

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

FOLIO Officers

Pres.—Wayne Hanway
 V-P—Open
 Sec.—Judy Haught
 Treasurer—Candace Baird
 Asst. Treas.—Gerry Hendon
 Immediate Past President
 - Sharon Saulmon
 Dr. Cecilia Brown
 Jon Douthitt
 Sharon Douthitt
 Eugene Earsom
 Carla Garrison
 Dr. Bill Hagen
 Teresia Harrison
 Lynne Murnane
 Dr. Karen Neurohr
 Diane Pennington
 Jeannine Spencer

Advisory Board

Connie Armstrong
 Dr. Bob Blackburn
 Hannibal B. Johnson
 Melody Kellogg
 Vicki Mohr
 Judy Randle
 Bruce Stone
 Michael Wallis
 Lisa Wells

Emeritus Board

Beverly Dieterlen
 Jennifer Greenstreet
 Robert Greenstreet
 Mary Harkey
 Carolyn Klepper
 Julia Brady Ratliff
 Tom Terry

Friends of Libraries in a Pandemic World

Let's Talk, Share, Listen!

Tuesday, Oct. 20,
 1:30 p.m.



What creative ways can Friends assist libraries in this pandemic world? Open discussions with Oklahoma Friends of Libraries on topics that will affect your libraries and your friends. All active Oklahoma friends are invited and urged to join the discussion.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yxabg3qe> for the free discussion and to receive an email confirmation with the Zoom discussion link.

Sponsored by FOLIO and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

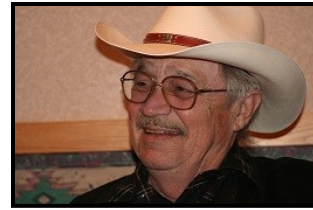


Q – Our Friends group has been inactive during the pandemic. Our librarian is asking for some financial assistance (less than \$1,000) and we have money (over \$10,000). We have no immediate fundraisers planned. What should we do?

A – In a time of change and uncertainty it can be easy to confuse what a Friends group is supposed to do.

A Friends group needs to have a clear understanding of what its purpose is. (*Check the bylaws.*) When the group was started, that should have been stated in an Operating Agreement between the Friends and the Library. If your group does not have one, it is not too late to create one, and it is never too late to update the one you have.

(continued on p. 2)



Robert J. Conley Literary Landmark

Dedication on
 Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00 a.m.
 Cushing Public Library,
 215 N. Steele Ave.

We are requesting that all attendees wear masks for this occasion.

You are invited by the Friends of the Cushing Public Library, the Cushing Public Library and FOLIO to be part of this special Literary Landmark dedication honoring Robert Conley.

Born in Cushing in 1940, Conley was a member of the Cherokee Nation and the author of over 80 books, short stories and poems. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his works, including the Western Writers of America's Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature in 2014. Conley, a Native American scholar, was the Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University at the time of his passing.

Conley attended high school in Wichita Falls, Texas and received a bachelor's and master's degree from Midwestern University. Conley was assistant program manager for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, director of Indian Studies at Bacone College, associate professor of English at Morningside College, coordinator of Indian Culture at Eastern Montana College, and instructor of English at Southwest Missouri University and at Northern Illinois University.

Conley's use of Native America protagonists was groundbreaking. Some of his best known books are *War Woman*, *The Dark Island*, *Sequoyah*, *The Cherokee Nation: A History*, and *Mountain Windsong: A Novel of the Trail of Tears*.

Plan to attend this special event.

From the President. . .



As this COVID-plagued year rolls into Fall, we are forced to take a candid look at the situation. Nothing has really happened to libraries or our country like this since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Several harsh truths have been revealed.

First, there were warnings that such a pandemic would occur. A couple of years ago, I read Sonia Shah's excellent book, *Pandemic*, and learned that there was no question.

It was a matter of when, rather than

if. Second, it caught our country unprepared, despite the warnings, which had been shrugged off and pooh-poohed. Third, the radical step of shutting most of the economy down did incredible and lasting damage. Fourth, the long-term effects of the virus on those who caught it and survived are likely to be severe and costly. Fifth, all kinds of important events have been cancelled, postponed, or greatly modified. And sixth, whatever becomes the new normal will be considerably different from the way things were before.

These realities have a number of implications for libraries, for library users, and for library Friends groups, including FOLIO. But those implications should be considered in light of what libraries have experienced and done this year. First, libraries had to close their doors for extended periods, but their online services boomed. Second, libraries found various other resourceful ways to serve their communities, with and without the help of technology. Third, library funding was cut, and recovery from many of the cuts is iffy, because of the serious economic damage to the tax bases from which they are funded.

So FOLIO is now embarking on a time when the libraries that library Friends groups support will have greater needs and, too often, less funding and other resources to help them serve their communities. Some of those needs are for new or expanded digital resources, equipment, and services. Other needs are for libraries' traditional needs, including books, staff, programs, and facilities.

This is a call to action on several fronts. It is a call for innovative fund raising. It is a call for volunteers. It is a call for library Friends, individually and together, to be passionate advocates for Oklahoma's libraries. It is a call for more library Friends groups in Oklahoma. And it is a call for more library Friends to be invited to serve on the FOLIO Board.

Librarians and FOLIO Board members, take a close look at your library's supporters. You all know people who could make valuable contributions as local Friends and on the FOLIO Board. But it won't happen unless you take the initiative and ask them.

Wayne Hanway, President

Ask a Friend

(continued from p. 1)

The purposes of Friends groups normally are:

1. To Raise funds and use them to benefit the library, responding to needs expressed by the library and agreed upon between the library and the friends group. In general, the Friends' purpose is to support the Library and especially to meet the needs that the budget just doesn't cover, which are best known by the librarian. Unless money is specifically being saved for an agreed-on capital project, a Friends group should spend most of its money each year in support of the library's indicated needs.
2. To Be an advocate for the Library, especially to local and state governments, but also to the community.
3. To Recruit volunteers for the Library, to be used as agreed by library staff.

The purposes, when carried out, will benefit the library and the community. and they will bring strong satisfaction to the Friends as they cooperate with the library and help the library.

For further information, an excellent resource is Sally Gardner Reed's book, *The Good, The Great, and the Unfriendly*, published in 2017 by United for Libraries. It is available through the American Library Association or Amazon.

—Wayne Hanway, FOLIO President

FOLIO Board Actions

At the August 2020 FOLIO Board Meeting actions:

- Affirmed the FY21 budget previously developed by the Executive Committee.
- Approved the nomination of Teresia Harrison as a FOLIO Board member.

Small and Rural Public Libraries

Small and rural libraries are critical links to information and resources in Oklahoma and across the nation. The Association of Rural and Small Libraries reports (Alison Marcotte, "By the Numbers: Rural and Small Libraries," *American Libraries Magazine*, 9/1/2020) that:

- 19 million Americans lack access to high-speed broadband internet. In rural areas, home to one-fourth of the nation's population, the digital divide hits the hardest, with approximately 14.5 million people lacking internet access.
- One third of the US public library buildings serve a population of 2,500 or fewer people.
- One in five people in nonmetro areas live more than six miles from a public library.
- 33% of US adults living in rural areas reported not reading a book in 2019, according to a Pew Research Center study. By comparison, 24% of adults in urban or suburban areas reported not having read a book last year.

News from Friends Groups Around the State

Operation: Summer Reads for Kids

FOLIO issued a challenge last spring to provide books for kids. An article published in *Social Science Research* found that raising kids “in a home filled with books positively impacts their future academic growth and job attainment...A book-filled home encourages a culture of reading for enjoyment and talking about books.” The study shows “literacy levels surging at 80 books.” Having books in the home helps “children build vocabulary, increases awareness and comprehension, and expands horizons.” Kids need books. —www.scholastic.com <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/study-finds-benefits-of-childs-home-library.html>

Elk City Friends Take the Challenge

The great Friends of the Elk City Library accepted the FOLIO challenge for “giveaway” books to children—from infants to high schoolers. The Friends had many book donations and worked with the librarians, the elementary school librarian, teachers and high school volunteers to select appropriate book levels. The books were given away to children when they picked up their school lunches in June and July. Each book had a bookmark to promote reading for free at the Elk City Carnegie Library, and encouraging children to continue to read during the summer.

—Judy Haight, Friends of the Elk City Library and FOLIO Board Secretary



Book Sale Fundraising Alternatives

The **Miami** FOL decided not to have a book sale this fall. Instead, they made children’s book bundles using discarded books and leftover treasure book items. They sold eight the first day!

The **Kern County (CA)** Library System is selling bundles of books on Facebook and sending them in the mail. Customers use Paypal or other online service to pay for the books and shipping. They can pick them up at the library, as well.

The **Okmulgee** FOL has grouped books for sale by genre in sacks. Buyers can reserve the bags then pick them up at the Library.



Pauls Valley Friends of the Library

Due to COVID-19 the Library was closed until August. Many programs were cancelled, including the very popular “Let’s Talk About It” series. With the limited number of patrons allowed in the library at a time, we are currently waiting to see what activities may be scheduled for fall.

During the quarantine many people cleaned out their bookshelves. As we have many books in our FOL book sale, we have priced them at \$1 per bag. They seem to be selling well.



During the time that the library was closed, we had a chance to work on our Memorial/Donor/Lifetime Member Tree. We still have many more leaves to add and plenty of room for new ones.

—Donna Love, Public Relations, Friends of the Pauls Valley Library

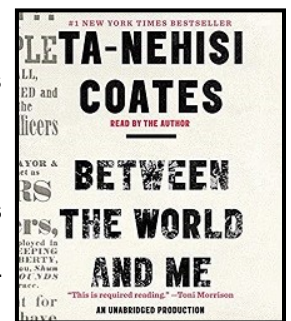
Summer Activities of the Friends of Rudisill Regional Library

Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library in Tulsa kept active this year through virtual programming. For many years we have sponsored a tour of Oklahoma’s historic all-black towns. This year our African-American Resource Center Coordinator, Alicia Latimer, planned a virtual Oklahoma all-black town commemoration. The film *Struggle and Hope* was shown and panelists made up of historians and author, Dr. Karla Slocum, held an informative book discussion and answered questions.

A virtual panel discussion highlighted Juneteenth, COVID-19 and the President’s Tulsa rally as crucial and telling events in the library community.

A Zoom book-and-a-bag discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Between the World and Me*, was held, which was primarily, but not exclusively, a Friends’ event.

The ability to continue programming with our Friends’ group and share experiences and fellowship has been wonderful!



—Sonya Wallace, Rudisill Regional Library, Tulsa City-County Library System

Libraries Need Friends

Friends of Libraries (FOLs) are needed now more than ever. FOLs around the state have been discussing what safe activities they can have to continue supporting their libraries. The library staff have many challenges and want to continue to serve their regular library customers as well as those in the community who have not been active library users. Libraries are offering a myriad of online resources - ebooks, audiobooks, videostreaming, streamlining kids access to digital resources, virtual programming, digital library cards, writing labs, tutorials, databases as well as traditional materials and services.

Now What?

Your FOL can meet virtually with library staff and decide library needs and fundraising needs. What does your community need? Do students need online tutoring? (Several services are available.) Are kids able to get to the library? Do they need books at home? (Book give-aways can help them catch the reading bug.)

Just because the traditional book sale may not be happening this year does not mean the FOL cannot do fundraisers. (See virtual fundraising ideas in the Spring 2020 *FOLIO Newsletter* at <http://www.okfriends.net/newsletter.html>.) Selling sacks or boxes of books, having online book sales, or conducting self-service honor system book sales are all possible if your FOL is still thinking of book sales.

Connectivity

With more people working from home and kids trying to have school at home, access to high speed internet is still a major barrier for disadvantaged and rural areas. (Some children are trying to do their school work on cell phones.) Libraries have been addressing this, as they can, with WiFi extended to the parking lots or available in mobile units in remote locations.

When the Oklahoma Library Association's Public Library Division met last month via Zoom their number one request was for hotspots. Some Friends groups have purchased hotspots for their libraries to make WiFi available in remote locations or for check out. They recommend PCs for People's hotspots for \$80 at <https://pcsrefurbished.com/sales/buyInternet.aspx?product=6637>. Unlimited usage for one year costs \$180.

The drawback is that it is provided by Sprint, which may not be widely available in rural areas. Of course, Friends will need to check with their librarians and with compatibility. The Southern Oklahoma Library System has used these successfully.



Contact Your Legislators

Now is the best time to build relationships with your legislators. Legislators and potential legislators are open to listening to your priorities and support for literacy, education and lifelong learning. Let them know how important libraries are as the heart of the community. (Make sure they have a library card and let them know enthusiastically about library services.)

Legislators are impressed by cooperative efforts.

- Libraries are working with local schools and technology centers in providing resources, online tutoring, WiFi access, and/or computers to students, and much more.
- Libraries are working with businesses and job seekers in providing resources, databases, computer access, test assistance, résumé building, training, and more. Contact your legislators.

At a recent webinar one Florida FOL member discussed their Advocacy Committee. (By the way, he said if your FOL does not want to do advocacy, then form a new group who will. This is an essential function – to have members of the public working with decisionmakers and asking for library funding.) The Advocacy Committee meets with the librarian each January to develop its focus for new library funding for the year. This year they selected digital resources. (Great timing, right?) They planned their talking points to the city leaders. When the pandemic came about, they changed their focus to ask their advice on how to get more funding. In individual telephone conferences, all the leaders were very supportive and said to keep asking.

Communicate

Friends should help the library engage with the community. Discuss your library's priorities with the librarian and help connect Friends' resources or community resources to accomplish those goals.

Friends should engage each other. Have you checked on your FOL members? Let them know the library's services or service adaptations that they may still use.

Friends should tell donors about the enhanced charity deductions of the CARES Act. On March 27, Pres. Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help combat the far-reaching impacts of COVID-19. The bill increased tax incentives for charitable giving for both individuals and corporations, signifying an intent to stimulate philanthropy throughout America. The CARES Act allows individual tax filers, even if they take the standard deduction, to deduct charitable giving donations up to \$300 for the 2020 federal tax returns. Those filing jointly will get to claim deductions up to \$600. The change is in effect for individual charitable giving through December 31, 2020.



Libraries Need Friends (cont'd)

Friends can share their love of the library and reading wherever they are – in the grocery line or at a meeting. Have your “elevator speech” about the library ready to share your love of the library and its resources.

Friends can encourage book sharing. Little Free Libraries have been very popular during this time of distancing, providing access to books in neighborhoods. If the Friends help stock little libraries, be sure to include books for children representing different cultures. Now numbering over 100,000 worldwide, see more information at littlefreelibrary.org.

Tell Your Library Story

Friends have multiple stories of library information, motivation, and inspiration to tell. Friends’ mission, organizational history, programs, fundraisers, and more can be shared with members, volunteers, donors, foundations, journalists, library customers, general public, and community partners. The Friends’ story will attract, build interest, create awareness, evoke empathy, and inspire action.

Look beyond the traditional ways of communicating (flyers in the library or emails to Friends members). Social media, educational and business partners, messenger services, videos, and charity information sites (like GuideStar) can all be part of your FOLs ecosystem to tell the FOL story.

Reframe the library message during the pandemic. Tell how the library and Friends have pivoted to develop and deliver new services or fundraisers, to reach additional people in the community, or to have more efficient services.

Share stories about the library locally, statewide, and nationally. Friends love to share ideas and successes. Take photos and pass on to your local media, the librarian to distribute or to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the American Library Association. Remember to send to the *FOLIO Newsletter* editor.

Fundraising Ideas

If you repeat fundraisers each year, you may want to try new fundraisers that will captivate potential donors and inspire them to give.

If your library needs a new walkway, **selling bricks** will spruce up the library and offer a way for donors to have their names (or someone they want to honor or memorialize) permanently at the library. A major campaign like this lends itself to social media, city water bill inserts, local tv/radio and newspapers. Many people are drawn to “capital” projects.

Coupon books are an effective way to work with community business partners and earn money. Work with local businesses to develop discount coupons. Once you have the participants, print the coupon book and sell. (Be sure to have expiration dates; so everyone will want one next year.)



Create a **Wall of Money**. Label colorful envelopes from \$1 - \$100 and place them on a wall to grab people’s attention. Passersby (in this high traffic area) select an envelope, place the amount in the envelope, and put it back on the wall. The total amount raised will be \$5,050, if all the envelopes are filled.

Frisbee Tournament (or any casual sport) will lure active teens and adults. Charge for registration of teams or individuals with a bracket board already set up and watch the action. Provide water and snacks.

Battle of the Sexes – A friendly competition with two drop-off boxes for change contributions will pit men against women. Keep everyone updated about the progress in supporting the Friends.



Online cooking class will inspire books of all ages. Ask a local chef to volunteer to teach the class. Those who register for a small charge will receive a list of ingredients needed for the session and a link to the class.

Scavenger Hunt allows Friends to tailor the hunt to their audience – children or young adults. Select a theme (for example, Christmas: candy cane, pine limb, ornament), have participants register in groups, create a sizable but attainable list to locate. Winners receive prizes.

Car Smashing fundraiser will be a hit with teens. Ask a junk yard to donate a car. (All of the dangerous parts and liquid should be removed.) Have safety glasses and metal bat or sledgehammer. Participants may pay by the swing or for a minute of mayhem.

Photography Contest may encourage people of all ages to submit their work. Think of a theme – Our Town, Pets, etc. Provide prizes. Have people vote for the winner(s) with donation jars.

Talent Show (virtual or in-person) Show off people’s unique skills (magic, comedy, musicians). Stagger types of performances. Sell tickets. If in-person, bagged snacks and bottled drinks may be sold. Advance advertising will help with attendance.

Paper Airplane Competition in a parking lot or park will bring some unique designs. Have colorful paper for their signed creations and marvel at the unique designs. You may tape off squares and give prizes for the one who lands the prize in the square or the plane that flies the farthest. Prizes could be a restaurant gift card or trophy.



—fund2orgs.com/unique-fundraising-ideas-guide

Hall of Fame Laurel Wreath Award - 2020



Sharon and Jon Douthitt were selected as this year's honorees for the FOLIO Hall of Fame Laurel Wreath Award. This is the highest level of recognition given for exceptional leadership and service to FOLIO.

Sharon and Jon have dedicated 13 years to the FOLIO Board in many different roles. Sharon

served as president, (which was an eight-year commitment on the FOLIO Executive Committee) and she has served as chair on several FOLIO committees (Nominating, Hall of Fame and Best Friends). Sharon is currently chair of the Endowment Committee, serving in that capacity for several years.

Jon was on the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board for five years and served as chair one year.

Jon and Sharon are Ambassadors for northeastern Oklahoma. They visit with and consult with Friends groups and library staff across the region. Their leadership and willingness to assist FOLIO in many capacities has helped make FOLIO into the statewide organization it is today. Our endowment has grown exponentially, and Friends groups have been strengthened through their talents.

When receiving the award, Sharon humbly said, "Thank you for this award. You know nothing is accomplished alone. – It takes a FOLIO village!"

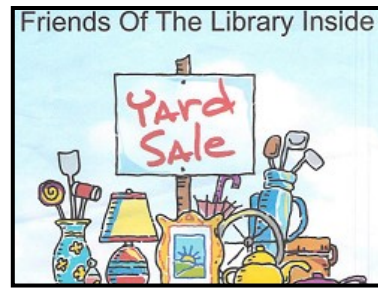
Congratulations, Sharon and Jon!

Best Friends Awards

Each year FOLIO recognizes two Friends of Libraries that demonstrate exemplary success in support of their local library. The **John Harkey Best Friends Award** recognizes a Friends group serving communities with less than 10,000 population. The **Oklahoma Best Friends Award** recognizes a Friends group serving communities with more than 10,000 population. This year no submissions were received for the Oklahoma Best Friends Award. Two excellent applications and scrapbooks were submitted from **Meeker** Friends of the Library and **Stilwell** Public Library Friends Society. The Committee was delighted to award two John Harkey Friends Awards for their excellent scrap books and applications. Each received a check for \$500 and a plaque.

Stilwell Public Library Friends Society

Stilwell PLFS had two book sales and three garage sales, logging over 1200 volunteer hours to support the library. Friends sent a letter to teachers and invited classes to the Book Sale. Children were invited to select a book for \$.25, but were given a book, if they did not have money. They worked with many local groups to support the Library: United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, the Cherokee Nation, Masons, Northern Oklahoma Regional Alliance, retired teachers, Ozarks Electric and others.



They had many active volunteers, including PLFS members, the Stilwell Street Department, youth and the Fire Department.

Stilwell Friends held several programs at the library in conjunction with city and community partners: a discussion on

Active Shooters, City Code Enforcement, developing succession leadership, and other relevant topics.

Their advertising and funding emphasized the Summer Reading Program and building upkeep (flooring, shelving, acoustical panels) which otherwise would have been delayed due to the library system's monetary restraints. Monies were allocated for a digital sign (to promote events and programs) and for landscaping. Books and magazines were distributed to hospitals, women's shelters, community centers, senior center, breast center, children's cancer center, and an English as Second Language literacy workshop.

Meeker Friends of the Library



The Scrapbooking Committee (Donna Weber, Ida Smith, and Tama Provence) presented the check and plaque to FOL President Nancy Weaver. The plaque may be seen at the library along with the 2020

scrapbook and other scrapbooks from previous years.

Meeker FOL had a very busy year. In April they had a Bean Supper at the Masonic Lodge and were given \$4700 in matching funds. The group ambitiously published a cookbook and by the end of the year had raised \$400 over the cost with more to come. The Friends participated in the citywide garage sale and, with donated items, books, cookbooks, and quilt raffle, raised \$900.

Flyers for ebooks were made and distributed, which resulted in a 10% increase in library patrons signing up for a library card to get the new service. They supported the summer reading programs each Wednesday with a five percent increase in participation last year. They held programs throughout the year, including a cookbook recipes tasting and sales event They sold 33 cookbooks and several new FOL memberships.

In September a Big Bunco party was held with 65 attending the chicken dinner. Items were raffled and door prizes given. A total of \$1,450 was raised to support the 2020 Summer Reading Program. The Friends participated in the citywide Pumpkin Festival, selling books to purchase new books for the library. In December a Bake Sale raised \$900 with baked goodies, books, a quilt raffle and cookbooks.

(continued on p. 7)

Best Friends Awards (cont'd from p. 6)

The Meeker Friends had a float in the Christmas parade and gave out children's books and candy. Their membership drive increased their membership by eight percent. Meeker Friends have always actively participated in FOLIO annual meetings and shared their enthusiasm for libraries.

Best Friends Awards—2021

Congratulations to both of our Best Friends Award winners for 2020. Reading about all of their activities is definitely inspiring. Grab some of their ideas and make them your own group's jumping off points for submitting your Best Friends Award applications by January 15, 2021. Find out more at http://www.okfriends.net/Best%20Friends%20application_2021.pdf.

Share How Your Friends Group Has Continued to Support the Library in 2020.

Welcome, Teresia!

Teresia Harrison is the newest member of the FOLIO Board. (She says that she doesn't have photos of herself. She's pictured with her 17-month-old granddaughter Bennie.)



Teresia has an M.Ed. and loves every minute she has worked in libraries. In August she became the librarian at the Chandler-Watts Memorial Library in Stratford. She had previously been Director of the Institute of Math and

Science Education at East Central University for three years, creating a STEM education program which trained over 3,000 educators and 350 education students and provided outreach to over 1,200 K-12 students. Teresia was previously director at the Stratford library and helped establish an active and supportive Friends of the Library as well as led some library renovations. Other experience includes being a high school science teacher at Stratford Schools for 16 years and Konawa Schools for three years. Welcome, Teresia!

My favorite things are libraries and bicycles. They both move people forward without wasting anything. The perfect day: riding a bike to the library.

--Peter Golkin

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

- Karen Neurohr
karen.neurohr@okstate.edu

Southeast

- Dr. Bill Hagen
whagen41@gmail.com
- Teresia Harrison
teresiamharrison@gmail.com

Southwest

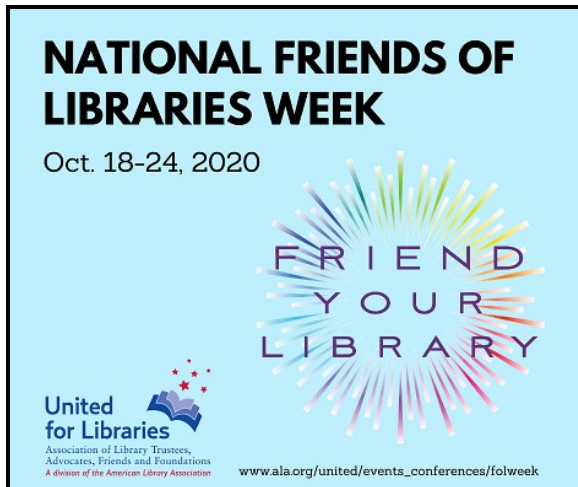
- Judy Haught
haughtjc@gmail.com
- Carla Garrison
cgarrison@cableone.net

Upcoming Dates

- Library Card Sign-Up Month - September (Info at ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card.)
- Banned Books Week - Sept. 27 - Oct. 3 (Info at ala.org/advocacy/books/banned.)
- TeenTober (previously Teen Read Week)
- Friends of the Library Week - Oct. 18 - 24 (Info at ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek.)
- Picture Book Month - November
- Friends of Library Week Award Deadline - Nov. 15
- FOLIO Scholarship Award Deadline - Jan. 15
- FOLIO Best Friends Award Deadline - Jan. 15

P. O. Box 702585
Tulsa, OK 74170

Return Service Requested



Honoring our Frontline Library Workers

Do you feel that your library staff and/or Friends group has done something exceptional in order to serve the community during this challenging time we are experiencing? FOLIO would like to honor the state's library staff and FOL volunteers in our next endowment fundraiser letter this fall.

Those dedicated to working to support the service the library provides are truly frontline workers, and the steps they have had to take in order to serve the public deserve recognition. Please email a brief article and a photo, if possible, by Oct. 5 that will showcase the efforts made to: Sharon Douthitt, FOLIO Endowment Committee Chair, at <douthittsharon60@gmail.com>. Thank you!

National Friends of Libraries Week

Plan your Friends of Libraries (FOL) celebration for October 18-24, 2020. In its 15th year FOL Week offers an opportunity to celebrate Friends, to promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership.

Ideas about using the sample proclamation, press release, public service announcements, op-ed letters and membership drive are available from United for Libraries, the national sponsors. Find more information at http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek.

Here's what some libraries have done for FOL Week:

- Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries had a business book review at a downtown brewery and a noontime library book review and update. The Friends gave \$3,000 for a local author mini-conference and Take Your Child to the Library Day.
- Friends of the Elgin Community Library also received last year's FOL Week award having a mayoral proclamation, mosaic installation in library, publicity blitz, special friends recognition in the newspaper, reception, fundraiser, and Halloween party.
- Friends of the Logan County (KY) Library had a drawing for gift baskets for library customers each day during FOL Week
- Stirling Road (FL) Libraries had a children's bookmark contest for different ages with Amazon gift cards for the winners.
- Friends of the Queens County ((MD) Library hosted an author panel discussion.

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma has two FOL Week Awards of \$200 to recognize local activities celebrating FOL Week. Friends groups must be FOLIO members to apply for the award. The award application is available at <http://www.okfriends.net/awards.html> and will be due November 15, 2020.

United for Libraries also has an FOL Week Award. Free graphics for social media are available with recommended hashtags #nfolw20 and #libraryfriends.