



Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

Newsletter Vol. XXXVII No. 4—Spring 2016

www.okfriends.net

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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Libraries and Learning

Majorities of Americans think local libraries serve the educational needs of their communities and families pretty well and library users often outpace others in learning activities. But many do not know about key education services libraries provide.

Most Americans believe libraries do a decent job of serving the education and learning needs of their communities and their own families. A new survey by Pew Research Center shows that 76% of adults say libraries serve the learning and educational needs of their communities either “very well” (37%) or “pretty well” (39%). Further, 71% say libraries serve their own personal needs and the needs of their families “very well” or “pretty well.”

At the same time, many do not know that libraries offer learning-related programs and materials such as e-books, career and job resources, and high school certification courses.

Library users think of themselves as lifelong learners—A strong majorities of adults consider themselves “lifelong learners” and libraries around the country are working to fit their programs and services into local educational ecosystems – both the formal parts of it (such as schools) and the informal parts of it (such as “do it yourself” learning opportunities).

The complete study report is at <http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/04/07/library-users-and-learning/>. We have more work to do in letting people know library services.

Lee Rainie, “Libraries and Learning,” *Pew Research Center*, (7 April 2016).

Talk Up Your Library

Friends groups can support their libraries by more ways than financially. Friends can support them by talking with officials about what the library means for their communities. Libraries “set the community spirit for a town,” said Sen. Cathy Osten of Connecticut.

Real estate agents will tell you that if a library is dingy, it isn’t inviting for someone considering moving to town. The library is mentioned as a key asset. Some libraries develop a booklet with statistics to explain how many people use the library and for what reasons. The library isn’t for just books, but job searching, senior citizens, Girl Scouts, etc.

Talk to your legislators and let them know that you want them to support libraries. Tell them why your library is important and deserves more funding. Contact people in different ways—one-on-one, public meeting, board meeting. You need to be active. Usually it takes two or three times to get people to respond.

Let policy makers know about key services, like interlibrary loan. Advocacy training for Friends groups would be helpful. We already know how well libraries serve our community. We just need to get the word out. The size of your group doesn’t matter. Just present your message in a clear and concise way to show the value of your libraries.

“Encouraging Friends to Talk Up Their Libraries,” *The Voice* 17.3 (June, 2016): 12.

A Message from the President



“Thank you” to everyone who attended the FOLIO annual meeting on April 1 in Tulsa. It was great to see everyone and honor Jeannine Spencer to the FOLIO Hall of Fame, Will Rogers Friends of the Library with the Best Friends Award over 10,000 population and Stilwell Friends of the Library with the Best Friends Award for under 10,000 population. Our authors’ luncheon and fundraising programs were big successes.

I know that your Friends group is probably busy with Summer Reading Program right now. This can be a challenging time with more kids in the Library and more volunteers on vacation. Take a deep breath and focus on the possibilities of reaching all of the children and encouraging them to read this summer. You will have many opportunities to inspire them and expand their horizons. Keep

them coming to the library all summer for great reads and great programs.

The FOLIO Board is working to “strengthen libraries through Friends groups.” We are assisting the Reading Roundup author with travel expenses to provide local library programming this fall. We have received a financial literacy grant to offer local programming. (You will be hearing lots more about this.) Our ambassadors are available if you want some advice or training for your Friends group. If you know of a Friends group in need of monetary assistance to begin or rejuvenate, invite them complete the application on our web site (okfriends.net).

Two literary landmark events are being held this year. The Wilma McDaniel Poetry Contest was in April and the new literary landmark honoring Marquis James will be on September 17.

It is not too late to respond to our Endowment campaign this spring. All of the interest on our Endowment goes to scholarships for local library support staff. We have been able to increase the number of scholarships and amounts thanks to your giving.



Dr. Judy Neale, President

FOLIO Hall of Fame

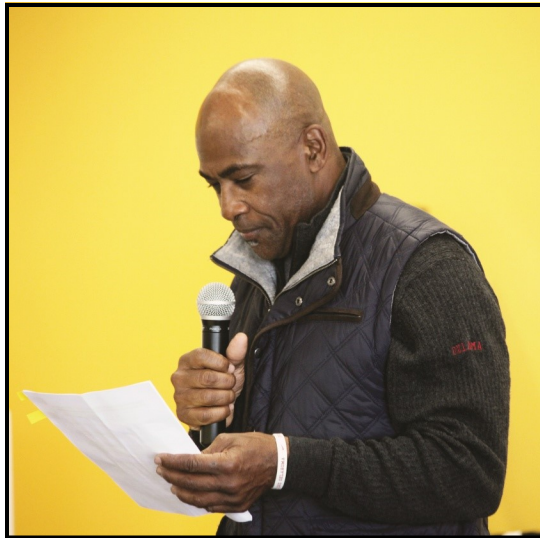
Jeannine Spencer was added to the FOLIO Hall of Fame this year. Her nomination read—“Need help with something? This long-time FOLIO Board member is your go-to person. She is always ready to lend a helping hand, be it with membership or newsletter or anything else that needs doing. She is a good supporter at every turn.”

“Her local Friends group surely benefits, and she has served as President there, as well as being a capable secretary for FOLIO several times. If you need someone with an interest in free libraries and a willingness to fight for that cause, she is the one to see.” Congratulations, Jeannine.

Stilwell Wins Best Friends Award

The Stilwell Public Library Society’s initial goal was to help the library with funding for its summer reading program., evolving into fundraising for a children’s wing and networking with other groups. The group partnered with the Cherokee Nation and OSU Cooperative Extension to create a farmer’s market in 2008. In 2009, the organization joined Cherokee Nation’s Community and Cultural Outreach program, hosting children’s programs and numerous cultural programs at the library. Through multiple fundraisers and grants, the organization has raised \$350,000 to help build a children’s wing at the Stilwell Public Library. The organization plans to continue its efforts to enrich the lives of the people in the community and to make the community of Stilwell a better and healthier place to live. —Carolyn Klepper

African-American History Month



Joe Washington read a selection from President Obama's First Inaugural Address.

The Norman West Library celebrated African American History Month with an African American Read-In on February 14. The event featured a concert by local R&B duo Adam and Kizzie, who led the group on a walk through the history of African American music and literature. Featured readers included Norman Police Chief Humphrey, OU great Joe Washington, local school children, and representatives from the University of Oklahoma. Thanks to the Norman Friends of the Library and the Norman Arts Council for their support of this event.



Kizzie Ledbetter of R&B duo Adam and Kizzie led the crown in "Rapper's Delight" to wrap up the Read-In.
—Rebekah Lynam, Branch Manager,
Norman Public Library West

Cushing Friends Offer Variety

Our Friends group is small but mighty! In October, they bought all the candy for Trick or Treat with Scooby-Doo, live and in-person. We had 513 visitors on that day.

In November, the Friends sponsored the NaNoWriMo. They had record participation due in part to the excellent writing materials, instruction and encouragement from the Friends. We had 108 participants attending various events for young writers.

The Friends also sponsored Harry Potter Night in February and a Hobbitt night in April. The Friends have a movie theatre popcorn popper and provide all the popcorn and lemonade for our Winter Break, Spring Break, and Summer Break movies.

La Dawn Conner, Director, Cushing Library

Growing Youth Advocates

The American Library Association (ALA) joined the Harry Potter Alliance in launching "Spark," an eight-part video series developed to support and guide first-time advocates who are interested in advocating for issues that matter to them. The series, targeted to viewers aged 13–22, will be hosted on YouTube, while library advocates are encouraged to use the videos to engage young people or first-time advocates.

The video series provides supporting information for inexperienced grassroots advocates, covering everything from setting up in-person legislator meetings to the process of constructing a campaign. By breaking down oft-intimidating "inside the Beltway" language, Spark provides an accessible set of tools that can activate and motivate young advocates for the rest of their lives. The video series also includes information on writing press releases, staging social media campaigns, using library resources for research or holding events, and best practices for contacting elected officials.

--Jazzy Wright, 16 May 2016,
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thehpalliance>

News from Around the State

Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest

The Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest awarded eleven high school student poets from Stroud, Chandler, Meeker and Oilton on Sunday, April 24 at the Lincoln County Museum of Pioneer History in Chandler.



First Place: Roni Graves (11th grade, Stroud High School)

Second Place and Honorable Mention: Macey-Rae Tucker Pittman, (11th grade, Chandler HS)

Third Place and Honorable Mention: Tacie Sinegal (11th grade, Chandler HS)

Honorable Mention:

Robert Bolstad and Savannah Rains (10th grade, Oilton HS)

Cheyenne Kauley (10th grade, Meeker HS)

Thomas Blood and Reggie Coyner (10th grade, Chandler HS)

Sarah Breann Pitzner (12th grade, Stroud HS)

Karissa Fent (12th grade, Chandler HS)

Katie Lane (11th grade, Chandler HS)

Oklahoma Poet Laureate Benjamin Myers, Ph.D. presented the awards. He holds a Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis and is the Crouch-Math, Associate Professor of Literature at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK.

Event sponsors include the Lincoln Historical Society and Museum of Pioneer History, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State University Library, Stroud Public Library, Back40 Publishing, and friends of the late Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel.

The late Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel (1918 – 2007) was born near Stroud to Benjamin and Anna McDaniel. Her father was a sharecropper and her mother was a homemaker. Wilma attended schools in

Lincoln and Creek counties until the effects of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl led her family to migrate to California in 1936. She became known as the “Okie Poet” in the Central Valley of California. Over fifty chapbooks of her poetry have been published and her writing is frequently included in anthologies of literature of working-class people. Her Oklahoma roots remained strong, and she has many poems about her early life in Oklahoma and love for her home state.

In 2013 Stroud Public Library was dedicated as a national Literary Landmark honoring Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel. Literary Landmarks are sponsored nationally by United for Libraries since 1989.

—Karen Neurohr, *Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest Coordinator and OSU Library Professor, Community Outreach and Assessment Librarian*

Paul’s Valley Friends Update

Pictured left to right are the officers of the Paul’s Valley



Friends—Gini Rodke, VP; Elizabeth Shebester, Treasurer; Betty McGee, President; and Ann Cloutier, Secretary.

Paul’s Valley Friends of the Library is forming and received a grant from FOLIO to become incorporated. President Betty McGee wrote, “Thank you so much for the FOLIO grant. We have received our EIN and are in process of opening a checking account. We are excited about planning activities to support our Library.”

Crescent Friends Host Book Sale



Pictured left to right are Terri Gregory, Treasurer; Valerie Collier, President; Carla Dunn, Librarian; Deann Lewis, Vice President; and not pictured is Devon Hughes, Secretary.

The Crescent Community Library is very community oriented and is excited to make the library an inviting and useful experience for Crescent. The library supporters are catching this enthusiasm and help make our library a place of pride for the town.

Our desire is to be a place for everyone in the community to feel welcome. Our goals include working with the public school and as well as homeschool parents to enable the students to use the library as a source for school work. We are excited about helping with the Advanced Reading Program and providing a source for these students to have access to books that are not in the school library. Next year, the school week will only be four days long. With this extra day, the library plans to offer programs to keep the children in a safe environment, while helping them continue to learn.

We have partnered with the town museum and newspaper to correctly catalog and preserve old newspapers and photos. We also plan to set up classes for educational purposes to help better the citizens of our community. Ideas include: résumé writing skills, job search skills, sewing classes, budgeting classes, etc. The library will also be a place for students to have access to homework help and tutoring.

We greatly appreciate the FOLIO Board of Directors for believing in our community and giving us the grant that will help us get a jump start on all of our plans. We have already organized a book sale drive to be

held during the city wide garage sale weekend. We have formed a membership program as well as set up a group of volunteers for our goals. We have written and approved bylaws and elected board members. We have scheduled author meet-and-greets, focusing on local authors to help encourage the community to engage in the library activities. We are currently planning a summer reading program. We are ready to show the City of Crescent the wonders of the Crescent Community Library.

—Devon Gregory, Secretary,
Crescent Community Library Friends

“Lake Eufaula’s Got Talent”



Friends of Eufaula Memorial Library held their fourth annual talent show fund-raiser at the end of February. “Lake Eufaula’s Got Talent” featured 15 performances by local people of all ages. Four judges selected winners in two categories – Youth and Adult. In addition, audience members voted to choose a “People’s Choice Award” winner. A Chinese Auction was also held in conjunction with the show.

Members of the Friends group teamed up with the Lake Eufaula Playhouse members to plan and organize this year’s event. Coordinating publicity, the venue, auditions, stage and lighting, sound equipment and a myriad other details is a huge undertaking. But, with the help of the Playhouse group, the evening event was a hit and a success.

Nearly 175 people were in attendance for the show. All funds raised are dedicated to the Eufaula Memorial Library’s Summer Reading Program. Programming for the summer focuses the majority of activities on children up through the fifth grade, but activities for teens and adults have been added in the last few years because of their interest and attendance.

—Beatta Baker,
Friends of Eufaula Memorial Library

“Books You Love” A Great Success!



Four years ago, the program committee for Friends of the Will Rogers Library launched a February program called Books You Love. Five prominent community figures were invited to speak about books that had a big impact on them at some point in their life. The program has continued to pack the meeting room each year since and has included a college president's wife, retired judge, District Attorney, fire chief, chief of police, doctor, school superintendent, and many other popular speakers.

When the Friends Board discovered that a small, portable Canon Selphy printer would allow immediate on-site printing of photos from a smart phone, a new feature was added to this “celebration of books” this year. Library patrons of all ages were invited to bring a book that was among their favorites and have their picture made with the book. They were asked to fill out a display card telling why this book was a favorite. Their picture was affixed to the card to be displayed on the glass wall in the library lobby, and a second copy of the picture was printed and given to the participant as a thank you gift.

Four picture sessions were held over the course of the two weeks prior to the Friends' Books You Love program. This new feature was extremely well received. The night of the program, the 56 display cards that had been completed were moved from the lobby to the meeting room so that attendees could view the pictures and read the remarks.

Most popular were the photos of the pre-school youngsters who attend Reading Time at the library on Wednesday mornings. Adults were asked to sign a permission slip allowing the display of their child's photo and then they recorded the remarks of their

child about the book they were holding in the photo. Seeing the little ones excitement about a book was certainly a favorite time for the Friends workers who staffed the photo sessions. These photo sessions will remain a feature of the Books You Love celebration each February.

Friends of Will Rogers Library Wins Best Friends Award

Sharing books and love and helping people connect to those and other books through the resources and services of the Will Rogers Library in Claremore have been the passion of the Friends of the Will Rogers Library (FOL) since the group's founding fifty years ago. The activities and actions of FOL in 2015-2016 have contributed significantly in support of the mission and vision of the library and its patrons' love of books of all genres for all ages.

FOL members, now 92 strong in number, express that love in many ways, most vitally through their generous giving to the FOL Endowment. Initiated nine years ago, the fund has grown from \$7,110 in individual gifts and \$5,000 in matching fund the first year to an endowment fund total of \$203,804 in 2015, even in a bleak economic year.

The Claremore group has sponsored many activities to support the library. Pictured are [l. to r.] Sharon Douthitt, past FOL and past FOLIO president, Connie



Jesina, FOL treasurer, Sherry Whisler, Best Friends entry co-chair, and Carolyn Klepper, FOLIO Best Friends Chair.

By Carolyn Klepper
Photo by Cindy Friedemann

“libraries: the one place

anyone can enter, be enriched,

and not have to spend a dime.”

—Lucinda Clark, Poetry Matters



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- Select FOLIO as your charitable organization.
- Shop as you would normally.

Newsletter by Email

Would you like to receive the *FOLIO Newsletter* by email? Please include your email address when you renew your membership or email Gerry Hendon, FOLIO Treasurer, today.
ghendon@wings-n-things.com



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

- Judy Neale
judyn@cameron.edu

Southwest

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



Seed Grants

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>.

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.



Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

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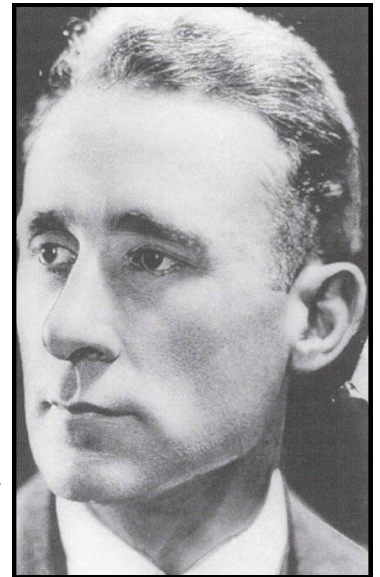
**Marquis James
Next Literary Landmark**

Plan to attend the next Literary Landmark dedication which will honor the late Marquis James at the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County, 120 W. Maine St., Enid, OK, on Saturday, September 17, at 2:00 p.m.

The dedication will be during Enid's annual Cherokee Strip Celebration. Community events that Saturday will include a parade and other activities. It should be a fun day in Enid!

James' father successfully staked a claim in the Land Run of 1893 and moved his family to Enid in 1894. He began the student newspaper at Enid High School and graduated in 1910. He wrote for local papers and sent Enid-related articles to the *Wichita Eagle* and *The Oklahoman*. James became a well-known journalist and author.

James (1891-1955) won the Pulitzer Prize two times. He wrote many biographies, business books and stories for newspapers and periodicals. Marquis James' books include: *The Cherokee Strip* about his boyhood in Enid; *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston*; and *The Life of Andrew Jackson*.



Several descendants of James are planning to contribute toward the plaque and may attend the dedication, coming from the East coast.

Mark your calendar and join us in honoring this Oklahoma author.

—Karen Neurohr, Community Outreach and Assessment Librarian, OSU; and FOLIO First VP