

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

FOLIO Officers

Pres - Judy Haught
 Vice Pres - Angie Lewis
 Secretary - Pauline Rodriguez-Atkins
 Treasurer-Candace Baird
 Asst. Treas-Gerry Hendon
 Past Pres-Wayne Hanway
 Karen E. Alexander
 Dr. Bill Hagen
 Dr. Melinda Howard
 Terry Jordan
 Teresia Jors
 Dr. Karen Neurohr
 Niki R. Powell
 Linda Pye
 Sharon Saulmon

Advisory Board

Connie Armstrong
 Dana Belcher
 Natalie Currie
 Hannibal B. Johnson
 Judy Randle
 Bruce Stone
 Trait Thompson
 Michael Wallis
 Bill Young

Emeritus Board

Beverly Dieterlen
 Eugene Earsom
 Mary Harkey
 Carolyn Klepper
 Tom Terry



Libraries - Lifelong Learning Champions

Libraries provide free access to lifelong learning with ways to

“quench curiosity, access technology, and explore ideas, hobbies, and careers.” With access to materials, education, technology, and workshops, Oklahomans can reach their personal goals, whether for research, additional skills, formal education, or fun.

Adult education programs - Public libraries are providing spaces for students to access education, and some are offering Excel Adult High School, a self-paced online diploma-completion program to patrons aged 19 and up. Enrollment is free, and the program also includes job training and placement help after students finish the program.

Technology and information access - Libraries offer free access to computers, the internet, and other technologies to facilitate online learning and research for those who may not have home access.

Specialized databases provide online tutors, job coaches, practice tests, skill building, résumé assistance, job searching, veteran job hunting, interview practice, language learning, and more.

Some people are not comfortable with technology or lack digital tools to access information. Many libraries provide formal classes and informal one-on-one training to utilize technology and provide technology access. Access to accurate information is not just a tool for personal development; it can be vital for making informed decisions about health, education, and employment.

By providing a wide range of resources, including books, journals, databases, internet access, and educational programs, libraries can empower lifelong learners from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds to become educated Oklahoma citizens. “Libraries of 2024.” *PressReader* (15 Jan. 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/23r27eap>

Starting or Reviving a Friends Group

One of the most popular sessions at the recent FOLIO day at the OLA Conference was “Starting or Reviving a Friend’s Group”. The moderator for the session was FOLIO President Judy Haught. Speakers were Sharon Douthitt, Claremore Friends Co-Treasurer; Connie Jesina, Claremore Friends Treasurer; Sharon Saulmon, FOLIO Board Member and Past President; and Keenan Haught, attorney.

Sharon Douthitt and Connie Jesina shared ideas in reviving a Friends group. Sharon stated that it is best to start with a small core group of interested people and expect slow progress. She stated that good programs are essential

(continued on p.3)

Best Friends 2023 Awards

At the FOLIO Annual Meeting on March 8 in Tulsa, board member Melinda Howard presented the 2023 Best Friends awards of \$500 each to two Friends of Libraries organizations. The John Harkey Best Friends Award, which recognizes a Friends group in a city or town with a population of



less than 10,000, was awarded to the Friends of the Eufaula Memorial Library. The Friends group took on a project to find a place for the War Memorial bricks that had been removed from the east side of the library seven years before, because they were a tripping hazard. After many delays, the bricks were finally placed in concrete near the library’s west entrance along with new information about the war in which each person served. A Veterans Day ceremony celebrated this achievement and also honored all local veterans. A detailed article about the project was in the Winter 2024 issue on p. 5 of the *FOLIO Newsletter*. Pictured above are Robyn Burris, Eufaula Friends Treasurer, (left) and Melinda Howard (right).

The Oklahoma Best Friends Award, which recognizes a Friends group in a city or town with a population in excess of 10,000 was presented

(continued on p. 6)

From the President. . .



While I have always believed in the essential quality of reading, two events recently emphasized the power of books all over again to me. Last month my niece fell so critically ill that she spent most of the month in the intensive care unit. She requested that I come read to her; so, of course, I did. I sat for hours beside her bed, book in hand, and for those hours, we ignored the tubes and beeping

machines while we were immersed in 1940s London with German bombs falling around us. For that space of time we were transported. As Emily Dickinson so eloquently stated, "There is no Frigate like a Book/To take us lands away."

The second event involved a family member in the heart-rending situation of having her husband in hospice care. The prognosis was dire, and worry and sadness consumed her. Knowing she was an avid reader, I attempted to distract her for a small space of time to let her mind rest and focus on happier subjects. We talked of books, and for a short while my sister laid down her cares and lived vicariously through the exploits of fictional characters. Emily Dickinson recognized that profound importance of literature to the human condition with her metaphor comparing a book to "...the Chariot/That bears the Human Soul."

FOLIO supports the purveyors of those chariots. Public libraries are not just sources of information and entertainment; they nourish our souls. In turn, we at FOLIO try to nourish libraries by supporting Friends groups with valuable services and programs like Friends of Libraries Week Awards and Best Friends Awards. In addition, coming in October for the first time is FOLIO Splash, a conference for FOLIO members at the Moore Public Library with innovative programs and an author talk. We hope that all members will plan to attend.

Over my two years as FOLIO president, FOLIO has continued to change and respond to members' needs. We regularly review our projects and programs, sometimes continuing them, sometimes making changes, and sometimes setting them aside for other more timely projects. For instance, Literary Landmarks is changing to Oklahoma Literary Sites with more local input and control. Our storytelling training program has given way to a new fall conference set to debut October 2024. Our membership dues collection and our endowment fundraising are undergoing changes to make them more manageable and convenient for our members and our contributors. Our old website, which has served us well in the past, is going away and being replaced by a more attractive and user-friendly version. In addition, we review our seed grants and scholarships from time to time and make necessary changes. FOLIO is indeed a dynamic organization. See you in the fall.

Judy Haught, President

FOLIO Board Action

The FOLIO Board met on January 26, 2024.

Discussions and actions included:

- The Best Friends Awards was increased to \$1,000 each for next FY.
- The Friends of Libraries Week Awards was increased to \$500 each for next FY.
- For this year only the FOLIO Board voted to give four scholarships, rather than three.
- An Oklahoma Literary Site honoring Tony Hillerman is scheduled for May, 2025, which will be Hillerman's 100th birthday.
- The FOLIO Board Retreat is scheduled for August 16-17, 2024 at St. Crispin's Conference Center.

The FOLIO Board met on March 8, 2024. Discussions and actions included:

- Election of officers: Linda Pye, Vice President; Pauline Rodriguez-Atkins, Secretary.
- The Bylaws were revised to reflect changes in Oklahoma Literary Sites' name and sponsors.
- Library Advocacy Day at the State Capitol is April 10, 2024. Friends should arrive around 9:20 a.m.

Friends of Libraries Week Award

An outstanding Friends of Libraries group was recently awarded for their efforts during Friends of Libraries Week, October 15-23, 2023. The Friends of the Helmerich Library in Tulsa worked tirelessly to have great events and encourage Friends membership throughout the week.

They received a \$200 check and were presented with a certificate at the recent FOLIO Day at the OLA Conference. Among their activities were an enhanced membership drive which included a decorated display case at the Library to encourage new friends, celebrate fall, and promote books. A PowerPoint presentation was included, and new members were entitled to a free book from the ongoing book sale.

Friends volunteers stated that the membership drive gave them a chance to speak to young moms, senior citizens, and the general public. Several were unaware of the Friends group and what they do for the entire library system. The one-on-one format made for lasting relationships, a chance to talk about other ongoing library programs, and signing up new members!

FOLIO congratulates the Friends of the Helmerich Library for their success in adding new members and successfully promoting library programs!

-Angie Lewis, FOLIO Vice-Pres. and FOL Week Chair



Author Perseveres



Julia Bryan Thomas gave attendees a lesson in perseverance at the recent FOLIO Awards Ceremony, part of the annual Oklahoma Library Association conference. She and her husband, mystery writer Will Thomas, began submitting novel manuscripts in the early 2000s. However, while Will's first manuscript, a Victorian detective novel, was immediately accepted in 2004,

launching him on a series, Julia received nothing but rejection notices for more than ten years.

For a time, she gave up trying, but continued to edit her husband's novels, helping him to continue his career. She decided to read the classics, historical accounts, and science books to learn more about the world and the craft of writing. She went to a writer's workshop where she was reassured that her early efforts were teaching her how to write. Indeed, one manuscript had given her experience in plotting, another in characterizing, another in creating dialogue, etc.

When her husband underwent surgery in 2016, she sat by his bedside as he recuperated and decided to write a mystery "just for fun." To her surprise, *The English Boys* was accepted for publication; another followed. Her career as a writer had begun.

In 2022, she received acclaim for a historical fiction book, *For Those Who Are Lost*, based on the situation that occurred when some children were evacuated to England from the island of Guernsey because the Nazis were set to occupy it. It focuses on two children who are separated in England and must make choices without their parents. In this novel, she reflected that she was influenced by her favorite childhood book, *The Railway Children*.

A second novel, published in 2023, *The Radcliffe Ladies' Reading Club*, features four young women attending the college in the mid-1950s. A bookstore owner decides to host a book discussion group for them. Their reading and interactions help them negotiate some of the issues women faced in the 50s, especially the question of careers versus marriage and motherhood.

Born and raised in Tulsa where she now lives with her husband, Thomas credits school and public libraries with helping her find stability and even security in books. She worked her way through the shelves in her elementary school, and later the bookmobile was crucial since she lived some distance from the public library. Her background in reading led to her first jobs that involved writing while at OSU—from photo captions to sports writing, and weather reports. Later she interned for a local congressman.

Now a working novelist, Ms. Thomas continues to find comfort and affirmation in reading. She terms herself an "Ambassador for Books."

Bill Hagen, FOLIO ambassador and board member

Starting or Reviving a Friends Group

(continued from p. 1)

to build membership. Some ideas included monthly meetings to discuss books, inviting local authors, and having city officials attend and share their favorite book(s). Up-to-date bylaws are also key in a working Friends group. Connie Jesina stressed that it is important to 'make it fun!'. It is also important to the running of the organization. Fundraising is key in keeping the Friends organization vital. Some ideas are \$5 bag sales at the used book sales, sales of t-shirts and tote bags, jewelry sales, and sales of other items. It is important to have a basic dues structure that also includes opportunities for higher level membership and giving.

Sharon Saulmon discussed the importance of having a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Friends and any organization with which they partner. These other groups could include the library, city government, private businesses and other nonprofit groups. Partnering will help build on each others' strengths and create a synergy - 1 + 1 = >2.

Thinking about partnerships can help Friends focus on the long view. What are the Friends' mission and goals for the future, considering community needs? The desired outcome is always to deliver the best library service possible, whether Friends are trying to reach new groups, offer new services, expand an existing service, pool resources, improve community awareness, or share the workload. Look for partners that share mutual interests. Ask to meet informally with them to explore possibilities. Listen to their interests. Ascertain what they can contribute. Then develop a common understanding of the purpose and goals of the partnership. And document the agreement in an MOU.

An MOU stresses the importance of the communication between all parties involved, as well as provides an understanding of the various roles. Friends groups and libraries both benefit from collaboration with other organizations, and an MOU makes this partnership work in the best interest of all involved.

Keenan Haught with Palmer Law in Hinton outlined how to start a Friends group and be recognized as a legal entity. Organizing a 501(c)3 organization is the most popular since it provides a tax deduction for donors. The entity must first file with the Oklahoma Secretary of State to create the organization. This filing includes the official name and purpose of the intended organization. The group must then file Form 1023 EZ with the IRS to be recognized as tax exempt. Bylaws are also necessary in organizing the group.



It takes the work of many volunteers to make a Friends organization viable, but the effort is worth it when we realize the vital role that Friends groups play in supporting local libraries to provide the best possible service to their patrons and communities.

-Angie Lewis, FOLIO vice president & ambassador

FOLIO Scholarships Awarded

FOLIO is pleased to announce four recipients of the 2024 Lillian Born Norbert and Mary Lou Atkinson Staff Support Scholarship. Each \$1000 scholarship was made possible through the generous giving to FOLIO's Endowment Fund. This year's recipients are: Melissa Weiss, Rebecca Hines, and Sam Ko, and Taryn Wood.



Melissa Weiss received her Bachelor's degree in English and Master's Degree in Literature and is currently pursuing a Master in Library and Information Science from the University of Oklahoma. As part of her program, Melissa is writing a thesis that examines the challenges and best practices of updating problematic metadata related

to disabilities in collections within a special research collection at OU. Melissa hopes her thesis will "provide a framework for remediation for future catalogers and archivists at the WHC and improve the accessibility of disability-related archival materials." Melissa is also completing an archival certificate in addition to her thesis.

As a Library Associate at Pioneer Library System Central Branch, Melissa enjoys assisting with collection management, reader's advisory, and community outreach projects. With the background she has obtained through her graduate work, Melissa is able to "bring my interests in diversity and critical cataloging and librarianship to my work at the public library through programming and displays, such as including underrepresented authors and learning more about the ways the library can help other communities."

Melissa is an active member in several library organizations and is an avid supporter of intellectual freedom and diversity in libraries. Melissa's long-term career objective is to "work as a special collection or academic librarian and participate in metadata justice and diversity initiatives in libraries."

Rebecca Hines serves as Digital Literacy Specialist at Cedar Ridge Elementary School in Union Public School District. She has received a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and is currently enrolled at Northeastern State University's Master of Science in Library Media and Information Technology. With 18 years of teaching experience, Rebecca plans to "apply my experience to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of resource management in the elementary school library. Through strategic organization and curation, I aim to create an environment that maximizes the educational impact of the available resources, ensuring a more tailored and impactful learning experience for students.



Additionally, I aim to deepen my knowledge of educational technology and innovative learning methodologies to enhance the library's role as a dynamic hub for fostering curiosity and intellectual growth among young learners."

As a future elementary school librarian, Rebecca aspires to become "an adept elementary school librarian who excels in traditional library functions and plays a pivotal role in promoting literacy, critical thinking, and a love for learning. I aim to develop and implement engaging programs that connect literature with other subjects, fostering an interdisciplinary approach to education. Moreover, I seek to collaborate with educators to integrate library resources seamlessly into the curriculum, ensuring that the library becomes an integral part of the educational journey." Rebecca's overarching goal is to "create an inclusive and vibrant library environment that inspires students to explore, discover, and develop a lifelong passion for reading and learning."



Sunghee Ko holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and is currently working towards a Master's in Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Sunghee is a full-time Research Library Associate at Tulsa's Central Library. With 16 years of library experience, her primary goal for

graduate school is to "apply theories and tools to improve my ability to develop adult and passive library programs that meet the needs of today's library users and foster community engagement."

Sunghee explains that "As a graduate student, I am eager to improve my knowledge of efficient information search and analysis techniques and my ability to solve problems by utilizing various information resources or databases. I also want to learn to foster creative and critical thinking and problem-solving through education and research that reflects new information technologies and methodologies. While in graduate school, I have personally benefited from the tools available through public libraries; I utilize the library website to research online and printed materials and access the databases and information that enable me to reach academic goals. I want to help all library users understand that the library is more than just a collection of books."

Sunghee is also passionate about "the library's role in bringing together people from different backgrounds and increasing mutual understanding. As a Korean immigrant and active member of the TCCL Asian American Festival committee and ASIAffinity, I am actively working to bridge the divide between Tulsa's diverse Asian populations and the broader community. I know public libraries can play an even bigger role in Tulsa's cultural exchange and community building."

Taryn Wood holds an Associate of Applied Sciences and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees and is currently enrolled at the University of Oklahoma seeking a Master of Library and Information Studies degree. Taryn works as Teen Library Associate for the Pratt Library and as Library Assistant I at TCC Northeast Campus Library.

Scholarships (continued)

Taryn is especially interested in the area of Archival Studies. She understands the need for digital preservation and intends to utilize her educational background in digital arts to contribute to this area. Taryn recognizes the value of surrounding herself with experts and explains, "I have been fortunate to work closely with the Archival Librarian at the Northeast Campus and acquire early job experiences in archival projects. In my role as a Library Aide, I consistently implemented archival best practices, ensuring the meticulous organization and preservation of materials to maintain their longevity and accessibility."



Taryn's secondary interest is Youth Librarianship. Her position as Teen Library Associate has allowed her to creatively design and implement programming which has resulted in increased attendance and excitement among teen patrons. Taryn explains that "I've used data and feedback from teens to inform my decisions and improve the library's services continually. This approach has allowed me to adapt to changing interests and preferences, ensuring that the library remains relevant to our teenage audience." Taryn's vision is to "contribute to the evolution of libraries into vibrant, inclusive, and technologically advanced hubs of knowledge" as she continues to achieve her educational and career objectives while providing outstanding service to her local community.

-Teresa Jors, FOLIO ambassador and board member

Why Not Ask for Assistance?

The Fairview City Library is in a rural area with a staff of three and a Friends group of four. The library offers regular children's and adult programs, a great selection of books, and many electronic devices that are funded by Friends money, grants, donations, or regular budget. The Friends of the Fairview City Library has a bi-annual book and bake sale, raising about \$1500 from each sale. Last August Crystal Privette, Youth Services Librarian, wrote a donation request letter including a self-addressed, stamped envelope to over 90 people and businesses.

We began to see donations within days! People mostly sent checks, but some came in to visit with us and give their donations in person. By mid-December, we had raised \$3,915! Each donor received a thank you note and a donation receipt. The Friends were very excited to see such support from the community.

The letter explained the library and particularly the services offered there for children - summer reading, special programs (hayrides, Santa's toy shop, haunted hallways winter wonderland) and services (snacks, puzzles, safe place, computers). The library partners with many community groups to capitalize on free resources. Details on how the money would be spent were included - special events, offline educational computer games, completing series sets, and new books. The thank you note included a photo of the children's area and a special invitation to the planetarium exhibit.



With the funds raised we were able to bring the entire galaxy to Fairview through the Skydome Planetarium by Mobile Ed Productions in preparation for the solar eclipse! It was a 36ft x 16ft dome with the galaxy projected all around us! We charged no admission; everyone was welcome. We had a great turnout, and it was a really fun way to promote the eclipse and our library. We've also updated our children's books, replaced classics, and have completed some much loved series. Our future plans include adding more hands-on STEM toys to the children's area, adding costumes and props for story times, and supplementing snack times for the youth during Summer break, among other things.

I am so encouraged by the support we've received and am inspired to continue fundraising for our Friends. I appreciate all they do for us and am happy to help them grow our library! -Crystal Privette, Youth and Children's Services Librarian, Fairview

Love County Library Reopening



The grand opening of the newly renovated Love County Library of the Southern Oklahoma Library System was celebrated on February 20. Renovations included new flooring, shelving, bathrooms, meeting room with kitchen, and study rooms for private or collaborative learning.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Southern Oklahoma Memorial Foundation, as well as additional funding from the Jerome Westheimer Family Foundation and the City of Marietta.

"Friends of the Love County Library were very excited about the reopening," said Niki Powell, Friends Treasurer. The Friends worked with the Library System and potential friends, assisting with refreshments and welcoming all who attended the opening.

Services of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Director Kevin Treese of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) presented a program on the important library services available to the approximately 134,000 Oklahomans who are blind or have vision difficulties as one of the FOLIO sessions at the OLA Annual Conference. As part of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitative Services, the OLBPH currently serves over 5,000 patrons across the state.



The library services are free to all ages of Oklahomans who are unable to access standard print resources due to blindness or physical disability. Staff at the OLBPH also offer free assistance and guidance for patrons by answering questions, fulfilling requests, searching collections, offering suggestions, troubleshooting and updating readers' preferences.

Patrons receive a Digital Talking Book Player that is battery powered and headphone compatible. The player uses Braille and Audio Recording Download (BARD) cartridges, which are delivered by mail. BARD has more than 150,000 titles from which patrons may choose. The OLBPH distributes 125,000 audio books per month or 625 books per day.

To qualify for this service, a person must be blind or physically impaired or have deaf blindness, physical limitations, or reading disabilities. An application is available online at www.olbph.org. The application must be accompanied by the signature of a certifying authority such as a doctor, nurse, therapist, or librarian.

Another service the library provides is the Oklahoma Telephone Reader. Patrons may listen to articles from *The Oklahoman*, *Tulsa World*, or other Oklahoma newspapers read by volunteers. Patrons can also access the NFB-Newsline for national and international newspapers and magazines. This service is provided by the National Federation of the Blind.

Most Oklahomans know someone who can benefit from the services for the OLBPH, and librarians can help patrons who are losing their eyesight or who are physically unable to access standard reading material transition to audio books by acquainting them with many resources available through the OLBPH.

-Judy Haught, FOLIO President

Thank you for caring and giving!

The following individuals have made additional contributions to the 2023-24 FOLIO Endowment campaign. We recognize and thank these generous donors who realize that a gift to the endowment is a gift that keeps on giving. It is an investment in the future. It is never too late to make a gift!

Eugene Earsom

Kathleen Black (in honor of Helen Cline)

Candace Baird, New Inductee to Hall of Fame

The FOLIO Hall of Fame Committee honors individuals for their outstanding and dedicated service to Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma. Honorees receive a personal award plaque, and their names are inscribed on a plaque at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

At the FOLIO Awards ceremony on March 8, board member Candace Baird was honored for her 10 years of remarkable service. She joined the FOLIO Board in 2014. She soon became active with various committees and took on the daunting task of Treasurer. Not only does she keep track of FOLIO dues and expenditures, she monitors the FOLIO Endowment and is also responsible for planning the yearly budget.



Pictured l to r: Candace Baird and Judy Haught

In addition to treasurer duties, Candace is in charge of the FOLIO website and has been vital in designing and creating the new FOLIO website. She is also in the process of modernizing the way FOLIO collects membership dues. Lately, Candace has taken on the role of FOLIO ambassador for the Northeast Region. In her spare time when she is not attending to FOLIO responsibilities, Candace volunteers at the Helmerich Library in Tulsa and is active in their Friends group. She is truly an example of service to libraries in Oklahoma.

Best Friends Award

(continued from p. 1)

to the Friends of the Helmerich Library. Even though the Helmerich Library is only one branch in the Tulsa City/County Library System, any of the libraries in the system are eligible to receive their grants for activities such as Summer Reading programs. So far, they have given \$10,000 and, because of a very successful book sale last year netting \$14,000, they have committed \$12,000 for 26 grants in 2024. Another special source of pride for the group is the sponsorship of the Dungeons and Dragons Adventure Club at their own Helmerich branch. The club has attracted 39 teens for six programs, with an average attendance of 12 participants. Candace Baird, pictured above, received the award.

The application for the 2024 Best Friends awards may be found soon on the new FOLIO website. The board recently decided to increase each award to \$1,000.

Melinda Howard, FOLIO Board & Best Friends Award Chair

FOLIO has received \$5,400 toward the \$6,000 goal to receive matching funds from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.

Donate now at okfriends.net/support.html or mail your check to FOLIO, PO Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170. All funds are tax deductible and support FOLIO endowment and activities.

Need Help? Call your FOLIO Ambassador.

FOLIO has Outreach Ambassadors who are ready and willing to talk or consult with your Friends' groups or your officers. We want to help you be successful and strengthen your library. Let us know how we can assist you.



Northeast

- Candace Baird
clb99@swbell.net
- Karen Alexander
alexkeamea@yahoo.com

Northwest

- Dr. Karen Neurohr
karen.neurohr@okstate.edu
- Linda Pye
lindapye23@gmail.com

Southeast

- Dr. Bill Hagen
whagen41@gmail.com
- Teresia Jors
tjors@stratford.k12.ok.us

Southwest

- Angie Lewis
angieslewis13@gmail.com
- Terry Jordan
thetjordan@yahoo.com



- National Poetry Month - April
- National Library Week - April 7-13, 2024
- Drop Everything and Read Day - April 12, 2024
- Money Smart Week - April 15-21, 2024
- Children's Book Week - May 2-8, 2024
- FOLIO Newsletter deadline - June 30, 2024
- Library Card Month - September, 2024
- Banned Books Week - Sept. 22-28, 2024
- TeenTober - October, 2024
- FOLIO Splash Friends Conference - Oct. 12, 2024
- National Friends of Libraries Week - Oct. 20-26, 2024

**Yes! I want to join FOLIO and
Be a Friend of Oklahoma Libraries!**

Join FOLIO! Being a Friend will. . .

- Provide networking opportunities to make new friends and to share information and ideas about programs, activities, fundraising, legal issues, and great books to enjoy;
- Award scholarships to library support staff;
- Recognize outstanding Friends of the Library with awards for annual Best Friends and Friends of Library Week;
- Showcase the work of Oklahoma Friends in the quarterly newsletter and on Facebook;
- Honor esteemed Oklahoma authors through Oklahoma Literary Sites;
- Assist Friends groups with incorporation or reactivation;
- Advocate for library support.

Find out more about FOLIO at

www.okfriends.net

and

Facebook—@ FOLIOOKFriends

Your membership dues and donations are the primary source of funds to support FOLIO's mission which is to strengthen Libraries through Friends of Libraries.

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: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____

Gift Donation enclosed: _____

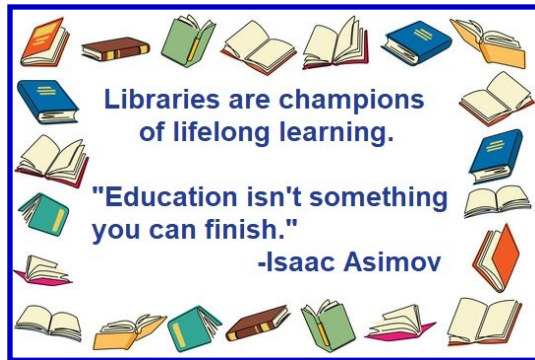
FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!



**Mail to: FOLIO Treasurer
P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK
74170**

P. O. Box 702585
Tulsa, OK 74170

Return Service Requested



Make plans now to attend the FOLIO Splash (a workshop for statewide Friends of Libraries) on Saturday, October 12, at the Moore Public Library. A panel of Friends will discuss their variety of takes on selling books from ongoing library sale strategies, antique malls, and online sales, to advice on event book sales. The freedom to read is such an important right that we'll discuss. An Oklahoma Book Award author will be featured.

Other ideas will be shared with panels on library literacy projects and creative fundraising successes. We'll also hear stories about our inaugural recognition of outstanding friends, as we Stand Up for Standout Friends.

Stand Up for Standout Friends

FOLIO wants to help local Friends of Libraries (FOL) honor their outstanding volunteers with a new award recognizing Standout Friends. Each FOLIO FOL group member may nominate a Standout Friend.

FOLIO is privileged to regularly hear stories about volunteers across the state who go above and beyond in service to their local Friends of the Library. This takes many forms, helping revitalize a Friends group with more memberships, pouring time and passion into brand new fundraisers, or leading the herculean task of establishing a Friends nonprofit from scratch!

Most of these "Standout Friends" remain unsung heroes. In 2023, the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) created an annual Stand Up for Standout Friends program as a chance to spotlight and celebrate volunteers who go above and beyond. We want YOU to make the FIRST inaugural class of Standout Friends!

Perks include a certificate from FOLIO, commendation letter to the mayor or official in each recipient's hometown, a sample press release for the local Friends group to share with media, and a written featurette on the FOLIO Facebook page. Standout Friends will be honored at the fall FOLIO Splash on October 12, 2024. Nominators will have 3-5 minutes to introduce the honoree.

The award application will soon be available on the web site okfriends.net/awards.html or email ssaulmon@yahoo.com for a copy of the app. The applications are due by August 31, 2024.