

FOLIO

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

Newsletter Vol. XXXV No. 2—Fall 2013
www.okfriends.net

Strengthening libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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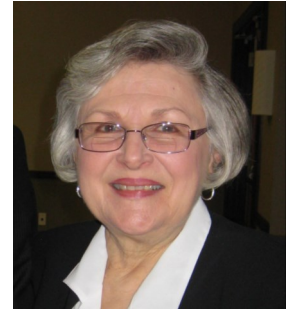
FRIENDS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

A Message from the President

What a lift it is to my spirits when I learn of the important difference so many Friends groups are making for their local library, not just through book sales and bake sales, but by bringing in authors for book signings, by providing all kinds of programming for the entire community, by helping with summer reading programs, by inspiring creativity in youth through reading and Lego programs, and so much more!

In this time of severe cuts to library budgets, many Friends groups are providing the much-needed additional financial support for library needs that would otherwise go unfunded— purchasing shelving, magazine subscriptions, children’s books, family-friendly movies, you name it—great Friends groups across the state step up with their fundraising dollars to keep their library “healthy,” many offering help just to keep the doors open!

Friends of Library groups often have to be the “squeaky wheel” on behalf of the library to prevent city budget cuts from forcing the loss of critically needed State Aid. They can speak up for those all-important budget dollars and let the city fathers know just how important library services are to their community.



YOU CAN BELIEVE IT

What better testament is there of the importance of each library having the support of a FOL group. And FOLIO wants to increase its ability to offer support for all *Friends in need*. **You can help us do so by contributing to the FOLIO Endowment.** I hope you will use the endowment response card and envelope you received in a previous mailing to add your support for what we do. Every donation helps our fund grow and that gift will give back to help FOLIO’s work for years to come through the grants we receive from the endowment each year.

In addition to funding four scholarships every year, FOLIO wants to continue to be able to offer support of all kinds to Friends groups through our Ambassadors Program. Our four FOLIO Ambassadors, located in each quadrant of the state, are just an email or phone call away. Their contact information is listed on our website: www.okfriends.net

We also hope you will start making plans now to attend FOLIO activities on Annual Meeting day during the OLA Spring Conference. Our program, luncheon, and Annual Membership Meeting will be on the last day of the conference, Wednesday, April 2, 2014. Mark your calendar now and watch for details of what we have planned for you next year in the next newsletter. *We hope to see you there!*

FOLIO—We are Friends supporting Friends!

Sharon Douthitt, President



Seed Grants

FOLIO has been making Seed Grants available to help get Friends groups started or reinvigorated since 1993. The application for a grant is available on the FOLIO website – <http://www.okfriends.net>.

These funds can be used for any of the following:

- * Legal expenses of incorporation, obtaining 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status from the IRS.
- * Promotional materials such as flyers, brochures, posters, letters of invitation, or other as indicated by applicant.
- * Office supplies such as stationary, mailing labels, long distance telephone calls, postage, or other.

FOLIO Seed Grants are awarded on the basis of need and available funds, and are accepted at any time. There is no specific deadline.

The grant was recently increased to \$425.

Plant a Seed.
Grow a healthy Friends group.



Does your Friends of the Library have a newsletter?

We want to hear what you are doing.

We want YOUR news.

Send newsletters to Gerry Hendon, Newsletter Editor, FOLIO, P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170 or ghendon@wings-n-things.com.

Awards at FOLIO Annual Meeting

Four **scholarships** were awarded at the Annual Meeting in Ardmore on April 5. Winners were **Laura Raphael** and **Amanda Ross** of Tulsa, **Toni Friedman** of Oklahoma City and **Erin Hollingsworth** of Norman. All are working towards the Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree at OU. Each received a check for \$500 and a certificate “suitable for framing.”

The **Oklahoma Best Friends Award for 2013** was presented to the **Duncan Friends**. The **John Harkey Best Friends Award** was presented to the **Wister Friends**. Each received a plaque to hang in their library and a check for \$500.

Requirements and the entry forms can be found on the web page. Start now to prepare your entry for the 2014 Best Friends award.



Carolyn Klepper was named to the **FOLIO Hall of Fame** for 2012-13. Carolyn has been a terrific asset to FOLIO, as well as to the Mustang Library. As president of the Mustang Friends, she raised thousands of dollars through a multitude of fund-raiser events and helped them establish an endowment fund with Oklahoma City Community Foundation. She served as President of FOLIO from 2010 to 2012 and initiated the FOLIO Outreach Ambassadors program. She herself has been an active “Ambassador” and has visited many local Friends groups to make them aware of FOLIO and the assistance that can be theirs.

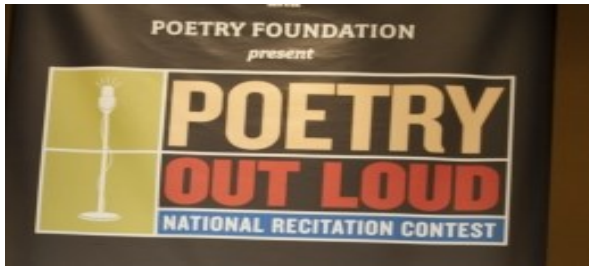
Stroud Public Library—Literary Landmark

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma dedicated a Literary Landmark Sunday, April 28, during National Poetry Month. The late poet Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel (1918-2007) was honored at 2:30 p.m. at Stroud Public Schools, C. B. Wright Auditorium.

The dedication featured award-winning author and Route 66 expert Michael Wallis as master of ceremonies; author and historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz; film screening “Down an Old Road: The Poetic Life of Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel” by Chris Simon, Sageland Media; music by the Stroud High School Show Choir; remarks by family member Pattee Russell-Curry; and a reception by the Stroud Library Society. Awards were presented to twenty-three winning entries for the Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest for rural high school students in Lincoln and Creek counties.

Born near Stroud in 1918, Wilma Elizabeth was the daughter of Benjamin and Anna McDaniel. Her father was a sharecropper and her mother was a homemaker. Her siblings were Verne, Roy, Allen, Keith, Harold, Opal, and Kenneth. Wilma lived in Lincoln and Creek counties until the effects of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl led her family to migrate to California in 1936. Her writing validated the migrant experience and she continues to influence many people to see the worth of their own stories and lives. Throughout her life her Oklahoma roots remained strong, and she has many poems about her early life in Lincoln and Creek counties and her love for Oklahoma.

For researchers, the Oklahoma State University Library has oral history interviews online and materials in special collections. Other Oklahoma archives are at the Stroud Public Library and the Lincoln County Museum of Pioneer History. *(Submitted by Karen Neurohr, Librarian, OSU)*



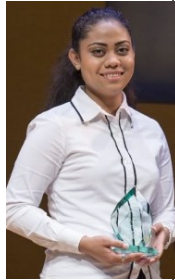
**DENISE BURNS, LAWTON,
WINS NATIONAL POETRY CONTEST**

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation created the Poetry Out Loud recitation contest in 2006 to encourage high school students across the country to memorize and perform poetry selections in a competitive environment. Students first compete at their respective schools, followed by a regional, a state, and then a national competition.

Six students competed at the

Yemi Ajagbe, the 2013 Minnesota Poetry Out Loud Champion says, "Poetry Out Loud has been a great experience for me, and I have been able to express myself through the amazing poets and poems in the anthology. It is a wonderful program and I hope it continues to touch the lives of other students."

regional level at Lawton Public Library on Saturday, February 23.. **Denise Burns**, Lawton High School, won the regional competition and went on to win the state competition.



She then competed with 53 other students from the United States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

From a competitive field of some 375,000 students nationwide,

Denise Burns placed 3rd in the 2013 Poetry Out Loud contest held in Washington D.C. on April 30. She received a \$5000 award and her high school received a \$500 stipend for purchase of poetry books. Lawton Friends and supporters were understandably proud of Denise.

More information about The Poetry Foundation and this contest can be found at www.poetryoutloud.org.

The Lawton Friends of the Library provided refreshments following the local judging in Lawton and an honorarium for the judges.

POETRY AT THE LITERARY LANDMARK

Citizens of Stroud and the surrounding area gathered at the Wright Auditorium in Stroud on April 28 to celebrate the dedication of a Literary Landmark honoring Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel. Ms. McDaniel, known as "The Okie Poet," wrote poetry in everyday language that expressed her feelings about her childhood in Oklahoma, her experiences in California, and her observations of nature.

In conjunction with the dedication, a poetry contest to honor her was also held. High school and homeschool students in grades 9-12 in Lincoln and Creek counties were invited to submit their original poems. Schools which participated were Kellyville, Mounds, Oilton, Wellston, and Stroud. Approximately 50 students submitted one or more poems.

In recognition of McDaniel's style, a five point rubric was developed by the judges. Even with this rubric, the judges' task was not easy! Ultimately, they selected first, second, and third place winners as well as twenty honorable mentions.

The first place winner, Tarin Giroux from Wellston, was awarded \$250. The second place winner, Jaycee Miller from Stroud, was given \$150, and third place winner Emelia Robinson from Stroud received \$100. Each honorable mention awardee received \$25. Poetry contest prizes were made possible through the estate of Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel.

The poetry contest honoring Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel was a huge success! Another poetry contest is planned for 2014.



From left to right:
 First place: "Little Things" by Tarin Giroux, Wellston High School
 Third place: "I Hear the Stories" by Emelia Robinson, Stroud High School
 Second place: "Song of the World" by Jaycee Miller, Stroud High School

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Cindy Friedemann, FOLIO board member, has been elected Secretary/Treasurer for United for Libraries. **Harlene Wills**, FOLIO board member, completed her term of appointment to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries board on June 30, 2013. **Jon Douthitt** has served on the ODL Board for three years and was recently elected to be the Chair. New FOLIO board members include **Sharon Saulmon**, Dean Emeritus of Learning Resources Center, Rose State College, and **Diane Pennington**, who retired from Blue Cross-Blue Shield in 2010 and is a board member of the Tulsa FOL.

HAS YOUR FRIENDS LOST ITS WAY?

By Sharon Douthitt

We love hearing from Friends and from library directors of the many successes across the state, and that is what we hear most of the time. However,



it is very distressing when we learn that the agreement to work together for the benefit of the library has broken down between the director and the Friends board or members.

Friends groups should have a mission statement that reflects that they will *support the library through advocacy and fundraising*. It is not the role of the FOL to tell the director how to manage the library or what to order for the library. At the same time the library director's role is not to tell the Friends what to do, but to provide the support of the library, within its normal operations, for the activities of the Friends. The Library should supply a list of needs, allowing the Friends to determine what they can provide with their funds.

United for Libraries/ALTAFF provides a set of Fact Sheets with all types of information which can be found at www.ala.org/united/friends/fact. Fact Sheet #27, "When Friends Aren't Friendly," is a good place to start if you are having difficulty. Check whether you are fulfilling the obligations you have as a Friends group.

Fundraising by Friends should always be designated "for the benefit of the library." That is the purpose for a Friends group existing, not as a club with a separate agenda that occasionally gives money to the library.

Your purpose and your means of operation should be clearly stated in your bylaws and your bylaws must be followed. When individuals start making decisions to suit their own purposes and ignoring the bylaws, then your Friends group has truly lost its way **and the library suffers**. Personal agendas must be set aside or that person needs to resign. Every effort must be made to improve the situation, including mediation, if that is available. Everyone needs to be big enough to put personalities aside to work for the good of the library. If an individual can't do that, then

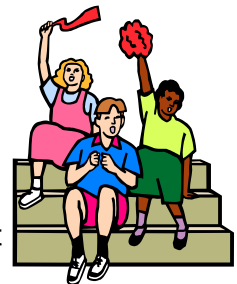
that person needs to resign and let others continue the work for which the FOL was intended.

When nothing else will work, disbanding may be an option but it needs to be a **last resort**. If you are a 501c3, there is a procedure with the IRS for disbanding. Whatever money was raised by the Friends should be donated to the library, or you have misled donors as to your fundraising purpose. It's a dicey prospect—you may have worked hard to raise the money, but it doesn't belong to you. Beyond your operating expenses, the money you raise is to be used to benefit the library in an appropriate way.

"Libraries need Friends - now more than ever. Libraries need Friends who are positive about the library and its direction, who understand their important role for fundraising and advocacy, and who stick to their mission to support the library."

From United for Libraries Fact Sheet #27.

While FOLIO cannot intervene in a troubled situation, we are here to lend support and make suggestions. We love libraries and Friends groups and recognize the vital role each plays in the community. We want both to work in harmony to make your local library the best it can be. A Friends group can provide awesome support for a library, especially in this era of budget cut after budget cut. We encourage all Friends groups to find a way to do your very best for your library.



FOL— YOU are Friends Helping Your Library!

FOLIO: WE are Friends supporting Friends!

(Information about a Memorandum of Understanding can be found on page 6.)

NEWS FROM OUR STATE FRIENDS

The Enid/Garfield County Friends of the Library Board and Volunteers have been busy little bees this past year. With financial help from the Friends, the library has been able to complete the remodel of the Heritage Room which can be used for community meetings. The room now has a new inviting feel with royal purple walls, carpet and plenty of research space. The room also serves as a board room for meetings that the community may use. The Friends partner with the RSVP organization to provide books for individuals receiving Meals on Wheels or who are not able to physically go to the library. The Friends partnered with the Enid Library to furnish zipper bags for delivery and return of the books. Other fundraisers include the semi-annual book clearance sales and quarterly bake sales. Used books arrive daily through donations and are made available for a nominal cost every day. Since 2011, the Friends have provided donations to the Enid Library totaling \$7,500!!! *submitted by Tammy Duncan*



The Friends of the Beaver County Pioneer Library have several fundraisers during the year. A big Spring bake sale is held during the week before Easter and a Fall bake sale during the week before Thanksgiving. An annual Spaghetti Dinner is enjoyed in October. These are all very successful with the dual purpose of helping the community with their holiday baking and supporting the library. The Friends help the library by paying membership fees, buying multiple miscellaneous items and providing general funding for the little "extras" that are needed. Tammy Parker, assistant librarian, says, "They are vital to our library and much appreciated!"



The Friends of the Ponca City Library sponsored an Open House on May 28, 2013 in conjunction with the kick-off of the Children's Summer Reading Program. Each participant was given their choice of a hardcover book provided by an anonymous donor who wanted to put books into the hands of children. Children's librarian Sydney Ashby reported that over 800 children participated!

On August 10, 2013, the Friends held an outdoor book sale tied in with the Kids' Rodeo. The Friends provided over 800 bandanas to all of the participants. Board President Ginny Manderfield gave a talk to the local Lions Club in July which resulted in a new lifetime membership as well as volunteers who came to help with the set up and take down of the outdoor sale, including putting up the sturdy canopy that the Friends had purchased for outdoor affairs. The help from the Lions Club made this project a breeze.



(l-r) Ginny Manderfield, Wayne Moore, Jerry Helems, current FOL Board members, and Gwen Toews, former Board member

In December 2013, the Friends will host an Open House in conjunction with the annual visit of the Santa House as well as the annual sale of "Oversize/Coffee Table Books". These make great Christmas gifts and are only on sale at this time of year.

Submitted by Ginny Manderfield, President, Friends of the Ponca City Library

The Last Great Buffalo Hunt

Anne Morand, curator of art for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, recently presented a program to the **Coffee Cup Bunch of the Friends of the Altus Library**. The program focused on renowned Western Artist Charles Russell's observations of the roundup of the last free-ranging buffalo herd.



"The story is a mix of history, art, humor, danger, excitement, hope and success. It is the story of the last free-ranging bison in the United States, about 800 animals, a tiny remnant of the estimated 30 million that once ranged the Great Plains," Morand explained. "Owned by rancher Michel Pablo of Montana, the bison were sold to the Canadian government at the turn of the century as part of Canada's conservation effort. This presentation briefly looks at the history of the bison and then specifically looks at the roundups of the Pablo herd that occurred in 1908 and 1909 in Montana's Flathead Valley that were attended by Charles Russell."

"Morand's presentation combines scholarship and art. She shares her expertise on Russell as she uses photographs of his paintings to illustrate her presentation. This was a fabulous program," commented Jennie Buchanan, program director for the Coffee Cup Bunch which meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The meetings are free and open to the public.

The State of U.S. Small and Rural Libraries

The Institute of Museum and Library Services released in September a report on small and rural libraries. Friends know that they provide a variety of critical services and information resources to meet the needs of residents who do not have access to those resources in other ways. The highlights of the report are:

- * Small and rural libraries make up the majority of public library systems in the U.S. (80.5%)
- * Although most rural libraries are small, only half of small libraries are located in rural areas.
- * States have varying levels of challenges when meeting the needs of rural residents. The percentage of rural public libraries in a given state varies widely — from 3.6% to 83.3%.
- * Small and rural libraries continue to provide substantial electronic and digital resources for patrons through access to e-books and publicly accessible computer terminals.
- * Although per capita revenue has decreased over the past three years, visitation and circulation have increased for both small and rural libraries.

In FY2011, there were 167.6 million recorded visits to rural public libraries. Median visitation to rural public libraries was 11,282. Average visitation per capita at rural public libraries was 6.7 visits per year, the average visitation per capita at rural remote libraries has increased 4.2% over the past three years.

Across all rural public libraries, 241.9 million materials were circulated to the public. Overall circulation increased 4.4% over the last three years. The average circulation per capita for rural libraries was 8.7.

Service hours remained fairly stable for rural libraries (33.5 hours average per outlet). City libraries were open an average of 42.7 hours each week, which was a decrease of 7.2%.

Revenue has fallen for most public libraries since the recession. For rural libraries the revenue per capita was \$29.44, a three-year decrease of 3.3%. For city libraries the revenue per capita was \$40.06, a three-year decrease of 6.1%.

Friends need to be aware of the ongoing challenges in providing equitable service to all citizens. The full report is available at http://www.ims.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/Brief2013_05.pdf.

Plains Indian Culture Explored in Stillwater Libraries' Reading Event

Following the last of the "Indian Wars" in the 1800s, stories documenting the culture of the Plains tribes began to dwindle. A book discussion series by the Stillwater Public Library and OSU Library explores this less documented segment of Native American history.

The series, "Native American Writers of the Plains" takes place Sept. 3-Nov. 5 with events at both libraries. It is part of the statewide "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma" project of the Oklahoma Humanities Council with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Inasmuch Foundation.

"These programs let us talk about subjects that are important to our community," said Lynda Reynolds, program coordinator. "The common theme throughout these books is relevant to Native Americans and to others. Namely, the struggle to maintain your identity while living among other, sometimes conflicting cultures. It will make for great discussions."

The programs take place at the Stillwater Public Library on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A 3:00 p.m. book talk by the scholar at the Edmon Low Library precedes each evening event.

The first of these programs featured the book "Fools Crow" by James Welsh, a writer from the Blackfeet (Siksika) tribe, with scholar commentary by Hugh Foley of Rogers State University.

"Fools Crow" follows a young Blackfeet man through the last glory days of his tribe before their numbers are decimated by encroachers who violate treaties, initiate hostilities and introduce a smallpox epidemic. According to the series handbook, the book is Welch's evocative portrait of the Blackfoot's bygone way of life. The Blackfeet are one of a large number of tribes called "Plains Indians."

Other books and scholars in the series include "Mean Spirit" by Linda Hogan (Chickasaw) presented by Lindsey Smith; "The Bingo Palace" by Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa) presented by Julie Pearson-Little Thunder; and "Medicine River" by Thomas King (Cherokee) presented by Helen Clements.

Friends of the Stillwater Public Library are partners in planning this program.

In Memory of Two FOLIO Legends



Tom Haines died August 26 in Oklahoma City following a brave battle with a rare form of cancer. He was a long time member of the Metropolitan Friends of the Library and the FOLIO board. He served on the Seed Grant Committee for many years and faithfully attended FOLIO board meetings

and expressed his opinions. He was named to the FOLIO Hall of Fame in 2010.

Without Tom Haines, it is doubtful that FOLIO would have established an endowment fund. When he learned just how small the FOLIO scholarships were (\$250 at the time) and just how large college tuition rates were, he determined to do something about it. He proposed establishing an endowment fund to provide larger scholarships for library support staff furthering their education. Tom made a sizable contribution to get it started, and the FOLIO Endowment Fund was established in 2009. The scholarships are now \$500 and four are awarded each spring at the Annual Meeting. It is hoped that the amount and the number will continue to grow.



Ernestine Hill Clark passed away in Oklahoma City on September 7 after a short and intense illness. She retired from the Metropolitan Library System as Director of Development in 2009 after having served in various capacities for 33 years. Ernestine was instrumental in building the MLS Friends of the Library book sale into national prominence. She served on the Friends of

Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) Board as well as the national Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) Board, now known as United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. She was named to the FOLIO Hall of Fame in 2007.

Your membership dues and donations are the primary source of funds to support FOLIO's mission. New members are always welcome.

Basic dues are as follows:

- \$10 Individual Membership
- \$15 Friends Group Membership
- \$20 Library Membership

Contributions above the minimum dues further support FOLIO's mission, are greatly appreciated, and tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

Suggested **Gift levels** honoring library icons are:

- \$15—\$49 Will Rogers
- \$50—\$99 Melvil Dewey
- \$100—\$499 Benjamin Franklin
- \$500—\$999 Thomas Jefferson
- \$1000+ Andrew Carnegie

Yes! I want to join FOLIO and be a Friend of Libraries in Okla.

Name: _____
(Name of Individual, Friends group, Library or Corporate Business)

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Dues enclosed: _____

Gift Donation enclosed: _____

Gift to Endowment: _____

Do You Have a MOU?

Having a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** in place is a most important matter for all Friends groups. The MOU will constitute an operating agreement between the Friends of the Public Library (Friends) and the Public Library (Library).

If your Friends group and the library do not have an MOU, then I urge you to begin work on one as soon as possible. The role of the library and the role of Friends should be spelled out so that it will be clear in any situation that arises, whether it involves a pushy Friends member or an uncooperative library director. United for Libraries Fact Sheet #25 has a sample MOU that provides a good starting point.

The Claremore Friends of the Library has been in existence for 48 years, and they just finalized their first MOU. They acknowledge that it is "nonbinding," but that it will help prevent misunderstandings on the part of anyone who is new to Friends or to the library.

It is never too late to start working on a MOU!



Find FOLIO on Facebook

Log in to your Facebook account and then search for "Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma." You'll find events postings and news articles. Click the "like" icon and you'll receive a notice every time a new article is posted.

Corporate Membership Levels are:

- _____ \$100 Business Friend/Member
- _____ \$250 Business Sponsor/Member
- _____ \$500 Silver Sponsor/Member
- _____ \$750 Gold Sponsor/Member

FOLIO is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

FOLIO keeps all personal information private and does not share members' mailing addresses, phone numbers or e-mail addresses with third parties.

Please make your check payable to: FOLIO
Mail membership form and payment to:

Gerry Hendon, FOLIO Treasurer
1743 East 60 St.
Tulsa, OK 74105



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through
Friends
of
Libraries
Since 1978

Youth Friends of the Library
Vinita Public Library

Vinita Public Library has a Youth Friends group with about ten active youth (middle school through high school). Library assistant Charlotte Fagefer reported, "The teens assist the library in a number of ways." They did a fundraiser that helped pay for new furniture in the children's area. They help set up for the book sale and assist with serving refreshments at library functions. The teens are more available during certain times of the year and are invaluable during the summer reading program.

The teens come to the library right after school and are very enthusiastic to help wherever they are needed, such as setting up displays or decorating. They also help spread the word about library events, which is probably the best advertising mode for young adults. Fagefer also said that the teens are giving ideas for the new library teen area and serve as an advisory board.

The Youth Friends of the Library group has a newsletter. The October issue highlighted the book, *Ender's Game*, by Orson Scott Card. A new movie is being released, based on this military science fiction novel. The upcoming book sale is highlighted, as well as a list of new materials and a short review of a Halloween title.

Junior Friends Groups

Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel at Uniondale (NY) Public Library relates her experiences with "Junior Friends Groups; Taking Teen Services to the Next Level" in *Young Adult Library Services* (Winter 2012): 15-18. The group began in 1996 and plays an active organizational and financial role in the library. Their group is a subdivision of the Friends group, and open communication is advised between the groups.

Teens have found their experience very rewarding. Teens complete a membership form and pay a \$1 annual membership fee. They can volunteer at the library and receive community service credit. Teens volunteer in the "Together We Read" program, which pairs elementary students with Junior Friends members for one 30-minute session per week.

Other activities include:

- * Sponsoring programs (performances, crafts, etc.)
- * Fundraising (candy sales and car wash)

United for Libraries has a Fact Sheet on organizing a Teen Friends Group at <http://www.ala.org/united/friends/factsheets>.