Keeneland Library
NEWSLETTER

NOV. 26
VOL 4



The Year of the Horse

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



As we near the end of the Library's celebration of the Year of the Horse, we are pleased to reflect on a tremendous year of programming and research centered on the intersections of horses and people.

The team at Keeneland Library is committed to serving our community and industry by connecting global researchers to our collections, curating education and outreach programs that meet learners where they are, and increasing access to our unparalleled information and image resources that chronicle the stories of horses and their people and places past and present.

Reach out to us anytime to learn more about the work we do and how you can be a part. Engaging with you drives everything we do.

Warmly,
Roda Ferraro
Keeneland Library Director
Executive Director, Keeneland Library Foundation

In this newsletter you will find:

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

EDUCATION & OUTREACH









Community Outreach Programs

Keeneland Library delivered 75 free education and outreach programs in seven states that reached 9,137 people between May and September. From industry awareness programming in elementary schools and information and data literacy workshops with university students to joint programming with community centers, public libraries, and civic organizations to share racing's lesser told stories, the Library's programs meet people on their turf while cultivating relationships with community and industry partners.

The Library's Outreach Coordinator Alli Bramel hit the ground running this summer to grow the Library's capacity to offer an array of engaging education and outreach programming. Our new 2026-2027 Library Intern Lilly Penney has already made strides to support the Library's public facing work while flexing her research and collections processing experience.

Our Library Associate Génesis Peña-Lozada translated the Keeneland Kids Club Activity Book and Keeneland's Walking Tour into Spanish this summer with her trademark enthusiasm while also supporting the Library's public programs with learners of all ages.

Library Director Roda Ferraro was a guest lecturer for UNC Greensboro School of Library and Information Science graduate courses this semester, and she presented lectures, participated in panels, and gave talks on varied facets of the industry's history to social science, economics, history, and equine studies students and faculty at Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New York, and North Carolina universities this summer and fall.

Ferraro had the honor of curating the first exhibit for the Tampa Black History Museum's grand opening in June in addition to partnering with the Museum, the Tampa Bay History Center, and Visit Tampa Bay to offer at capacity public programming during the exhibit's summer hosting window.

TWO NEW PODCAST SERIES

Speaking of Writers: Keeneland Library Lecture Series Podcast

Can't make it to one of our Library Lecture Series evenings? We have you covered. Launched this summer with veteran *Speaking of Writers* podcaster Steve Richards, the *Keeneland Library Lecture Series* podcast brings our series authors and their stories to you with new episodes released monthly. If you haven't tuned in yet, our first six episodes feature compelling conversations with authors Paul Halloran, Tom Durkin, Lenny Shulman, Mark Shrager, Tom Hammond, and Eliza McGraw. The Library extends our sincere thanks to Steve Richards for teaming up with us to bring these stories to you wherever you are 24/7.



Raíces Podcast

If you haven't discovered our *Raíces: The Making of Latino Legacies in Racing* podcast series launched this spring, take the time to explore its episodes. 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 episodes 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.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Lexington in Deauville, France







Coinciding with America's 250th anniversary, Keeneland Library Director Roda Ferraro opened a new exhibit and provided race day education programs and outreach activations for the 2026 Meeting de Deauville Barrière in partnership with Full Field Agency, Deauville's Vice Mayor Philippe Behuet, France Galop, and with promotional and outreach collateral provided by VisitLEX.

To honor the seven-decade relationship between the Sister Cities of Deauville and Lexington and the cities' shared history, culture, and economies of breeding and racing Thoroughbred horses, Ferraro curated an exhibit – *200 Years of Racing* – to showcase the history of racing in Lexington from 1826 to Keeneland's 90th anniversary in 2026.

Throughout the August Meeting de Deauville Barrière, 70,000 international race day fans entered the track along the route of the exhibit and August 18, Lexington's day at the races, featured three named races offered by France Galop – the Prix de Keeneland, Prix de Lexington, and Prix Jimmy Winkfield. Race day activations, programming, soundbites shared with the track's announcer between the races, and educational collateral and free children's books in French and English reached 4,200 racing fans of all ages on a perfect August day at Deauville La-Touques Racecourse.

Raíces Traveling Exhibit & Companion Books in English & Spanish

Developed with contributions from writers and photographers from six countries, Keeneland Library's bilingual exhibit, *Raíces: The Making of Latino Legacies in Racing* will begin to travel into the community in 2027.

The Library's Education & Outreach team provided 79 free *Raíces* exhibit experience programs for 3,074 K-12 students, university students and faculty, and adult learners from January through September. To date, the Library has donated 350 copies of the exhibit's companion book with text in English and audio guide in Spanish to classrooms and homes in 21 countries.

We are thrilled to share that the exhibit's hot-off-the-press companion book in Spanish will also travel with *Raíces* when it sets out to community hosting sites. Library Associate Génesis Peña-Lozada worked under the editorial eye of journalist Juan Carlos Feijoó González to translate this seminal chronicle.

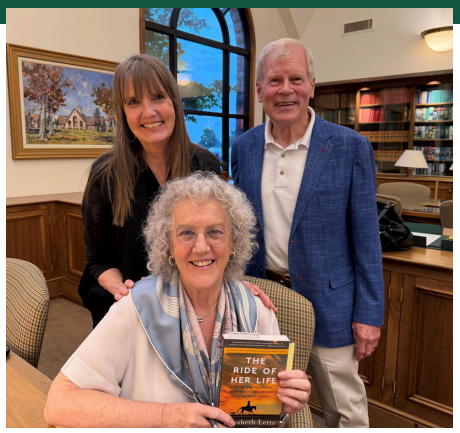
Sponsored by the Keeneland Association and Susan Naylor/Safari North LLC with additional support of a 250LEX Cultural Grant, the exhibit connected thousands of visitors in 2026 from more than 30 countries to the lives and contributions of men and women from across the Americas working at every level of the sport over the last 150 years.





EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Keeneland Library Lecture Series



We kicked off the summer with a powerful evening with Paul Halloran, the Dorman family, and their new release *Cody's Wish: A Boy, a Racehorse, and a Fight for Life.* In June, Tom Durkin treated us to his memorable wit and insights as he delved into his new biography masterfully co-written with Paul Volponi and Lenny Shulman. The *New York Times* best-selling author Elizabeth Letts took us on the 1954 cross-country journey of a farmer from Maine, her dog, and a former racehorse with her moving talk on ***The Ride of Her Life*** shared with our fourth consecutive sold-out Lecture Series audience in July.



Keeneland Library teamed up with the University Press of Kentucky to launch its new Racing Royalty series with biographies of the equine stars of Thoroughbred racing this summer, and Lenny Shulman did not disappoint with his new series release ***A.P. Indy: Champion Racehorse and Breed-Shaping Sire*** in August. In September, Avalyn Hunter graced us with her unmatched mind and astute chronicling of the unlikely trajectory of ***Holy Bull*** – her addition to the *Racing Royalty* series.

Tickets to our winter Library Lecture Series events are available at keeneland.com/library. This series remains the Library's only ticketed event series with proceeds benefiting the Keeneland Library Foundation which supports Library preservation, education, and outreach projects.



Traveling Exhibit

The Heart of the Turf: Racing's Black Pioneers and its education programs continue to travel across the country. In the Year of the Horse, the exhibit traveled to 14 hosting sites in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, and South Carolina, reaching thousands in rural and urban communities. Since the exhibit began to travel in 2024, it has reached 250,000 learners of all ages from 35 countries. 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 horsewomen from the 1800s to today at your school, university, company, or organization, email the Library Director at rferraro@keeneland.com.

STARTING GATE STORYTIME
KEENELAND LIBRARY



Starting Gate Storytime

We opened our Starting Gate Storytime summer and fall lineup with our second annual visit from Hank the Horse. In addition to Hank's inspiring story, families were equipped with picture books, art supplies, activity books, and extra snuggles from Hank the Horse plushies to promote a love of the horse throughout the summer months.

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 young 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.

Visit keeneland.com/library for our December through June Starting Gate Storytime schedule and join the more than 350 families from 12 countries who have been a part of the free program series since its launch in 2024.

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Awards & Funding Updates





DR. TONY RYAN BOOK AWARD WINNER

The Racetracks of America: From the Pre-Civil War Days to the 21st Century, a 450-page tribute to coast-to-coast racetracks co-published by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame and Keeneland Library, won the 20th Dr. Tony Ryan Book Award. In addition to supplying the book's rich image assets, the Library invested hundreds of in-kind hours in the book's research, writing, and editing.

Translation work is now underway to bring the authoritative book into Japanese for publication and dissemination by the Japan Association for International Racing and Stud Book.

JOE PALMER AWARD OF MERIT

Library Director Roda Ferraro was a finalist for the 2026 National Turf Writers and Broadcasters' Joe Palmer Meritorious Service to Racing Award. John Velazquez was the recipient of this year's award, presented at the annual NTWAB Awards Dinner in Lexington on October 28, for his outstanding service to horse racing.





ADPC CONFERENCE AWARD

Library Outreach Coordinator Alli Bramel was awarded a conference stipend as a member of the Kentucky Heritage Emergency Response Network to attend the national Arts Disaster & Preparedness Conference at the University of Kentucky in September. The conference brings together curators, librarians, educators, and researchers from across the country to build disaster readiness and resilience in the cultural stewardship sector.

DAFGIVING360 GRANT

The Keeneland Library Foundation was the recipient of a DAFgiving360 grant from Nick and Susan Nicholson. The Library Foundation Board extends its sincere thanks to the Nicholson family for their support and unwavering commitment to Keeneland Library for more than 25 years.

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



GARDNER FOUNDATION GRANT

The Gardner Foundation, longstanding Keeneland Library supporters, awarded the Keeneland Library Foundation a grant this summer to equip the Library's education and outreach team reach more people in more places with our onsite and in-community programming this fall and winter.



ANONYMOUS DONOR

The generosity of an anonymous donor funded the Library's impactful new exhibit and trackside outreach in Deauville, France that freely reached thousands of international newcomers and avid racing fans in Europe this summer.

FINAL WEEKS TO SUPPORT US IN THE YEAR OF THE HORSE

We thank longtime supporters and newcomers alike who joined this year's Friends of Keeneland Library campaign. Help us finish the year strong by becoming a Friend of Keeneland Library with a donation of $100 or more in the final weeks of 2026. Learn more about this annual effort at keeneland.com/library.

KEENELAND LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Supporters who went above and beyond this summer and fall in their commitment to our 2026 Friends campaign include:

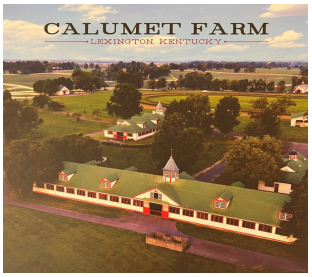
Jose DeCamargo
Myla Edwards
Charles E. Fiss
Robert Fulmer
Mary Helen Heaner
James Navolio
Nick & Susan Nicholson
Audrey Otto
Greg Pachman
Rosemary Sackleh
Mark Shrager
Richard Stone
Mike Towles
Robert Watt
Kevin Williams
Stephen Zollner

Buy the Perfect Holiday Gift & Support The Keeneland Library Foundation



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

With freshly stocked inventory at The Keeneland Shop this holiday season, gift the outstanding joint publication by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame and Keeneland Library. *Racetracks of America* is a 450-page, image-packed compendium of the special places at the heart of the American racing experience with contributions by the sport's leading writers and historians. All proceeds from the book's sales at The Keeneland Shop will benefit the Keeneland Library Foundation while supplies of this limited print run last.



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.

COLLECTIONS & ACCESS

Recently Gifted Acquisitions



COGLIANESE COLLECTION

Turf photographer Adam Coglianese donated a collection of his father's signature work to Keeneland Library in May. Bob Coglianese documented New York racing history from behind the lens, shooting at New York tracks for more than 50 years. Bob got his start working for his uncle, Mike Sirico, a mainstay of early 20th century New York racing photography. Named official photographer for the New York Racing Association in 1962, Bob is remembered for his long tenure of innovation and uncompromising work ethic – a legacy for which his son Adam, NYRA's current official photographer, took on the mantle as a third-generation master of the craft.

Library Outreach Coordinator Alli Bramel and Intern Lilly Penney began to process and archivally rehouse the collection's negatives this fall. While this stabilization project is underway, the collection is utilized to support the work of industry and mainstream content creators.



MCANALLY COLLECTION

Laura McAnally Gideon recently administered a donated collection from the library of her parents Ronald and Deborah McAnally. Among the collection are volumes passed down to Hall of Fame trainer Ron McAnally by Charles Howard's family. McAnally, a Kentucky native, got his start in the late 1940s in the Southern California racing circuit working alongside many of California's notable figures, including the Howard family. Researchers today and tomorrow will benefit from this memorable collection, and we thank the McAnally family for entrusting us with its stewardship.

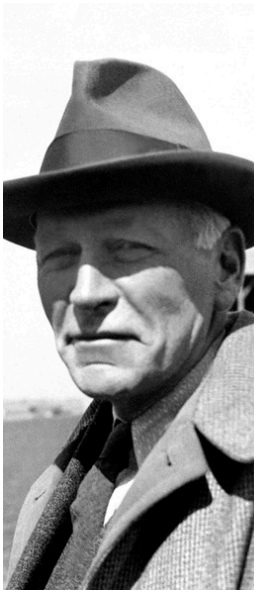


FINK COLLECTION

The Mortin Fink family placed trophies won by the great Wise Dan with the Library, including his two Shadwell Turf Mile Stakes victories at Keeneland piloted by Jose Lezcano (2012) and John Velazquez (2014). The trophies, employed for object-centered learning, were among exhibit visitors' favorites in 2026.

KEENE DESK

The newly founded Keeneland Association bought roughly 150 acres and a partially constructed racing plant from John Oliver "Jack" Keene in 1935. Having been on long-term loan to University of Kentucky Libraries, Jack Keene's desk was permanently placed with Keeneland Library this year and is now on display in the Library's research room. We extend our gratitude to Tom Durham for gifting this fitting and welcome addition to our collections.



VIRTUAL GALLERIES & DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Explore Keeneland Library's virtual galleries and digital collections anytime at keenelandlibrary.omeka.net & collections.keeneland.com.

RESEARCH & PRESERVATION

Summer & Fall Research Highlights

2026 was an action-packed year with varied new research projects and loaned collections from the Library to museums and universities across the country sparked by the nation's 250th anniversary and worldwide Year of the Horse exhibits, broadcasts, and publications. In addition to connecting media outlets and international racetracks and horse farms to information and image assets for their communications and news stories, the Library's research services team of Roda Ferraro, Sarah Cantor, and Erika Williams continued its research support for organizations celebrating milestones and the industry's economic and cultural impacts as part of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Between May and September, Keeneland Library fielded 1,286 research requests and licensed 2,319 photographs for print, radio, and televised news coverage, broadcasts, publications, and industry communications.



Library Director Roda Ferraro supported the Headley-Whitney Museum's *Storied Quilts exhibition's Legacy in Motion* gallery this fall through providing research services, loaned artwork, and educational programming. Additionally, Ferraro was a contributor to the Society for American Archivists' semi-quincentennial 250 for the 250th initiative, was interviewed by 12 international media outlets for industry news stories, and served as a speaker on research and preservation best practices at five universities in Kentucky and Tennessee from May through September.



Preservation Updates





FEATHERSTON COLLECTION

Preservation and access work on the **George B. Featherson Collection** continues as Library Outreach Coordinator Alli Bramel opens a new exhibit in December to spotlight Featherston's work. Turf photographer, ambassador of the sport, and local radio personality, Featherston was a fixture at Keeneland and other racetracks from the mid-1900s until his death in 1984. Library Associate Génesis Peña-Lozada is processing and archivally rehousing the collection while building its digital index.

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. We are working to archivally rehouse the 100 linear-foot collection to increase its lifespan and heighten access to this rich record. While our preservation work is underway, the collection of images capturing West Coast racing and breeding for more than a century is now available to our global patron base.

Preservation Updates (Cont'd)

HEMMENT COLLECTION



This summer, Research Services Associate Erika Williams wrapped an on-target index buildout of the recently digitized Hemment Collection. John C. Hemment was an early U.S. racetrack photographer who championed the concept of photo finish. The Hemment Collection, comprising 6,500 photographic prints that capture the country's oldest Turf photography, is now fully reformatted for a longer lifespan and bolstered by a metadata-rich digital index.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS

To mark the end of our celebration of the Year of the Horse and our contemplation of 250 years of the nation's history and the horse's place in that arc, we close this issue with an excerpt from a compilation of sporting ballads published in 1903. From our home in Lexington to yours, enjoy this 125-year-old tribute to the immortal stallion Lexington.



Lexington: A Fragment
By R. L. Clary Jr.

I've a picture, time-discolored, hanging on my chamber wall,
Taken from an old oil painting that to memory will recall

Years from now the ancient legends of those races run of old,
When the winters were of silver and the summer-times of gold,

On a racetrack in the southlands, where those flying feet once trod,
That has blossomed out in gravestones, that has rippled up in sod,

Now a marble shaft uprisen casts its shadows o'er the land,
Where in summers long forgotten once there stood the judges' stand.

Where the cypress boughs are weeping as they bend above the dead,
And the roses bud and blossom, dust to dust again is wed,

And the cry of stricken mourners that is muffled up in tears
Sadly sweeps along the greensward that once echoed back the cheers

Of an eager crowd that, waiting, in the shadow and the sun,
Hailed the mighty son of Boston, the immortal Lexington.

'Tis a picture of a stallion, standing where the robins call,
'Neath an ivy vine that clambers o'er a ruined garden wall.

And the tendrils overhanging almost fall upon his back,
And I fancy he is list'ning for the music of the track.

With his blaze face and white stockings, as he stands there in the sun,
Looks he like some mighty monarch dreaming o'er his battles won.

Blind, he peers about, but sees not. Now and then he pricks his ears,
List'ning for the judges' summons, waiting vainly for the cheers

That were wont of old to greet him when he trod the track a king,
When men met and told each other of his greatness in the ring.

O'er a little mound at Woodburn drifts in winter-time the snow,
And the blossoms fall upon it when the summer breezes blow.

There the hero blind is sleeping, but his mem'ry lives, today,
Ever in the hearts of turfmen, fresh as hawthorn buds in May.

Sire was he of horses fleeter than the Arab barbs of old
That were counted in the desert as worth their weight in gold.

Whispers fly about the race-tracks when some mighty deed is done:
"'Tis no more than we expected from the blood of Lexington!"