

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

FOLIO Officers

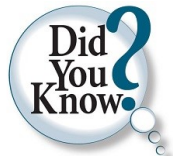
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Libraries Impact Wellbeing

Libraries are creating a healthier and more equitable America, according to a new study done by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Reinvestment Fund. *Understanding the Social Wellbeing Impacts of the Nation's Libraries and Museums* multi-year study found the presence and usage of public libraries and museums to be positively associated with multiple dimensions of social wellbeing - in particular, community health, school effectiveness, institutional connection and cultural opportunity.

Libraries and museums are trusted institutions, safe spaces and a place to access critical public health, social services, and technology resources. They reflect what happens when inclusion and belonging are prioritized. They are indispensable connective tissue that keeps healthy communities together.

Highlights from the study include:

Libraries and museums are increasingly critical actors supporting social service provision in the communities they serve. Some libraries are stepping into gaps left by depleted, or absent, public sector supports for education, public health, and social services. The roles they are taking on to fill these gaps often stretch their organizational capacity and missions in an effort to address resident needs.

Libraries and museums are trusted institutions in their communities and places people go to get information they know is reliable. They are places people go to meet other

(continued on p. 3)

Getting Preschoolers Ready2Read@YourLibrary

Before the pandemic libraries were invited to respond to a survey from the Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries and FOLIO on preschool programming and interest in a statewide project.



Valerie Kimble, storyteller extraordinaire and retired librarian, heard the results of that survey and asked to volunteer to visit libraries whose staff or volunteers needed assistance in planning

and conducting story times that will maximize young children's reading readiness skills. She is contracting with FOLIO to visit libraries to conduct a story time and train staff or volunteers to utilize a variety of resources to maximize early literacy skills.

Reading to babies and preschoolers is so important in the children's development of reading readiness skills. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries will furnish library materials and professional resources for the project. FOLIO will assist Friends and volunteers on ways to extend information sharing and readiness skills with parents and caregivers.

If your library would like to be considered for participation, please contact Sharon Saulmon, ssaulmon@yahoo.com.



Q - I always hear people say that Friends are advocates. But, realistically,

what can we do?

A - Friends ARE advocates. Libraries need advocates for multiple reasons.

(continued on p. 2)

From the President. . .



October 17-23 was Friends of Libraries Week. For FOLIO, the week had two special highlights. One was our second online Town Hall meeting, which drew two dozen people statewide to discuss the challenges and questions Friends groups and libraries are dealing with. The second highlight was the afterglow from the October 15-16 Retreat and Board meeting that was held at St. Crispin's

Conference Center and Camp.

The online Town Hall meeting reflected a changed attitude from the first meeting, which we held during Friends of Libraries Week in 2020. One of the lessons we have learned from 2020 is that we can't just close the doors, wait for the pandemic to subside, and resume business as usual. Friends groups and libraries have had to do much rethinking and adapting so that we can stay in business serving our communities. For one thing, the success of virtual meetings and programs, e-book lending, and restructured approaches to book sales means that some of what we will be expected to do in the future is going to be different.

For Friends groups and libraries, one thing that means is that frequent communication and sharing of ideas is absolutely necessary so that plans can be developed and tried out. Please ask yourself when was the last time your Friends group and your library's leadership got together to brainstorm and plan.

Also, we must be listening to what Friends groups and libraries around the country are doing, and listening to people in our communities to find out what they want, and also what they would like to do to help the library. That's one of the best ways to recruit new Friends members: just ask them what they want to do to help.

Among many things discussed at the retreat was advocacy. One of the most important things friends of libraries can do is be advocates for their libraries and also for their Friends groups. A suggestion I made is that Friends groups have an "elevator speech" contest every now and then at your meetings. In case that expression is new to you, an "elevator speech" is a very short—typically 30 to 40 seconds—talk you do to persuade someone you are standing close to. Every Friends group member needs to practice doing elevator speeches about their library and about their Friends group. It's a great tool for persuading both friends and strangers

that the library is one of the community's most valuable assets and deserves their support and help.

While you are being an advocate for the library and for the Friends group, don't forget to also be an advocate for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. They provide a wide variety of valuable services to and through Oklahoma's libraries, from summer reading workshops to interlibrary loan, online databases, assistance with E-Rate applications and many more. Tell your legislators about them and the difference they make to your library and your community.

It's not too soon to be looking forward to and marking your calendar for the 2022 FOLIO/Oklahoma Library Association annual conference, on March 9 – 11 at Tulsa's Hyatt Regency Hotel. FOLIO's day will be Friday, March 11.

Wayne Hanway, President

FOLIO Board Actions

- * The FOLIO Endowment appeal is being mailed this month. Your support makes the FOLIO support staff scholarships possible. Kirkpatrick Family Fund will provide a matching grant when our goal is met.
- * Approved the Ready2Read@yourLibrary contract with volunteer Valerie Kimble.
- * Programs planned for the FOLIO Annual Meeting in conjunction with OLA include - on March 11 author Traci Sorell, Health and Literacy with Nature, Online Book Sales, and Adult Literacy (on Thursday, March 10).

Ask a Friend (continued from p. 1)

Assist with telling others about library resources, activities and services available at the library. Word of mouth is one of the most effective ways to tell others about the library,

Prepare your 30-second elevator speech about the library. Personal stories are wonderful, making the information real to the listener.

Positively suggest perceptions of the library to the library director. Library staff are at the library every day and lose sight of how the public sees the library (cluttered bulletin board, overgrown landscape, poor signage, etc.) Discuss possible solutions. Perhaps Friends can help.

Visit with local leaders about the positive impact of the library on people's lives and the needs of the library.

Encourage local legislators to support the library. Invite them to the library. Stay in touch with them, maybe by sharing information about their interests (education, literacy, books). Let them know who you are so that when there are issues to address, they will know you and listen.

Familiarize yourself with the basic tenets of library service: Library Bill of Rights - www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill and Freedom to Read - www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement.

FOLIO Board Retreat

The FOLIO Board met at St. Crispin's for the bi-annual planning retreat and board meeting.



On Friday (pictured above left to right) Jackie Kropp, Director of Library Development, and Melody Kellogg, Director, both of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, shared the current library issues and how important Friends are to helping libraries serve their communities.



The FOLIO Board appreciates the assistance of all who made the retreat possible - St. Crispin's, Wayne Hanway, and the Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries.



The evening FOLIO Retreat activities included a game of *Library/Book Jeopardy*, developed by FOLIO President Wayne Hanway. Winners were (left to right) Sandra Austin, Melinda Howard and Champion Bill Hagen.

Libraries Impact Wellbeing

(continued from p. 1)

people, learn new things, engage with collections, and to enjoy themselves. Libraries serve as a "third place" where people congregate outside of home or work in informal ways that build community.

Libraries are catalysts in their communities to promote racial equity and inclusion. They are highly networked in their communities, widely perceived as trusted, and hosts to diverse populations.

Libraries and museums are critical components of institutional and social networks. These are often indispensable resources for local residents. The value these institutions provide flows from the people: learning new things, engaging with collections, and enjoying themselves. Libraries serve as a "third place" where people congregate outside of home or work in informal ways that build community.

Museums and libraries have transcended their historical roles to become institutional vehicles for social and culture inclusion.

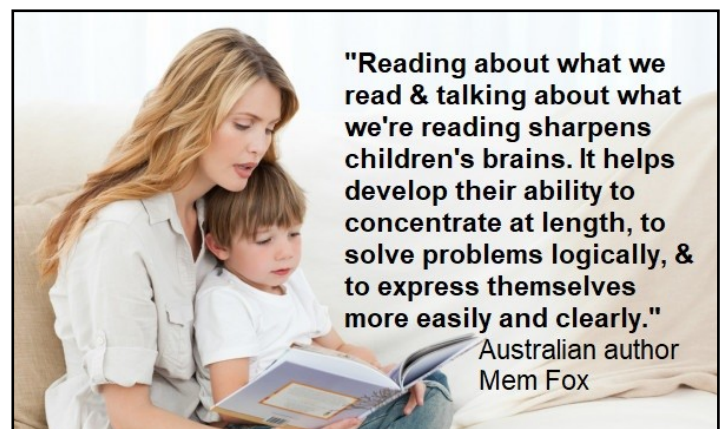
Find the full report at imls.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/swi-report.pdf.

Highlights of the FOLIO Board Retreat

Friends are encouraged to stay aware of changing priorities.

- Services responding to shifting needs.
- Workforce development as a role for libraries.
- Rural broadband is important for statewide connectivity.
- Preparation for the next disaster and explore best practices.
- Technology integration is more prevalent in library services.
- Reimagining infrastructure.

Friends need to continue sharing the purpose of libraries, standing for the right to read, and encouraging library staff.



"Reading about what we read & talking about what we're reading sharpens children's brains. It helps develop their ability to concentrate at length, to solve problems logically, & to express themselves more easily and clearly."

Australian author
Mem Fox

News from Around the State

Helmerich FOL Book Sale Starts Now



The Friends of the Helmerich Library, Tulsa, have recently opened an ongoing Book Sale area at the Peggy V. Helmerich branch library, in lieu of their traditional Annual Book Sale held in April.

It is similar to the ongoing sales that libraries such as Tulsa Hardesty Regional Library operated Pre-Pandemic, but in this case, the Friends replenish the shelves and collect the money themselves.

The proceeds go to accommodate grant requests from any and all branches of the Tulsa City-County Library and are used for programs, events, supplies, and various needs requested by librarians.

Books from all genres and all age groups are available, as well as CDs and DVDs. Suggested donations are listed at the site. The library is located at 5131 East 91st Street near Yale in south Tulsa.

The Friends are taking requests from shoppers regarding what they would like to see more of on the sale shelves. Have a favorite author? Love mysteries? Need a cookbook or want to grow your knowledge of history? Write it on a comment card and they will provide. Readers will have a wide variety to choose from. Collectors' items will be reserved for the next traditional sale.

The Book Sale is self-service and operates on a CASH basis. Change is not available from librarians. You may shop during regular library hours – Monday through Thursday 10:00 to 8:00, Friday 10:00 to 6:00 and Saturday 10:00 to 5:00. They are closed on Sunday.

We are confident that the CDC Guidelines being followed by the Tulsa City-County Library System will allow an in-person, in-house mega-sale in the spring of 2022. Many patrons have asked about the possibility and are anxiously waiting for this favorite event to return.

The Friends of Helmerich are eager to provide an outlet with a multitude of merchandise for all ages, which will in turn provide grant money to the city-wide library branches in Tulsa and Tulsa County.

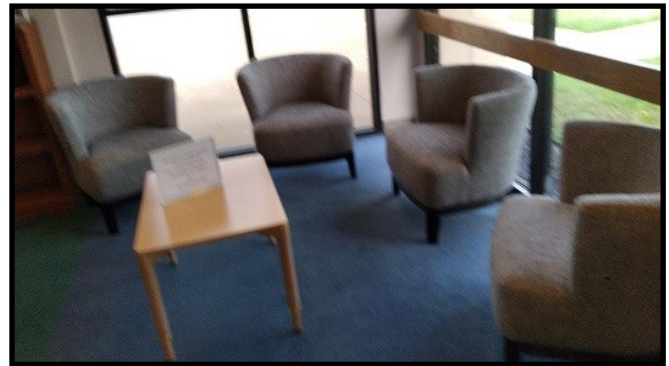
Masks and social distancing are requested. We hope to see you soon in south Tulsa.

Sherry Spurrier, President,
Friends of the Helmerich Library

Friends Provide Furniture in Coweta



The Coweta Friends of the Library have been busy! Over the summer new furniture was purchased for the children and teens sections as well as a rug and bookcase, shown in the photographs.



In August, a "Back to School" evening sale promoted children's, algebra, science, history, arts and geography books. In September, a new game that teaches children as young as three to play chess was purchased. The librarians hope to promote chess tournaments for all ages this fall and winter.

In October, the Friends helped with supplies for a STEM science and learning program that will be coming to the library soon. The next book sale will be in late November. We appreciate the City of Coweta for a great job in supporting the Coweta Public Library and the Friends of the Library.

Coweta FOL just received \$3,125 from Arvest Bank for children's area improvements.

—Angela Hetherington, President, Coweta FOL

"Reading is an act of civilization; because it takes the raw material of the mind and builds castles of possibilities." --Ben Okri

FOLIO Town Hall Meeting

Those who attended the Town Hall Zoom meeting on October 20 heard many wonderful stories about Friends' past and upcoming activities around the state. Represented libraries included Lawton, Elk City, Enid, Claremore, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, McAlester, Sapulpa, Stillwater, Blackwell, and more. We appreciate the Oklahoma Department of Libraries providing the Zoom room for us.

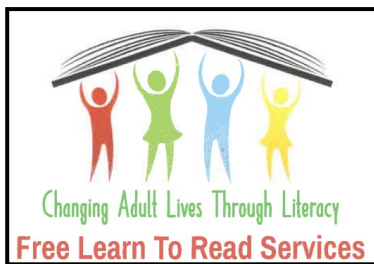
Friends of the Library of Enid is planning a Book and Bake Sale in December and a Murder Mystery fundraiser. **Friends of the Blackwell Library** is trying to activate the Friends group. **Friends of the Will Rogers (Claremore) Library** reported ongoing book sales in the library.

Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries reported that their online programming has continued - Books Sandwiched In. These are weekly and available via Zoom. Books were given to all area Title 1 Schools.

Friends of the Elk City Carnegie Library has sponsored virtual author visits to elementary schools. Follow-up activity suggestions were made available for the teachers and students.

Friends of the Sapulpa Public Library sponsored the S.T.E.A.M. Con Steampunk Pop Culture Convention as a fundraiser on October 30. Funds will be used for the summer reading, equipment for the library makerspace, and adult book talks. This event was pretty incredible. The street was blocked with lots of activities - food trucks, inflatables, Touch a Truck, vendors, scheduled events, plus more.

Lawton Friends Support Programming and Services



Friends of the Lawton Public Library are volunteering and offering Adult Literacy Classes and materials. One-on-one tailored learning support is available. They are also supporting English as Second Language and

Citizenship services. "Unite Us" is a new multi-agency cooperation to work together to support the complex needs of local individuals and families. The network contains partners who provide a broad range of services (housing, employment, food assistance, behavioral health, utilities, etc.), including the Friends literacy services.

Lawton Friends have also funded equipment for library patrons to convert their old media to digital format. The Digital Memory Center provides

scanning from different media and converting negatives, slides and home movies to digital.

The Friends helped fund and volunteered for the weeklong 2021 Oklahoma Chautauqua - "20th Century Visionaries: Catalysts for Change." Historical re-enactors included Marshall McLuhan, Marie Curie, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Gene Roddenberry. Lectures were available throughout the week. The Friends work with many community organizations to make this a successful project. Find out more about their Chautauqua at: [www/lawtook.gov/departments/library/events-classes/chautauqua](http://www.lawtook.gov/departments/library/events-classes/chautauqua).



The Library is sporting a new look after Friends of the Lawton Public Library commissioned local artists, Darry and Terry Shaw (brothers), to paint a mural to enhance the Library's storage building. The mural incorporates the word "library" with each character interwoven with literary characters, ranging from classics such as Frankenstein and the Lorax, to present-day hero Harry Potter to Wonder Woman from graphic novels.

The Friends had a lunch celebration in July to introduce the artists. In November patrons are invited to take a photo in front of the mural and watch the "Wonder Woman" (1984) movie while enjoying snacks.

Shawnee Friends Book Sale

Shawnee FOL had great volunteers for their successful Book Sale in October.



News from Around the State

SPLFS Book Sale



The Stilwell Public Library Friends Society (SPLFS) recently held a much-anticipated book sale at the Stilwell Public Library. Offering a large variety of books in many different genres, at very economical prices, the sale attracted young and old alike.

Customer Nila Mink, pictured on the left, bought two boxes of books and

told the editor of the local newspaper, "My retirement dream is to sit on a lawn chair with my feet in the 'tadpole hole' and read books." She added, "It's important to support this group."

Cathy Unger, Vice President of SPLFS, pictured on the right, supervised the sale and helped customers find the kind of books they wanted. According to Cathy, "We have a little bit of everything. There are thousands of books in our sales. Proceeds are used to support the library to purchase whatever they need." Future plans include opening the Friends' used book store again so that readers can have more access to their favorite books and authors.

Regina McLemore, SPLFS Secretary

Meeker FOL Celebrates

Meeker held their Pumpkin Festival on October 2. (Pictured is a shopper trying to decide on a book.)

The Meeker FOL participated in the Scarecrow Contest and sold many children's books.

The City of Meeker proclaimed October 20, 2021 as Meeker Friends of the Library Day. On that day a basket of goodies was presented at the free drawing. FOL President Nancy



Weaver is shown with the winning couple.

Our major fundraiser was postponed until November 6. We have a large group of faithful volunteers who met to

plan and make this event so successful. Funds from this event will help with expenses for the summer reading program.

Donna Webber,
Treasurer, Meeker FOL



Metro Friends Successful Box Sale

The Friends of the Metropolitan Library System had a Buy The Box Sale, which was a huge success, selling out of most genres within the first hour. Board



members, volunteers, FOL members, and customers masked up on Saturday, September 11. Over 400 pre-packaged boxes of books were sold and \$7,125 was raised to help fund grants to the

Metropolitan Library System. In addition to selling boxes of books, they were able to lighten their inventory of games, puzzles, holiday and craft books. They appreciate everyone's support!

And, YES, the BIG book sale is planned for February 26 and 27. Find updated info on their Facebook page - okcbooksale.

Trunk or Treat in Ardmore

Friends of the Champion Public Library in Ardmore, of the Southern Oklahoma Library System, held a Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 29.



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.



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



- Picture Book Month - November
- FOLIO Scholarship Applications due December 30, 2021
- FOLIO Best Friends Awards deadline December 30, 2021
- FOLIO Board Meeting January 7, 2022
- FOLIO Newsletter deadline January 7, 2022
- Library Lovers' Month - February
- Take Your Child to the Library Day - February 5 (info on Facebook TYCLD)
- Okla. Library Association (OLA) Deadline for room reservations February 7, 2022
- OLA Conference, Tulsa, March 9-11, 2022
- FOLIO Annual Meeting, Tulsa, March 11, 2022

Gifts to the FOLIO Endowment

Fund make many things possible—story times, scholarships, cash awards, newsletters, prizes and more. . . .



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Amount of Contribution _____

This contribution is made

() In Honor of : OR () In Memory of:

Name _____

Please send an acknowledgment to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your entire contribution is tax deductible. Please make your check to FOLIO Endowment and send it with this card to: FOLIO, P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170 Or you can make your gift on our web page: <http://www.okfriends.net/support.html>.

Appeal letters for gifts to the 2021 Endowment Matching Grant have been mailed. The Kirkpatrick Family Fund has again challenged FOLIO to raise \$6000 this year which will be met with their gift of \$2000. Endowment funds continue to grow through the years as they are invested for long-term growth and eventually give back more than is put into them. Historically, a gift to our endowment will give back its full value to us within 13 years, and then continue to give even more! Your gift is literally the gift that keeps on giving. Gifts to endowment are a wonderful way to honor a loved one.

Through the new CARES Act charitable deduction, if you do not itemize your deductions, you can make a gift of up to \$300, or \$600 for a married couple, to our Endowment Fund that will be deducted prior to the calculation of your adjusted gross income.

Giving to our endowment fund ensures that FOLIO will have income to support our mission as long as we need it.

P. O. Box 702585
Tulsa, OK 74170

Return Service Requested

"It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books, which are your very own." --Arthur Conan Doyle



FOLIO Annual Meeting/ Oklahoma Library Association Conference March 9-11, 2022

Mark your calendar for this early March conference. FOLIO will be meeting on Friday, March 11. Because of this early date, hotel reservations and award deadlines have changed. Author Traci Sorell, Health and Literacy in Nature, Adult Literacy and Online Book Sales are planned programs. Program details will be in the Winter issue of the *FOLIO News*.

Hotel Reservations

Reserve your room for conference rates at the Tulsa Hyatt Regency before February 7, 2022. Reservations may be made at oklibs.org/page/annualconference.

Best Friends Awards

Each year FOLIO recognizes two Friends of the Libraries that demonstrate exemplary success in support of their local libraries. 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 of greater than 10,000 population. Your Friends group may apply if membership dues have been paid for the year

of the award. Information and application form are available at: www.okfriends.net/awards.html.

Deadline for submission of application is December 30, 2021. The deadline is earlier than previous years because the FOLIO Annual Meeting and Awards ceremony will be earlier at the Oklahoma Library Association Conference on March 11, 2021.

--Diane Pennington, Committee Chair

Scholarships

Four \$600 Support Staff Scholarships are available, named after two past FOLIO leaders Lillian Born Norberg and Mary Lou Atkinson.



Full or part-time employees of a public, academic, or special library in Oklahoma in the process of furthering their education are invited to apply. Tell us about your educational objectives and library career goals.

Scholarship awards will be presented at the annual FOLIO meeting on March 11, 2022. Find the application at www.okfriends.net/scholarships.html.

Please pass this information on to library staff at your local library.