



Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

Newsletter Vol. XXXVI No. 1—Summer 2014

www.okfriends.net

## Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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### Public Libraries Are Valued

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries recently released a study affirming how public libraries are valued and valuable. *The Pew Internet and American Life Project Public Library Study* (December, 2013) found that—

- 94% of Americans said having a public library improves the quality of life in a community.
- 95% believe public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed.
- 94% said public libraries are welcoming, friendly places.
- 70% of parents have taken their children to a library or bookmobile in the past year.
- 90% say closing the public library would have a negative impact.

During FY2013, Oklahomans would have had to spend \$477 million if they had to purchase the services they received from their public libraries. Most Oklahomans would simply have had to do without. For every taxpayer dollar spent on public libraries, library customers received \$5 worth of services.

Adult books (14,413,832) borrowed are at a valued cost of \$352,129,916. Children's books (7,572,503) borrowed are valued at \$13,516,917. AV materials (413,079) borrowed are valued at \$54,195,080. Program attendance (34,042,179) is valued at \$25,573,288 with computer use (3,822,609) valued at \$12,996,870. Reference service (25,289,747) is valued at \$17,702,822. Interlibrary loan and e-books and so much more, the total estimated value is \$477,692,110. WOW! What a valuable resource! Pass the word!

### Working Together

Think of your Friends, Foundation, and library boards as the library family. It is critical to make sure everyone understands their respective roles and the mission of each organization to work well together. To accomplish this, there needs to be clear communications among the groups and frequent interactions.

At each library board meeting, there should be an opportunity on the agenda for representatives from the FOL and the Foundation to provide updates. This also enables the library board to publicly acknowledge their work on behalf of the library.

The groups should share their missions and goals. Friends can support the library's formal budget requests.

Friends representatives should be included in library strategic planning, goal setting, surveys, and focus groups to provide their perspectives to the process. This results in the final product having buy-in to help communicate the plan to the public or support a bond issue.

Other suggestions include:

- Attend library conferences.
- Include Friends information in the library newsletter.
- Support each others' projects (Friends, board and foundation members).

The work each board contributes to building a strong cohesive library family will pay off in the long run with improved support, functionality, communications and a stronger library.

Bennett, Marsha. "How to Build Better Relationships Between Boards." *The Voice for America's Libraries* 15.3 (May/June 2014): 12-13.



### ***A Message from the President***

I am from the field of education. Therefore, as any teacher will tell you, reflection is an integral part of instruction. At the close of each term, a teacher will reflect by asking: What did I do well? What did my students do well? What was new, different and exciting about the content? What do I need to do in the future? What adaptations and modifications do I need to make? What strategies do I need to continue? Using the insights and understandings gained from these questions, a teacher then plans for a new term. As I begin my term as president, I reflect—not upon what I have done in the past but upon that which my predecessors have done. For example, Mrs. Carolyn Klepper initiated the Ambassador program which resulted in increased outreach by FOLIO board members; Mrs. Sharon Douthitt conducted a successful fundraising campaign which resulted in a larger endowment. Thus, my reflection leads me to one conclusion: I have big shoes to fill! So, as I begin my term, I am humbled and just a little intimidated. I only hope to elaborate, connect, and build upon the accomplishments of the FOLIO presidents before me.

*Dr. Judy Neal*

### ***From the Past President***

A big thank you to all who attended the FOLIO Retreat at the beautiful Noble Foundation facility. Our final count included 13 board members and four advisory board members (pictured below). Our presentation was on direct marketing, to help improve our upcoming fundraising. We had some great brainstorming sessions focused on making the work that FOLIO does even better, as well as learning how we can make our next fundraiser more successful.

We welcomed three excellent new board members (Jane Bryant, Candace Baird, and Judy Haught). And we have another nomination to the board in the works—how great is that!. We also updated our Strategic Plan.

What fun we had on the patio on Thursday evening playing games, coordinated by Carolyn Klepper. I have a video of three participants that is surely a potential fundraiser :) I think they will pay me not to post it!

Thank you for the honor of serving you. I know we have a wonderful choice in Judy Neale as our next president, and I trust you will give her all of your support and help when called upon. I wish her the very best.

*Sharon Douthitt*



*Pictured are  
Board members and  
Advisory Board members  
attending the  
June retreat.*

## Growing the Tuttle Public Library from Grassroots

Until recently Tuttle was the largest city in Oklahoma without a library. In 2009 a grassroots organization named Friends of Tuttle Public Library (FOTPL) was formed with the goal of finally creating a full-service library. Multiple options were explored, including tax proposals that would have allowed participation in the Pioneer Library System. Tough economic times, however, made those attempts unsuccessful.

Undaunted, a core group of FOTPL members reorganized and approached their goal from a new direction: the creation of a volunteer library. After many discussions and much research, an agreement was reached with Tuttle's City Council to provide space for the library in a city-owned building. FOTPL agreed to provide volunteer staffing and fund the operating costs for the library.

Immediately following the agreement with the city of Tuttle, FOTPL quickly went into action with fundraising activities and appeals to the community for help with the library project. The community response was overwhelming and gratifying! Thousands of books were donated by individuals and other libraries. Money, materials, and labor were donated by individuals and by the Tuttle business community. Additionally FOTPL applied for and received sponsorships from the Inasmuch Foundation and from the Chickasaw Nation.

Simultaneously some volunteers began cleaning, processing, and wrapping more than 10,000 donated books. Another volunteer fully updated 12 donated computers. One woodworking volunteer built

shelving for the children's library area. Still more volunteers began renovations on the building, turning a former clothing store into a 2,500 square-foot library facility.

Many building renovations were made. Walls were textured and painted; floors were scrubbed, sanded, and painted; restrooms were updated; and shelving was assembled and installed. Individuals and businesses donated renovation materials and lumber for children's shelving as well as plumbing and skilled labor to assist volunteers with the renovations. The City of Tuttle applied for a federal energy grant, which resulted in the installation of all new energy-efficient windows, doors, lighting, and heating and air conditioning systems.

With more than 4,500 hours of volunteer labor and strong support from Tuttle's citizens and businesses, **the Tuttle Library is now OPEN!** This attractive new facility includes a warm and welcoming children's area, shelving for more than 12,000 books, nine public computers, Wi-Fi, a comfortable reading area, a public meeting room, and even a "StarBOOKS" Coffee Nook for patrons to enjoy. The Tuttle Library also has electronic resources available to members through the website at [www.tuttlelibrary.org](http://www.tuttlelibrary.org).

FOTPL President Jane Bryant believes the Tuttle Library represents the true definition of a "grassroots effort." With determination and thousands of hours of incredibly hard work and community support, Tuttle Library's goal is to be the BEST small library in Oklahoma.



Volunteers worked on the new storefront library. More than 4,500 hours were volunteered to make the library a success.



Storytime at the new Tuttle Public Library has some library attendees riveted.

## News from Friends Around the State



Pictured above are some of the FOL who helped at the Blanchard Book/Bake Sale. From L-R: Gay Looney,



Full names and schools are listed below: 1st-3rd winners (l. to r.) McKenzie, Jaycee, and Sara.

### Mmm-mmm Good!

The Blanchard Public Library Friends of the Library held a combined book and bake sale during the Blanchard May Daze celebration. The FOL is known for their wonderful home-made cooking, so everyone looks forward to their baked goods. The FOL raised \$370, which will be used for the Summer Reading Program.

The Blanchard FOL also raise funds through a program with the local Spencer's Supermarket. The group collects receipts from Spencer's and turns them in to the Supermarket. Spencer's gives 1% of the sales total back to the organization. This has been a good year-round fundraiser, with many library customers contributing their receipts.

At the May 13th meeting of the FOL, the group recognized Destiny Schlicher, a teen volunteer, for 100 volunteer hours during the past year. She received the Presidential Volunteer Award, including a pin, certificate, and a letter from President Obama.

Becky Pauls, Branch Manager, Blanchard Public Library

### Tulsa FOL's Distinguished Service Award

Congratulations to Gretchen Hannefield for receiving the Tulsa Friends' Distinguished Service Award. Hannefield serves as the liaison between TCCL and the Tulsa Friends.



### McDaniel Poetry Contest

The second annual Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest was held during April, National Poetry Month. The Lincoln County Museum of Pioneer History in Chandler, hosted the awards and reception on April 27. Ninth through twelfth grade high school students at sixteen rural high schools in Lincoln and Creek counties and home school students in the two counties were invited to participate. Forty-eight high school English teachers each received a classroom set of booklets about Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel along with contest information.

Karen Neurohr, Librarian and Contest Coordinator for Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma and also the Oklahoma State University Library noted, "We commend the teachers who encouraged students to enter the contest and look forward to holding the contest again in 2015. Seventy poems were entered in the contest. The judges said their task was not easy."

Cash prizes for the contest were provided by the estate of the late Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel, Back40 Publishing, and family and friends. Sara Whinnery (Drumright, home-school) placed first; Jaycee Miller (Stroud HS) placed second; and McKenzie Schooley (Chandler HS) placed third. Honorable mention awardees: Adriana Davis, Miranda Kay Hadix, and Ashlynd Huffman (Chandler HS); Jessica Squire, Blake Carr, Nick Rhoden (Kiefer HS); Brandi Brooks (Meeker HS); Joe Carpenter, Emelia Robinson (Stroud HS); and Levi Massengale (Bristow HS).

With support from FOLIO, the Stroud Public Library was designated a national Literary Landmark honoring the late Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel in 2013. More information about McDaniel is available at a Oklahoma State University Library website devoted to McDaniel: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/mcdaniel>.

## Super Friends Save Library Comic Book Day!

It was almost here! Free Comic Book Day! Since 2002, comic book publishers and shops have been tempting fans and recruiting new readers with this annual promotion, held the first Saturday in May. America's public libraries soon hopped on to the bandwagon, hosting their own day to distribute free comic books. In 2007 the Oklahoma Department of Libraries began sponsoring the promotion for the state's public libraries, using federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

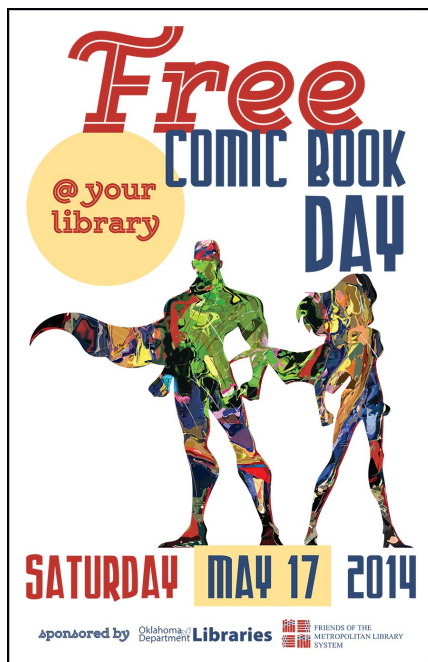
"Comic book shops are few and far between," according to Adrienne Butler, ODL's youth services librarian. "There were too many children and teens who couldn't take advantage of the promotion, and we know that comic books can be a powerful way to reach reluctant readers."

The project started out modestly, with 5,000 comic books shipped to Oklahoma public libraries in 2007. The promotion grew, and eventually *Free Comic Book Day @ your library* was moved to a Saturday in mid-May.

All was going well, and by 2013 ODL was shipping 20,000 comic books to public libraries throughout the state for distribution to readers both young and young at heart.

And then... DISASTER STRUCK! Between winter weather scrambling ODL's Summer Reading Workshops schedule, and a change in personnel at the agency's comic book vendor, Butler says the February 1st deadline came and went before it hit home. "I was sick about it," Butler said. "There would be no Free Comic Book Day in 2014. I know the public libraries were disappointed. We were too." But never fear! The Friends of the Metropolitan Library System are here! The Friends provided 36,000 comic books to Oklahoma public libraries for this year's promotion on May 17.

How the Friends came into possession of so many comic books is a super story in itself. Joe McReynolds, coordinator for the Friends' annual book sale, said some fortuitous circumstances were at play. A developer planning to renovate a strip shopping center in Midwest City bought out the inventory of The Book Rack in order to empty the space and begin construction. McReynolds said the



inventory included more than 40,000 comic books and thousands more paperback books. "Then the developer was faced with the problem of selling all of the books, which would take a lot of time," McReynolds continued. "He decided he would get more benefit from donating them to the Friends and taking a tax write-off."

When Metro Library Executive Director Donna Morris heard there would be no Free Comic Book Day this year, she reached out to the Friends.

"We'd had these comic books for over a year, and we were trying to find the best way to utilize them," Friends President Harry Ayers said.

"This was the perfect match. We were thrilled we were able to acquire them and the ability to help the whole state was huge."

And now we can chalk up another feat for this super group. *Free Comic Book Day @ your library* had been saved, thanks to the Friends of the Metropolitan Library System!

## Seed Grants



**Drumright Public Library FOL** received a seed grant at the June FOLIO board meeting. Before receiving their grant they have already established a board, opened their checking account, written and adopted their by-laws, and started their application for 501(c)(3) designation. Kay Murphy, President, and Sarah Hagan, Vice President, are leading this active group. They held a fundraiser in January and raised \$955 playing Bunco. How creative!

**Okeene Public Library FOL** received a seed grant this spring. President Sandra Roever sent a thank-you note, explaining how much difference the seed grant made in getting the Friends established.

FOLIO has been making Seed Grants available to help get Friends groups started or reinvigorated since 1993. The application and details are available on the FOLIO website—[http:// www.okfriends.net](http://www.okfriends.net).

Seed Grants are awarded on the basis of need and available funds and are accepted at any time. The grant was recently increased to \$425.

## Libraries and People in the News

### Congratulations, Bev Dieterlen, FOLIO Emeritus!

FOLIO Emeritus board member, Beverly Dieterlen, recently received the Marcus R. Tower Service Award from the Tulsa City-County Library. The award is for notable contributions to enhance the quality of library service.

Bev has been volunteering to the library and its programs for 30 years. She was a longtime active board member of FOLIO. Congratulations, Bev!

Scroll down to see the news release and photo:  
[http://www.tulsaworld.com/staff/jamesdwattsjr/people-places-st-john-street-party/article\\_31419777-357e-5957-b0b8-3a4ff5673620.html](http://www.tulsaworld.com/staff/jamesdwattsjr/people-places-st-john-street-party/article_31419777-357e-5957-b0b8-3a4ff5673620.html).

—Karen Neurohr, Associate Professor, Librarian  
Oklahoma State University Edmon Low Library

### Miami Public Library on the Edge

Miami Public Library was one of the libraries featured in an article, "Check Out the New Library," in *Public Management* (May, 2014). After their "participation in Edge, a national assessment and toolkit intended to help libraries evaluate their public access technology and services to better serve the community, the library began to develop a long-range strategic plan."

Focus groups and new partnership identification were part of the plan. The focus groups represented diverse constituencies and areas of government, which included the former mayor, acting mayor, city manager, local business owners, and representatives from the school district, hospital, tribal nation, and state workforce development office.

Library director Marcia Johnson "was able to educate attendees on the services offered at the library and create a shared understanding of community issues, allowing focus group members to work together to solve them." The library is working with workforce development to provide skills training in the library's computer lab.



Miami  
Public  
Library

## Nonprofits Have Shorter IRS Form

The Internal Revenue Service just introduced a new, shorter application form to help small charities apply for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status more easily.

"This is a common-sense approach that will help reduce lengthy processing delays for small tax-exempt groups and ultimately larger organizations as well," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "The



change cuts paperwork for these charitable groups and speeds application processing so they can focus on their important work.

We believe that many small organizations will be able to complete this form without creating major compliance risks."

The new Form 1023-EZ, available today on IRS.gov, is three pages long, compared with the standard 26-page Form 1023. Most small organizations, including as many as 70 percent of all applicants, qualify to use the new streamlined form. Most organizations with gross receipts of \$50,000 or less and assets of \$250,000 or less are eligible.

"Previously, all of these groups went through the same lengthy application process -- regardless of size," Koskinen said. "It didn't matter if you were a small soccer or gardening club or a major research organization. This process created needlessly long delays for groups, which didn't help the groups, the taxpaying public or the IRS."

The change will allow the IRS to speed the approval process for smaller groups and free up resources to review applications from larger, more complex organizations while reducing the application backlog. Currently, the IRS has more than 60,000 501(c)(3) applications in its backlog, with many of them pending for nine months.

Following feedback this spring from the tax community and those working with charitable groups, the IRS refined the 1023-EZ proposal, including revising the \$50,000 gross receipts threshold down from an earlier figure of \$200,000.

The new Form 1023-EZ must be filed online, and a \$400 user fee is due at the time of submission. The instructions include an eligibility checklist that organizations must complete before filing the form.

## FOLIO Hall of Fame



The newest inductee to the FOLIO Hall of Fame is the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Director Susan McVey. McVey was recognized for her outstanding service to FOLIO. Her tireless energy and great insights have made her a valued member of the FOLIO Advisory Board in addition to all of the other valued hats she wears.

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

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 are tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Donation enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift to Endowment: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to FOLIO and mail to:  
Gerry Hendon, FOLIO Treasurer  
P. O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170

***FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!***

## Awards at Conference



Scholarship recipients from left to right are—Angel Suhrstedt, Kathy Atchley, Elizabeth Negrete, and Kelly Sitzman.

The **Lillian Born Norberg and Mary Lou Atkinson Support Staff Scholarships** are offered to full or part-time employees of a public, academic, or special library in Oklahoma in the process of furthering their education. Scholarships were presented at the annual FOLIO member's luncheon in Tulsa. All of this year's recipients are working on their Master of Information Studies and Library Science degree at the University of Oklahoma.

Elizabeth Negrete is the Literacy Coordinator at the Ardmore Public Library. Negrete is teaching ESL/ELL classes using new technology, computer classes, and basic literacy. Kathy Atchley is the Manager at the Clinton Public Library, with interests in public library management, cataloging and materials selection. Kelly Sitzman is Information Services Assistant at the SW Oklahoma City Public Library and wants to become a public librarian. Angel Suhrstedt is Associate Librarian at the Edmond Public Library. She said, "I am passionate about helping people and love the variety and challenges that a public library offers."

Friends of the Mustang Public Library won the **Best Friends Award**. "The Mustang community passed a bond issue in 2012 to build a 7,300 square foot expansion to the Library. The Friends provided needed leadership in the planning and installation of the Children's Library, meeting room and Teen Area," said Sharon Douthitt, FOLIO president. "The Friends provided interior design services, committed funds to the project that could not be paid for with bond money and utilized gift funds to install an art project in the Children's Library. In addition, they had a donated granite top installed in the meeting room." The Friends also paid for the fabric and re-upholstery for all of the seating in the original library. The great mural encourages "Reading...oh, the possibilities!"



Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

P. O. Box 702585

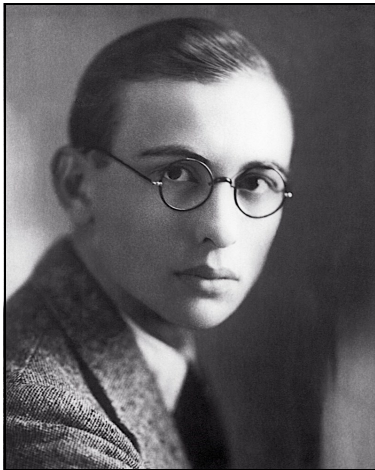
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**FOLIO:**  
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Since 1978

### Literary Landmark Re-Dedication



Literary Landmark Re-Dedication honoring Lynn Riggs will be on Friday, September 5, at 10:30 a.m. at the Claremore Museum of History, 121 N Weenonah Ave., Claremore, OK.

Michael Wallis, award-winning author, Oklahoma historian and

Literary Landmark Advisory Board Member will emcee and speak at the event. Phyllis Cole Braunlich, author of *Haunted by Home: The Life and Letters of Lynn Riggs* will also be a featured speaker. The dedication will be followed by lunch at the Belvidere, then a FOLIO Board meeting.

Contact Karen Neurohr, karen.neurohr@okstate.edu for more information.

### Make Plans for National Friends of Libraries Week

National Friends of Libraries Week is scheduled October 19-25, 2014. Sponsored by United for Libraries, the week is to celebrate Friends. Use the time—

- To promote FOL in the community,
- To raise awareness (press release on activities, number of members, type of support to the library),
- To sponsor a program and invite the community, and
- To increase membership.

This would be a good time to be recognized by the library board for the Friends' help and support of the library. A sample press release and marketing materials as well as ideas and resources are available at [www.ala.org/united](http://www.ala.org/united). Click on "Conferences & Events."

United for Libraries group members are eligible to apply for National Friends of Libraries Week Awards (two at \$250). The ALA Store has "Friend Your Library" materials (buttons, posters, bookmarks and downloadable templates).