

Strengthening Libraries in Oklahoma through Friends of Libraries

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FOLIO Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 26

The 2017 OLA Annual Conference will be held at the National Center for Employee Development (on Highway 9 in southeast Norman). Registration for FOLIO members is \$50 and includes full conference registration for 1 day, the awards luncheon, programs, exhibits and the FOLIO Annual Meeting. OLA members who register for the conference may pay an extra \$15 for the FOLIO luncheon. See the FOLIO schedule on the next page.



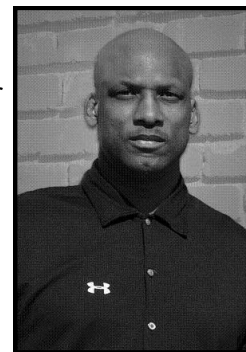
Plan to attend the morning FOLIO program at 11 a.m. to find ideas for providing financial literacy programs in your community.

According to FINRA's statistics, Oklahomans do more non-bank borrowing than people in many other states, and that behavior comes with really high interest rates. We are also less likely to have a personal rainy day fund, and we have more overdue medical bills than those in other states.

Libraries **CAN** make a difference in the lives of your customers.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Speaker for the FOLIO Luncheon is Alton Carter, author of *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*, winner of the Oklahoma Book Award for Young Adults, and *Aging Out*. Carter's first book describes his difficult childhood, and experiences as a foster kid. His second book describes his college and career journeys, and joy at becoming a husband and father of two sons.



He started the Alton Carter Inspire Foundation to assist young people who have lived in foster care, group homes, or DHS facilities with securing a college degree. Alton is director of youth ministries for the First United Methodist Church in Stillwater. Books will be available for purchase and signing. You will enjoy hearing his inspiring story and be motivated by his accomplishments.

FOLIO will also recognize our OLA Scholarship winners and our Best Friends Awards recipients. (See page 8 for information on how to apply.)

The Best Friends awards recognize Friends groups who demonstrate exemplary success in support of their local libraries. The John Harkey Best Friends Award recognizes a Friends group in a city with a population of less than 10,000, and the Oklahoma Best Friends Award recognizes a Friends group in a city with a population of more than 10,000.

—Karen Neurohr

A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Plan to join us April 26 during the Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference at the National Center for Employee Development Conference Center, Norman, OK. Your one-day registration fee of \$50.00 includes the FOLIO luncheon featuring author Alton Carter and presentation of FOLIO awards, and access to other programs and exhibits. Be sure to stop by the FOLIO Booth and register for door prizes from FOLIO.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017:

9:00 a.m. Registration and Visit Exhibits

11:00 a.m. "Smart Investing at Your Library: Developing Programs for Your Patrons" presented by Sharon Saulmon, FOLIO First Vice-President and Dean Emeritus, Rose State College Library and the Smart Investing grant team

12:00 noon FOLIO Awards Luncheon with Guest Speaker, Alton Carter, author of *The Boy Who Carried Bricks* and *Aging Out*. Awards will include Best Friends and Scholarships.

1:30-2:30 p.m. FOLIO Annual Membership Meeting. The agenda will include a business meeting, and a roll call of FOLIO Friends groups with reports of their activities.

Registration will open soon at the Oklahoma Library Association conference website: www.oklibs.org.

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.

Karen Neurohr, FOLIO President, 2016-18

Children's Wing at Stilwell



Groundbreaking for the new children's wing at the Stilwell Public Library was held on January 12. The \$505,112 addition is a community-wide project with generous donations from the FOL President, Grace Ferris, Kiwanis Club, other organizations and individuals as well as proceeds from a book sale, a garage sale, grant writing, other fund raisers, and an arts and craft fair. The project has taken ten years, since the FOL caught a glimpse of an expanded library. There have been ups and downs, but the addition is underway with expected completion in May.

Allie Beth Martin Scholarship

The Allie Beth Martin Scholarship is an annual monetary award funded through the Tulsa Library Trust. Named for the former TCCL library director, the award is open to residents of Oklahoma who are pursuing advanced degrees in library science.

This year's recipient is April Hardin-Akbas. She is currently enrolled in her fourth semester at Oklahoma University in the Masters of Library and Information Studies program. April grew up in Ponca City and received a Bachelor's degree in History from Oklahoma Baptist University. She is president of the Oklahoma Library and Information Studies Student Association, working to bring more learning and social activities to fellow students. April is currently a customer service assistant at Central Library, Tulsa.



Find out more information at <http://www.tulsalibrarytrust.org/allie-beth-martin-scholarship-award>.

Wayne Hardy, Tulsa Library Trust



Sayre Library Resurgence



Mariana Comacho-Martinez used the Sayre Library to complete her goal for the Thunder Reading Challenge. In November and December she read 7,645 minutes.

Positive changes are taking place at the Sayre Library. As library assistant Nancy Reed says, "We are experiencing a resurgence."

Topping the list of new things at the library is the purchase of some much-needed equipment. Sayre Friends of the Library is providing funds for a new copier, and money from a patron's estate will go toward four new computers.

Of course, the most significant changes in the library come from new patrons and programs. On December 23, the library held a "Meet and Eat" to acquaint people with the various programs and benefits of the public library. One very popular program has been the Author of the Month. Patrons submit their preferences for the author of the month, and one name is randomly chosen. The library then focuses on that author for the entire month. Patrons have remarked that they have broadened their reading by trying the featured authors. Movie nights are also a favorite among families, and a *Star Wars* marathon is in the works.

Like the library, coloring is regaining popularity and not just among children. The library featured a pumpkin coloring contest for all ages. Library staff distributed age-appropriate coloring pages to three different age groups: three to seven, eight to twelve, and teenager to adult. Winning pages were displayed in the library. A Valentine coloring contest is planned.

The library is focusing on attracting more children to the library. The staff has ordered new child-friendly shelves and furniture to make young patrons feel at home. In addition, they are setting up a junior advisory board comprised of teens, ages 13-18.

Looking toward a bright future, the library staff is gearing up for the summer reading program and preparing for e-rate.

—Judy Haight, FOLIO Ambassador

Breakfast at Elgin a Success



The Friends of the Elgin Community Library held their 4th annual January Fundraiser Breakfast. The Friends group supplies the breakfast items and paper products while the Masons of Pilot Lodge 367 do all the cooking. This is their way of helping a local community organization.

The breakfast was a great success, bringing in about \$2600 which includes some matching funds from the Masons.

—Leslie Durham, Librarian, Elgin Community Library

Legos Popular in Elk City

Elk City Carnegie Library hosted the first Lego Day at the Library on January 12. Over 30 children were in attendance with fun had by all.



Each Lego Day starts with a building theme. For this first event the children built

Space Aliens. Youth Librarian Donna McNaught said "I was so impressed with the level of creativity shown by the kids. They all shared and helped each other to build their creations."

The day ended with several rounds of Lego Bingo. The minimum age to participate was 5 years old due to the choking hazard of the small Lego pieces. Lego coloring pages were provided in the Youth Library for younger children.

"The number of kids that turned out for this program was fantastic. What a great way to bring in new kids to the Library!" Director DeAun Ivester said. "We want to thank our Friends of the Library group and Wal-Mart for the donations that got our program started."

—DeAun Ivester, Director, Elk City Carnegie Library

News from Around the State

Meeker FOL Offers Art, Food & More

Although Meeker is a small town, the Friends are planning a very busy year of activities. New officers are Donna Weber, President; Bev Hall, Vice President; Elizabeth Callahan, Secretary; and Barbara Stearman, Treasurer. The first meeting this year was held on January 3 with 11 present.

Friends will be serving the annual soup luncheon to Chamber of Commerce members on February 9 with four different soups, corn bread, crackers and lots of desserts. We are hosting the annual Art Show March 13-17. Local high school teacher Mrs. Clark will have her students submit their entries, and the art will be judged by local individuals. In the past year our State Representative Kevin Wallace has posted the first winner's art in his State Capitol office.

On March 31 the Friends will be hosting the annual Bean Supper. The funds from this event supports the library in purchasing new books and sponsoring many other activities throughout the year.

One of our very active members passed away on December 16. Nixie Coffman was a member for many years and donated many hours of her time. She was instrumental in obtaining numerous grants for our library. The Friends are having a plaque made in her honor and has named the conference area the "Coffman Conference Center." We will be inviting the public to join us in this dedication in February.

—Donna Weber, President, Meeker FOL

Durant's Mystery Dinner Theatre



Friends of the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library in Durant, OK first sponsored a murder mystery dinner theatre in 2015. It was such a success they now plan to hold one every year.

Pictured are the winners of the 2016 event, "Oils Well That Ends Well," presented by Lone Star Mystery Theater. The Friends highly recommend this event as a fundraiser. Tickets were sold for \$50 per person and sold out quickly! The Friends also raised money by issuing a program with ads that local businesses purchased for varying amounts depending on the size of the advertisement.

The Durant Friends got this idea from Angie Mullen, a library staff member who also engaged her husband, a computer wizard, to make the program. The Friends all pitched in to sell tickets, decorate and set tables, arrange catering and clean up after the show. They were surprised and happy at the support and enthusiasm this event generated in the community.

—Jane Hicks, Coordinator, Durant FOL

Season of Thankfulness



The SOKC Friends helped celebrate Season of Thankfulness, an annual customer appreciation event, by providing treats and coffee to customers throughout a week in November. SOKC Friends came in several times a day to prepare, monitor, and clean up the snack cart. The treats were well received, and SOKC customers were thankful

and well-fed. Pictured is Friends' member Robbi Carmack stocking the treat cart for the afternoon library crowd.

The Southwest Oklahoma City Friends of the Library is happy to announce all officer and chair positions have been filled! The newest officer, Brian Wall, is Newsletter Chair! Brian is owner of a SOKC-based graphic design and marketing agency.

The Friends ongoing book sale in December raised over \$200 and continued in January. The Friends also sold library-themed tote bags, which sold out in December. More are now available.

Looking forward to 2017, the SOKC Friends are planning an Indoor Garage Sale, which will take place April 7-9. Like us on our Facebook page (Friends of the SOKC Library) for more information.

--Ashley Nixon-Amador, Information Services Librarian, SOKC



The Pew Research Center released their 2016 survey results. Many Americans have high expectations for what their local libraries should offer. Most

Americans view public libraries as important parts of their communities, with a majority reporting that libraries have the resources they need and play at least some role in helping them decide what information they can trust.

Public libraries, many Americans say, should offer programs to teach people digital skills (80% think libraries should definitely do this) and help patrons learn how to use new creative technologies like 3-D printers (50%). At the same time, 57% of Americans say libraries should definitely offer more comfortable places for reading, working and relaxing.

A Pew Research Center telephone survey of 1,601 Americans conducted in March, finds that 66% say the closing of their local public library would have a major impact on their community. There are a range of findings in the survey that might be surprising:

- Young adults are more likely to have visited a library in the past 12 months (53% of those ages 18 to 29), compared with 40% of those 65 and older.
- The act of borrowing printed books is still by far the most popular activity at libraries, even compared with using computers: 64% of library users ages 16 and older checked out a book in the last 12 months, compared with 29% who used a computer at the library in the same time frame.
- 44% of those 16 and older say their public libraries loan out e-books, while 10% say this is not true of their communities' libraries. So, many of Americans are not aware of this core service available at most local libraries.
- The idea that libraries serve communities at times of crisis is now pretty well established. Some 55% of those surveyed say libraries contribute a lot (19%) or somewhat (37%) when a natural disaster or major problem strikes the community.

People think that libraries are a major contributor to their communities in providing a safe place to spend time, creating educational opportunities for people of all ages, and sparking creativity among young people.

The full report summary is available at <http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/09/09/libraries-2016>.

American Icons Series in Hobart

Friends of the Hobart Library are once again sponsoring a Let's Talk About It series: "American Icons: The American Presidency, 1789-1815." We can do so with the support of the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the financial backing of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund and the Inasmuch Foundation. We will take a look at the politics of our early years with the help of outstanding scholars. The books in the series include biographies as well as novels. The books are now available at the Hobart Public Library. The programs will be on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm at the library.

The dates are as follows:

- January 29: "**Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington**" by Richard Brookhiser
- February 12: "**American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson**" by Joseph J. Ellis
- February 26: "**Scandalmonger**" by William Safire
- March 12: "**Adams vs Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800**" by John Ferling
- March 26: "**Dolley: A Novel of Dolley Madison in Love and War**" by Rita Mae Brown

Everyone is invited to participate in the program both young and old, Hobart citizens or citizens of the surrounding communities. I can promise you social interaction as well as mental stimulation due to the range of ideas expressed by the scholars and the people who take part in the program. Let's Talk About It adds zest to the winter months.

—Brandy Tointigh, Director, Hobart Public Library

From the Mailbox

Hello, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma!

I want to express my appreciation for awarding our Friends organization with the FOLIO Seed Grant. Receiving a call from Eugene Earsom was so exciting!



Our members have worked hard to help with programming by volunteering their time in a variety of ways and are really excited to see the positive difference the library is making in our community. This grant is a wonderful surprise for their hard work! We will keep you posted as to our utilization of the funds and growth as a Friends group. Thank you!

Sincerely, Teresia Harrison (librarian) and Friends of Chandler-Watts Memorial Library, Stratford

An Aging Population Reshapes Library Services

Every day in the United States, 10,000 people are turning 65. That will continue happening for the next 15 years—producing a major demographic shift and a corresponding explosion in the need for library services to older adults.

And while the first wave of the baby boom generation has now turned 65, libraries need to target those 50 and older, preparing for retirement. Look at previous program evaluations, have conversations with the target group, and find out what has succeeded elsewhere. Successful topics have included technology, gaming sessions, pen-pal programs (between seniors and elementary school students) health, legal issues, music, and reading and writing.

Programming should be based on community needs. Exploring community partners (for example, agency on aging, senior centers, assisted living facilities, and senior apartments) will assist in ascertaining needs.

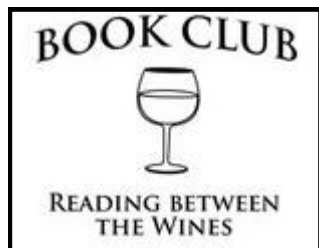
“You don’t need to spend a lot of money,” Outreach Manager Julie Kerns, Westerville Ohio Public Library, says. But patience is an important virtue, particularly in programming for people who may have memory issues. “Every once in a while you’ll have a breakthrough with someone who normally doesn’t respond much,” she says. “It’s very rewarding.”

For more ideas on serving seniors see: <http://www.ala.org/offices/olos/toolkits/olderadults>

Landgraf, Greg. *American Libraries* 47.6 (June, 2016): 22-23.

Books and Bars

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library moderator Jeff Kamin brings his unique take on a public book club show to St. Paul every first Tuesday of the month.



Called “Books and Bars,” Kamin uses the traditional book club and puts it in a public bar where people’s opinions flow freely. Even if you don’t like the featured book, he “guarantees a good time at our entertaining discussions.”

More information is available at <http://thefriends.org/events/ongoing-series/books-bars>.

“Good Ideas from the Network,” *The Voice*, 17.3 (June, 2016), 14.



Library to Farm to Table

Patrons are rolling up their sleeves and getting dirty with the offerings cropping up at public libraries across the

country—farms, gardens, orchards, and food-literacy classes, to name a few—and librarians say the grow-it-yourself movement is only expanding.

For some libraries serving vulnerable populations, food-producing gardens and nutrition initiatives are born out of necessity. Others have launched programs to advance the causes of sustainability and education.

- South Sioux City (NE) Public Library established the library’s first community garden in 2009. Many area residents are blue-collar workers who live in food deserts, where grocery stores lie far away and nutritional food options are scarce. The library’s extensive program has come together through a mix of volunteers and residents paying the city \$10 to \$15 annually for the garden plots. Patrons may check out canning equipment.
- Food literacy and access to healthy meal options are also pressing issues in Sacramento (CA). Over 60 percent of children in schools in our neighborhood are under the poverty level and qualify for free breakfast and lunch programs. The Read and Feed Teaching and Demonstration Garden was launched in 2011 with a \$13,000 grant from the Junior League of Sacramento.
- Northern Onondaga (NY) has a LibraryFarm program which began about five years ago. About 35 to 50 volunteers run the library garden, giving some fresh produce to local food pantries. The library has strengthened its program by adding classes such as “Beekeeping 101,” “Putting Up Your Harvest,” and “Organic Pest Control.”
- Jodi Shaw in Brooklyn is researching the possibility of using approximately 138 acres of library rooftops for gardens. There are several successful rooftop garden models in New York.

Inklebarger, Timothy. *American Libraries* 47.11/12 (Nov./Dec. 2016): 18-19.

In Memoriam

The President of our Friends group, Ed Meyer, passed away on Dec. 15, 2016. He faithfully served our library as President for over 15 years. He was extremely active in the Miami community and will be sorely missed.

—Gay Fairchild, Administrative Librarian,
Miami, OK Public Library



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 In Beautiful Color

Would you like to receive the *FOLIO Newsletter* by email and in beautiful living COLOR? If so, include your email address when you

renew your membership. OR email us at the following address: gerry@wings-n-things.com.

FOLIO—We are Friends helping Friends!

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

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: _____

**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
- Karen Neurohr
karen.neurohr@okstate.com

Southeast

- Wayne Hanway
whanway8@gmail.com

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 Chandler-Watts Library in Stratford was given a Seed Grant at the FOLIO Board's October meeting.



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FOLIO:
Strengthening
Libraries
In
Oklahoma
through
Friends
of
Libraries
Since 1978

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/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks>.

ATTENTION!

Teen Tech Week, March 5-11, is to encourage teens to use libraries' nonprint resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals in the field of information technology.

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 9-15. 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 11, is to recognize all library workers, including librarians, support staff and others who make library service possible every day.

FOLIO Invites Best Friends Entries

Could your Friends group use an extra \$500 for a special project or to bolster the budget? Each year FOLIO presents a plaque and check for \$500 to two Friends groups in Oklahoma, one in a town of less than 10,000 in population, one in a city over 10,000 in population. The Best Friends Award is given to groups who have demonstrated exemplary success in support of their local library in 2016-2017. For an entry form with additional information, please visit the FOLIO website: <okfriends.net> and click on *award*. Entries must be received by March 31, 2017.

—Sharon Douthitt, FOLIO Board member

Scholarships Available

The Lillian Born Norberg and Mary Lou Atkinson Support Staff Scholarships are offered to full or part-time employees of a public, academic, or special library in Oklahoma in the process of furthering their education. Scholarship awards will be presented at the FOLIO Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 26. Applications must be received by March 31, 2017.

For an application form, please go to <http://www.okfriends.net/> and select Scholarships.