

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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Oklahoma’s Reading Roundup, co-sponsored by FOLIO, Corralled more than 16,000

More than 16,000 children, teens, teachers, librarians, parents, and library friends participated during the state’s four-year Reading Roundup Author Tour, which held its finale in Hennessey on September 25. Almost 3,700 people attended this fall’s tours featuring author Lutricia Clifton (*Seeking Cassandra*) and illustrator Christopher Nick (*Dust Storm*).

Conceived in 2015, the tour was inspired by a grant from the Reading Trust that helped place recent Oklahoma Book Award-winning children’s and young adult titles in all of the state’s public libraries. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) and its Oklahoma Center for the Book (OCB) approached FOLIO and other sponsors to fund tours of the authors and illustrators of those books each fall from 2015 to 2018.

With the exception of one urban location, the program focused on bringing authors to rural libraries and schools, many of them hosting an

author for the first time. Each fall featured two authors/illustrators with each visiting five communities.

OCB Director Connie Armstrong said, “We know it’s difficult for many smaller public libraries and schools to fund presenters for programs so we loved the idea of taking the authors around the state.”

Armstrong worked with Adrienne Butler, ODL’s youth services consultant, and Vicki Mohr, administrator of ODL’s Office of Library Development, to coordinate the annual tour. The state library’s Public Information Director helped local libraries advertise their events with promotional materials.

Friends played an instrumental role throughout the project, according to Armstrong. “The financial assistance of FOLIO and the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book was instrumental in accomplishing the tour,” she said. “The local library Friends groups were the perfect hosts at each stop, often helping the library provide door prizes and assisting with activities related to the author’s book.”

Past authors on the tour included Sonja Gensler (*The Revenant*), Tara Hudson (*Hereafter* trilogy), Hannah Harrison (*Extraordinary Jane*), Roy Deering (*Finders Keepers*), Cynthea Liu (*Bike on, Bear!*), and Alton Carter (*The Boy Who Carried Bricks*).

Armstrong said she and other ODL staff who accompanied the authors on the tour returned with some wonderful stories. “Some of the young people who attended the school program would convince their parents to take them to the public



Volunteers from the audience help illustrator Christopher Nick during his presentation at Okeene Elementary School. Nick visited public libraries and schools in five communities during the final year of the Reading Roundup Author Tour.

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From the President...



FOLIO is strengthening libraries through Friends. Our programs, newsletter, ambassadors, awards, programs, conference programs, Literary Landmarks, and scholarships are all to help Friends help their libraries and communities: Libraries + Friends = Strong Communities.

This fall has been spectacular. "Thank you" for your quick response to our membership drive and 40th Anniversary Endowment campaign. If you have not had a chance to mail

your reply, please do so. Your membership keeps our projects, awards, and programs strong. Your endowment contribution supports our scholarships.

The Double R Tour was very successful in September. Thanks to our partners, the Oklahoma Center for the Book, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, for this wonderful series of authors visiting schools and libraries. Financial Fitness programs are finishing this fall with more sessions planned beginning in January and March. Let's Talk About It-The Great American Read programs are continuing. See the schedule at <https://okhumanities.org/local-events>.

Please touch base with your newly elected officials. Let them know about your support for libraries. On the state level, advocates in the spring will be asking for restoration of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries' budget to show Oklahoma's maintenance of effort to receive federal funds. On the federal level, we will be advocating for funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which affects literacy programs and monies to libraries. Stay in touch with your elected officials and teach them the importance of the library in your community.

For the latest information FOLLOW us on Facebook – Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO).

The FOLIO Board met at the Shawnee Public Library on Oct. 26 for the regular quarterly meeting. Major actions included:

- Increasing our four Scholarships to \$600 each
- Approving our next request for Endowment matching funds
- Reviewing ways to make our Archives more understandable – include date, page numbers, "final" or "draft"
- Announcing OLA programs for March 13-15 at the Norman Embassy Suites (The FOLIO Annual Meeting will be on Friday, March 15, but many other great pre-conferences and programs are planned).
- Finalizing committee members
- Overviewing great FOLIO activities (Ambassadors, Endowment Committee, Membership Committee, etc.)
- Planning a new membership brochure
- Discussing ideas for possible grants and additional 40th anniversary celebration
- Reporting on new Literary Landmark recommendations
- Scheduling next board meeting for January 25, at the Village Library in Oklahoma City

Sharon Saulmon, FOLIO President, 2018-2020

FOLIO is a Co-Partner of Oklahoma's Great American Read Project

In May PBS—and OETA Stations in Oklahoma—kicked off *The Great American Read*, an eight-part television series to explore the passion and joy of reading through the lens of America's 100 best-loved novels. As part of the project, Americans voted on their favorites. The best-loved novel is Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

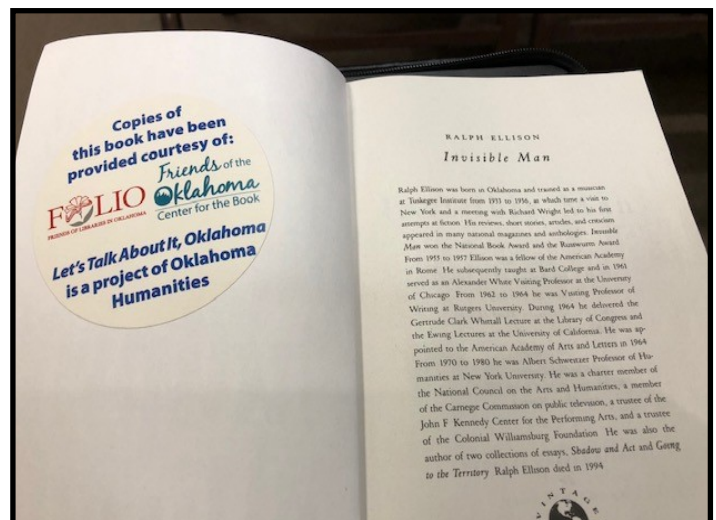
To join this landmark reading celebration, Oklahoma Humanities and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries worked with other partners, including FOLIO, to create a special Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma reading and discussion program. Libraries may select one of four titles chosen for Oklahoma's *Great American Read* and submit a grant application to Oklahoma Humanities. The grant will pay for a scholar to join the local discussion.

The four books selected for the Oklahoma project are:

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

Programs were held in November at McAlester Public Library, Latimer County Public Library-Wilburton and Watonga Public Library. Tulsa City-County Library selected *The Handmaid's Tale* for a program on December 19. Muskogee Public Library and Blanchard Public Library will hold programs in February. Programs may be held in libraries through Spring 2019.

Libraries may receive only one scholar grant, but they may also request to borrow copies of titles without requesting grant funds. Books will be loaned for one-month periods on a first come, first served basis.



Oklahoma's Reading Roundup

Continued from Page 1

library program in the evening. These children wanted to introduce their parents to the amazing author they had met at school."

Many children and teens expressed an interest in pursuing writing and wanted to know what advice the author would give. Clifton's book, *Seeking Cassandra*, features a journal-writing protagonist, and children and teens at the public library programs were given their own journal to record their thoughts and feelings.

One teacher said she had promised her students she would bring an author to the school before they left elementary school, and the tour helped her keep her promise.

Author Alton Carter, who grew up in foster care and has written about the teacher who made a difference in his life, employed a unique moment of audience participation. He split up the teachers and students, and then asked the students to go to the teacher who was making a difference in their life and to tell that teacher how much they appreciated him or her. Armstrong, who witnessed this at a school in Watonga, observed, "Afterward, there wasn't a dry eye in the house."

Financial Fitness @ Your Library

The Financial Fitness@Your Library series has been in multiple locations this fall—Okeene, Newkirk, Ponca City, Ada, Donald W. Reynolds Library in Durant, Owasso, Stroud, Yale and Public Library of Enid and Garfield County.

The stories that library coordinators are relating in changed lives is phenomenal. At Okeene most participants were planning for retirement, but one father brought his teenage son to encourage him to learn about saving for his first car. The presenter brought in articles and activities to share. Soon the entire group began to contribute. Every time they saw or read a relevant article, the participants made copies for everyone and brought them to the next class.

Jolene Poore, Library Director at the Ada Public Library, had a small but enthusiastic group of participants and has much interest expressed in the January series. She plans to continue the program after the grant.

Newkirk Public Library sponsored the series for young adults. One parent attended with his daughter and "really got into the investments," Librarian Marcina Overman reported. She related that "the students all had different ideas of wants and needs and had a problem in seeing the differences. They were all



Financial Fitness participants at the Donald W Reynolds Library in Durant enjoyed the presentation and the refreshments.

excited about credit cards until the ultimate cost came to light." Several went home to discuss insurance with their parents curious about whether the family had enough insurance. "Many of the students said the program opened their eyes to what their parents have to do each month to keep a roof over their heads, food, clothing and everyday things." The instructor had them play an investment game for 30 days. One student opened her own portfolio to raise money for college.

"I'm pleasantly surprised!" said Robbee Tonubbee, Library Director of Durant Library. The series attracted a diverse group including a retired couple, a young married couple with an infant, a retired single woman, a 28-year-old young man who just moved out on his own, and a single mom with two children. Nine local businesses provided giveaways to the participants.

Lee Ann Barnes, Director of the Okeene Public Library, said, "This was the first extended series the library had ever hosted...The library now knows it is capable of doing this kind of outreach and we will continue to look for opportunities to serve our patrons and our community."

This great project is providing a synergy for future programming. Thanks to our sponsors: FOLIO, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, FINRA Investor Education Foundation, and the American Library Association (*SmartInvesting@yourlibrary® Financial Fitness Series*).



Financial Fitness Series will continue in Oklahoma libraries in 2019. Locations and dates will be available at financial-fitness.oklibraries.org and FOLIO's Facebook page.

FOLIO's Literary Landmark Advisory Board Sets Plans For Future Dedications

The FOLIO Literary Landmark Advisory Board met August 30 in Tulsa to select authors and sites for future dedications.

FOLIO Board members Michele Ramsdell and Judy Haught will oversee future Literary Landmark dedications.

Karen Neurohr has accepted an advisory role with United for Libraries, the division of the American Library Association that was started to oversee Literary Landmarks nationally, but will continue supporting the Oklahoma project

Oklahoma Literary Landmarks was named an official Centennial Project in 2001. Julia Brady-Ratliff coordinated Literary Landmarks dedications on an annual basis from 2001-2007. Karen coordinated dedications on a biennial basis from 2009-2018 and also two re-dedications for installing bronze plaques in different locations. Michael Wallis has been a steady, supportive volunteer and emcee from the very beginning of Literary Landmarks in Oklahoma.

Cushing Public Library is in the early stages of planning a Literary Landmark dedication honoring Robert J. Conley sometime in 2019. Library Director LaDawn Conner has communicated with Mrs. Conley who is appreciative and supportive of the project.

The advisory board selected the following authors for recognition in the next five years: Melvin B. Tolson-Langston University (2020), Tony Hillerman-Shawnee (2021), Washington Irving-Tulsa (2022), Billie Letts-Southeastern Oklahoma State University (2023), Martin Gardner-Science Museum, Oklahoma City (2024).

To date, the following Literary Landmarks have been dedicated:

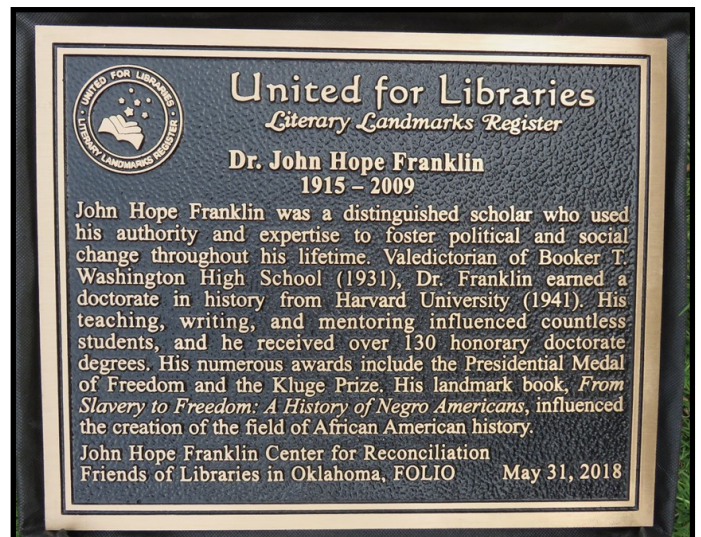
- Woody Guthrie, Okemah (2001)
- Ralph Ellison, Library, Oklahoma City 2002
- Lynn Riggs, Claremore (2003)
- Angie Debo (2004)
 - OSU Library
 - Marshall Community
- John Berryman, McAlester Library (2005)



Woody Guthrie was the first Oklahoma Literary Landmark honoree in 2001. In 2009, a rededication ceremony was held and the plaque was installed.



John Hope Franklin dedication ceremony in Reconciliation Park in Tulsa was held on May 31, 2018.



- Sequoyah's Cabin near Sallisaw (2006)
- Will Rogers Memorial Museum (2007)
- John Joseph Matthews, Osage Museum (2009)
- Woodrow Wilson Rawls, Tahlequah Library (2011)
- Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel, Stroud Library (2013)
- Harold Keith, Norman Library (2015)
- Marquis James, Enid Library (2016)
- John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park (2018)

Important Changes

>>The deadline for the FOLIO Best Friends Awards has been changed to February 22, 2019.

>>The FOLIO Scholarship Awards application is also due on February 22. The amount of the four scholarships has been increased to \$600 each.

Applications for both at www.okfriends.net.

Flamingle & Book Sale

The **Friends of Grove Public Library** recently held a fun social event and book sale to raise funds for the library. The entire community got involved to help make this special event a big success.

- Grandwood Assisted Living provided delicious cookie refreshments.
- COS (Church of the Shepherd) provided tea.
- Two anonymous donors donated \$75 to cover refreshments and decoration costs.
- Three pizzas were donated to feed the volunteers.
- Many individuals donated books from their personal collections.

Book Sale

SUCCESS !!



- * **Books Sold**
- * **Guests became Friends of GPL**
- * **Everyone enjoyed refreshments & drinks**



Beautiful decorations, cookies, tea, fruit infused water, and fruit cups provided a festive atmosphere.



These ladies earned a free book for wearing a floral shirt to the Flamingle.

Coweta Friends Happenings

The Coweta Friends of the Library was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Arvest Foundation for use in our local library's children section. Although our library has had construction issues for the last 18 months, we expect to be ready to refurbish and enhance the children's section by early 2019.

Coweta Friends also participated in the annual "Trunk or Treat" on Main street and gave away candy, bookmarks and buttons. Our second book sale of the year will be Nov 5-9 at the Broadmore on Main Street. Our Librarian is Paula Emmons and our Chapter President is Kathy Cox.



People Move Books, Books Move People

On Saturday, November 3, a bookstore in Southampton, England, called October Books opened in its new location, which is a former bank building the bookstore had recently purchased. Getting the store's inventory from its old location, which was about 500 feet down the street to the new one, was accomplished by some 250 local volunteers who formed a human chain and passed the books from hand to hand.

October Books was founded in 1977 and has been a part of the Southampton community ever since, but rising rents in its old location led the owners to purchase a building of its own. Without the help of the community, that couldn't have

happened because there weren't funds available. So the bookstore launched a campaign over the summer to raise \$400,000 to buy its own space. This was done through donations, crowdfunding, and people who donated money as "loanstock." The shop will repay them the money that they've lent after one, five or 10 years, depending on the loan terms.

But funds were still tight when it came to moving, so the bookstore's operators put an announcement on Facebook asking for volunteers to help move stock. They said it would require heavy lifting and the moving would be happening throughout the week.



The store's staff hoped that 100 people would step forward. The first day, some 250 showed up, and rather than lug heavy boxes of books, the volunteers soon realized that there were enough people to form a human conveyor belt between the two locations. On Sunday, the first day of the move, 2,000 books were passed hand to hand. "It was just amazing," said Clare Diaper, an employee of the bookstore. "We started with 10 people having to run between shops and ended up with 250 people passing books." She added that she got "quite emotional" and found the level of community support "heartening." Others soon got into the action.

Nearby cafes brought cups of tea to the volunteers. Passersby and people at bus stops joined the chain.

"We had elderly people, children and everybody in between," said Amy Brown, another of the store's staff members.

The rest of the store's inventory, including more than 18,000 volumes and furnishings were moved by volunteers over the rest of the week, and the bookstore opened in its new location on schedule.

Little Free Library Creator Dies

Todd Bol, the creative force behind Little Free Library, died recently at 62. In 2009, Bol, a teacher, replaced the wooden door on his garage and decided to use some of the wood from the old door to build a small book-sharing box as a tribute to his mother, who had been a schoolteacher. He posted the two-foot square box in front of his house and stocked it with books that anyone was free to take and, if they wished, leave books of their own for others to take.

Other people who saw the box did something similar, and soon Bol formed the Little Free Library as a nonprofit endeavor.

Today, there are more than 75,000 Little Free Library boxes, each stocked with about 20 books, in operation in all 50 states and 88 countries.





You can assist 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 smile.amazon.com when you are ready to begin shopping.
- Select FOLIO as your charitable organization.
- Shop as you would normally.

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:

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$25 Friends Group Membership
- \$30 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: _____

The FOLIO Endowment was established in 2009 and is used to provide scholarships for support staff in libraries and to fund other special projects. Kirkpatrick Family Fund has provided matching funds for many years. Our goal for 2018-19 is \$6000 in gifts.

Gift to Endowment: _____

FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!

***Mail to Candace Baird, FOLIO Treasurer
P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT***

Need Help?

Call your FOLIO Ambassador

FOLIO Outreach Ambassadors are ready and willing to talk or consult with your Friends group.. We want to help you be successful and to 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

- Karen Neurohr
karen.neurohr@okstate.edu

Southeast

- Wayne Hanway
whanway8@gmail.com

Southwest

- Judy Haught
haughtjc@gmail.com
- Carla Garrison
cgarrison@cableone.net

Seed Grants



FOLIO has been making Seed Grants available to help get Friends groups started or reinvigorated since 1993. Sixty-two Seed Grants have been awarded to date.

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

The application and details are available on the FOLIO website—<http://www.okfriends.net>.

P. O. Box 702585
Tulsa, OK 74170

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

Friends of Libraries Week Displays



Grove Public Library Friends arranged a very elegant display.



Friends of the Will Rogers Public Library in Claremore chose a "Bee" theme to create a display to promote membership.

