

# FOLIO

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

Newsletter Vol. XXXVII No. 1—Summer 2015

[www.okfriends.net](http://www.okfriends.net)

## Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

### Libraries: Buildings and Renovations with Friends

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At the OLA Conference on May 1, 2015, FOLIO sponsored a program highlighting two recent building and renovation projects in which Library Friends played a key role.

Nancy B. Hamlin, Head Librarian, Patrick Lynch Public Library in Poteau, shared the story about the new library construction. This library, which opened in 2013, is part of the Southeastern Public Library System. The city of Poteau had received a Reynolds Foundation grant to fund a new community center and was working



with the same architect for expanding the 7,000 square foot Buckley Public Library building. However, to better meet the community's needs, the architect recommended construction of a new library across from the city's new community center. The city hired a professional fundraiser and sold IRS tax credits to help fund the construction of the new library building of 21,060 square feet. The library is named for a beloved teacher who was born and raised in Poteau and who positively impacted many people in his short life. Library photos, architect's website: <http://mahgarch.com/patrick-lynch-public-library/>

Gerry Roberts, President of the Friends of the Library, spearheaded the library initiative for four years by forming a directors' group of 15 local citizens. She revitalized the Friends into an active, dedicated and determined group which held fundraisers, built relationships within the community, and rallied the community to the cause. Through Gerry's leadership the Friends raised over \$250,000 for all of the furnishings in the new building. The Friends of Patrick Lynch Public Library has a Facebook page.

Carolyn Klepper, Vice President of the Friends of Mustang Library and a past-president of FOLIO, and Desiree Webber, Director of Mustang Public Library, shared how the Mustang Library expanded by 7200 square feet. The library hired a consultant, an experienced library director from a community similar in size to Mustang, to do a study and to help the Library Board produce a 20-year strategic plan for the library. The chair of the Strategic Plan Committee presented the plan to the city council. Six years later, the city council voted to include funding for the library renovation as part of a \$3 million bond issue for the city. The library's expansion, which cost \$1.2 million, focused on the children's and teen areas, but the entire library's interior received a make-over.

Carolyn Klepper was one of three community members on the Library Building Project. She utilized her interior design skills to choose fabrics and colors. The Friends  
*(continued on p. 2)*

## ***A Message from the President***



We had a great conference this spring with vivacious and inspiring speakers. Thank you to all who participated and assisted in making this a special meeting. Mark your calendar and plan to be in Tulsa next spring. Our annual meeting will be on Friday, April 1.

If you need assistance, please contact our ambassadors. (*See page 7 for contact information.*) In the last couple of months FOLIO leaders and ambassadors have visited with Tuttle, Pryor and Haskell Friends.

We have funded author visits to some libraries this year. We have submitted a Smart Investing grant for potential financial literacy programs throughout the state.

The Endowment campaign has successfully matched our challenge grant, thanks to many of you. (*See page 4 for additional information.*) We are submitting an application for another challenge grant next year.

If your Friends group needs help in getting officially started or rejuvenated, please apply for a Seed Grant. (*See page 7 or get an application on our web site, [www.okfriends.net](http://www.okfriends.net).*)

We are Turning Outward, shifting from an internal (organization) focus to an external (community) focus. FOLIO is reaching out to libraries, particularly those in small rural communities, to offer greater support through presentations and programs. Let us know how we can assist you. Email [me-judyneale@yahoo.com](mailto:me-judyneale@yahoo.com).

We consider it an honor to serve you.

*Dr. Judy Neale, President*

### **Libraries: Buildings and Renovations with Friends** (*continued from p. 1*)

paid to have the furniture in the original part of the library upholstered so that the entire library has a uniform look to it. In addition, Carolyn requested that the Friends seek a donation of the granite countertop and purchase additional items. The Friends also purchased two murals and glassworks for the Children's Library and Teen Area. The Friends were able to help the budget for the building addition and made the Children's Library and Teen Area special places.

Friends of the Mustang Library webpage:  
<http://www.mustanglibrary.org/library/pagefriends-library>.

At the OLA conference program, 42 attendees enjoyed hearing these speakers and seeing slides of the beautiful new library spaces. If your Friends group is thinking about undertaking any kind of library renovation or building project, go visit the Patrick B. Lynch Public Library in Poteau and the Mustang Public Library and be inspired! And if your Friends group has successfully renovated or built a

library within the last few years, please share the good news with FOLIO!

*With input from the program speakers, article submitted by Karen Neurohr, FOLIO 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and OSU Associate Professor, Community Outreach and Assessment Librarian.*



*The Mustang Public Library's meeting room is one of the great new spaces with their addition.*

## NEWS FROM OUR STATE FRIENDS

### McCloud Public Library at the Blackberry Festival



Pictured is Alexandra Ellis, daughter of McCloud Friends president Megan Ellis and granddaughter to Pioneer Library Board Chair Annette Brown. Third generation library advocacy in action! Alex and Megan sat at a Friends of the McCloud Public Library booth at the annual McCloud Blackberry Festival over the 4th of July weekend. They made quite a team engaging passersby, and Alex made sure every young person received an "I love my library" sticker!  
—Wanda Haynes

### Magic Show at Elk City

The Elk City Carnegie Library finished up their children's summer reading program with a magic show. The Friends helped with finances for the summer program.  
—Carla Garrison

### Friends Co-Sponsor Chautauqua in Lawton

"The Dust Bowl: Strong Winds, Strong Characters" was the Oklahoma Chautauqua theme this year, presented by Oklahoma Chautauqua in association with the Oklahoma Humanities Council. The Friends of the Lawton Library was a local co-sponsor, hosting each event. Workshops were held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day with evening performances at 7 p.m.

Featured were John Steinbeck, Hazel Doris Lucas Shaw, Ernie Pyle, Woody Guthrie and Lena Lowery Sawner. Mrs. Sawner was an African-American woman whose adult life spanned an era from early Indian/Oklahoma Territory Days through the Dust Bowl/Depression era. From 1902 to 1934, Mrs. Sawner served as principal of Douglass High School in the segregated school system of Lincoln County, Chandler, OK. She thought education should be holistic, including the academic and practical. She said that "teachers must be motivated and highly qualified." She transformed the negative energy of segregation and racism into a positive force in the lives of her students and of her beloved Chandler.



### Fishing with Bookworms at Tuttle

During the Tuttle Ice Cream Festival held on June 20, the Tuttle Library hosted a "Fishing with Bookworms" booth. Children, 10 and under, 'fished' for books with a fishing pole and a bookworm. The color of book they caught determined the prize bin from which they could choose their prize.

In addition, each child could choose a **free** book to take home as part of their prize. Every participant was a winner. Some of the children had such a good time that they came back to fish for a second or third time!

—Jane Bryant

## Thanks to our Friends!



*Pictured left to right are board members and volunteers getting the FOLIO Endowment mailing ready — Carol McReynolds, Sharon Saulmon, Melba Kirkpatrick, Joe McReynolds, Jon Douthitt, Sharon Douthitt, Judy Neale and Jane Bryant. Cindy Friedemann hosted the group at Metro Tech.*

What a great Mother's Day—Special Readers endowment fundraising campaign! We exceeded our goal of \$6,000 which successfully matched the challenge grant of \$2,000 from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.

### **THANK YOU for your participation!!**

Bob and Nancy Anthony

Candace Baird

Marsha Baker

Kay Boies, in honor of FOLIO

Patrick Brennen

Cecelia Brown

Jane Bryant

Helen Cline

Peggy Cook, in honor of her mother, Clara Royster

Beverly Dieterlan, in honor of Gerry Hendon

Jon & Sharon Douthitt, in honor of Abbie Douthitt and  
in memory of Wilma Sanders & William Douthitt

Virginia Douthitt, in honor of Billie Douthitt

Eugene Earsom, in honor of Julia Brady Ratliff

Barbara Eskridge

Scott & Dana Flora, in honor of Gerry Hendon

Cindy Friedemann

Friends of the Claremore Library

Friends of the Tahlequah Library

Friends of the Tecumseh Library, in honor of  
Ella M. Gallaway

Susan Gilley

Jennifer and Bob Greenstreet

Mary Harkey

Judy Haight, in honor of Lauren Shelton

Gerry Hendon, in memory of her mother, Vinnie Cox

Mandy Hesse, in honor of Carolyn Klepper

Larry and Brenda Johnson

Carolyn Klepper

Angie Lewis, in memory of her mother, Sue Long

Lynn McIntosh

Jeanette McQuitty

Carol & Joe McReynolds

Susan McVey

Karen & George Neurohr, in memory of Cleo  
Brown and Ruth Neurohr McCurdy

Dr. Anne Morgan

Dr. Judy Neale

Diane Pennington

Julia Brady Ratliff

Marci Robinowitz

Sharon Saulmon

Jeannine Spencer

Beverly Strader

Laurie Sundborg

Tom Terry

Larry Thorne

Marilyn Vesely

Desiree Webber, in honor of Mildred Laughlin

Ed and Sherry Whisler, in honor of Sharon Douthitt

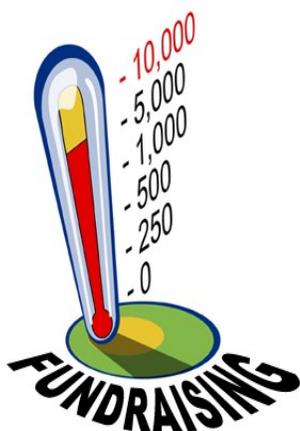
Judith Wilcox

Harlene Wills

Pat Woodrum

## News You Can Use

### Library Friends Help Fund E-Readers



Friends of the Lawton Public Library raised \$20,000 over the last few years through things such as the International Festival (selling soft drinks) and their book sales, according to Library Director Kristin Herr. They have also received a \$10,000 matching grant from the Laura Fields Trust. The library has purchased e-readers (electronic devices, i.e., iPads and Kindles),

where electronic books may be downloaded and read. Herr said, "People are requesting it on a continual basis. It is the No. 1 request at the library."

Lawton PL joined the Oklahoma Virtual Library consortium centered around Overdrive. "Our customers come into this with books already purchased by the consortium, instead of starting from scratch and building our own library," Herr reported. Users may download their books anywhere that has an Internet connection.

### Great Brainstorming on Fundraising

Friends from branches of the Pioneer Library System had a workshop this spring. Participants came up with some great ideas for raising funds.

- At an ongoing book sale highlight a different type of book each month, i.e., cookbooks, romance.
- Have a book sale/bake sale three times per year.
- Conduct a silent auction.
- Have Bean Supper with Masons matching the proceeds.
- Do a mystery dinner theatre.
- Have an author book signing or seminar.
- Have poet laureate for program.
- Conduct mini-golf tournament.
- Collect recipes for a bi-annual cookbook.
- Make it easy for attendees to make additional donations.
- Have a pancake breakfast or spaghetti dinner (Some restaurants offer fundraising.)
- Sponsor local sporting events.
- Conduct open house, gala or holiday social.
- Exhibit local art with an art fair.

## Best Friends

### Metropolitan Library Friends Honored

The Friends of the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County won the Best Friends Award for Friends serving over 10,000 population at the FOLIO Annual Meeting for their community service during the 2014-2015 year. They received a donation of some 100,000 books, mostly children's books, which they decided to give away to teachers or others involved with children in some capacity. They also had a large donation of music books and sheet music that was passed on to a local Middle and High School, which was very much appreciated and utilized. Each week a volunteer comes to the book sorting site and picks up books to take to the local jail, the City Rescue Mission and five hospitals in OKC.

The Friends donated 36,000 comic books to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for their Comic Book Day in the Libraries. 200 books were donated to Oklahoma Department of Human Services for their Spring Sibling Event, which brings separated siblings together for a day of fun and activities.

The Friends are proud of their community service over the past year, having touched lives both young and old while delivering reasons to love our library. *(More conference awards will be featured in the next issue.)*

### FOLIO Honored at OLA Conference



FOLIO received the Citizen Recognition Award from the Oklahoma Library Association at the annual conference in May. Pictured left to right-Karen Neurohr, FOLIO 1st VP, Dr. Judy Neale, FOLIO President, and OLA President Shari Clifton.

## FOLIO Hall of Fame



Jon and Sharon Douthitt were honored by FOLIO for their tireless efforts in supporting Friends across the state and FOLIO. (Photo by Karen Neurohr)

### Gerry Roberts Poteau's Citizen of the Year

Patrick Lynch Public Library's Friend, Gerry Roberts, was named Citizen of the Year in Poteau for 2014 at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet this spring for her leadership role on behalf of the new library building.

Through the years, Gerry volunteered for many activities with schools, her church and the Red Cross. Gerry was a member of the local library board 2007-2010 and also served on the Southeastern Public Library System of OK Board of Trustees 2007-2009.

Gerry joined Friends of Buckley Library and served as President 2008-2010, during which time:

- She initiated changes in the by-laws, expanding the board from 15 to 24 members.
- She initiated the first annual large fundraising event, La Fiesta, which garnered over \$8,000 toward the new library project.
- She increased active memberships in Friends.
- She advocated tirelessly, researched grants and challenged Friends to advocate for a new library facility .

After accomplishing her goal of seeing a new library constructed, Gerry continues to be an active member of Patrick Lynch Public Library Friends and enjoys volunteering her time to assist with adult and children's programming. Congratulations, Gerry!!!

## Harold Keith Literary Landmark



The Literary Landmark dedication honoring Harold Keith in May at the Norman Central Library of the Pioneer Library System was a great success with family, friends and library Friends attending. The Library had great displays. In the photograph above, a Civil War soldier is depicted describing Keith's famous book, *Rifles for Watie*. Keith was in excellent company with four other children's authors honored around the country during Children's Book Week — William Dean Myers (NY), Margaret Wise Brown (RI), Robert McCloskey (OH) and Carl Sandburg (IL).



### Join FOLIO

I don't recall why I became a member of FOLIO. Someone probably mentioned it to me, and I attended a meeting. What I found there was a group of

people with whom I could share my interest in libraries. Free libraries!

Why I continue to belong is that FOLIO supports libraries in the whole state of Oklahoma. We honor authors through our Literary Landmark program, help Friends groups organize and grow, communicate with groups and share their stories in our newsletter, and support library-friendly legislation. And you meet people you can easily like.

Since I am lucky enough to serve on the FOLIO Board, I still enjoy the people who are creatively finding more ways to support libraries. You ought to come and join FOLIO! I'd like to meet you!

—Jeannine Spencer



You can assist FOLIO when you shop Amazon online. FOLIO will receive 0.5 percent of eligible sales. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations.

- Simply go to smile.amazon.com when you want to begin shopping.
- Select FOLIO as your charitable organization.
- Shop as you would normally.

### Newsletter by Email

Would you like to receive the *FOLIO Newsletter* by email? Please include your email address when you renew your membership or email Gerry Hendon, FOLIO Treasurer, today.

ghendon@wings-n-things.com



**Yes! I want to join FOLIO  
and be a Friend of Libraries in Oklahoma.**

Your membership dues and donations are the primary source of funds to support FOLIO's mission. New members are always welcome.

**Basic dues** are as follows:

- \$10 Individual Membership
- \$15 Friends Group Membership
- \$20 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Donation enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift to Endowment: \_\_\_\_\_

***FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!***

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

## Need Help?

### Call your FOLIO Ambassador

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

Ambassadors are available for each quadrant of the State.



#### Northeast

- Jon and Sharon Douthitt  
sdouthitt@prodigy.net

#### Northwest

- Joe and Carol McReynolds  
joemcreynolds@yahoo.com

#### Southeast

- Judy Neale  
judyn@cameron.edu

#### Southwest

- Judy Haught  
judyhaught@swosu.edu
- Carla Garrison  
cgarrison@cableone.net



### Seed Grants

FOLIO has been making Seed Grants available to help get Friends groups started or reinvigorated since 1993. The application and details are available on the FOLIO website—[http:// www.okfriends.net](http://www.okfriends.net).

Seed Grants are awarded on the basis of need and available funds, and are accepted at any time. There is no specific deadline. The Grant was recently increased to \$425.



Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

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Tulsa, OK 74170

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**Libraries**  
**In**  
**Oklahoma**  
**through**  
**Friends**  
**of**  
**Libraries**  
**Since 1978**

**Get Ready for Fall**

Are you getting ready for your Friends of the Library's fall activities? Here's some great national weeks with ideas to capitalize on the library and its services...

- **National Friends of the Library Week** is Oct. 19-25. This celebration offers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate Friends. Use the time to promote Friends in your community, to raise awareness and to promote membership. This is also an excellent time for your library and Board of Trustees to recognize the contributions of Friends for their help and support of the library. ([www.ala.org/united](http://www.ala.org/united), select Conferences and Events)
- **Outside the Lines** (Sept. 13-19, 2015) is a global initiative demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. Organizations around the world will participate in this weeklong celebration by engaging with their communities in new and exciting ways. ([outsidethelines.org](http://outsidethelines.org))
- **September is Library Card Sign-Up Month** -This is a time to remind parents and children that a library card is the most important school supply of all. Sample press releases, public service announcements, and proclamations are available. Snoopy is the honorary chair this year. ([www.ala.org/librarycardsignup](http://www.ala.org/librarycardsignup)) The Tuttle Public Library has an invitation on Facebook for local businesses to be a partner with promotions during the month.
- **Banned Books Week** (Sept. 27-Oct. 3) promotes the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinions and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those viewpoints to all who wish to read them. This is a great week for discussion groups and for displays of challenged books. ([www.ala.org/bbooks](http://www.ala.org/bbooks))
- **Teen Tech Week** is Oct. 18-24, encouraging teens to be regular readers and library users. The theme this year is Get Away @ your library to spotlight all the great resources and activities available to help teens build literacy skills while reading for the fun of it. ([www.ala.org/teenread](http://www.ala.org/teenread))