

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT OKLAHOMA

the GREAT American READ

FOLIO is helping Oklahoma celebrate the Great American Read, a PBS television series and related activities that will explore the passion, power, and joy of reading through the lens of America's 100 best-loved novels. As part of the project, Americans will vote on their favorites from among the 100 titles, with the best-loved book revealed in the fall.

To celebrate this landmark reading event, Oklahoma Humanities and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries have joined with FOLIO and other partners 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* participation and submit a grant application to Oklahoma Humanities. Programs may be held in libraries from June through December, 2018.

FOLIO helped purchase the books for the reading and discussion programs. Other sponsors include the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, which is also contributing to book purchases, the Oklahoma Center for the Book, PBS, and OETA. Oklahoma Humanities funding will allow for up to 20 scholar-led discussion programs at libraries. Libraries may also borrow the books for reading and programs without soliciting grant funds for a scholar.

The four titles selected from the list of 100 for Oklahoma's participation include two novels by Oklahoma authors that blazed new trails in American literature: *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, the first novel by an African American to win the National Book Award, and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, a watershed work in young adult literature.

The other two titles selected by OH and ODL staff are classic novels from the past that have reemerged on bestsellers lists: *1984* by George

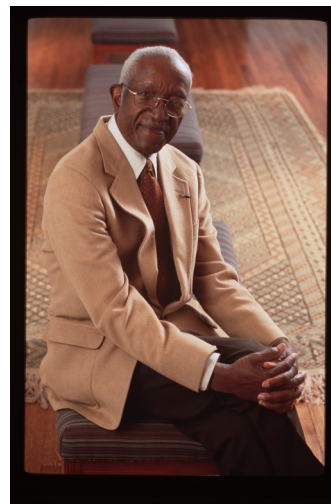
Orwell and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. The rise in popularity of authoritarian politics in western democracies have helped these two titles find new readers at this moment in time. In addition, *The Handmaid's Tale* has benefited from a Hulu series based on the novel.

"We think we have some fascinating titles for Oklahomans to read for the first time or to explore further," ODL Public Information Manager Bill Young said. "And it will be interesting to see how readers feel about these works in relation to the larger list of 100 titles. We thank FOLIO for helping to make this possible."

For more information about this special *Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma* program, visit greatreads.oklibraries.org.

For more information about *The Great American Read*, including how the 100 books were chosen and how to vote, visit www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read.

Dr. John Hope Franklin Literary Landmark



The newest Oklahoma Literary Landmark honors Dr. John Hope Franklin, an Oklahoma native, and the esteemed American historian, author, and journalist known for his scholarship that focused on Southern history and racial politics. His groundbreaking work, *From Slavery to Freedom* (1947)

set the stage for the creation of African-American studies in American colleges and universities. The work was continually updated and has sold more than three million copies.

(continued on p. 4)

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) Annual Report, 2017-2018 from the President



FOLIO was incorporated in 1998 when the Oklahoma Library Association adopted a major objective of establishing a state organization of Friends of Oklahoma Libraries. At that time, there were six local Friends groups in existence in Oklahoma in the cities of Tulsa, Purcell, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, Weatherford, and Lawton.

“Thank you” to the Oklahoma Library Association for their Resolution honoring FOLIO during FOLIO’s Fortieth Anniversary Year! FOLIO’s mission is strengthening libraries through Friends of Libraries, and we have had a great year!

FOLIO awarded four scholarships (\$500 each) to Hailey Carroll, Gail Currier, Sarah Davis, and Chloe Summers. We presented several Best Friends Awards: first place (\$500) to the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society, second place was a tie (\$250 each) to the Meeker Library Friends and Eufaula Library Friends, and honorable mention to the Love County Friends of the Library. For the third year in a row, FOLIO co-sponsored the Reading Roundup (Double R) Author Tour and young adult book author Alton Carter visited libraries in Claremore, Elk City, Stratford, Tecumseh, and Watonga, and children’s book author Cynthea Liu visited libraries in Miami, Tahlequah, Tonkawa, Tuttle, and Wister.

In October, FOLIO obtained a proclamation from Governor Mary Fallin designating the week of October 15, 2017 as Friends of Libraries Week in Oklahoma. We initiated two new awards for Friends of Libraries Week activities in Oklahoma and presented \$200 each to the McLoud Library Friends and Southwest Oklahoma City Library Friends. We began planning for Friends of Libraries Week 2018 which will be October 21-27.

FOLIO co-sponsored the Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest for rural high school students in Lincoln and Creek counties. FOLIO provided Outreach Ambassador visits to several library friends around the state. FOLIO funded two grants for Bev Hall from Meeker and Brook Oliver from Elgin to attend FOLIO’s workshop, “Dare to Be Friends,” which was attended by 21 people on April 23. FOLIO board member Wayne Hanway presented a program, “The Good, the Great, the Unfriendly” on April 24. FOLIO’s annual awards luncheon on April 24 featured Oklahoma author Rilla Askew.

FOLIO mailed four newsletters to hundreds of libraries, Friends of Libraries, individuals and state legislators, re-designed and launched the new FOLIO website, and maintained a Facebook page. FOLIO worked with Dr. Cecelia Brown and several graduate students from the OU-SLIS program to prepare FOLIO’s archives for transfer from the OLA office in Oklahoma City to the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater. FOLIO raised funds through membership fees and donations, and built the endowment with donations received from the annual Mothers’ Day Endowment Fundraising Campaign.

Working with the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, FOLIO planned for Oklahoma’s fourteenth Literary Landmark site and dedication. The dedication, in honor of the late Dr. John Hope Franklin, was held in Tulsa on Thursday, May 31, the anniversary of the Tulsa Race Riot/Massacre. Everyone was invited to meet at the corner of Archer and Greenwood Streets at 5:30 p.m. and march to the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park for the ceremony.

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Neurohr, FOLIO President, 2016-



Death by Chocolate in Ringling

The Friends of the Gleason Memorial Library’s annual fundraiser, Death by Chocolate, was held on February 11th and raised approximately \$1600. Every year the people in our community provide delicious chocolate desserts and for the last few years have added a selection of sandwiches and chips to make it more of a meal. The chocolate fountain and ice cream sundae tables add even more chocolate goodness!

The Ringling PTO sponsors an annual Book Poster Contest for grades 1 - 6 with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each class. The winning posters are displayed at the event and the PTO pays for each winner to attend Death by Chocolate. --Renee Yocum, director, Gleason Memorial Library, Ringling

FOLIO Honors Best Friends

Each year it is a pleasure for FOLIO to recognize the Friends groups which have shown exemplary efforts to support their library and community. It was especially difficult this year to single out a group to receive the John Harkey Best Friends Award because of the outstanding entries received from Friends in communities with a population under 10,000.

Since there were no entries for the Oklahoma Best Friends Award (for communities with over 10,000 population), the committee had the opportunity to honor more than one Friends group from the entries received. The John Harkey Best Friends (for communities with less than 10,000 population) was awarded to the Stilwell Public Library Friends Society for their impressive community outreach and their phenomenal 10-year fundraising effort, and their effort this past year was no exception. The result was the opening of the addition of a Children's/Teen Wing to their library, and Stilwell received a first-place plaque and a check for \$500.



Pictured l to r are Donna Boecher, Stilwell Friends Vice President, and Regina McLemore, Stilwell Friends Secretary.

With the additional funding available, a second-place category was created, and the vote of the committee ended in a tie. Second place was awarded to Meeker Friends of the Library and to the

Friends of the Eufaula Memorial Library, both with outstanding fundraising and programming efforts. These two Friends groups each received a plaque and a check for \$250.



Pictured l to r are: Bev Hall, Meeker Friends President; Diane Pennington, FOLIO Board; Gerry Hendon, FOLIO Board; and Mona Hatfield, Eufaula Friends member.



The committee also felt one more contender deserved recognition and awarded an Honorable Mention certificate to the Love County Library in Marietta for the numerous activities they have sponsored and funded in the community of 2,700. Lynn McIntosh, Executive Director, Southern Library System, (pictured at left) received the certificate.

FOLIO is proud of the efforts that Friends groups across the state make each year to support their local library.

Friends of Libraries make a difference!

—Sharon Douthitt, FOLIO Best Friends Committee Chair

Friends of the Library Week Awards



McCloud Friends of the Library were very creative in fundraising for the Library. They used National Friends of the Library Week to kick off their fall fundraising campaign which was dubbed —*Clear the Board by Christmas*. A board was covered with 50 tags, each with a number \$1 through \$50. Supporters took a tag off the board and made a donation. When all the tags were taken, the Friends had raised \$1,275 for the Library.

Clear the Board was debuted at the city-wide Chili Cook-Off and was displayed at the library surrounded by photos of activities the Friends helped fund. A delightful book display on Friends and Libraries accompanied the Board.

In addition, Friends Board members took the Board display to local civic meetings including the Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis, and *Clear the Board* was highlighted at library events, like the Ravenous Book Readers. This was a wonderful way to keep the Library and the Friends on the minds of both library cardholders and the larger community helping to drive the interest and membership dollars into our Friends group. Branch manager Wanda Haynes received the award and certificate at the FOLIO meeting.

—Megan Ellis, President, McCloud Friends of the Library

In the last *FOLIO Newsletter*, (Winter 2018) the Southwest Oklahoma City Library activities for Friends Week were featured. Branch manager Kelly Sitzman received the award and certificate at the FOLIO meeting.

More News from Around the State

Tulsa Rudisill Friends— Reenergized & Renewed



The Rudisill Friends hosted a Library Open House & Taste of North Tulsa and Holiday Resource Bazaar this past winter. Although the primary goal of the event was to increase community awareness of Library Services and technology upgrades, it also created an incredible opportunity to showcase the services and tasty dishes of local minority craft and food vendors. Additionally, the Bazaar was a major fundraiser for the Freddie Martin Rudisill Scholarship fund.

Following the smashing success (nearly 300 attending) of the 2017 Library Open House and Holiday Bazaar, the Friends group was reenergized with new members and renewed support from current members. This summer, the group will restart the Brown Bag Book Discussions, explore starting a Tulsa Suburban Acres Library Friends group, and provide training on new Tulsa City-County Library technology and African American Genealogy resources and databases for members to begin offering one-on-one assistance to learn how to do family research.

Other summer activities will include “Author Teas” to provide opportunities to share the talents and recent book publications of local authors such as retired Tulsa Public School librarian Diana Terry’s book, *A Penny Earned and Other Good Stuff*. And, due to overwhelming demand from satisfied Bazaar customers and vendors, the Rudisill Friends are currently working on a “new and improved” Holiday Resource Bazaar for November 4, 2018, so “SAVE the DATE”!

—Keith Jemison, Manager, Rudisill Regional Library, Tulsa

Author Visit at Pauls Valley



The Friends of the Nora Sparks Warren Library in Pauls Valley recently hosted a book signing for local author Andi Whitfield. The book is a collection of inspirational stories, and the event had an excellent turnout and was well received.

The week of May 21-25 the Friends of the Library had their second Brown Bag Book Sale. From our shelves of previously read books a patron could fill a brown paper bag with books for only \$5. The first one we had in January was very successful and a lot of fun.

Literary Landmark *(continued from p. 1)*

His other works include: *The Emancipation Proclamation*, *The Militant South 1800-1860*, *The Color Line: Legacy for the 21st Century*, and *Racial Equality in America*.

A beloved educator and a prolific author, Franklin (1915-2009) was awarded more than 130 honorary degrees by American colleges and university. He is recipient of the Oklahoma Center for the Book’s Arrell Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement, and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to an American civilian.

The Literary Landmark dedication was May 31 at the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park in Tulsa. This was the anniversary of the Tulsa Race Riot/Massacre.

Literary Landmarks are a national designation through United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. Oklahoma ranks third in the nation for the number of Literary Landmark sites.

Sponsors for the dedication were Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO), the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, the Oklahoma State University Library, and United for Libraries.

Stilwell Friends at Work



Stilwell's Art Show

Spring always brings new activity to the Stilwell Library Friends. We hosted the following programs in March: an active shooters safety course, a safe food handling class, and a Cherokee history tour, all of which were well-attended. During this time, some new shelves were ordered with money donated by Cherokee Nation, and we attended Cherokee Nation training sessions.

The members of the Stilwell Library Friends group are constantly looking for avenues to bring the community into the library. Since there are many artistic people in the Stilwell area, organizing an art show where they could display and possibly sell their work seemed like a good way to connect. No admission was charged, and participants were asked to bring their work to the library by February 21, so that it could be arranged for display at the show on February 23-24.

Those who wished to sell their work were asked to put a price on it. If an item sold, SPLFS kept ten percent of the selling price. Pieces submitted included handmade, collected, and purchased items. Browsers enjoyed the beauty of antique quilts, embroidered items from India and China, loom woven table runners, an assortment of crocheted items, and many other beautiful art objects, made from a variety of materials.

The major activity for April was the Spring Book Sale which netted approximately \$1300. We also provided refreshments for the attendees of a library certification class held in the library in April.



The highlights of the month included the recognition and money awards that we received from Adair County United Way and from FOLIO. United Way gave us a check for \$2,500, and FOLIO honored us with the John Harkey Best Friends Award, as well as a \$500 check.

We are very grateful for Cherokee Nation, Adair County United Way, and FOLIO for their support for our library's Summer Children's Reading Program and for other library programs and needs.

—Regina McLemore, SPLFS Secretary



Pictured l to r are Sarah Davis, Chloe Summers, Gail Currier and Hailey Carrell.

FOLIO Scholarship Winners

Scholarships were awarded to these four outstanding OU SLIS students at the annual Awards Luncheon on April 24.

Sarah Davis works at the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library, Tulsa, where she is implementing an early literacy-based Family Storytime, Family Play Workshops, as well as a Read and Play Group for caregivers to discuss books and other topics. "My next-step goals for my career are to provide programming and resources to children and their families while supporting Tulsa's growing Spanish-speaking community."

Chloe Summers is in the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program and plans to complete her MLIS in 2019, while working at the Norman West Public Library. She plans to become a successful children's and teen librarian. "I am passionate about creating a space that is safe and welcoming for all people while promoting a lifelong love of reading and learning."

Gail Currier is public information and marketing coordinator at the Southern Oklahoma Library System. "My personal experiences in this career have been gratifying and confirm to me on a daily basis why this profession is significant to populations of all sizes, income levels, and ethnicities."

Hailey Carrell works at the Moore Public Library and wants to serve in Youth Services. Carrell has found her graduate courses helpful for her work and her work experiences enhancing her knowledge. She is active in the student association and professional organizations.

Congratulations Future Librarians!

Write Letters to the Editor



In the last *FOLIO Newsletter* a detailed article gave information on how to write letters to the editor. You can view the last *Newsletter* at okfriends.net. Here are some examples of letters from library advocates that made the local editorial pages:

“Proposed budget would hurt libraries,” *The Salem (MA) News* -- One strength to highlight about this letter, written by Librarian Anna Tschetter, is her specific reference to how individual citizens will be affected by cuts: “local governments would have to bear the burden of coming up with the funds, or voters would lose access to critical services like job training, early literacy programs, homework help and free access to digital tools that many of us cannot afford at home.” The examples she uses include workforce training and digital tools – both of which are particularly compelling to Members of Congress because of their direct link to the economy. In addition, she calls for action by asking her “members of Congress to show their support by ensuring that IMLS is funded.”

“Support libraries,” *The Daily Courier (Prescott, AZ)* -- Anthony Zades’ letter mentions his members of Congress by name: “I hope that Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, as well as Representative Paul Gosar will also agree with the ALA and me.” The fact that he uses their names is significant because staff scan news clips for specific mentions of the congressperson’s name – so we can be 95% sure that the Congressmen actually saw Anthony’s letter the very same day it was published.

The News-Courier (Athens, AL) included Paula Laurita’s letter that gets at the bottom line for budget-conscious Congressmen: “Libraries...deliver one of the best returns on investment for tax dollars.” She includes a brief yet powerful anecdote: “One such person had just left an abusive marriage. She enrolled in her library’s computer classes, resume’ class, and interview skills class. With her new knowledge she was able to find full-time employment. She was able to support herself and her children. This wouldn’t have been possible without a grant from IMLS.”

Keep up the great work, and please tell the ALA Washington Office if you get published. They often share local media coverage of libraries when they go on Hill visits, and absolutely nothing is more persuasive to members of Congress and their staff than voices from back home. What’s more, you can amplify your own message by sending a link to your published letter in a personal email to your members of Congress.

—Shawnda Hines, ALA Wash. Office

The Good, the Great, and the Unfriendly: The Do’s, Don’t’s, and Possibilities of Library Friends Groups

The large majority of libraries, including many special libraries, either have a library friends group or need to have one, although some of them don’t need their friends group as it presently exists.

FOLIO’s annual program speaker was Wayne Hanway, retired CEO of the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma and incoming First Vice President of FOLIO and FOLIO ambassador to southeast Oklahoma friends groups. He presented a program based on the book *The Good, the Great, and the Unfriendly*, which draws on the experience of Sally Gardner Reed, former Executive Director of United for Libraries. He highly recommends that every Friends group have a copy of this book, available from the American Library Association.



The book covers such topics as what friends groups are, why your library should have a friends group, steps for setting up a friends group, how to deal with various problems that friends groups can have, and ways to keep your friends group productively busy. Friends groups may have many purposes—fundraising, connecting with communities, volunteering and recruiting volunteers, as well as advocating.

To begin a Friends group Hanway encourages looking for a core group and then agreeing on major priorities for the Friends. A Statement of Understanding and Bylaws should be developed. (Samples are available in the book.) Everyone can then focus on the Friends purposes and functions.

A recruitment campaign can be developed to encourage memberships, setting a goal, maybe 10 new members. Word of mouth actually works the best. Members’ enthusiasm infectiously gets other members. Hanway suggested that Friends establish a social media presence and talk with other community organizations. Friends have been pleasantly surprised about what synergy occurs when networking with other groups.

Have an organizational meeting, electing officers, approving the Statement of Understanding and bylaws, and collecting dues and donations.

Projects are only limited by your imagination – conduct a book sale, hold library programs, purchase library equipment, plan fundraising events, and look for something different to attract attention and interest.

Problems do occur. Refer to the Statement of Understanding, review library policies, use Reed’s book as a reference, or contact your FOLIO ambassador.



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 want to begin shopping.
- Select FOLIO as your charitable organization.
- Shop as you would normally.



**Thanks to
those who
taught us to
read!**

Is there someone in your life who helped you learn to read or who turned you on to books and reading?

Was it a mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, teacher, brother, sister, neighbor, friend or even your pet dog?

Have you wished for a way to acknowledge and honor that person?

We ask YOU to celebrate those who gave you the gift of reading by contributing to the FOLIO Endowment Fund and supporting the organization that assists Friends groups and libraries all over Oklahoma.

Mail to FOLIO, PO Box 702585, Tulsa OK 74170.

This contribution is made () in memory of or () in honor of:

Name _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

THANK YOU to the following friends who have made a contribution to the Endowment Fund for the 2018-19 campaign and have designated a special person in their life:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Margaret Collins | In memory of Betty Dobson |
| Dana Flora | In honor of Gerry Hendon |
| Cindy Friedemann | In memory of Bob & Pat Segal |
| Susan Gilley | In memory of Polly Clarke |
| Judy Haught | In honor of Keenan Haught |
| John & Vickie Kelley | In memory of Connie King
And Ola Mae Kelley |
| Angie Lewis | In memory of Sue Long |
| Angie Lewis | In memory of Eleanor Edmondson |
| Sharon Saulmon | In memory of Willa Mae & Cora Overman |
| Laurie Sundborg | In memory of Sadie Parks Lesch |
| Patsy Clifford | In memory of Patty Brandner |

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
douthittsharon60@gmail.com

Northwest

- Joe and Carol McReynolds
joemcreynolds@yahoo.com
- 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. 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. The Blackwell Public Library was awarded a seed grant at the FOLIO Board's April 2018 meeting.



P. O. Box 702585

Tulsa, OK 74170

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FOLIO

Established

in

1978

Celebrating 40 years

“Friends

Helping

Friends”

National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 21-27, 2018

It is time to begin planning your National Friends of Libraries Week activities, a chance to celebrate your Friends group, promote your library and gain memberships.

United for Libraries has ideas and sample press releases, public service announcements, and letters to the editor available at: http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek

FOLIO will again be awarding \$200 to two libraries for their outstanding activities. Some ideas are:

- Plan a special display, membership drive, or bookmark contest (why I love the library).
- Tell your city or campus officials how important the Friends are to the ongoing success of the library.
- Use this opportunity to convey to officials how the Friends raise money, promote the library, and volunteer in many ways.
- Have a theme: Make Friends with a Good Book, Thank you for Being a Friend, or Friends Roundup.
- Feature different library services each day of the week on Facebook.
- Have different programs each day.
- Serve a Staff Appreciation Lunch.

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The FINRA Investor Education Foundation is proposing continuance of financial literacy programs across the state for this next year.

Thanks to those libraries who have applied to be part of the 2018-19 events. We are covering the state. As of this writing they are:

Ada Public Library	Alva Public Library
Anadarko Community Lib.	Blackwell Public Library
DWR Community Lib. (Durant)	Miami Public Library
Public Library of Enid & Garfield County	
Newkirk Public Library	Okeene Public Library
Owasso Library	Piedmont Public Library
Nora Sparks Warren Library (Pauls Valley)	
Ponca City Public Library	Stroud Public Library
Gleason Mem. Lib. (Ringling)	Yale Public Library
Mabel C. Fry Public Library (Yukon)	
Stanley Tubbs Lib. (Sallisaw)	Wister Public Library

FOLIO has received a grant from FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association (*Smart investing@your library® Financial Fitness Series*) to provide financial fitness programs around Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries is a cooperating statewide sponsor.