race day book signing by Keeneland's Paddock on April 18. *Racetracks of America* is a 450-page, image-packed compendium of U.S. racetracks past and present with contributions by the sport's leading writers and historians. All proceeds from the book's sales at The Keeneland Shop and Keeneland Library will benefit the Keeneland Library Foundation.



Calumet Farm's 100 Years: A Pictorial History

Thanks to a generous donation from Calumet Farm, all proceeds from the purchase of Calumet's 100-year pictorial history at Keeneland will benefit the Keeneland Library Foundation. Get your copy today at Keeneland Library, in The Keeneland Shop or online at keenelandshop.com. Bring home this special piece of industry history while supplies last.



COLLECTIONS & ACCESS

On Display Now

THOMAS COATES

Four works of the late Thomas J. Coates, the celebrated British oil painter who, among other subjects, created acclaimed sporting and equestrian art, are now on display in Keeneland Library's Research Room. Two of the paintings, *To the Track, Keeneland* and *Before the Race, Keeneland*, were bequeathed to Keeneland Library by industry ambassador and former Keeneland President James Edward "Ted" Bassett III. Depicting a spring scene and fall scene at Keeneland, these two paintings are fitting, hand-picked selections by Bassett to augment the Library's existing Coates holdings. The two pieces gifted by Bassett are exhibited aside other examples of Coates' characteristic style and are freely available to the public during the Library's hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30.



DONG YANG

The first of 12 castings of the shelf sculpture (*My Song*) by Dong Yang is now freely available for viewing by the public in Keeneland Library's Research Room. Yang, an internationally renowned sculptor and oil painter from Tianjin, China, gifted the stunning signature piece to Keeneland Library in late 2025.

Yang's work, a definitive figurative style forged from classical schools imbued with Eastern influence, has been commissioned by galleries and cities around the world. We are honored to share this moving piece, the first of Yang's work to be exhibited in Lexington, with our patrons.

ONLINE

Virtual Galleries & Digital Collections

Can't wait to engage with Keeneland Library's collections until your next trip for the Keeneland Fall Meet or Breeders' Cup here at Keeneland in October? We have you covered. Spend time exploring our nine virtual galleries and more than 1,000 searchable, virtually showcased items at keenelandlibrary.omeka.net, with recent additions built by Library Project Curator Sarah Cantor. You can also explore more than 3,000 featured searchable digital objects at collections.keeneland.com.

Recent Gifted Acquisitions

THE CTBA COLLECTION

The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association gifted its exceptional photographic archive dating from the early 20th century to the 2010s to Keeneland Library in late 2025. The CTBA Collection is now in the building, and we are working to archivally rehouse the 100 linear-foot collection to increase its lifespan. While that preservation work is underway, this collection of images capturing West Coast racing and breeding over more than a century is now accessible to our global patron base.

RESEARCH & PRESERVATION

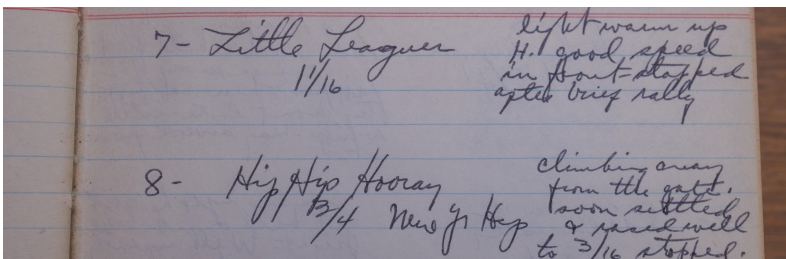
Winter & Spring Research Highlights

In addition to working with international racetracks, industry and mainstream media, and horse farms across the country, the Library's Research Services Team of Sarah Cantor and Erika Williams continued its research support for organizations celebrating the industry's history and cultural and economic impacts as part of the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

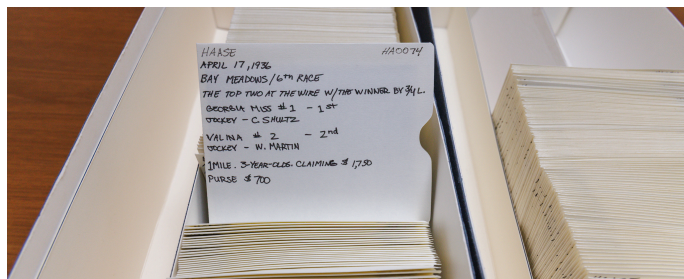
Between January and April, Keeneland Library fielded 1,023 research requests and licensed 1,293 photographs for print, radio, and televised news coverage, broadcasts, publications, and industry communications. Additionally, Library Director Roda Ferraro was interviewed by Sports Dissected – a Warner Brothers Discovery Partner, and various print and broadcast media in Kentucky, Florida, New York, and South Carolina for

industry news stories; and made appearances on LexTV, WEKU's Eastern Edition, and the WUKY LexTalk History podcast series to promote industry history and Keeneland Library happenings.

Keeneland Library provides research and images to support the collaborative Maker's Mark and Keeneland 10-year commemorative bottle series celebrating racing's most iconic horses – *Greats of the Gate*. Proceeds from each year's limited-edition bottle benefit nonprofits that support Kentucky's horse racing industry and the arts. Maker's Mark Managing Director Rob Samuels, series artist Tyler Robertson, and Library Director Roda Ferraro unveiled the 2026 *Greats of the Gate* bottle featuring Hall of Famer Northern Dancer on April 10 for a sold-out trackside group of Maker's Mark Ambassadors.



Preservation Updates



THE HILL COLLECTION

Processing for preservation and access of the Hill Collection, comprising several hundred photographic prints taken by photographer Marguerite Hill, wrapped in May. Library Intern Evie Clare archivally rehoused the entire collection and built a metadata-rich digital index to heighten entry points into the collection that chronicles racing in New York from the late 1970s through 2010. We thank Marguerite Hill, who worked with turf photographer Gene Stevens, for gifting this collection to Keeneland Library in 2025.

THE RAFTERY TURFOTOS COLLECTION

Digital Assets Associate Kirk Hoefling continues to archivally rehouse and index this 2 million+ item photographic collection gifted to Keeneland Library by photographer Barbara Livingston in late 2023. Rehousing and archival scanning work extends the lifespan of the negatives, while indexing heightens access to the collection at the item level. Given the size and scope of this tremendous collection that chronicles North American racing for much of the 20th century, preservation work on the Raftery Turfotos Collection is scheduled to span the next ten years.