

## Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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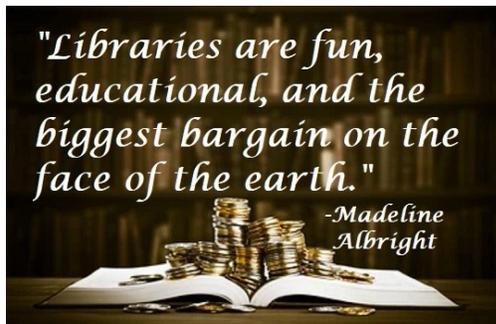
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### Public Libraries Are Vital

Oklahoma's public libraries are a vital public service, providing information, materials, resources, services, education opportunities, and programs to Oklahomans throughout the State.

Oklahoma's 213 public libraries were open 508,000 hours and welcomed Oklahomans 7.1 million times during FY21-22 in a report just available from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Almost 47% of Oklahomans have library cards (1.9 million) and checked out materials 15 million times. (That's four items per resident.)



Ebooks, audiobooks and videos were downloaded six million times. Oklahomans received answers to their 1.1 million queries from quality library staff. Half a million Oklahomans attended a library program, either in-person or virtually.

Libraries helped Oklahomans get connected to the digital world. Wi-Fi is available at all libraries and library branches in Oklahoma. Oklahomans connected to Wi-Fi in public libraries 4.1 million times. Every county in Oklahoma has at least one library with 100 mbps broadband.

Oklahoma libraries loaned 22,049 materials to other libraries across the state, United States, and even the world.

Oklahoma libraries do all of this for \$36 a person - 20% less than the national average.



You're invited! FOLIO's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the joint Oklahoma and Mountain Plains Library Associations conference on Friday, March 10, at the Embassy Suites in Norman.

Registration for FOLIO members is now open for \$30 at <https://www.oklibs.org/event/folio23>. Online registration closes February 23. This is a great opportunity for additional programs and exhibits. Here are some FOLIO program highlights.

### Creative Approaches to Early Childhood Literacy

This session at 10:00 a.m. featured presenters will be Linda Stineman, President of Friends of Elk City Carnegie Library; Courtney Mayall, Library Director at Anadarko Community Library; and Tanya Organ, Community Engagement Librarian at Lawton Public Library. Linda will discuss the Elk City Friends' Bundles  
(continued on p. 3)

### In Your Corner:

#### Building Advocates All Around

A library is only as strong as its advocates. With libraries in the news more and more library advocates need better tools and information to best combat misinformation and redirect the conversation to the value that our libraries add to each community at this 9:00 a.m. session.

In this panel session learn how library advocates other than library staff can respond for libraries with increased book challenges and other censorship attempts. Speakers include Seth Rott, Carrie McClain, and Mx. Karl G. Siewert.

(more program info on p. 3.)

## From the President. . .



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and is ready to ring in the new year with fresh resolve and determination to work toward FOLIO's mission of strengthening Oklahoma libraries through Friends of Libraries. The importance, indeed the necessity, of public libraries cannot be underestimated.

I recently read an article in the *Washington Post* that highlighted the positive effects of public libraries on our youth. The article told about the life of a 33-year-old man in Georgia who purports to be a self-reliant free thinker. He grew up in poverty with divorced parents and an abusive father. He said, "I was always in trouble. I was the troublemaker." A wise elementary school principal realized he needed something other than punishment and gave him a copy of *The Hobbit*. It was his first book, but he went on to read numerous other books where he became engrossed in "the moral dilemmas" of the characters, making him consider his own situation.

After leaving home at 15, he began frequenting the public library where he discovered the essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson. From Emerson he learned that he had choices and that no one was better than he was. He was so taken with the worn copy of Emerson's essays that the librarian just gave it to him. The young man graduated from high school, enlisted in the Army, and went on to become an electrician, mentoring apprentices. He lives a successful life guided by his own moral compass, a testament to the power of books and public libraries.

Now for a story a little closer to home. I am the youngest of eight children born to parents who did not attend high school. My parents were good, intelligent people, but they came from a time and place that made education hard to obtain. They loved me and took care of me, but higher education was beyond their ken. Although we did not have access to a public library, we had magazines and newspapers, and my mother bought me books. A library did not come into my life until I was in junior high. It was a tiny school library with a limited budget and lots of old books, but I could check them out. I began reading books that featured college girls. They lived in dorms and prepared for careers. I made up my mind that that was the life I wanted. I knew that one way or the other, I was going to college, and, of course, I did just that. Now, I may well have gone to college anyway, but those books gave me a dream to pursue.

Librarians have an awesome responsibility. Books and public libraries change lives. They give children and teens different ways to look at the world, and that is why we do what we do. In fact, that is why we exist—to assist public libraries through Friends of the Library.

To learn more about how we can be effective supporters of libraries, be sure to attend FOLIO Day at the OLA/MPLA Annual Conference March 10. FOLIO will have several sessions, including "Creative Approaches to Early Childhood Literacy" and "FOLIO: Building Advocates All Around." We will also have award-winning author Mariana

Llanos. Register online at <https://www.oklibs.org/event/folio23>.

It seems fitting that I end this message with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "There is no end to the praise of books, the value of the library." Turn your praise into action. Support libraries and those hard-working Friends groups. You never know whose lives will be changed.

*Judy Haught, President*

### FOLIO Board Actions

The FOLIO Board met on January 13, 2023.

Discussions included:

- For the 2023 Fiscal Year State Aid for libraries was approved for \$1.489 million.
- The Library Services & Technology Act allotment for the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 is \$2.5 million.
- An legislative appropriation is proposed for a renovation to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.
- The Institute for Museum & Library Services received an increase in funding of \$26.8 million.
- Upcoming awards were discussed. *Plan to attend the FOLIO Annual Meeting on March 10 to meet the winners. Register: [www.oklibs.org/event/folio23](http://www.oklibs.org/event/folio23)*
- Seed grant clarifications were discussed.
- Some bylaws changes will be proposed. *Please send any change recommendations to Wayne Hanway: [okfriendsmembers@gmail.com](mailto:okfriendsmembers@gmail.com).*
- The FOLIO Endowment Committee sent out information in November. The goal has almost been met. *Thanks to everyone who responded. You can help us reach our goal by donating: [okfriends.net/support.html](http://okfriends.net/support.html)*
- FOLIO turns 45-years-old this year. We will highlight this anniversary in the FOLIO booth at the OLA Conference.
- Literary Landmarks has officially been moved to the Library of Congress and the Oklahoma Center for the Book. FOLIO and OCB will be meeting to discuss future possibilities.
- Memberships are still arriving: 95 individuals, 41 friends groups, and 37 libraries. *Join now: [okfriends.net/membership.html](http://okfriends.net/membership.html).*

### Fundraising Trends in 2023

Professional fundraisers have shared these insights for fundraising in 2023.

- Fundraising will require precision with a clear message to break through and reach donors.
- Creating valuable, relevant content that targets the right audience will be critical.
- Donor communication should be personal and meaningful, not generic.
- In-person events are back that offer a wide range of events to cater to every taste.
- Focus on building trust with your donors. Build relationships.
- Flexible giving and participation options will be the norm. (In 2021 online giving grew 12%.)  
"9 Top Fundraising Trends for 2023." Gravyty.com

## Creative Approaches *(continued from p. 1)*



Pictured left to right: Tanya Organ and Courtney Mayall. Below is Linda Stineman.



for Babies project along with other FOL efforts to enhance early childhood literacy. Courtney and Tanya will present information including songs, rhymes and puppets in everything from Story Times to StoryWalk® in their efforts to address early childhood literacy.

-Judy Haight, FOLIO President

## Author Mariana Llanos & Awards

Our keynote speaker is author Mariana Llanos at this 11:00 a.m. session. Originally from Peru, Mariana moved to Oklahoma in 2002. She had an early passion for writing poetry, short stories, and plays. Her first book, *Tristan Wolf*, was a finalist in the 2013 Readers' Favorite Book Award. Mariana's real passion is visiting schools, sometimes online. She spreads her love for reading and writing as well as promotes understanding and cultural awareness.



She's won many awards including Most Outstanding Latino Artist (2014) and Global Citizen Award in Arts (2017). Her most recent works include *Luca's Bridge* (2019), *Eunice and Kate* (2020), and *Run, Little Chaski!* (2021), which won the Library of Congress Great Books from Great Places and the Oklahoma Book Award for Children in 2022.

Best Friends Awards, Hall of Fame Award, and Scholarships will be awarded at this Author/Award Program.

## FOLIO Annual Meeting

Lunch is on your own. At 1:30 p.m. Friends of Libraries from across the state may meet with the FOLIO Board and share your Friends' group activities.

This is your chance to network with other Friends of Libraries, learn what's happening in other libraries, find out about all of FOLIO's activities, and gain insight into the difference Friends are making in their communities.

## Attend the FOLIO Annual Meeting

This joint conference offers expanded exhibits and additional programs that Friends will find interesting. Other Friday programs include:

- Community Partnerships Supporting Early Literacy
- The Do's and Don'ts of Redesigning a Small Library
- ALA Advocacy Toolkit
- Youth Entrepreneurship 101
- Solving Hunger: All Together Now!
- Small Business Support at Your Library
- See and Be Seen: 10 Ways to Make Your Library More Visible in Your Community
- Everybody Wins: Universal Designs
- Building a Digitization Lab in Your Library

## When Communication Stops

**Q - Our Friends group has been inactive and would like to reactive, but with a new library director the library board has asked that we disband. What shall we do?**



**A - Communication is key.** Be a curious listener, trying to understand what they are saying and asking questions for clarification without formulating a response. Ask powerful questions. What do you think about what I said? What would you like to see done differently? Make your requests clear (specific, actionable, deadline, offer to negotiate).

If they are unwilling to discuss with the Friends what led to this and possible solutions, you may try to bring in a "neutral party who can help work through your differences and get back on the right footing." Someone from a local college or human resources professional may be able "to facilitate a discussion and help you create a plan for your future working relationship," according to Sally Gardner Reed in "Friends and Libraries - Working Effectively Together." The idea is to understand, work through and resolve the conflict.

Look at your Friends' documentation. Review the **Memo-randum of Understanding (MOU)** that was developed when the Friends were established. This defines the role of the Library and the Friends cooperation. **Check Friends Bylaws.** A Friends group is a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit entity. See what provisions are made in the Bylaws for dissolution. This is a normal provision for any organization. Those members and officers still available will need to decide the best course of action.

*The Good, the Great & the Unfriendly* by Sally Gardner Reed (ALA, 2017) is a great resource for understanding the roles of Friends and Libraries working together. The book is available from [alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org) or on interlibrary loan. A sample MOU is in the appendix.

Here are some sample points included in an MOU. The Library agrees to keep the Friends apprised of the strategic plan, provides a wish list indicating the anticipated needs for Friends' support, provides staff support to assist with newsletters, marketing, and provides space for sales, meetings and Friends membership info. The Friends agree to publicly support the library and its policies, raise monies for the library, work with library administration, and engage in advocacy.

## News from Around the State

### Bristow Friends Have First Meeting

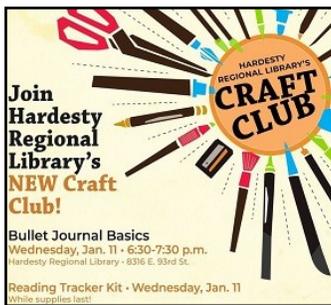
A start-up group met to establish the Bristow Friends of the Library. They selected initial officers to be confirmed at a membership meeting. FOLIO ambassadors Sharon and Jon Douthitt met with them and explained others' experiences with beginning Friends' groups.

### Friends of Helmerich Library Busy

The Friends of Helmerich Library (FOHL) have an ongoing book sale we put in place last year that has been popular and fruitful. Donations have been generous, but, of course, maintaining a project such as this requires volunteers.

We have members who come in weekly to clean with-drawn and donated books and to select children's, middle grade, young adult, and fiction and nonfiction for adults for our patrons to choose from. We also have members who sort the books and box them up to go to storage for our annual spring book sale.

Both our spring sale and our ongoing sale in the north end of the library provide much needed funds for all the branches of TCCL (Tulsa City-County Library). Last October we approved a total of \$10,000 for the year 2023. These grants will enable Dungeons and Dragons Clubs, Discovery Lab Outreach Programs, Grow Academy, Preserving Oral Histories, and many other enjoyable and educational opportunities for all ages in our community. Here are some examples of programs supported by the FOHL.



The friends recently had a visit from the Bookmobile and a program from Jackie Kropp, TCCL manager of Literacy, Outreach and Volunteer Services. We enjoyed a tour and program from the staff. The FOHL were able to extend a \$2,000 gift to LOVS to support Story Time in the Park in addition to a grant to enrich and engage those who cannot always come to the library and to provide entertainment at block parties in various neighborhoods.

Watch for announcements about our spring Book Sale which will take place in April at Helmerich Library.

Make time to check out our ongoing Book Sale in the library's lower level. We have something for everyone!

If you are interested in joining Friends of the Helmerich Library, please contact the library staff. We are a fun group dedicated to the library and the community.

—Sherry Spurrier, President, FOHL

### Mariana Llanos Visits Elk City



Pictured are Darlene James, Carla Garrison and Mariana Llanos.

Friends of the Elk City Carnegie Library hosted award-winning author Mariana Llanos on November 17, 2022. Ms. Llanos received the 2022 Oklahoma Book Award for her children's book *Run, Little Chaski!* A native of Peru, Ms. Llanos publishes in both English and Spanish. She is also the recipient of several other literary awards including the 2014 Most Outstanding Latino Artist in Literature given by the Hispanic Arts Council of Oklahoma, the 2017 Global Citizen Award in Arts by the World Experiences Foundation for her contribution to multicultural literature, and the 2017 Human Rights Award given by the United Nations Association of Oklahoma City.

While in Elk City, Ms. Llanos spoke to an audience of 328 students at the Elk City Elementary School then to an audience of 178 at the Elk City Middle School. The Friends provided a traditional Thanksgiving lunch, and Ms. Llanos spoke again and signed books at the library in the evening. She talked about her writing process and discussed the Incan language used in *Run, Little Chaski!*

-Judy Haught, Member,  
Friends of the Elk City Carnegie Library

### Pumpkin Decorating Contest

The Friends of the Shattuck Public Library sponsored prizes for the Pumpkin Decorating Contest.



## Fundraising Ideas



### Mystery Dinner Theatre

"The Dinner Detective" came to Seminole on October 22 at the Reynold's Wellness Center. The professional acting troupe performed a double murder play, while attendees had a four-course meal, all to benefit the Seminole Public Library. Who knew murder could be fun?! The meal was catered by the Santa Fe Company from Shawnee.

For \$100 (or \$500 per table) library supporters were treated to a wonderful evening. Limited by the venue's space and the need to keep the feel of a true murder mystery, the library raised around \$5,000. "I won't give away the ending, but FYI it wasn't the butler."

Jeanette Kennedy, Director, Seminole Public Library

### Selling Books in Book Shop & on Ebay

Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library (CA) has an Ebay Lister Team, who carefully curate books, manage the inventory, and respond to inquiries. Over 400 individual items are available.

They also have Book Shops for shopping in-person with a large selection of comic books, puzzles, children's books, games and bargain books.

### Be Creative

As you have read over the years, Friends of Libraries are very ingenious in fundraising. They are willing to think outside the box to raise money to support their libraries. (Past *FOLIO Newsletters* are available online with loads of ideas on fundraisers that have worked. Find them at [okfriends.net/newsletter.html](http://okfriends.net/newsletter.html).)

**Pick a Day.** NationalDayCalendar.com has a list of special days. Schedule a brainstorming session with your group about the time and community interest to successfully fundraise. Here are some examples.

Library Shelfie Day is the fourth Wednesday in January. Have a photo contest with people taking pictures of their arranged bookshelf. Or January is National Soup Month. Have a Soup Cook-Off with attendees voting for their favorite soups by donating money.

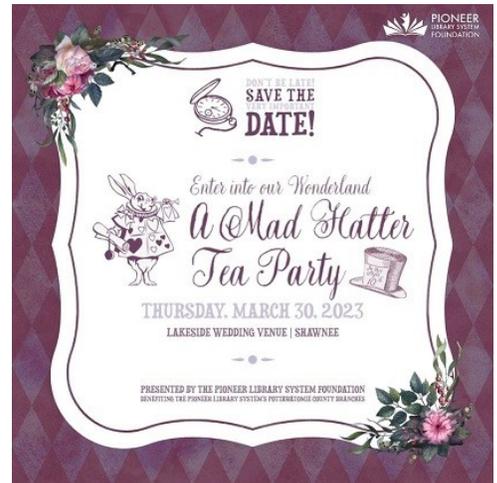
National Bake for Family Fun Month is February. Have a Bake Off or Tasters' Party or create a recipe cookbook. Chocolate Festivals are popular, and February is National Chocolate Lovers' Month.

Many plant nurseries will assist with raising money with plants. March 11 is Johnny Appleseed Day and March 12 is National Plant a Flower Day. You are only limited by your imagination.

**Involve the Board.** Library supporters want to know that the Friends of Board members have donated toward the project. This is especially true for grants. Funders want to know that 100% of the Board is backing the effort.

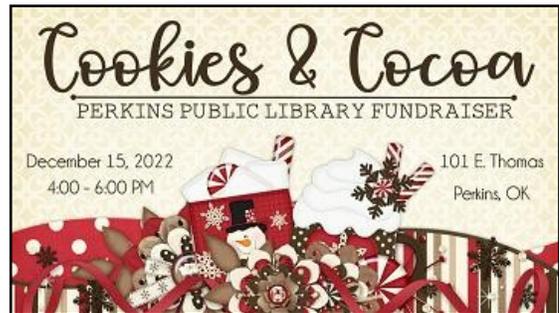
### Mad Hatter Tea Party

The Pioneer Library System Foundation is sponsoring A Mad Hatter Tea Party fundraiser this spring.



### Baked Good Sale

Holiday treats were sold at the Perkins Public Library as a fundraiser. The lobby was decorated for a photo opportunity with Mrs. Claus.



### Imagination Library Fundraiser



The Friends of the Thomas J. Harrison Pryor Library is raising funds for the Imagination Library to be available to children in Mayes County.

"I don't think you ever stop giving. I think it's an ongoing process. And it's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life."

-Oprah Winfrey

## Ready2Read, Sharing the Love of Reading



After attending story time at the Olive Warner Public Library in Hooker, the first grade girls wanted to share books. The younger brother felt left out. Librarian Carolyn Blackwelder asked him to select a book and tell the story. Soon his sister was pointing to words. Reading together promotes the lifelong love of reading.

Last fall the materials for Ready2Read arrived at the cooperating libraries. This is a project of FOLIO and the Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries, and is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of ARPA.

The volunteer storyteller Valerie Kimble visited seven libraries, conducting story time and providing training for staff of 10 libraries. The evaluation comments included: "Every activity was extremely meaningful." "Loved how the storyteller included the children and how excited she was." "How engaged the children were during the story time." "How to interact while quick on my feet."

### "Meet Your Legislators" at Stillwater

On January 12, the Friends of the Stillwater Public Library (SPL) and the Stillwater League of Women Voters (LWV) co-hosted the annual "Meet Your Legislators." This annual event brings local officials and citizens together before the state legislative session begins.



Stacy DeLano, SPL Director, noted, "Being able to engage in person with local leaders is so important. Attendees get the opportunity to ask questions in a more formal setting, but they can also mingle and speak with leaders one-on-one." Eighty-seven people attended the event.

Legislators who spoke were Senators Tom Dugger and Chuck Hall and Representative Trish Ranson. Stillwater Mayor Will Joyce and County Commissioner Zach Cavett also spoke. Other officials in attendance included City Manager Norm McNickle and City Councilors Amy Dzialowski and Christy Hawkins. Community members eagerly look forward to this annual event which started many years ago.

Photo provided by SPL  
Karen Neurohr, member of Friends of SPL and FOLIO

## *Thank you for caring and Thank You for giving. .*

The following individuals have made a contribution to the 2022-23 FOLIO Endowment campaign. Some have designated a special person or library to be honored or remembered. 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.

Friends of Tulsa City-County Library  
Friends of Peggy Helmerich Library, Tulsa  
Friends of Tahlequah Library

Sandra Austin  
Candace Baird  
Jane Bryant  
Helen Clements  
Peggy Cook

Beverly Dieterlen—in **Honor of Gerry Hendon**

Jon and Sharon Douthitt—in **Memory of Jeannine Spencer**

Jon & Sharon Douthitt—in **Memory of Julia Ratliff**

R. Eugene Earsom—in **Memory of Jeannine Spencer**

R. Eugene Earsom

Dana Flora—in **Honor of Gerry Hendon**

Tamara Gearhart

Susan Gilley

Brent Greyson

Leslie Griffith

Wayne Hanway

Lynn Harder

Mary Harkey

Judy Haught—in **Honor of the Elk City Library Staff**

Gerry Hendon—in **Memory of Jeannine Spencer**

Gerry Hendon—in **Memory of Julia Ratliff**

Melinda Howard

Brenda and Larry Johnson

Chris Kennedy—in **Memory of Georgia Barnard**

Carol Kidder—in **Honor of Gerry Hendon**

Cletta Kinnear

Angie Lewis

Susan McVey—in **Memory of Jeannine Spencer**

Network for Good

Karen Neurohr

Linda Pye

Anneva Sander

Tom Terry—in **Memory of Julia Ratliff**

Pat Weaver-Meyers

Harlene Wills

Patricia Woodrum

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation Trustees have made a gift to the FOLIO Endowment fund at OCCF. This contribution represents a grant from the OCCF Employee Gift Fund and was recommended by Jennifer Meckling who is the Director of the Charitable Organization Endowment Program for OCCF.

We say THANK YOU to Jennifer for the grant recommendation and THANK YOU to the Community Foundation for the donation.

## 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

- Jon and Sharon Douthitt  
sdouthitt@prodigy.net

#### 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
- Bridgette Shelton  
shelton.bridgette@elkcitieschools.com



- **FOLIO Newsletter** deadline - March 20, 2023
- **Library Lovers' Month** - February
- **Deadline for conference hotel reservations** will be early February.
- **Mountain Plains Library Association/ Oklahoma Library Association Joint Conference in Norman** - March 8-10, 2023
- **FOLIO Annual Meeting** - March 10, 2023
- **Freedom of Information Day** - March 16, 2023
- **National Children's Book Day** - April 2, 2023
- **National Library Week** - April 3-9, 2023
- **Library Workers' Day** - April 4, 2023
- **Library Outreach Day** - April 5, 2023
- **Money Smart Week** - April 15-21, 2023

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 Literary Landmarks,
- Assist Friends groups with incorporation or reactivation,
- Advocate for library support.

Find out more about FOLIO at  
[www.okfriends.net](http://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**

**Public libraries in the United States play an essential role in providing safe, accessible, and 100% free educational resource centers for every member in communities across the country.**



### **Teaching Life Skills at the Library**

Library Manager Kimberli S. Buckley began creating a life-skills program for the library after a high school teacher approached her about the need for life-skills classes among high school seniors. She started planning a life-skills program by establishing goals

and objectives. Her program was aimed at young adults but realized that older adults might benefit as well. She also explored ways to market and promote the program. Buckley's next step in setting up a life-skills program was to identify topics of interest and need. She divided the classes into nine topics: jobs, money, cooking, self-care, personal care, home skills, communication, relationship with friends and families, and stress management. Each class revolved around hands-on activities that were fun as well as instructive.

For each activity, the book gives a list of materials and resources, the step in the activity, and the "superpowers" the participants will acquire from the activity. The book contains a wide range of activities from job preparation to meal planning to a dance party for stress management.

The book includes several aids to planning a life-skills program including a planning template that covers the steps in setting up a program and evaluating it. The author also gives an extensive list of books for further reading. One of the most valuable sections of the book provides

ideas for advertising and promoting the life-skills program. In addition to the usual flyers and social media, Buckley suggests livestreaming the sessions and providing enticing giveaways to participants. Overall, the book is a valuable resource for any library planning to establish a life skills program.

Buckley, Kimberli S. *Teaching Life Skills at the Library: Programs and Activities on Money Management, Career Development and More*. Chicago: ALA Editions, 2022

-Judy Haight, President, FOLIO

### **People Are Still Reading**

Library director Rachel Grime recently responded to the newspaper article, "Print Follows the Dinosaurs to Extinction," which commented that "few people read books." In 2022 the Little Dixie Regional Libraries (MO) circulated over 215,000 items. Of that eBooks and eAudios were 16% of the circulation and physical books were 75%. Every time patrons leave, 65 times out of 100 they have a book. (Audio circulation is 2%, and magazines are .5%.)

Society is changing and libraries have changed. VHS tapes became DVDs, which have become videostreaming. Cassette tape books became CDs which have become digital, available on your device. "Thousands of patrons each year attend programming put on by the library - whether those be book groups, story times, magicians, animal performers, educational presenters, and more."

"I would like to encourage your readers and my patrons to remember that it is not our opinion that 'few people read books.' They are just ingesting them in different formats." Grime, Rachel. "People Still Read at Little Dixie Libraries."

*The Moberly Monitor* (9 Jan. 2023).