

FOLIO

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma

Newsletter Vol. XXXVI No. 3—Winter 2015

www.okfriends.net

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

Join Us at the Annual Conference

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Plan to attend the FOLIO Annual Meeting Day on Friday, May 1, held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Library Association Conference at the Reed Center, Midwest City, OK.

The FOLIO Annual Meeting is a great time to network with other Friends, see exhibits, meet authors, and learn tips about Friends. Join us on May 1. The morning program will feature great ideas on building and renovating libraries, with speakers Nancy Hamlin from the Patrick Lynch Public Library in Poteau and Desiree Weber, Librarian, and Carolyn Klepper, Friend of the Library, Mustang Public Library. The luncheon speaker is Oklahoma author Gwendolyn Hooks. In the afternoon the annual business meeting will be held, finishing the day with a FOLIO Board meeting.

Of course, other Oklahoma Library Association events are available to you. Wednesday evening's banquet speaker is Dr. Joey Senat, professor of media law at OSU and a First Amendment advocate. Full registration information is available at www.oklibs.org under Events.

Advisory Board

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Gwendolyn Hooks to speak at FOLIO Luncheon

Gwendolyn Hooks is the author of 17 books for children. She writes both fiction and nonfiction to encourage children to explore their world. Readers will find pets, friendship, and family sprinkled throughout Gwendolyn's stories because that's what inspires her. Her latest, the eight book Pet Club Series is all about pets: a cat, dog, fish, and a rat. Even her nonfiction books are about animals and a few plants.

She taught math several years, until she realized she wanted to write children's books. Brooks said, "I had stories inside of me before I knew they were there. But once I found them, I couldn't stop until they became published books. I'm still filled with stories. And I write almost every day because I don't want to forget any of them." Brooks advice is to "Never stop reading, writing, or drawing. Whatever your passion, be persistent."

Dr. Judy Neale, FOLIO Board President said, "We are thrilled that Gwendolyn Hooks will speak at the luncheon! She is a dynamic person and speaker. Please join us."

The FOLIO Luncheon will be Friday, May 1, during the conference. Ticket information is available at www.oklib.org under Events - Annual Conference.



A Message from the President



“If you want to be successful, it’s just this simple. Know what you are doing. Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing.”
— Will Rogers

We at FOLIO know what we are doing: promoting and supporting libraries in Oklahoma through Friends groups. Furthermore, we love what we are doing, and we believe that we are making a difference in libraries across our state.

On May 1, 2015, at our annual conference, we will continue our endeavors. Please come join us as we provide four scholarships to staff members who are pursuing additional library skills; honor two Friends groups that have shown exemplary service to their communities; and share ideas for building and renovating libraries from the ground up.

To register for the FOLIO annual meeting, go to the OLA website at oklibs.org, under Events. This year all registrations must be completed online.

I hope to see you at the Reed Center, Midwest City, on May 1, 2015. The morning session begins at 11:00, followed by the luncheon with author Gwendolyn Hooks, and then our business meeting at 1:45.

Dr. Judy Neale, President

Lawton Friends Support Military



Lawton Friends of the Library Secretary/Treasurer Patty Neuwirth, TWR CEO Chris Molaro, and Library Director Kristin Herr pictured with check.

The Lawton Airport (Welcome Center for the military) has a free book shelf and was the first. Things We Read is now a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, which provides the books. The Friends of the Library at Lawton donated \$1,000 to this program, providing books to our soldiers and our military families who are stationed here. There is now a poster in the Lawton Public Library about this program.

The mission of Things We Read is to promote reading and education by giving access to books and

inspiring veterans, soldiers and communities in the lifetime pursuit of learning.

Things We Read was started by a soldier in Iraq who is now at Fort Sill. The books are recommended by their commanders or other influential people. The books are free and passed on to other soldiers.

Judy Neale, Lawton Friend and FOLIO President

Thank You!

A Big “Thank You” to the Pioneer Library System

The FOLIO Board wishes to especially thank the Pioneer Library System for making each of its 11 branch libraries a paid-up member of FOLIO.

FOLIO depends on memberships for its annual budget. Please encourage other Friends and library staff to join.

Norman Public Library Central a Literary Landmark

On Sunday, May 3, Norman Public Library Central will be designated a national Literary Landmark in a ceremony that begins at 1:30 p.m. at the library, 225 North Webster Avenue in downtown Norman.

The library will be added to the list of more than 130 sites across the United States that have special literary significance. Norman Central receives its Literary Landmark designation for having on display the 1958 Newbery Award medal.

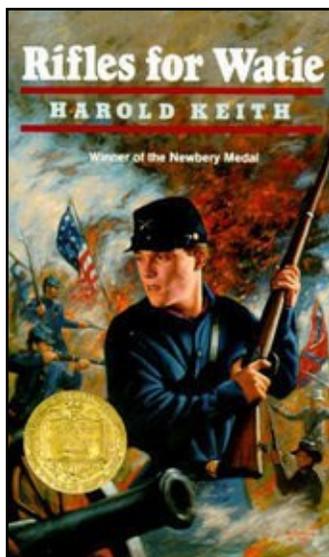
The Newbery has been awarded annually since 1922 for the most distinguished contributions to American literature for children. The Newbery on display in Norman was presented to author Harold Keith for his Civil War novel *Rifles for Watie*. Keith's Newbery medal has been in the children's section of the library since 1993.

Although Keith published more than twenty books for children and adults, he was better known locally for being the first sports information director for the University of Oklahoma. In that role he pioneered the use of a game highlight reel and was a master of the feature story about particular athletes or games. He wrote several sports history books including *47 Straight*, which documented the winning streak of the University of Oklahoma Sooners under coach Bud Wilkinson.

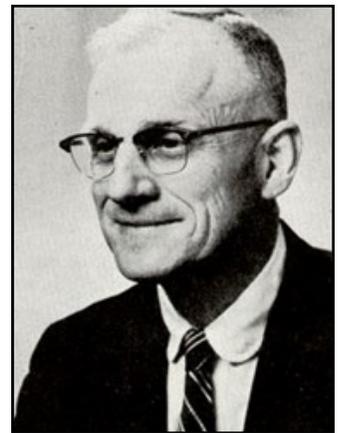
Harold Verne Keith was born April 8, 1903 to Malcom A. and Arlyn Kee Keith in Lambert, Oklahoma Territory. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Known as the "Blond Bomb" in his youth, Keith was an avid and life-long runner. With an energy and stamina forged in distance running, Keith worked enthusiastically and tirelessly in parallel careers, writing and sports publicity. He worked for OU from 1931 until he retired in 1968 to become a full-time writer. His son succeeded him in the role of OU sports information director.

Perhaps most endearing was his unflagging sense of humor, usually about himself: "I can run the mile in Monday morning flat," he quipped near the end of his running career. Asked at 90 if he still ran, he said, "To tell the truth, in a run with a pregnant woman, I'd come in third."



Harold Keith died February 24, 1998. He was 94 years old. His last novel, *Chico and Dan* was published posthumously later that year.



The Literary Landmarks project began in 1986. It is an ongoing project of United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. With the addition of Norman, the state of Oklahoma has twelve Literary Landmarks located in the communities of Okemah, Oklahoma City, Claremore (2), Marshall, Stillwater, McAlester, Sallisaw, Pawhuska, Tahlequah, and Stroud. Keith joins Oklahoma Literary Landmark authors Woody Guthrie, Ralph Ellison, Lynn Riggs, Angie Debo, John Berryman, Sequoyah, Will Rogers, John Mathews, Wilson Rawls, and Wilma McDaniel.

Guests who attend the May 3 dedication ceremony will enjoy an interactive display that tells the story of Keith's life and dual careers, *Rifles for Watie*, the Newbery Awards, and the Literary Landmarks project.

The popular Byron Berline Band will underscore the event. Berline is the founder of the annual Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival, and he is widely recognized as one of the world's premier fiddle players. In his days at OU, Berline was befriended by Keith who mentored him in cross country running.

The official Literary Landmark dedication ceremony will begin at 3:00 p.m. Special guests will be members of Keith's family including his niece Lynn McIntosh and his grandson Duke Keith along with his publisher and long-time friend Molly Griffis, who reprinted many of Keith's early works through her Norman publishing house, Levite of Apache.

Sponsors for the Norman Public Library Central Literary Landmark celebration include the Pioneer Library System, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO), and the University of Oklahoma Athletic Department, Friends of the Norman Library and the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

**Harold Keith
Literary Landmark Dedication
Sunday, May 3, 2015
Norman Public Library Central
1:30 p.m.**

NEWS FROM OUR STATE FRIENDS

Purcell Friends Celebrate

The Purcell Friends of the Library held their annual Celebration and Membership Lunch on Tuesday, February 3. The audience enjoyed viewing a display of photos that highlighted the Friends' efforts during 2014—with pictures of Friends-supported projects, such as the FOL's first local authors book sale event, "Writers' Round Up," and the Dr. Seuss Read Across America birthday party. The Purcell Friends supported children's Lego building programs, purchased a large new toddler-friendly doll house, and purchased art supplies for Summer Reading Programs for preschoolers, as well as volunteered and financially supported the branch's three major events in 2014: the Hispanic Heritage Festival, the Daddy Daughter Dance, and the December Family Gingerbread House Merrymaking Celebration, and more!



The featured speaker for the event was Durant author Marion Moore Hill. Hill's newest book, featuring the intrepid Oklahoma librarian Juanita Wills, is *Cook the Books*. Hill's second series of books, "The Deadly Past Mysteries" are set in current day America, but feature a brave young heroine who works to solve mysteries that happened during Revolutionary times.

These books feature our country's founding fathers and give new insights into the history of the revolution. Our audience found Hill's presentation interesting and inspiring. The would-be authors in our group appreciated that she took a few minutes to talk about how to become a successful published author.

The Friends of the Purcell Library host this Celebration every other year, inviting the public to attend, celebrate with them and consider joining the group. The event is provided at no cost to the community and features sandwiches, salads, and a simple dessert.

Peggy Cook, McClain County Coordinator and Purcell Branch Manager, Pioneer Library System

*The only thing you have to know
is the location of the library.
—Albert Einstein*

Santa's Workshop at Waurika



Waurika Friends of the Library members helped to host a Santa's Workshop at Waurika Public Library. The members assisted children in creating Christmas cards, gifts, and ornaments. The event was a great success with more than 55 children in attendance.

The group is also planning to help the library with the annual Dr. Seuss Birthday celebration taking place on March 2.

Amy Watkins, Library Director, Waurika Public Library

Crafting Classes a Big Hit

What started as an educational introduction to Pinterest has become a popular monthly class at eight libraries in the Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library System (CRLS). Branch Coordinator Alyson Vernon began teaching the classes last year.

"There are so many ways to use Pinterest," said Vernon. "We wanted to teach our customers how to utilize the site and found simple crafts to complete in a short amount of time using inexpensive materials."

Mod Podge, DIY spa items, holiday wreaths, repurposed books and Nail Art are just a small sampling of the many classes Vernon has taught.

Vernon carefully selects crafts that are simple enough for various levels and those that can be completed in one class time. The results have been positive and the numbers in attendance keep increasing at all libraries. Friends of the Library help support the craft programs.

"We have a strong following," said Vernon. "Before Christmas, we introduced holiday foods at one of our programs and everyone shared recipes." It's just one of the perks Vernon receives as the class instructor!

"It's always exciting to see what our patrons create," Vernon said.

Gail Currier, Public Information/Marketing Coordinator, Chickasaw Regional Library System

News You Can Use

True Friends Award at Wister

Friends of Wister Library have been very dedicated to the library and our community. So much so that last year we instituted a True Friends Award for outstanding service.

Roberta Lynch, President of Friends, received the first award, and this year it was awarded to Jim Billings on Friday, February 6, at the regular monthly Friends meeting. Jim has been devoted to the library and joining Friends years ago was a natural progression for him. He was instrumental in remodeling the new home for the library and he is the administrator of the Friends' Wister Memories Facebook, a 700-member group which is devoted to collecting local history and old photographs of the people and the area.

Lesley H. Langley, Librarian, Wister Public Library

Membership Drive at UCO

The Max Chambers Library at the University of Central Oklahoma held its annual **Friends of the Library membership drive**. The Friends group continues to expand collections through monetary and material gifts. The FOL also fosters intellectual inquiry and promotes a sense of collaboration by sponsoring film showings, book talks, lecture series and other outreach events. For more information visit www.centralconnection.org/fol.

Author and Staff Events at Chickasha PL

The Friends of the Chickasha Public Library recently hosted a Meet and Greet Reception for its new Youth Services Librarian David DeShong who came on staff in January, 2015. Lillie Huckaby, the previous Children's Librarian, was promoted to Library Director in August, 2014.

The Friends also hosted its first "Falling Leaves" Local Author Festival in November, 2014. There were 12 local authors present. Each had books to sell and gave a short talk on their writing experiences and books. Ongoing events at the Library include "Sandwiched In" Brown Bag luncheons, with a different literary genre discussed each month.

The Third Annual Chocolate Celebration was held on February 13, 2015, with all proceeds going to renovate the Children's area at the Library. This event has become a community-wide favorite and was a success again this year.

Angie Lewis, President, Friends of the Chickasha Public Library



Fundraising Ideas Around the Country

- "Costume Jewelry Extravaganza" is being planned by the Friends of the Belleville (KS) Library. They are seeking donations of any costume jewelry in good condition: antique, vintage, or modern.
- "Clothing and Household Donation Drive," a two-week drive, made it easy to de-clutter homes while making a difference locally. The Rocklin (CA) Friends of the Library held it in partnership with ReUseIt.
- "Brats and Brews for Books" is an event planned by the Friends of the Loveland (CO) Library. A fun night of music, dancing, and food is planned. A \$25 donation will buy a supper with grilled bratwurst, side dish, and six four-ounce samples of microbrews, including draft root beer. Vegetarian options will also be available.

"Good Ideas from the Network."

The Voice of America's Libraries, 15.5 (Sep./Oct. 2014): 16.

- During the months of January and February, the Friends of the Charleston (SC) Library conducted a "media and gadget donation drive" to raise funds for the library. Items such as CDs, DVDs, video games, cameras, iPods, and tablets were collected.
- Partnering with local businesses or corporations with a presence in your community can pay big dividends. The Friends of the Auburn (CA) Library recently received a \$3,000 grant from Union Pacific to help augment the e-book and audio book collection for the library.
- The Friends of the Miramar (FL) Library hosted two informative programs for seniors. "Healthy Aging Resources on the Web for Seniors and Caregivers" and "Conversations with Your Doctor, Healthy Aging/Healthy Lifestyles." The latter was accompanied by a Health Expo, including local hospitals, county agencies, etc.

"Good Ideas from the Network." *The Voice of America's Libraries* 12.3 (May/June 2014): 16-18.

Legislative Day

Friends and library advocates are needed at the State Capitol on Legislative Day, Tuesday, April 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The legislative briefing will be at 10:30 a.m. followed by a time to meet with our legislators.



An Advocacy Workshop co-sponsored by FOLIO and the Oklahoma Library Association Legislative Committee will be at the Ralph Ellison Library, 2000 NE 23, in the afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Presenters will be Cynthia Friedemann, United for Libraries Secretary/Treasurer and FOLIO board member, and Dr. Judy Neale, FOLIO president.

To register go to www.oklibs.org and select Events.

FOLIO Endowment

FOLIO has been approved by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for a matching grant for 2015. Our challenge is to raise \$6,000 by August 2015 in order to receive \$2,000 in matching funds from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. This will make our endowment fund grow and will provide funds for the future of FOLIO and Friends' projects around the State.

The mailing is planned in April/May, but you can help us get a jump start on our fundraising by mailing a check to FOLIO, P. O. Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170.



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.

FOLIO Is Reaching Out

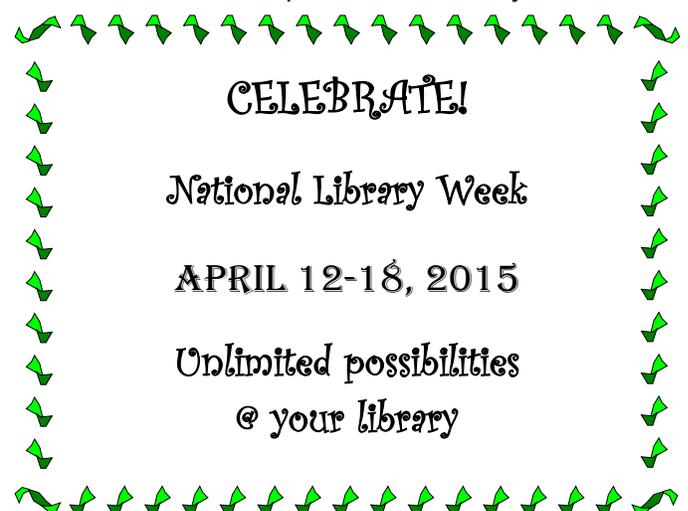
As President Neale reported in the last issue of the *FOLIO Newsletter*, FOLIO is reaching out to our Friends' groups. You will be hearing more about these possibilities. FOLIO is—

- Funding travel expenses for children's and young adult authors to present programs sponsored by the Center for the Book and the Office of Library Development at selected libraries.
- Co-sponsoring the Literary Landmark on May 3. (See *related article*.)
- Exploring grant funding for library programming.
- Assisting Friends groups around the state. (See *the article on Ambassadors*.)
- And more.

Tulsa Friends' Scholarship Awarded

Allie Beth Martin became the first director of the Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL), a position she held 1963 to 1976. In memory of her outstanding dedication and service to libraries and librarians, a scholarship fund was established in her name to benefit residents of Oklahoma who wish to pursue a graduate degree in library science. Applications are being accepted for the 2015 scholarship.

The Tulsa Library Trust and the Friends of TCCL are proud to announce the 2014 Allie Beth Martin scholarship award winner, Tatiana Godinez. She is pursuing her Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree at the University of Oklahoma with a projected graduation in 2015. Godinez has been employed by TCCL since 2007 and is currently the Children's Library Associate at the Glenpool branch library.



FOLIO Scholarships

FOLIO offers scholarships annually for library staff furthering their library careers. There are four \$500 scholarships available this year. The application process is easy and requires only a short essay. All the information needed to apply can be found on the FOLIO web page at www.okfriends.net. The deadline for receiving applications is March 31, 2015. Let your library staff know about this available assistance.

Best Friends Awards

FOLIO will present awards to Friends groups who have demonstrated exemplary success in support of their local library in 2014-2015. The Oklahoma Best Friends Award recognizes Friends groups in cities with a population in excess of 10,000. The John Harkey Best Friends Award recognizes Friends groups in cities with a population of less than 10,000. The award for first place in both groups will be \$500.

- All competing Friends groups must have a paid membership in FOLIO. Membership forms are on the web page at www.okfriends.net.
- Complete the entry form and submit it with your entry notebook or documentation before April 15, 2015.
- Check www.okfriends.net for details and the entry form for the Best Friends awards and the Scholarships.

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

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: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____

Gift Donation enclosed: _____

Gift to Endowment: _____

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

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
- Harlene Willis
harlene.willis@gmail.com

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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FOLIO:
Strengthening
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In
Oklahoma
through
Friends
of
Libraries
Since 1978

Why Public Libraries Are SO Important

In the *FY2014 Annual Report* of Oklahoma Public Libraries the Oklahoma Department of Libraries reports these wonderful statistics that all Friends should become familiar with and share with their elected officials.

- Libraries are technology centers. (100% of Oklahoma's public libraries offer free Internet access and free Wi-Fi. 3,067 public access computers are available in public libraries. 4.17 million Internet sessions were conducted by library users.)
- Libraries have e-books while traditional materials use remains strong. (6.3 million e-books were loaned by public libraries. 22.2 million physical items were borrowed.)
- Libraries are busy. *Really busy!* (2.1 million Oklahomans have library cards. 14.16 million visits to Oklahoma's public libraries. 837,453 children and youth attended 25,060 library programs. 324,075 adults attended 14,006 adult programs.)

**All Oklahoma Friends
are Invited to the**

**FOLIO Annual Meeting
Friday, May 1, 2015**

**Reed Center
5800 Will Rogers
Midwest City**

Friends from all over the state will be gathering to network and learn from each other. Plan to attend.

9:00 a.m. Registration and Visit Exhibits

11:00 a.m. "Libraries: Buildings and Renovations with Friends" - Librarians and Friends discuss their renovations.

12:15 p.m. FOLIO Awards Luncheon
Speaker: Children's Author Gwendolyn Hooks

1:45 p.m. FOLIO Annual Membership Meeting and Board meeting.

Other OLA programs and exhibits are on tap.

*Registration information and form at www.oklibs.org
under Events - Annual Conference.*

