

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

FOLIO Officers

Pres—Wayne Hanway
 Sec.— Judy Haught
 Treasurer—Candace Baird
 Asst. Treas.—Gerry Hendon
 Sandra Austin
 Dr. Cecilia Brown
 Jon Douthitt
 Sharon Douthitt
 Eugene Earsom
 Carla Garrison
 Dr. Bill Hagen
 Teresia Harrison
 Dr. Melinda Howard
 Angie Lewis
 Dr. Karen Neurohr
 Diane Pennington
 Sharon Saulmon
 Bridgette Shelton
 Jeannine Spencer

Advisory Board

Connie Armstrong
 Cathy Blackman
 Hannibal B. Johnson
 Melody Kellogg
 Judy Randle
 Bruce Stone
 Michael Wallis

Emeritus Board

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



Libraries Respond

2021 State of America's Libraries Report was released in April.

Libraries have “kept Americans connected in ways that brought communities closer” during the pandemic. Some Oklahoma libraries were not open, but libraries were never closed with online resources, reference staff and information available.

Librarians pivoted and found new ways to serve and continue supporting their communities: more online resources, virtual programming, developed online renewals, began electronic library card applications, developed curbside delivery, expanded Wi-Fi to parking lots, loaned equipment, purchased hotspots for Internet access, and more.

Oklahoma “libraries also extended necessary lifelines to community members facing job losses, healthcare crises, remote work,” and virtual learning. As libraries reopened, moving furniture for social distancing, regularly sanitizing surfaces, having plexiglass installed at desks, quarantining materials, etc.

(continued on p. 2)



Q - A librarian reports that the Friends group members believe they have the right to access all areas of the library without permission, have brought in furniture they have selected for the library, and are unhappy that the programs are all online this summer.

A - Just as library staff and trustees have roles and responsibilities; so do Friends.
(continued on p. 2)

FOLIO Annual Meeting Wed., July 28 Embassy Suites - Norman



OLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE • JULY 26-28, 2021

Register now for the FOLIO Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Library Association Conference. Go to oklibs.org, select Events - Annual Conference. The registration cost is \$60.

8:00 a.m. - A Sign of Appreciation

A panel will present how various friends groups are providing incentives for being a Friends member, along with guidelines for reasonable limits.

9:15 a.m. - Advocacy in a Time of Pandemic, Polarity and Insecurity

Learn how to reach decisionmakers and be effective with a fresh message.

10:15 a.m. - Exhibits

This informal time allows you to network with Friends, see new library products, have a snack and visit other vendors.

11:15 a.m. - Author William Bernhardt and FOLIO Awards Program

This best-selling Oklahoma author will be speaking. He has written many books - legal thrillers, poetry, historical novels, children's books and more. Bernhardt received the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book in 2019. FOLIO Award Winners will also be honored.

12:30 p.m. - Lunch on Your Own

1:45 p.m. - FOLIO Board & Membership Meeting

Please come and share what your Friends group is doing.

3:00 p.m. - They're Busy-And We Need Them

A panel will describe their successes in attracting and retaining younger members for library boards, Friends, and volunteers.

From the President. . .



I'm writing this on the 1st day of May, 2021. We've had rain; nearly everything is green; lots of people are outside; and it seems like things are opening back up, some much more cautiously than others. That's okay with me. Sally and I got our vaccinations early—we got our second dose of the Moderna vaccine on February 2—but we still wear masks any time we go to the store or other places where we will be in close proximity to people, because

probably fewer than half the people in our area have been vaccinated. We have not reached the level of herd immunity.

The library called me last week and told me a book I reserved was waiting for me. I was delighted and hurried down to get it. But things are not yet back to normal for libraries and will not be for a while, for the same reason. We are still wearing masks in public: the risk may be reduced, but it has not been eliminated. The last thing we want is for the virus to be transmitted at a library program or at the computers or between people waiting in line or using the computers. Young people have been a major group who have spread the virus. The little ones can't understand what it's all about, and a lot of older youths seem to have little concern about it, for any of a number of reasons. Caution is in order.

All the same, summer is almost upon us, and it is normally a very busy time for libraries. I hope your Friends group has been working closely with the library on planning for the summer. The library is going to need your help. Whether it is with outdoor programs, assembling reading and activity kits, getting kids (and others) signed up for library cards, or maybe holding a book sale in a park shelter or pavilion.

One event that will be back in business this summer is our annual joint conference with the Oklahoma Library Association. FOLIO's Day at the conference is Wednesday, July 28. The FOLIO booth is in a prime location, and we are going to need volunteers to staff it on July 27-28. One limitation because of COVID is that there will be no luncheon events during the conference. A number of restaurants are close by, and a list will be available.

It's a pleasure to welcome three new members to the FOLIO Board. All of them bring excellent qualifications. . . Let me remind everyone that a three-year term on our Board can seem to fly by, so all of us have to be on the lookout for prospective Board members.

I want to thank our Scholarship and Best Friends Committees for their diligent work with this year's applications. And I thank all our Board members for doing our work in many different roles.

Wayne Hanway, President

FOLIO Board Actions

At the April 2021 FOLIO Board discussion:

- Welcomed three new FOLIO Board members. (See p. 6.)
- Reviewed expenses this quarter - including scholarships, awards, and bulk mail permit.
- Listened to plans about the upcoming conference and encouraged registration. (The online registration cuts off two weeks before the conference.)
- Heard about upcoming activities - Literary Landmarks, *FOLIO Newsletter*, and more.
- Shared information from Friends groups around the state.
- Continued making plans for a Board Retreat.
- Welcomed great news from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries with additional monies from the Institute of Museum & Library Services and from the America's Rescue Plan (for areas with high poverty, high unemployment, and low access to the Internet).

Did You Know?

(continued from p. 1)

Libraries continue to provide accurate information and teach information literacy skills.

Libraries have gone above and beyond to provide services to the most vulnerable in the community. The Jay C. Byers Memorial Library received buy-in to schedule vaccine appointments under one email for those without technology assistance. Southern Oklahoma Library System and libraries in Ada, Watonga and Durant have also been active advocates in helping.

Both the Internal Revenue Service and FEMA have asked for library assistance this spring in tax filing and disaster assistance, since they are not setting up in-person opportunities. Oklahomans can get assistance with free file tax services through their local library web sites.

Ask a Friend

(continued from p. 1)

The Friends should revisit their Bylaws, Mission Statement, Memo of Understanding, and Strategic Plan. The group may need an intermediary to lead this discussion - FOLIO ambassador (See p. 7.), ODL consultant, or maybe a community leader who is a good listener, facilitator and a calming influence.

Friends of the Library is a support group. Friends can be very positive Library advocates, fundraisers, and marketers. Members should be respectful and should listen and communicate with the library staff. Library staff have to work within the guidelines of their library system and/or other government entity.

Ask the library staff:


- What plans do you have?
- What are the priorities (education, digital literacy, connectivity)?
- How can Friends help?

United for Libraries has a Fact Sheet #10 on "The Role of the Friends Board." Find it at ala.org/united/friends/factsheets. Other resources are listed there.

Best Friends Awards—2021

During the past challenging year, nothing has been “normal,” but FOLIO is honoring two Friends groups who found ways to engage children both during school time and while they were unable to attend in person.

Friends of the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library



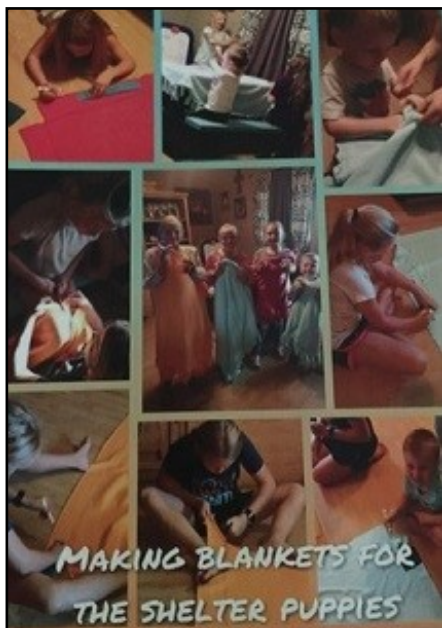
AFTER SCHOOL
Kids **TAKE AWAY BAGS**
Starting Tuesday, September 8th

To continue to observe social distancing we will have take away bags to replace our storytime activities at the library.

Each week, you can pick up an activity bag (similar to the summer reading bags) and we will have supplementary materials to go along with the themes such as educational websites, videos, and books listed in the bag and posted to our Facebook page.

The Oklahoma Best Friends Award was awarded to the Friends of the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library of Durant for funding the creative 2020 Take Away Bags for three groups divided among ages 2-18 years. Each week each group could pick up an activity bag containing supplementary materials to go with the week’s theme and suggestions of educational websites, videos, and age-appropriate books, which were also posted on the library’s Facebook page. Once the oldest group, the Teen Book Club, had received their book suggestion for the month, they met virtually on a format called Discord to discuss the book they had all read.

Seeing the need to involve many of the children in community outreach, “Dogtober,” a pet supply drive for the local animal shelter, was created for the month of October, which included these young readers making blankets for puppies. All programs were deemed highly successful.



Stilwell Public Library Friends Society

The Stilwell Public Library Friends Society received the John Harkey Best Friends Award. Prior to the national lockdown, the Friends invited local elementary teachers to bring their students to the library where they could purchase a book for 25 cents or, if needed, receive a free book. In addition to the multiple programs, this Friends group supports both the library and the community by providing books and magazines to eight different sites in the area, sponsoring a community recycling program, and offering a variety of programming for adults.

They, too, stepped up to the challenges presented by the pandemic and reimagined an approach to Summer Reading with Take Home Kits called “Imagine Your Story.” In the bags, which were picked up curbside, were suggestions for creating something related to what the child had read and gifts of supplies for crafting their story. The young readers were encouraged to post what they designed online. Over 100 youngsters were reached with this program.



Congratulations to these two outstanding Friends groups for their admirable efforts to meet the needs of young readers in their communities.

—Sharon Douthitt,
Best Friends Award Committee, FOLIO Past President

News from Friends Groups Around the State

Pollinator Garden in Enid



The Friends of the Enid Public Library curated a pollinator garden that resides on the East Lawn of the Enid Public Library. Opened in March, the garden contains 71 plants, representing 13 species and 30 varieties. The garden serves as an educational tool for all ages in the community.

“Having the pollinator garden allows an opportunity for patrons to have access to some new programming and may expand the reach of the library to a new group they haven’t touched before,” said Tom Stebly, Treasurer of the Friends of the Enid Public Library. “It also provides an opportunity to serve as a learning laboratory where patrons can actively participate and hopefully expand the program throughout Enid and Garfield County.”

Plans are also in place to rejuvenate the surrounding area. New Redbud trees will be planted and cleanup will begin on an abandoned rock garden nearby.

Margo Holmes, the Adult Program and Development Coordinator at the library, plans to use the garden to draw in new populations of pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, and programs that show how the local community can get involved.

A grant from monarchwatch.org helped provide free Milkweed plants, and the garden is currently in the process of being registered as a Monarch Waystation and eventually, a wildlife habitat.

“I was thrilled when Tom Stebly from the Friends of the Library group suggested a pollinator garden as a project,” said Margo. “The pollinator garden they have established serves as a tangible example of how the public can give back to an institution that benefits so many.”

—Michaelene Malan, Communications Specialist, Enid PL

Sapulpa Poetry Contest

Sapulpa Friends of the Library collaborated with the Bartlett-Carnegie Sapulpa Public Library and Tulsa Community College with a Poetry Contest this spring. The contest was available to homeschool and high school students in the service area.

Marketing was done in February with the submission deadline at the end of March. The winners were announced during Poetry Month in April. The many poems received made very hard decisions for the judges.

Poetry Contest

Submissions accepted:
March 1 - 31

Submissions judged:
April 1 - 20

First Place: \$100, Plaque & Free Summer Course @ TCC
Second Place: \$75 & Plaque
Third Place: \$50 & Plaque

The Friends furnished some of the prizes and assisted with judging. “All the poems were wonderful, and it was hard to choose.”
—Melodie Reader,
Children & YA Librarian, Sapulpa PL

Duncan Friends Sponsor Storywalk



The Duncan Friends of the Library helped sponsor the Storywalk panels around the outside of the Library. The FOL provides money for all the books and supplies used. New books and activities are replaced each season for this new space, dedicated in September, 2020. The Friends also pay for the crafts or surprises given to the kids who finish the Storywalk. This season features the book *Spring: An Alphabet Acrostic* by Steven Schnur, and we are providing flower ring crafts and wild-flower seeds.



The Friends also helped the Library celebrate its 100-year birthday, while raising money with t-shirts and book bags. The monies are designated for new DVD storage and shelving, as well as a pergola-style cover for the front yard patio area.

—Amy Ryker,
Library Director
Duncan Public Library

Congratulations to the Winners of the Lillian Born Norberg and Mary Lou Atkinson Scholarships! 2021



Crystal Gillette is a full-time graduate student at OU and works part-time as an Honors Peer Research Assistant at Bizzell Library. She graduated with a BA in International & Area Studies in 2020 and expects to complete the MLIS in December 2021. Crystal is a Japanese-American dual citizen, who

spent her childhood in three different countries: Japan, China and America. She loved reading from a young age and began volunteering at age 12 in the public library in Tucson, Arizona. At age 16, she was hired as a page by the Tucson Library and still works there on school breaks.

Crystal says she is passionate about learning from others' perspectives and making library resources and higher education accessible to everyone, especially communities that are underfunded and underprivileged. She plans to complete her education and further her personal aspirations of providing a love of learning, courage to try something new, and joy in libraries to others.

Ghazal Ghazi became interested in being a librarian while working at Tulsa City-County Library. Her positive experiences as a Library Associate coupled with a commitment to literacy and social justice inspired her to pursue graduate studies in library science at OU where she is a full-time student expecting to complete her MLIS in 2022. She hopes to find a position at an academic or special library as a humanities librarian or in archives. Her B.A. is in Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Arizona.

Ghazal has a professional background in writing, publishing, and public art. She says she is "passionate about meeting the needs of diverse underserved communities particularly when it comes to the intersections of information, literacy and social justice." She has been an Associate Editor for a U.S. based bilingual publishing house that focused on experimental literature from Latin America. She is a published poet and has directed a short documentary titled *Puppet Regime* (2020) which was selected for the Houston Cinema Arts Society's Borders No Borders film competition.

She says, "My experience as a community organizer has instilled in me a value for racial justice which has guided me throughout my life. My unique experience living across three diverse regions, - the Middle East, South America and the U.S.—has provided me with multicultural competency and a perspective that marries the local with the global."



Amairani Perez is the Hispanic Resource Center Coordinator for the Tulsa Library System. She graduated from OSU in 2019 with a B.A. in American Studies and was chosen as an Outstanding Senior, an honor bestowed to only 14 individuals from her graduating class. She also received the 2018 Tomas Rivera Excellence in Education

Award through the Greater Tulsa Hispanic Affairs Commission for being a champion of education and for extensive outreach work within the Hispanic community.

Amairani's job responsibilities consist of bridging the gap between the library and the Latino community by providing programs, services, and events that support the diverse ideologies, philosophies, and celebration of her culture. She is passionate about the opportunities that open to her because she is dedicated to serving her community.

Amairani says, "I know that my MLIS will allow me to advance my career as a librarian, but most importantly, it will also give me the ability to further advance the power and resources that I have to help the members of my community and those in need."

Brent Greyson received his MLIS at OU in 2012 and is now completing his M.Ed in Instructional Systems Design and Technology. He is employed at the Chickasaw Nation Law Library at the Oklahoma City University School of Law as Electronic Services, Systems, and Reference Librarian.

In his day-to-day activities, he instructs law students, faculty, staff, and members of the public in matters of research and legal practice and technology while being the integrated library system (ILS) administrator for the library.

Brent's long-term continuing education goals include a Ph.D. in Information Science or an Ed.D. focusing on a problem of practice within library instruction environments. He has been a member of OLA since 2009 and is the incoming chair of the Technical Services Roundtable. He serves on the Oklahoma City University Law Dean's Council for Diversity and OCU Law Professional Development Committee.

He is also a new member of the American Association of Law Libraries, The Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology.





FOLIO is an all-volunteer organization working to strengthen libraries through Friends. We are excited to have these talented people on the FOLIO Board.

Sandra Austin

Ms. Austin is a lifelong reader and library user. She became active in the early 80's when lobbying for a bond issue for construction of a new library in Midwest City. A Special Friends group formed during that time to get the bond issue on the ballot and a new library built for our community. Austin served on the Midwest City Library Advisory Board for several years during and after construction of the building.



She became a member of the FOTMLS (Friends of the Metropolitan Library System) and served several terms off and on the Friends Board over the years.

When the Mid Del School System began adding certified librarians, Austin completed her Library Media Specialist certification, already holding an M.Ed. in Special Ed. She became a Media Specialist in an elementary library for fourteen years and moved to a high school library for seven years before retirement. She became active in library associations and has been able to attend National Legislative Day in Washington, DC several times as part of a team to lobby for Oklahoma libraries of all types.

After retirement, Austin began volunteering at the FOTMLS Sort Site where books are organized and boxed for the book sale. She soon became involved in the Amazon part of the group. Right now online sales are on hold. Austin also serves on the Book Sale Committee.

Melinda Howard

As the owner of Howard Consulting, Dr. Melinda Howard conducted workshops and classes for businesses, government, education, and other financial, and health care organizations for 40 years. She is an experienced facilitator in leadership, communication, conflict resolution, team building, visioning, and strategic planning.



Howard has worked in health care settings and other organizations with responsi-

bility for organization development, and leadership and employee development. Howard served as senior consultant with the Support Group of Central OK, a training and consulting firm for nonprofit organizations, and a training coordinator for the OK Office of Personnel Management.

Howard was an adjunct professor in the Master of Human Relations program at OU for 33 years. She was also an adjunct instructor at Oklahoma City University and the University of Central Oklahoma.

She has a B.A. in Sociology from Oklahoma City University, a M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Central Oklahoma, and a Ph.D. in Adult and Community Education from the University of Oklahoma. Her special areas of emphasis in her doctoral program were organizational training systems, organizational communication, and leadership.

Since fully retiring in 2017, Howard has been a volunteer with the FOTMLS, helping sort donated books for the annual book sale and serving as a co-coordinator of the Better Books section during the sale. She also serves on the board of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society as the Sales Manager. She enjoys reading, genealogy research, and traveling. Melinda and her husband, Steve, have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Angie Lewis



Ms. Lewis has been active in many volunteer organizations. She has served as president of the Friends of the Chickasha Library several years, as well as served on committees and in other elected offices. She coordinated the Friends' Chocolate Festival several years and served as chair of the Bill Wallace Literary Landmark dedication in Aug. 2020.

Lewis relates, "Libraries and books have always been a major part of my life. My mother was an elementary school teacher; every day after school I spent in the school library waiting for her until her day was finished. Mrs. Bryson was the librarian, and she had a huge impact on me, making sure I always had the books I asked for and often recommending others. Her love of books and reading, as well as my Mother's, have led me to where I am today! I do buy a lot of books, but the Library is still a very important place for me. Even more, I see what an impact it has on the community, the resources it provides, and the young lives it shapes. The joy of bringing home a stack of books! Whether they be picture books, mysteries or romances, there is nothing in the world like it! And knowing you can return the next week and do it again! "

She has a degree in accounting and computer science from the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma. Lewis has served as president of the American Association of University Women (Chickasha and Oklahoma), Women's Service & Family Resource Center, Junior Social Workers, Kiwanis, and USAO Alumni. She has memberships in several other organizations. Her family includes husband, Doug, and three step-daughters. Reading, antiques and collecting are some of her hobbies.

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



Patrick Brennan was a long-time member and supporter of FOLIO. He was Library Director at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Library (now Noble Research Institute) before retiring and hosted the FOLIO Board at the Retreat Center there for the biennial planning retreat several times. He passed away in April due to complications from a bad fall. Our sympathies to the family.

If you would like to honor Patrick, donations may be made in his memory to the FOLIO Endowment fund at okfriends.net/support.html.



It's Not too Late. . .
Gifts to the Endowment
Fund are being accepted. .

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 _____

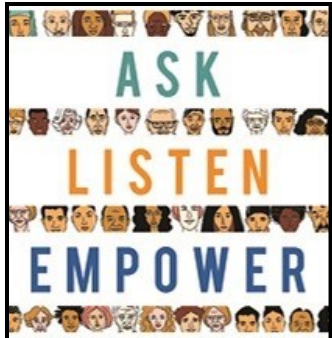
Your entire contribution is tax deductible. Please make your check to FOLIO Endowment and send it with this card to: FOLIO, P.O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170 Or you can make your gift on our web page: <http://www.okfriends.net/support.html>.



- American Library Association, June 23-28, 2021 - Virtual
- Oklahoma Library Association Conference, July 26-28, 2021 - Embassy Suites - Norman
- Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma Annual Meeting, July 28, 2021 - Embassy Suites - Norman
- Library Card Sign-Up Month - September - Find info at ala.org/conferencesevents
- Banned Books Week - September 19-25, 2021 - Find info at bannedbooksweek.org
- TeenTober - October, 2021 - Find info at ala.org/yalsa/teentober
- National Friends of the Library Week - October 17-23, 2021 - Find info at ala.org/conferencesevents

P. O. Box 702585
 Tulsa, OK 74170

Return Service Requested



Ask, Listen, Empower

As friends of the library in our various communities, we share the desire to strengthen the relationship between the library that we support and the community in which we live. Following the principles outlined by the editors of *Ask, Listen, Empower: Grounding Your Library Work in Community Engagement* (ALA, 2020) can help us achieve that goal.

No real progress can be made until our libraries not only inform their patrons but also engage them. Four processes are identified for arriving at engagement: **Exploration, Conflict Transformations, Decision Making, and Collaborative Action.** In **Exploration**, community conversations take place about aspirations and struggles. Poor relations or specific conflicts are tackled in **Conflict Transformations.** In **Decision Making**, public knowledge is improved, and policies may be impacted. Finally, in **Collaborative Action**, complex problems are tackled with responsibility for action taken.

In **Exploration**, we learn about our community. This can be done through accessing digital resources like organizational web pages and social media and by attending local meetings. Ask questions about what matters to people, such as:

- * What kind of community do you want to live in?
- * Why is that important to you?
- * How is that different from how you see things now?
- * What are some things that need to happen to create that kind of change?

When the major needs are identified, community members are invited to learn about, as well as meet and discuss the problems. This is part of the **Conflict**

Transformation and Decision Making processes. For example, if a community identifies a particular issue, its members can listen to different experts speak about the problem. They also participate in an open forum, in which they express their ideas and possible solutions. In some instances, law makers have attended meetings in the **Collaborative Action** phase, and laws were enacted which led to the resolution of community problems.

For our actions to have greater impact, we must learn to partner with other community organizations. Of course, as friends of your local library, you are a natural partner and will cheerfully support them as they work toward engaging the community. However, the library must identify other possible partners. One place to start is to help them create a community map, which will include the local schools, the business community, the local government, etc. You can suggest a meeting for your library and a group, and they can create a map together. This will help them determine where their maps overlap and will enlarge both of their maps. It might possibly generate a project that they can complete together. This useful activity can be repeated and can extend to possible partners outside your local area.

The book offers a great deal of practical advice on how libraries can engage their community, as well as describes actual cases of libraries who have achieved this goal. It should inspire us all to take a fresh look at how we as library friends can assist our library in meeting our community's needs.

—Regina McLemore,
 Stilwell Public Library Friends Society Secretary