

## Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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## Retaining Volunteers

Volunteers are a great asset. Recruiting people is one thing, but managing and retaining them requires a vibrant environment for significant results.

### Building community

When the volunteers arrive, develop a relationship and provide a culture of respect, collaboration and buy-in. Give the volunteers an overview of the library's history and collections.

Librarian Cassie Hileman of Harmony School of Excellence in Houston grew her volunteer program by spreading the word and building relationships. "Letting people know that there was a need," she says, was crucial to getting the library on their radar.

### Playing matchmaker

"Matching a skill set to a task" has been the common theme among successful volunteer programs in libraries. Many librarians credit volunteer engagement and motivation to project and ability matching.

### Recruiting with outreach

One library recruited volunteers through partner organizations on the website, via LinkedIn, and through ambassador volunteers who promote the library in the community. Those ambassadors often distribute 300 fliers around the city per month. Other libraries use the library's online presence, active social media, as well as blogs.

### Ways to Improve Your Volunteer Program

1. Have a job description, application, and interview.
2. Set expectations and ensure that volunteers always know what to do.
3. Check in regularly and assign a mentor.
4. Have a backup plan if the volunteer isn't a good fit, such as suggesting alternative but similar volunteer opportunities.
5. Thank volunteers and be sure to recognize them for both small and significant achievements. (continued on p. 5)

## OK Towns Host Double R Author Tour



Family members and children wait to hear Hannah Harrison speak at the Stratford Library. They decorated in a circus theme to go along with Hannah's book *Extraordinary Jane*.

The Double R Author Tour, sponsored in part by FOLIO, came to a close on November 4 in Yukon. The tour featured 2015 Oklahoma Book Award winners Roy Deering, author of the young adult book *Finders Keepers* and Hannah E. Harrison, author and illustrator of the children's book *Extraordinary Jane*. Deering and Harrison appeared in several towns across Oklahoma including Antlers, Duncan, Enid, Pauls Valley, Perkins, Stratford, Mustang, and Yukon.

Both authors presented programs at local schools, speaking to more than 5,700 students and presenting programs at libraries in each town.

Students and parents had the opportunity to learn about the writing and publishing industry. The authors also signed copies of their books for those in attendance.

The Double R Tour was also sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Center for the Book, Best of Books, the Oklahoma City Dodgers, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

(continued on p. 4)

## A Message from the President

Greetings! I hope everyone had an opportunity to celebrate National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 17-22! The Stillwater Public Library attached over 30 colorful signs to thank their Friends and recognize items purchased by their Friends. (See the photos below.)

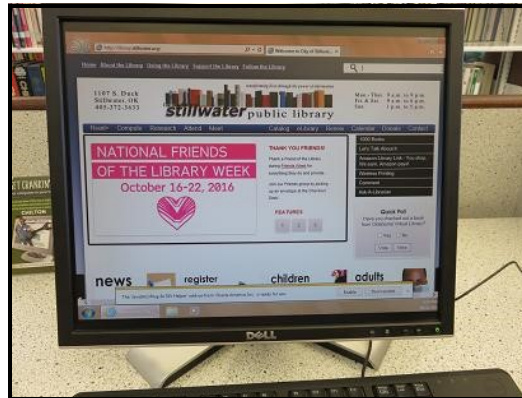
Did you notice that FOLIO has changed our logo? Our new logo was designed in 2009 by Katy Brown (OSU '09) for her ART 4420 Graphic Design Studio class taught by Mr. Jim Watson. See the accompanying article (on p. 8) that describes Katy's beautiful design .

The FOLIO website is undergoing an exciting design change that will incorporate the new logo. If you have suggestions for the website, let us know.

FOLIO's Board members are volunteers who are passionate about Friends of Libraries. Most are active in their local library's Friends group. We live in thirteen different Oklahoma communities. We would like to increase the representation from the southeastern and northwestern regions of Oklahoma. We meet quarterly, and our terms are three-years. If you have the time and interest in serving on our board, or if you have questions, please contact me: [karen.neurohr@okstate.edu](mailto:karen.neurohr@okstate.edu)

In closing, thank you for your support of your local libraries! Please remember to renew your annual membership in FOLIO and help us fulfill our mission of Strengthening Libraries through Friends of Libraries!

*Karen Neurohr, President*



### Thank you, Friends!

Stillwater Public Library had signs all over the Library thanking their friends group for assistance during National Friends of Libraries Week.

## Friend Conference Grant

United for Libraries is accepting applications for the United for Libraries/Thrift Books Friend Conference Grant through January 9, 2017.



The Grant enables one member of a Friends of the Library group at a public library to attend the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Applicants must be first-time attendees and must be active in their public library Friends group. The winner will receive a grant of \$850, plus full ALA Annual Conference registration.

Gail McAbee, last year's grant winner, said, "My trip to ALA Conference was amazing. I learned and experienced a lot."

For more information and to apply, visit [http://www.ala.org/united/grants\\_awards/friends/thriftbooks](http://www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/friends/thriftbooks).

## National Friends of Libraries Week Awards

United for Libraries is the sponsor of National Friends of Libraries Week (NFLW), October 16-22, 2016.

United for Libraries has two \$250 awards for friends groups who celebrated with activities during this week and who apply for the NFLW awards. Application materials are available at [http://www.ala.org/united/grants\\_awards/friends/friendsweek](http://www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/friends/friendsweek).

National Friends of Libraries Week Award applicants must provide a one- to two-page summary of all activities and efforts in conjunction with the celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week. Applicants will be judged on creativity and innovation; involvement of Friends, library staff, Trustees, and/or advisory committee; recognition of Friends group, and promotion of Friends group to the community, school, students, and/or faculty.



## Oklahoma Honors Enid Public Library and Marquis James as Literary Landmark

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) dedicated Oklahoma's twelfth Literary Landmark honoring the late Marquis James (1891-1955) on September 17 at the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County.

The dedication featured Master of Ceremonies Michael Wallis, award-winning writer, voice talent and Honorary Chair of Oklahoma's Literary Landmarks, and Dr. Paul Vickery, Professor of History at Oral Roberts University who presented a Chautauqua performance as Marquis James.

Marquis James graduated from Enid High School in 1911. Six members of the Enid High School cheer/pom squad opened the program with a rousing cheer written by James while he was in high school and still performed at the high school today:

"Let 'er Rip, Let 'er Roar,  
Let 'er Go Once More  
Enid High School, O'er and O'er  
Enid, Enid, Enid!"

Remarks were provided by Marquis James' grandchildren Karen Norwood Hoover of Round Lake Beach, IL and Chris Norwood of New York, NY, and great grand-niece Lisa Johnson of Chevy Chase, MD. Three other James family members attended the dedication: grand-nephew Peter Shockey of Nashville, TN, grand-niece Christine Shockey Lichter of Falls Church, VA, and great grand-niece Merida Hines-Tyler of Santa Rosa Beach, FL.



Jenny Regier, Director of Enid Public Library, and Lisa Johnson, Great Grand-Niece of Marquis James, unveiled an oil portrait of Marquis James. The portrait was donated to the Marquis James Room at the Enid Library by Mary "Taffey" Shockey Lichter, grand-niece of Marquis James. The artist was Katharine "Kay" Shockey Harley, a daughter of Marquis James' sister Nan Daley James Shockey.

John Cromwell of Enid provided remarks from the J. Lee and Mary Cromwell family who funded the Marquis James Room at the Enid Library and were life-long friends of Marquis James.

Marquis James was born August 29, 1891 in Springfield, Missouri, to Houstin James and Rachel Leo Marquis James. Houstin, an attorney, staked a claim in the Cherokee Outlet Land Run of Oklahoma Territory in 1893.

In 1894 Rachel and Marquis joined Houstin in the new town of Enid. An American journalist and author, Marquis' career in writing began when he was a teenager growing up in Enid. In 1911 he left Enid to pursue his dream of a career in journalism and did newspaper and national reporting.

After serving in World War I, he worked for the American Legion as National Director of Publicity, wrote as a staff member for *American Legion Weekly* and *Monthly* magazines, helped launch and wrote for the *New Yorker* and wrote biographies.

He received two Pulitzer Prizes: in 1930 for *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston*, and in 1938 for *The Life of Andrew Jackson: Complete in One Volume*. He passed away November 19, 1955 at Rye, New York. His widow, Jacqueline Parsons James, donated his papers to the Library of Congress in 1958 and also donated items to the Enid Public Library.

Jenny Regier, Director of the Enid Library said, "On behalf of the Public Library of Enid & Garfield County, we sincerely appreciate the Literary Landmark recognition honoring Marquis James whose formative years were spent in Enid. The Marquis James Room at the Enid Library contains several donated items including James family photographs, his Pulitzer Prize certificates, a fine oil portrait, boyhood diary and books from his personal library."

In conjunction with the dedication, Karen Neurohr, who also serves as Coordinator of Oklahoma's Literary Landmarks, edited and published an educational booklet about Marquis James. Research assistance was provided by members of the James and Cromwell families, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History, OSU Library, Enid Library, and Pulitzer Prize Centennial. The booklet, which includes a biography, photographs, a timeline, and information about Literary Landmarks, is designed to commemorate the dedication, honor the late Marquis James and the Enid Public Library, celebrate Mr. James and his two Pulitzer Prizes, and to help inform Oklahoma high school students in Enid and the surrounding area about Oklahoma's rich literary heritage.

The sponsors for the booklet and dedication included the Oklahoma State University Library, Friends of the Library in Enid & Garfield County, Friends of Oklahoma Center for the Book, Enid Arts, family members of Mr. & Mrs. J. Lee Cromwell, Visit Enid, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce, Enid High School, Pulitzer Prizes Centennial, Oklahoma Library Association, Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Funding was also provided in part by a grant from Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the program do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.

## News from Around the State

### Claremore Friends Honor the Douthitts



In honor of National Friends of the Library Week, the Claremore Friends chose to recognize two members, Jon and Sharon Douthitt, for being longtime library advocates. The Claremore FOL had a bench made in their honor and held a dedication/reception on Saturday, September 22, at the Will Rogers Library.

Jon, a retired associate district judge, was president of the Claremore Friends the year that FOLIO held the Literary Landmark ceremony honoring Will Rogers at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. He also was a member of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board for five years, serving as president during the fifth year.

Sharon, a retired high school English teacher, is the retiring president of the Claremore Friends and is a past president of FOLIO. She currently serves as the chair of the Claremore FOL Endowment.

Both Jon and Sharon currently serve as FOLIO Ambassadors for the NE area of Oklahoma.

### Double R Author Tour

(continued from page 1)



Roy Deering, author of *Finders Keepers*, speaks to a group of students at Enid Middle School.

### McAlester Friends

#### - *A Tale of the Tower*

For a program during National Friends of the Library Week, McAlester's Heather Para read *A Tale of the Tower* to a packed house at McAlester Public Library. Upcoming programs for the group include local newspaper editor Glenn Puit talking about a book that changed his life in November; a humorous Christmas reading by Richard Askew, in December; David Beall on Genealogy, in January; Stroud Holt presenting a program about Robert Burns, National Poet of Scotland, in February; new CEO of the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma Michael Hull talking about new library technology, in March; a library staff appreciation program, in April; and recommended summer reading, in May.



#### - McAlester Friends' Downtown Display

National Friends of the Library Week was October 16-22. On Wednesday, October 19, Allyson Royal of McAlester admired a downtown display window advertising the local Friends of the Library chapter. The McAlester Friends of the Library chapter meets every third Tuesday of the month at noon for lunch and a literary program. In December, the Friends group will host a special evening event with former State Rep. Mike Mass. Mass, author of *Beneath the Vines*, will be on hand Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 6-8 p.m. for a talk and readings from his political memoir, as well as a book signing. For more information on the McAlester Friends chapter, call 918-426-0930.

—Kathy McGilberry, Head Librarian,  
McAlester Public Library, SEPLSO

"Where else but at a library can a person with no money in their pockets walk into a place of quiet and peace, and walk out with something beautiful and borrowed?"

—Author Don C. Reed

## Retaining Volunteers

(continued from p. 1)

6. Network with other organizations to get the word out about volunteer needs.

### The challenges of retention

Volunteer retention can be challenging. To boost retention, touch base and offer recognition regularly. One library has an annual breakfast held with exceptional volunteers awarded a bookplate to place in a library book of their choosing. Another key to retaining today's busy volunteers is flexibility. Have something ready for a volunteer to do, so they can work for an hour, when time is available.

Volunteers are essential to libraries and friends, a successful partnership.

-Kaitlin Throgmorton, *American Libraries* 47.6 (June, 2016): 42-5.

## New Friends in Pauls Valley

The new Friends group is moving along with its formation. We have purchased nifty book bags with our Library's logo on them to give to each new member as well as to sell for \$5. We helped with a Reading Round-up program this fall, featuring Oklahoma Book Award winner, Hannah Harrison.

We are looking forward to assisting with a spring program sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities Organization entitled "The Oklahoma Experience - Looking for Home."

We hope to have our 501(c) (3) by the first of 2017 and are looking forward to a successful new year.

—Betty McGee, President, Friends of the Library



Left to right: Elizabeth Shebester, Treasurer; Gini Rodke, VP; and Ann Cloutier, Secretary.)

## Mustang Friends Had a Busy Fall



Friends of the Library gave pop corn at the Spooktacular. Left to Right are Carolyn Klepper, Don Klepper, Judy Dinsmore, Craig Dinsmore and Jean Harris.

### - Spooktacular

Mustang Friends of the Library sponsored a Spooktacular on Oct. 29. Friends had popcorn, inflatables, haunted house, candy and more. Various Friends read Halloween-themed stories throughout the evening in the library. Everyone was encouraged to "Stop by and let the Friends ease you into the Halloween spirit."

The Spooktacular is held every year and sponsored by Mustang Parks & Recreation. Approximately 8,000 people attended this year's event. Civic groups and businesses host games and prizes.

### - Mystery Dinner Theater

Principal Shoddy is riding roughshod over everyone from students to the school librarian ... at least until someone decides to take care of the bully for good. So began "Paper Cuts," the Friends' murder mystery dinner theater on Nov. 4. The evening included a catered meal and plenty of opportunities for the audience to take part in figuring out exactly "whodunnit." "Paper Cuts" was written by library director Desiree Webber. Tickets were available for purchase at the library for \$30 in advance.

The Friends also contributed nearly 50% of our RFID project. Their money will be used to purchase a self-check kiosk for the Library.

--Desiree Webber, Library Director, Mustang Public Library

## Crescent Community Library Friends

It has been a very challenging last few months for the City of Crescent and the Library itself. We have a temporary librarian and library hours have been cut. Our FOL is still in the process of applying for a tax-exempt status; however, we have not lost our enthusiasm to better our community.

We held a book sale, which went so well, we decided to have one twice a year. We made over \$800 and had over 200 adults and children attend. The kid's booth had a coloring station and a volunteer reading to the children while the parents shopped. We also received over \$200 in donations, along with one corporate membership and 15 regular memberships. The books that didn't sell were donated to the Crescent Public School System or kept for the next book sale. We've made a book donation bin specifically for the FOL. We have had many donations and are well on our way to another great book sale, set for December.

A Veteran spoke on Memorial Day and set up a display referencing that theme. The kids, as well as the attending adults, loved the program. We are still in the infant stages of progress, but we are taking it day by day. We hope to have a permanent, eager Librarian hired soon so we can have a regular Library schedule to help our community.

—Devon Hughes, Secretary, Crescent FOL

## Friends in SOKC

The Southwest Oklahoma City Friends of the Library reached a milestone this fall with the election of new leadership! Efforts to form a unified team started in 2015 with goals to create a self-sustaining Friends group dedicated to volunteerism and furthering our library's mission. Please welcome the first officers:

President: Sushma Sharma  
Vice President: Aleta Wheelbarger  
Secretary/Treasurer: Robbi Carmack  
Membership Chair: Bobby Carmack

The SOKC Friends of the Library celebrated National Friends of the Library Week by creating a Friends-focused display and speaking to customers about what it means to be a Friend of the Library. Volunteers presented at programs, manned the display table, and handed out chocolate to customers.



*Sharon Saulmon staffs the Friends of the Library display which includes Friends and Literacy brochures, a collection of photos from 2016 programs and books about friendship.*

The SOKC Friends are also gearing up to help the library celebrate Season of Thankfulness, an annual customer appreciation event, November 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the week, customers will be asked to share what they are thankful for and refreshments will be provided by the SOKC Friends.

During the October meeting, the SOKC Friends approved a motion to sell library-themed tote bags at the library and discussed future fundraising events for the 2017 calendar year. Funds raised will benefit programs and continuing education for staff.

—Kelly Sitzman, Branch Manager,  
South Oklahoma City Library

Libraries will get you through times of no  
money better than money will get you  
through times of no libraries.

-Anne Herbert

## New Computers at Elk City Carnegie Youth Library

The Elk City Youth Library recently added two AWE Early Literacy Stations to its inventory. The computers are designed with children ages 2-8 in mind and focus on teaching STEM-science, technology, engineering and mathematics – through games and puzzles and interactive storybooks. The FOL purchased one of the computers. The Early Literacy Station features more than 4,000 localized learning activities. The interactive content spans all seven curricular areas: math, science and nature, social studies and geography, reading, art and music, writing and computer skills, and reference.

“The new computers have been a big hit with the kids and parents! The kids are just having fun on the computer, but parents feel good that their children are learning new skills,” said Library Director DeAun Ivester. “The new AWE computers have been a great way to offer something for our younger patrons.”

The content comes preloaded on the AWE Early Literacy Stations and does not require internet access. The computers feature a color coded keyboard and mouse. The games and books are full of child-friendly images, sounds, songs and videos.

AWE Learning provides literacy-focused digital learning to public libraries and schools throughout the United States. They excel at providing fun and interactive learning to set children on the path for success beginning at a young age. Anyone wanting more information on AWE Digital Learning Solutions can find them on the web at [awelearning.com](http://awelearning.com).

—DeAun Ivester, Library Director  
Elk City Carnegie Library

The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for  
free speech, controversy, and community.

- Paula Poundstone

## Stilwell Friends Are Active

The Stilwell Library Friends Society held a book sale in early October and raised over \$1,000 to be used in the building of a children's wing for our library. Construction should begin in January.

FOL member Donna Boecher presented an adult program at the library, and FOL member John Bankel helped beautify our library grounds.

Seven members attended a NORA Conference (responsible recyclers) in Tahlequah.

A packed house of children attended a Stilwell Friends sponsored library program.

—Grace Ferris, President,  
Stilwell Public Library Friends Society



You can make a donation to FOLIO when you shop Amazon online. FOLIO will receive 0.5 percent of eligible sales. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations.

- \* Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and begin your holiday shopping.
- \* Select FOLIO as your charitable organization.
- \* Shop as you normally would.

Amazon takes care of the rest. FOLIO receives a donation of 0.5% of eligible sales and YOU receive great bargains from AmazonSmile.

Thank you!

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

***Mail to Gerry Hendon, FOLIO Treasurer  
P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170***

### Need Help?

### Call your FOLIO Ambassador

FOLIO has Outreach Ambassadors who are ready and willing to talk or consult with your Friends' group or your officers. We want to help you be successful and strengthen your library. Let us know how we can assist you.

Ambassadors are available for each quadrant of the State.



#### Northeast

- Jon and Sharon Douthitt  
sdouthitt@prodigy.net

#### Northwest

- Joe and Carol McReynolds  
joemcreynolds@yahoo.com
- Karen Neurohr  
karen.neurohr@okstate.com

#### Southeast

- Wayne Hanway  
whanway8@gmail.com

#### Southwest

- Judy Neale  
judyn@cameron.edu
- Judy Haught  
judyhaught@swosu.edu
- Carla Garrison  
cgarrison@cableone.net



Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) is on Facebook. Find out the latest news, interesting quotes and fun facts on our Facebook page between newsletters.



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**FOLIO:**  
**Strengthening**  
**Libraries**  
**In**  
**Oklahoma**  
**through**  
**Friends**  
**of**  
**Libraries**  
**Since 1978**



**Need Support for Forming  
a Library Friends Group?**

One of the many services provided by FOLIO to public libraries around the state is the awarding of seed grants to help with the formation, reorganizing, or revitalizing of a Friends group to support a local library.

These grants in the amount of \$425 each are available to help with the possible legal expenses of incorporation, the creation and duplication of promotional materials, office supplies, and/or other expenses for communications, such as telephone calls and postage.

These funds have been available because of the generous support of a Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation Challenge Grant.

All that is necessary is for a library's proposed "Friends of the Library" group to complete and submit a seed grant application with appropriate documentation to help the Seed Grant Committee determine the viability of the applying group.

Applications should be submitted to FOLIO by the first day of September, December, March, or June, to be considered at the next quarterly meeting of the FOLIO board of directors.

The Seed Grant Application form is available online at the FOLIO web site: <http://www.okfriends.net>. Additional valuable information, including several helpful free "toolkits," can be found on the United for Libraries web site: <http://www.ala.org/united/friends>.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the FOLIO board of directors. A list of FOLIO board members can be found on the FOLIO website.

—R. Eugene Earsom, Chair, Seed Grant Committee,  
2nd Vice President, FOLIO Board of Directors

**FOLIO's NEW LOGO**

How do you like FOLIO's new logo? It was designed by Katy Brown, (OSU 2009) a freelance graphic designer in Tulsa. This is how Katy described her design:

"In this new FOLIO logo, the first 'O' is replaced by the image of a book blossoming out of a Gaillardia flower, the Oklahoma state wildflower. The logo has a rich red color complimented by a subtle gray. The text is sans serif font whose thick and thin lines compliment the strokes of the blossoming book. Gaillardias, like FOLIO, adorn the landscape and need nurturing and support in order to bloom and grow. The image of a blossoming book also references FOLIO's mission to support Oklahoma libraries and see them thrive. The clean text and striking imagery of the logo integrates a modern look that also respects the traditional aspects of the organization.

"Thank you very much for this opportunity. It has been a pleasure to create a new identity for an organization that supports Oklahoma's wonderful libraries."

*Katy Brown*

Katy is currently a freelance graphic designer in Tulsa. Her email is [katybrown05@cox.net](mailto:katybrown05@cox.net).