

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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Save the Dates! Special FOLIO events during the Oklahoma Library Association conference

Mon., April 23 from 10-4 at the Hyatt Regency, 100 East Second St., Tulsa.
 “Dare to be Friends” FOLIO Workshop. Sessions include Successful Fundraisers, Social Media, Bylaws, and Staying Friends.

Advisory Board

Connie Armstrong
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 Michael Wallis
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Keynote: “Engage and Connect with Donors, Board Members, and Stakeholders” Speaker: Craig Clemons. Building and strengthening relationships is an important strategy for non-profit board members,

prospective board members and donors. Keynote speaker Clemons has successful experience in developing fundraising campaigns, building community partnerships, and leading non-profit boards. He is the Vice President of Public Relations and Business Development for Express Employment Professionals – a \$3.5B staffing organization headquartered in OKC. Prior to joining Express, Clemons served in senior management positions with several organizations including the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma State University, Williams Cos., Pepsi/Frito Lay and Anheuser Busch.

Emeritus Board

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

Additional workshop speakers include FOLIO board members, librarians, and a digital account executive.

Grants for OU SLIS students, Trustees, Friends and OLA members are available to the workshop. See p. 6 for details. Register at <http://www.oklibs.org/event/FOLIO2018#>.



Tues., April 24, 11-3:30.

11:00 – noon, Program
 “The Good, the Great, the Unfriendly” a program based on the book by Sally Gardner Reed. This will offer tested advice on do’s and don’ts for getting your friends group going properly, what to do when problems arise, and sharing of success stories, headaches, and ideas.

Speaker is Wayne Hanway, FOLIO Board of Directors, and former Executive Director, Southeastern Public Library System, McAlester.

Noon – 1:30, FOLIO’s 40th Anniversary Awards Luncheon featuring author Michael Wallis

The FOLIO luncheon will feature the legendary Michael Wallis, award-winning author of 19 books, historian, speaker, and voice talent. Books will be available for purchase and signing.



FOLIO will also present Best Friends, Scholarship, and Hall of Fame awards, and recognize Friends of Libraries Week winners and Seed Grant recipients.

Luncheon cost will be \$50.00, if you are not registered for the OLA Conference. Register at <http://www.oklibs.org/event/FOLIO2018#>. Watch the FOLIO website www.okfriends.net and Facebook for more info.

A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

This year marks FOLIO's 40th anniversary of strengthening libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries! Hooray for FOLIO and Friends of Libraries!

FOLIO board members are working hard on the upcoming FOLIO activities that will be held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Library Association annual conference. FOLIO's activities will be on Monday, April 23, and Tuesday, April 24.

Plan to register for FOLIO's "Dare to Be Friends" workshop on April 23, and the Anniversary Luncheon featuring Michael Wallis on April 24. Watch our web site and Facebook page for more information.

Four grants are available for attending the FOLIO workshop. Two grants are for OU-SLIS graduate students, furnished by the OU-SLIS Alumni Board. Two grants are for Friends. The grant applications are available online at the FOLIO website: www.okfriends.net

Applications are open for FOLIO academic scholarships (*See the information on p.6.*), Best Friends awards (*See information on p.6.*), and Seed Grants (*See information on p. 7.*)

Information is on the FOLIO website: www.okfriends.net

The Oklahoma legislature is now in session. One of our roles as members of Friends of Libraries is to help advocate for our libraries. We need to help everyone understand the important role of libraries as an arm of democracy. As social and intellectual centers in communities, libraries support equitable access to information, lifelong learning, and literacy through access to technology and resources, meeting spaces, innovation, and programming. Watch for updates on FOLIO's Facebook page and the *District Dispatch* at <http://www.districtdispatch.org/>.



Karen Neurohr, FOLIO President, 2016-18

Elk City Friends' Activities

Elk City Friends of the Library supported Elk City Carnegie Library with both funds and volunteers during the past few months. On September 14, author Alton Carter visited the library and Elk City public schools on the Reading Roundup tour. The Friends group mailed postcards to guests, distributed posters around town, provided lunch for Carter and other guests, and hosted his evening presentation at the library.

In October, the Friends held a book sale and a silent auction of items donated by Friends members. Library patrons bid on a variety of items from vintage glassware to fall craft items. In December, the library installed a statue by local artist Randy Haggard in front of the library. Elk City Friends participated in the dedication of the statue by addressing invitations, providing cookies, and attending the event. They also provided funds for lighting around the statue. Another silent auction was held at the event with holiday-themed gift baskets donated by Friends members.

The Carnegie Youth Library hosts Lego Day each month. The program attracts many young builders, and the library has added the Little Bitz building system to the program. Elk City Friends voted to fund this addition with items such as droid inventor

kits and coding kits. STEM classes for elementary children are also a popular addition to the Youth Library. The Friends group is supporting this program with new laptop computers and a storage and charging cabinet. Adult computer classes will also use the laptops.

The Friends continue to support the adult Challenge Book Club with refreshments and their participation. In addition, they will sponsor a writing class for people wishing to write their own or their families' stories in March.

The Friends are currently working on plans for the coming year by analyzing surveys sent to members. They plan to implement some of the excellent ideas provided in the surveys and recruit volunteers to serve on various committees.

—Judy Haight, FOLIO Board member/Ambassador



FOLIO thanks OU-SLIS Students for help!

Six graduate students and Professor Cecelia Brown (and FOLIO Board Member) provided great assistance to other FOLIO board members Joe and Carol McReynolds and Karen Neurohr on Saturday, February 3.

The volunteers were preparing forty years of FOLIO archives for transfer to the OSU Library Archives, which is where the Oklahoma Library Association archives are held.



Left to right: Vivian Feng, Catherine Dean, Lora Miller, Nicole McMonagle, Anne Tsonetokoy, and Brynn Simons.

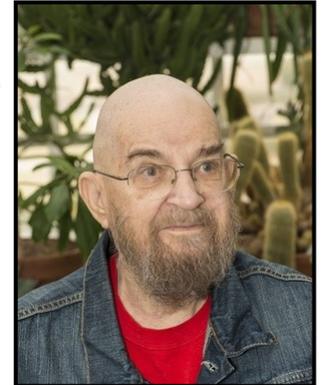


Left to right: Anne Tsonetokoy, Nicole McMonagle, Brynn Simons, Lora Miller, and Vivian Feng.

Thank you, students and Dr. Brown!
—Karen Neurohr

In Memoriam

Robert (Bob) Segal, past president of FOLIO, died in Oklahoma City on January 7, 2018. Bob led a very full and interesting life filled with much more joy than sorrow. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, and fled the Nazi Regime with his parents, in December, 1945. He grew up in New York City. As a kid, he developed a love for baseball which stayed with him his entire life, often skipping school to sneak into New York Giants games at the old Polo Grounds. He played stickball with people on his street, including an older man in poor health - that man was Babe Ruth.



He earned a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship at the University of Rochester in New York. He was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy and began a 26-year adventure on active duty. In 1975, Bob was assigned to McAlester Naval Ammunition Depot. Following his retirement, Bob and wife Pat retired to McAlester where he was an active member of the community, including the Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the State Library board and helped raise nearly 10 million dollars in funds to improve reading programs and facilities across the state.

Bob and wife Pat, who died in 2012, were both members of the FOLIO governing board. They were both named to the FOLIO Hall of Fame in 2002. Memorial donations may be made in memory of Bob and Pat Segal to the FOLIO Endowment Fund, PO Box 702585, Tulsa, OK 74170.

Five laws of Library

1. **Books are for use.**
2. **Every reader his/her book.**
3. **Every book its reader.**
4. **Save the time of the reader.**
5. **The library is a growing organism.**



Dr. S. R. Ranganathan
Father of Library Science in India

News from Around the State

SOKC Library Friends Celebrate



Pictured above, left to right: SOKC Friends celebrate winning the FOLW Award. Neneth Phung (VP), Kelly Sitzman (Branch Manager), John Grimm (President), Aleta Wheelbarger (Secretary), and Sara Mullins (Children's Library Associate)

The Friends of the SOKC Library went above and beyond this year to celebrate Friends of the Library Week (FOLW). [Editor's note: SOKC Friends won the FOLIO FOLW award for a library serving more than 10,000.] This small but mighty group collaborated with staff to celebrate our theme: "inspiring innovation, engagement, and learning in our communities." The Friends promoted FOLW in a variety of ways.

Beginning on Sunday, the front display was dedicated to the FOL. The theme rotated throughout the week to highlight innovation, engagement, and learning (a book display with staff's favorite reads, books and canvas tote bags for sale, snacks, buttons and candy, and displays that shared Friends' quotes about the library.) Friends volunteers spent each day interacting with customers, handing out membership brochures, surveys, and talking about things that drew them to join the group.

Facebook posts throughout the week shared event photos, library programs, Friends meeting, and information about FOLW. We are proud to have supported this initiative, through the Friends, staff,

(continued on p. 5)

Hennessey Friends Rock!



What a library year the Friends of the Hennessey Library have had! The Friends participated in the spring clean-up of the Territorial Garden, funded the summer program for teens and elementary children in June, contributed chocolate and manned their table at the Hennessey Wine and Chocolate Festival in September, and participated in the town-wide garage sale selling books that same month.

October was huge! The Friends of the Library Great Pumpkin Patch required preparing the patch with decorations and sale shed, unloading a half-trailer of bulk pumpkins, and then selling from 9 am to 7 pm every day in October. October ended with the Haunted Library on Halloween night with FOL and other friends handing out candy with ghosts and ghouls floating in the fog-filled halls. January finished the fund-raising year with the 20th anniversary of the Chili Cook-Off. Total funds raised were over \$6,000 and were used to fund the children's program, replace windows in the children's room, and purchase shades for other new windows. Hennessey Friends Rock!

—Mary Haney, Library Director



Manicures, Pedicures, Facials and More



The Friends of Langley Public Library offered a "Girls Night Out" for young ladies 4th – 6th grade on Friday, January 19 at the Library. The girls were treated to manicures, pedicures and facials as well as playing a manicure game, M&M and straw game, enjoyed dance time with the

Wii and enjoyed lots of great snacks. The girls worked on projects making their own lip gloss, foot scrub and decorative soaps. They were also treated to a goodie bag as well as a booklet describing basic hygiene for young girls.

The girls let us know that they had a fabulous time and were wondering when we would offer another "Girls Night Out."
—Jeanie Norman



SOKC Library Friends (cont. from p. 4)

and community members. It was truly a collaborative event that reached over 3,500 SOKC Library customers Oct.15-21. Existing Friends memberships were renewed, and many connections have been made resulting in potential memberships that Friends and staff are following up on. Approximately \$90 was made throughout the week through book and tote bag sales.
—Kelly Sitzmen, Branch Manager

Great Observances to Celebrate

Ideas and information on ways to celebrate these observances with programming and to bring attention to your library are at <http://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks>.

D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," a national month-long April celebration of reading designed to remind folks of all ages to make reading a priority activity in their lives.

National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries, April 8-14. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

National Library Workers Day, April 10, is to recognize all library workers, including librarians, support staff and others who make library service possible every day.

Smart Money Week, April 21-28, encourages offering free financial education classes. Programs should be designed to help consumers make informed decisions about their personal finances. A great list of online resources is available at financial-fitness.oklibraries.org. Look under Resources.

Invitation for "Best Friends" Award

It's time to let that special project of your Friends group "shine." It could earn your FOL \$500. Each year FOLIO presents a plaque and a check for \$500 to two Friends groups in Oklahoma, one in a town of less than 10,000 population, one in a city over 10,000 population. Each **2018 Best Friends Award** is given to a group which has demonstrated great success in support of their local library during 2017-2018. The entry form and additional information are found on the FOLIO website: <okfriends.net> Click on *awards*, then on application. Remember your group must be a member of FOLIO in order to participate. Mail your entry to: Sharon Douthitt, P. O. Box 835, Claremore, OK 74018. Entries must be received by March 15, 2018.

Sharon Douthitt, FOLIO Board member

Scholarships Available

The Lillian Born Norberg and Mary Lou Atkinson Staff Support Scholarships are offered to full or part-time employees of a public, academic, or special library in Oklahoma. Up to four scholarships of \$500 each will be presented at the FOLIO Luncheon on Tuesday, April 24. Applications must be received by March 31. For an application form, please go to www.okfriends.net/ and select Scholarships.

Advocacy—Write a Letter to the Editor

The single most impactful action you can take to save funding for libraries right now is to contact your member of Congress directly. Once you've done that, there is another action you can take to significantly amplify your voice and urge public support for libraries: writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

Don't let myths get in the way of your advocacy:

Myth 1: My local newspaper is really small, so I don't want to waste my time. That may be true. But it's also true that U.S. representatives care about the opinions expressed by their voters.

Myth 2: I have to be a state librarian to get my letter printed in the newspaper. But don't let your title determine the value of your voice.

Myth 3: I don't have anything special to say in a letter. You don't need to write a masterpiece, but you need to be authentic. Letters in response to material recently published stand a better chance of getting printed. Add a call to action.

Ready to write? Here are a few practical tips.

Tip 1: Keep it short – in general, maximum 200 words. The more concise and to-the-point, the better.

Tip 2: When you email your letter, paste it into the body of the text and be sure to include your name, title, address and phone number so that you can be contacted if the editor wants to verify that you are the author. Do not send an attachment.

Tip 3: If your letter gets published, send a copy to your representative and senators to reinforce your message (emailing a hyperlink is best). Also, send a copy to the Washington Office (imanager@alawash.org); we can often use the evidence of media attention when we make visits on Capitol Hill.

Finally, get others involved. Recruit patrons, business leaders and other people in your community to write letters to the editor (after they have called their members of Congress, of course!). Editors won't publish every single letter they get, but the more letters they receive on a specific topic, the more they realize that it is an issue that readers care deeply about – and that can inspire editors to further explore the impact of libraries for themselves.

—Shawnda Hines, ALA Wash. Office

Dare to be Friends!
DARE TO BE FRIENDS!

Grants Available

FOLIO is holding a workshop before the OLA Conference on Monday, April 23. (See the details on p. 1.) The workshop is approved for .66 CEUs.

Several grants are available for workshop registration.

Watch your mail or email and complete the short, one-page form or find it at www.okfriends.net. Tell FOLIO:

- Why do you want to attend the workshop?
- How will the grant help you attend?
- How will you use the workshop information?
- Describe previous experience (if any) with Library Friends.

Register online at <http://www.oklibs.org/event/FOLIO2018#>.

New Library Coming in Elgin

Elgin Community Library will have a new, larger building this summer. A 3,200 square foot building was purchased in January and is being remodeled.

Elgin Friends of the Library have been busy knocking down walls, coordinating dumpsters, having community workdays, and much more. They hosted the Elgin Chamber of Commerce in the new building and discussed the renovation plans.

Librarian Leslie Durham reports that the Friends are also writing grants for the remodel and new library equipment and materials. Congratulations!





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.



Join FOLIO!

FOLIO's membership year is July 1 to June 30.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2017-18, please do so right away.

New members are always welcome.

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

Basic dues are:

- \$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. Any amount is acceptable.

Suggested levels honoring library icons are:

- \$25 Will Rogers
- \$50 Melvil Dewey
- \$75 Benjamin Franklin
- \$100 Andrew Carnegie

Name: _____
(Name of Individual, Friends group, or Library)

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____

Gift Donation enclosed: _____

Gift to Endowment: _____

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

FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!

FOLIO keeps all personal information private and does not share members' phone numbers, mailing addresses or e-mail addresses with third parties.

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
douthittsharon60@gmail.com

Northwest

- Joe and Carol McReynolds
joemcreynolds@yahoo.com
- Karen Neurohr
karen.neurohr@okstate.edu

Southeast

- Wayne Hanway
whanway8@gmail.com

Southwest

- Judy Haught
haughtjc@gmail.com
- 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>. Seed Grants are \$425 and can be used to help pay the expenses for incorporation or other expenses for getting started such as creation and duplication of promotional materials office supplies and other expenses. Seed Grants are awarded on the basis of need and available funds, and are accepted at any time. There is no specific deadline.



P. O. Box 702585

Tulsa, OK 74170

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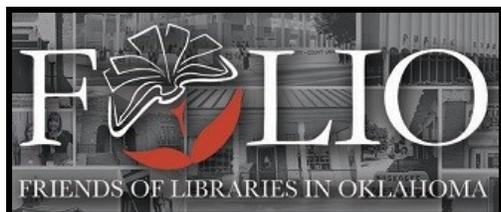
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*40th Anniversary
Celebration*

Tuesday, April 24, Awards Luncheon

Please come! Help us celebrate!



Thank you, Bruce Stone, FOLIO webmaster, and Katy Brown, graphic designer, for your work on the FOLIO website! It looks great! Check it out at www.okfriends.net.



FOLIO Needs Newsletters

FOLIO is missing all newsletters from 1999 and 2002. Typically, three or four newsletters are published yearly.

If you have any of these back issues that you are willing to donate or allow FOLIO to copy, please notify Karen Neurohr, karen.neurohr@okstate.edu.



Grant funds are available to provide financial literacy programs at public libraries across Oklahoma.

The project provides speaker payment, curriculum, food, materials, and more for a series of six one-hour workshops to teach people about personal finance.

If you would like to hold a program this spring, apply by March 1. For programs later in 2018 through Spring of 2019, the application deadline is May 31.

Get More Details and Learn How to Apply! Find out more at <http://financial-fitness.oklibraries.org/requesting-participation/>.

FOLIO has received a grant from FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association (*Smart investing@your library® Financial Fitness Series*) to provide financial fitness programs around Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries is a cooperating statewide sponsor.