

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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**Financial Fitness
@ Your Library**

Our Financial Fitness series has continued this fall in southeastern Oklahoma with several teen groups and a young adult group. Plans are being made for spring and summer. FOLIO received a Smart Investing@Your Library® grant, a national project of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association.

A recent study by Credit Suisse (<https://qz.com/1130126/millennials-will-face-worse-income-inequality-than-previous-generations-according-to-credit-suisse/>, article by Preeti Varathan) found that millennials will likely face the worst income inequality of any generation in recent memory. “Millennials are generally saddled with more student debt, less inherited money, and stricter mortgages than previous generations.”

College graduates still earn 56% more money than high school graduates, but the cost of college has risen 100% in the last 40 years, and college debt has increased. “The median millennial household earns around \$40,500, 20% less than boomers at the same point in their lifetimes.”

Your Friends group is invited to join the emphasis on financial literacy. A perfect time for finance-related programs is in the spring when people are paying taxes and thinking about what they can do differently.

Money Smart Week will be April 21-28, 2018. Make plans now to have a program on such topics as reducing debt, planning for retirement, estate planning, spending wiser, finding a better job, improving your résumé, or a series on financial literacy. Logos and more information are available at moneysmartweek.org. Reference and other resources are available at financial-fitness.oklibraries.org.

**Tulsa Friends Celebrate
National FOL Week
And 60th Birthday**

Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries welcomed Tulsa Mayor GT Bynum to Central Library on Oct. 16 to issue a proclamation declaring Oct. 15-21 National Friends of Libraries Week in the City of Tulsa.



Pictured, left to right: GT Bynum, Kim Johnson, Debora Riggs Grillot, Dave Rader

A crowd of Friends supporters, retired and current TCCL staff, and onlookers gathered in the library’s atrium to hear remarks from the Mayor along with Oklahoma State Senator Dave Rader, TCCL CEO Kim Johnson and Friends President Debora Riggs Grillot.

In addition to National Friends of Libraries Week, the Tulsa Friends also celebrated their 60th anniversary. Balloons and cupcakes were on hand in the library’s Aaronson Auditorium following the ceremonies, which immediately preceded the longtime Friends program, Books Sandwiched In. The ever-popular book review series, which began in 1967, takes place over several Monday afternoons each fall and spring. Guests grabbed a cupcake (or two) and listened in as the special guest speaker for the day, Senator Dave Rader, offered up an insightful review of *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance.

—Tara Farrar, TCCL Friends

A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As 2017 winds down, I hope that we all pause and take a moment to reflect on our Friends' activities for our libraries. Successful activities have stages. They begin with an idea, move to a purpose, goals and planning, are communicated, then implemented, and evaluated. As you reflect on 2017, ask what worked well? What might have been better? What ideas do we have for strengthening our libraries in 2018? I hope you find this little reflective exercise useful as you work together toward your Friends' and libraries' goals for 2018.

Dr. Karen Neurohr, FOLIO President 2016-2018



Save-the-Dates!

FOLIO's 40th Anniversary is in 2018!

We are working on plans for several activities to celebrate this milestone of service to Oklahoma Friends and libraries.

On Monday, April 23, we will offer a workshop for Friends, Trustees, and librarians. This workshop will be a pre-conference during the Oklahoma Library Association's annual conference.

On Tuesday, April 24, of the OLA Conference, we will feature award-winning author Michael Wallis at the annual FOLIO Luncheon and Awards, followed by FOLIO's annual and quarterly board meetings. And, to top off these activities, during the conference FOLIO Board Member Wayne Hanway will offer a program based on Sally Reed's book *The Good, the Great, and the Unfriendly*.

Save the dates of April 23 and 24!

More details about these events will be forthcoming.

.....
■ *Wherever I live, the library becomes*
■ *my second home. Walking through*
■ *the doors, I know that there are*
■ *books calling to me that will make*
■ *me laugh, stir my passions, and*
■ *comfort my heart.*
.....

—Author Wendy Jones

National Library Friends of the Library Week Proclamation

What a great week! National FOL Week was a hit across the state. Library Friends' had great information about their Friends' groups and libraries on Facebook during the week. The winter *Newsletter* issue will delineate our FOL Week award winners.

State of Oklahoma Executive Dept. Proclamation

Whereas, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) strengthens libraries throughout Oklahoma through local Friends of Libraries groups; and

Whereas, FOLIO and local Friends of Libraries across the state are dedicated to the support of Libraries as institutions essential to democracy and life-long learning; and

Whereas, FOLIO and local Friends of Libraries advocate for funding that will provide libraries with resources, technology, and services for all ages from the very young to senior citizens; and

Whereas, FOLIO and Friends of Libraries promote the joys and benefits of literacy, learning and economic well-being for Oklahomans of all ages by investing time and effort to raise funds that enhance libraries; and

Whereas, the gifts of time and commitment by FOLIO and Friends of Libraries set a positive example of civic engagement that benefits both volunteers and their communities;

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor, do hereby proclaim the week of October 15, 2017 as **"Friends of Libraries Week"** in the state of Oklahoma.

News From Around the State

Shawnee Library has a “Horse of a Different Color”

The Friends of the Shawnee Public Library have been very busy this past summer and fall supporting the many programs and outreach of the Shawnee Public Library.

Featured this past summer was a coloring and naming competition for a new statue of a horse which was recently placed outside the library. As a city, Shawnee has adopted the horse image in various poses as its icon, partly in recognition of the national youth rodeo held in Shawnee each summer.

When the Shawnee Library was given grants and support by the Cleo L. Craig Foundation, the City of Shawnee, and the Shawnee Friends, it was able to secure its own horse, the 29th in the city.

What followed was a competition amongst children to color a drawing of the horse, with entries displayed behind the Circulation Desk. Then Oklahoma Baptist University artist Julie Blackstone met with a small group to sort through the design proposals and she painted the horse.

Another competition ensued to name the newly painted horse, choosing from a limited number of selections. Of the 800 votes cast, "Story Dancer" emerged as the overwhelming favorite. Story Dancer, was dedicated in October and now stands in a small garden area at the northwest corner of the library.



*Story Dancer, Shawnee Library's
“Horse of a Different Color.”*



Shawnee High School Honor Society students load boxes for the annual Shawnee Friends' book sale this past October

The Shawnee Friends had a very successful annual book sale this past October, grossing over \$4,000 in the one full day and two half-days of the event. One of the half-day sales broke the single day record, grossing over \$2,000.

In a very real sense, we could not put on the sale without the help of many students who load boxes from a storage facility, unload boxes, and help put books on the tables. Students from Shawnee High School's National Honor Society were particularly helpful, especially in grouping many of the fiction titles by author. Groups from Oklahoma Baptist University's Sigma Tau Delta and Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech's Leadership Class also helped in unloading and arranging titles.

This year, for the first time, we chose to go with a banner outside the library and yard signs at various intersections as opposed to a big display ad in the local newspaper. Of course, we take advantage of every free opportunity we can, placing announcements in the newspaper calendar, the local monthly magazine, a classified ad, posters on campuses, postings on Facebook and inclusion in the Pioneer web calendar.

Ironically the year-round shelf sales, with monthly changes of titles, earn more than the big annual sale.

Shawnee Friends are pleased to be able to fill requests for funds from various library departments, especially for the many children and youth summer programs.

—Bill Hagan, Shawnee Friends

It Takes a Community...

For the FOL membership campaign the Metropolitan Library System Friends sent out the following e-newsletter, inviting memberships and telling about one special Friends' member. You never know where Friends' book sale books will go.

Thank you for being an active member of the Friends. Our membership campaign begins October 1, and this year's membership theme is COMMUNITY! We want to celebrate the community our libraries provide, as well as highlight how our members make our communities better.

We recently learned from Friends member Tanya Marical of a community service that she provides to children in her neighborhood. She told us, "I buy books and give them away to encourage children to learn not just to read -- but to love to read. From an educational perspective, I believe a love of reading positively impacts a person's abilities. From a social perspective, I believe a love of reading broadens a person's mind so that the walls disappear. Books allow children and adults to travel to places and times they can never physically go. It is further my hope that a love of reading simply helps us to become better people."

Please encourage your friends and family to become members and share the experience of being part of our great community.



Ms. Marical's sofa displays the books she purchased for the neighborhood kids to pick ones to keep.

Friends Complete Library Garden in Hulbert



Friends of the Hulbert Community Library have been working for the last three years to put in a park right in front our library, and they have finally completed it!

They have worked with the Cherokee Nation to get grants each year to take this property from storage for the town to the wonderful place it is today. When you looked at this area three years ago, all you saw was an eyesore surrounded by a chain-link fence. Now it serves as a beautiful walkway between Main Street and the library. They installed sidewalks, sprinklers, had the area landscaped, fenced it with a beautiful dark grey cinder block wall, added a stage with handicap access, and a picnic table and benches.

The name of the park is the Hulbert Memorial Park and part of their fundraising efforts included selling bricks that are installed in the sidewalk. Each memorial brick sold for \$25 and included up to three lines of text on each one. Now as residents stroll through the beautiful park, they can share the memories of those on the bricks.

The park was dedicated on October 28. We appreciate all the hard work of our Friends for providing us with such a beautiful space!

--Cherokee Lowe, Manager,
Hulbert Public Library

Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials
at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile).

You shop. Amazon donates.

amazonsmile



SOKC Library Friends Celebrate National FOL Week & More

The Southwest Oklahoma City Friends celebrated National Friends of the Library Week October 15-21 by setting up a display table to enlist new members. Throughout the week, Friends, staff, and customers celebrated the ways in which the SOKC Library supports innovation, engagement, and learning. Pioneer Library System Community Outreach staff hosted an innovation-themed storytime, complete with the PLS MakerMobile and machines related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM), such as a laser cutter, 3D printer, and CNC router. Displays included quotes from library staff about how much the Friends of the SOKC Library are appreciated, and quotes from the Friends were shared about how much they love the SOKC Library! Teen volunteers even got involved by creating a poster asking customers to share their favorite thing about the library, how the library has helped them, or what they learn at the library. All week, the front display table was devoted to the Friends, to include:

- A book display of our Friends favorite reads
- An ongoing book and tote bag sale –proceeds of which benefitted the Friends’ fund
- Free adorable “Friends of the Library” buttons & candy

A total of 3,571 people visited the SOKC Library during National Friends of the Library week.



Friends talked with people about the FOL, giving candy and membership forms to those visiting the library. Pictured is SOKC FOL President John Grimm.

New Officers -- In August, the FOL elected new officers. They are John Grimm, President; Neneth Phung, Vice President; and Aleta Wheelbarger, Secretary. The new officers are an innovative group who have initiated new ideas to generate funds for an upcoming book fair, a wine and cheese event, and an indoor garage sale in the Spring of 2018. These events will enable the Friends of the Library to assist our SOKC Library with funding for

children’s, adult’s, teen, and staff programs.

Buy a Bag, Support the Friends! -- The Friends have also purchased new book bags that are currently on sale! Not only are they valuable for carrying your books and other good things, but they make wonderful gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

-Nikki Harmer, Newsletter Chair, SOKC Friends



Book Spine Poetry Contest at UCO

Each Fall, the University of Central Oklahoma’s Chambers Library hosts a student contest to promote the Library, and to encourage students to use the Library and all the wonderful services we have to offer. This year, we re-circulated a student favorite, by offering the Book Spine Poetry Contest. In this contest, students take the spines of books, and create original poetry. We received some very creative entries!

Through Friends of Chambers Library, we are able to offer cash prizes to the winners; first place receives \$300, second place - \$200, and third place—\$100. This year’s winners are David Horst, Sarah Davis, and Cheyenne Pickett, respectively.

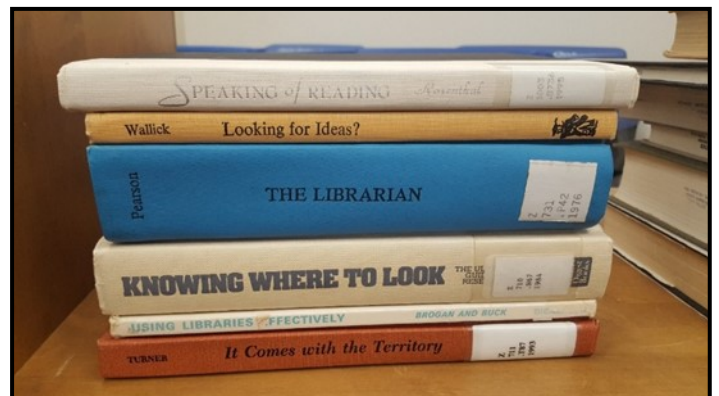
We received 43 total entries from 27 students, many of which will be used to promote future Library activities.

Congratulations, winners!

The winning poem is pictured below —

“Speaking of reading, Looking for ideas?
The Librarian,
Knowing where to look,
Using libraries effectively.
It comes with the territory.”

—Michele Ramsdell, Asst. Dir. of Development, UCO



Introducing the Friends of the Helmerich Library

The Friends of the Helmerich Library (FOHL) was formed in 2001 with only three members. This small group held its first book sale about a year later, making \$1200 and was excited to have the funds to provide extra support to the Peggy Helmerich branch of Tulsa City/County Library System. In April 2004 the first full-scale book sale was held and has been held annually (except in 2013) since that time. All our fundraising is through the annual book sale.



The FOHL popular book sale is shown above.

We have 12-15 active members meeting monthly and others who volunteer only during the sale. Two of our members sort and box donated books for storage every week. Another couple empties the book drop weekly to keep it from overflowing and another person moves the books from the closet to storage every week. We average about 250 volunteer hours per year outside the book sale and over 400 volunteer hours during the week of the sale.

With the success of the book sales, we began to look for ways to expand our support for TCCL in 2006. It was suggested that we could “Adopt a Library” and the first library recommended to us was Maxwell Park.

After visiting Maxwell Park Library and meeting with the branch manager, we gave \$1000 to support programs there. In 2007 we “adopted” Maxwell Park (\$300 for pro-grams) again as well as Nathan Hale (\$500 for African American books, CDs, audio books, and DVDs) and Suburban Acres (\$450 for the “True Beauty Inside and Out” program). In 2008 we began our relationship with Outreach Services. We gave a total of \$10,600 between 2008 and 2011 for books to be given to children who visited the bookmobile but didn’t have library cards to check out books. We provided the funding (\$8500) for entertainers at the successful “Story Time in the Park” program in 2014 – 2017. In 2009 we gave \$3000 for a

program to be held in the new Connor’s Cove facility at the Hardesty Regional Library.

In 2010 we moved away from the “Adopt a Library” idea and began offering grants to all branches and departments in TCCL. We have given nearly \$25,000 to more than 20 branches and library departments through this program. Since 2010 we have given \$8050 to Youth Services for prizes and programs for the Summer Reading Program system-wide. Since 2004, we have provided almost \$40,000 in support for Helmerich Library.

We may be small but we are mighty!

The Friends of the Helmerich Library (FOHL) lost a major supporter this year. Richard Gardner, owner of Gardner’s Used Books and Gardner’s Tax Service in Tulsa died unexpectedly on August 18, 2017. Over the years he has supported our annual book sale, purchasing books and making financial donations. We often scheduled the sale after April 15 (tax day) so he could attend!

After his death we hoped to honor his memory with a donation to his favorite charity. His family had no specific requests so we decided to make a donation to FOLIO’s Seed Grant Fund. Not long after FOHL was formed, we received a seed grant to help us file as a 501(c)3, and we hope that this gift will help other groups get started or expand their mission to support libraries in their community.

—Candace Baird,
Secretary, FOHL

*Thank You
So Much*

Tecumseh Friends Gala

The Tecumseh Friends of the Library Annual Gala was on Saturday, December 2, 10 am to 12 noon.

There were free pictures with Santa, cookies, crafts & games, and Representative Josh Cockcroft read “The Night Before Christmas.”

Hot cocoa and a free ornament were provided by the Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce. Music was provided by the OBU Jazz Orchestra and sponsored by Tecumseh Together.

Let's Talk About IT—Will Rogers at Pauls Valley



The Friends of the Nora Sparks Warren Library in Pauls Valley has begun their second Let's Talk About It series. The Library had excellent attendance last winter for their first Let's Talk About It and

started off this fall with a great crowd. The Friends coordinated the refreshments and did a lot of the advertising for the series.

Guest speaker for the evening was Prof. Doug Watson, Oklahoma Baptist University, discussing the book *Will Rogers: His Wife's Story*. Not only is Prof. Watson well versed on Will Rogers, he also performs at Chautauqua events around the country as Will Rogers. After a very good discussion of the book, Prof. Watson provided the group with a performance of his Will Rogers character.

—Donna Love

Need Help?

Call your FOLIO Ambassador



FOLIO's Outreach Ambassadors 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
douthittsharon60@gmail.com

Northwest

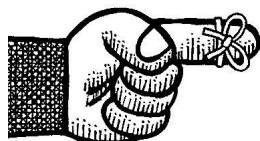
- Joe and Carol McReynolds
joemcreynolds@yahoo.com
- Karen Neurohr
karen.neurohr@okstate.com

Southeast

- Wayne Hanway
whanway8@gmail.com

Southwest

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



Remember to join FOLIO! Please renew your membership.

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**

All donations to FOLIO above the membership dues are for the Endowment Fund. All donations are tax-deductible for 2017, if made by 12-31-17.

P. O. Box 702585

Tulsa, OK 74170

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



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](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.



Thanking Donors

Q: *Do the Friends of the Library really need to send “thank you” notes to ALL donors?*

A: Yes. All donations need to be acknowledged. Small donors may some day become large donors. If donors are not given credit, then they do not feel that their gifts are valued. The Network for Good says that just as you would send a note to your Grandmother thanking her for her gift and making a comment on how it was just perfect but

not mentioning cost, your thank you notes should be donor centric, explaining how they helped solve a problem but not detailing the amount of the gift.. Being personal, warm, and authentic with your donors is critical. People expect to have open, honest, and authentic relationships with you. When communicating with your donors, make sure that you are being real and taking them seriously—not just treating them like an ATM. Show exactly how their donation is making a difference.

If the donor responded to a fundraising campaign, your thank you message should focus on how the donor was part of the campaign’s success. If the campaign is ongoing, thank them soon after the gift was made, and then send a second note of thanks to update donors on the campaign’s success.

In addition to a thank you note, major donors should receive an appropriate level of recognition for their gift (or the option to remain anonymous), engagement with your FOL, and updates on how their gift is used.

Donors want to know that their dollars matter, so tell them what you did with their money. One of the best ways you can do this is by telling one specific story of how a donor’s gift is making a difference. Stories and photos help make the impact of a gift more real. Be creative and make your donors feel special.

—Network for Good, networkforgood.com