

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

# WORD FOR WORD

WINTER 2017

### GREETINGS FROM SGRL LIBRARY DIRECTOR MIGUEL VICENTE



Soon we will be breaking ground on the new Julia Drive location and by January or February 2018 we will have our new Valdosta-Lowndes library. The new main library has been designed from the input of many focus groups from the Valdosta-Lowndes community along with the wise direction of our building committee members. BFB Gladwin Architects firm has designed a beautiful library and community center with many spaces for collaboration, a meeting space, open learning spaces, and unique spaces for children and family.

Our new library has also been designed with our partners in mind. The library entrance is designed with space for the FOL's resale store and a Café with state-of-the-art accommodations for community interaction. The Turner Center for the Arts and the History Society will have space for displays. There will be a computer lab where our librarians and professionals from the community can share their skills and expertise. In addition, there will be a large meeting room for performances and community programs. Our staff are now participating in new training to be well prepared to satisfy the 21-century community's information needs. We are excited to have a new space to offer the community programs for learning and self-enrichment. In addition, we will continue to support our school system with after school tutorial programs for students of all ages.

### GREETINGS FROM FOL BOARD PRESIDENT MARY HELEN WATSON

Another year is nearing its close, Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas is just around the corner. If you are not yet stressed, you probably will be soon! It does seem to be the way things work. I just wanted to take a minute of your precious time to congratulate you all as wonderful members and great supporters of Friends of the Library. We have had a good year, production sales in our BackDoor BookStore are good, and there have been many, many books to sort, shelve and sell. Now it will soon be time for a new year and our Annual Meeting on January 12 held at Steel's Jewelry Store. See the invitation to attend in this newsletter and do put it on your calendar. Make time for a little convivial conversation, a great silent auction, wine and snacks. Join us to celebrate a successful year and welcome in the new.



**YOU ARE INVITED  
TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING**

January 12, 2016, 5-6:30 p.m. Steel's Jewelry, 3336 Country Club Rd.  
Silent Auction and Door Prizes    Wine, Cheese, Snacks

## BACKDOOR BOOKSTORE NEWS

Have you been to the BackDoor BookStore lately? Recently, some patrons purchased used books on line for \$3.99 and found the exact books in the bookstore for \$1.00 and in better condition. The BookStore has a great selection of books that change constantly. Hardback books are \$1.00 and paperback books are \$.50. Hours are Tuesday 10 to 1 and Saturday 11 to 2. Remember us when you are looking for books! --Janet Toffolo



Visit the FOL

### Backdoor Book Store

Tuesdays 10 to 1

Saturdays 11 to 2

You Never Know What You May Find .....



*National Geographic Magazine*  
collection--6 boxes of 50 issues each,  
\$10 per box!

Harlequin romance novels--80 books  
from the 1987's and 80's, \$10 per box!

Rare and antique books, \$5 each!  
Puzzles, 50¢ each! Children's books;  
fiction, mystery, inspirational books;  
magazines!



## JOIN US AT BOOKFELLOWS

### ***The Wright Brothers*, by David McCullough**

**Reviewed by Monty Miller, Oct. 18**

*The Wright Brothers* by National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winning historian and author David McCullough presents an in-depth look at Orville and Wilbur Wright. The book covers their historic four powered flights on Dec. 17, 1903, the first of which is their claim to fame, lasting twelve seconds and covering one hundred twenty feet. Just as important in Mr. McCullough's book is his in-depth look at the brothers' early life and upbringing, their relationship with their mother and father and the sibling interaction with their sister Katherine. Mr. McCullough tells us of the tragedies that befell the brothers in their youth, the mechanical ability of these two boys to create things and their fascination with flight. The author describes their experimentation with gliders and their ability to not only gain lift but also to control the direction of flight. The book puts us with them on that historic day at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina and the several trips to Kitty Hawk before that date to perfect their aircraft. Mr. McCullough relates the brothers' endeavor to establish their aircraft manufacturing company, their challenge to sell airplanes to the U.S. and foreign governments, and their struggle to secure their place in history. Through Mr. McCullough's historical research and factual presentation the reader of *The Wright Brothers* comes to know the brothers, their family and their achievements.

### ***The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend*, by Katarina Bivald**

**Reviewed by Marily Miller, Nov. 14**

If you are a booklover--as a reader, and as an avid fan of bookstores and small bookshops--and even more so have had a pen pal, then you will no doubt be drawn to the book *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Katarina Bivald. A first novel by this young Swedish author, it recounts the story of Sara, a Swedish girl in her late twenties, during a three-month visit to mid-West America in the small town of Broken Wheel, Iowa. Ostensibly to meet and visit for several weeks with her pen pal of some two years, Sara is immediately confronted with the tragedy of Amy's funeral upon her arrival. Making the decision to stay her visa length (she has been needing to "spread her wings" away from her hometown and country environment), Sara utilizes Amy's sizable book collection as the basis for opening a bookshop in this "broken" and declining small town. The quirky personalities of all the characters provide good humor and insights into various aspects of life and small towns. From the first chapter entitled "Books 1-Life 0" to the final chapter entitled "Books 4-Life 4; Final score: a draw," the circumstances surrounding and involving Sara endear her to readers as she progresses from a "book nerd" to finding friendship and community with people she had been introduced to in Amy's letters. The book's many double entendres are captivating good fun, and there are lots of wry commentaries. The chapter entitled "What's in a name?" on alternative bookshelf categories to help entice the uninitiated Broken Wheel resident into reading is a delight to chuckle over! Readers of this book will, no doubt, recognize numerous titles they have read, as well as become aware of new authors and titles they would like to read.



Book Name	Author	Book Reviewer	Date
<i>The Rainbow Comes and Goes</i>	Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt	Celia Strickland	Dec. 19, 2016
<i>Rosemary</i>	Kate Clifford Larson	Hal Carter	Jan. 23, 2017

## TWENTY YEARS OF FOL (continued)

At the first annual meeting of FOL held on September 23, 1997, FOL was justifiably proud of its list of accomplishments during its first year:

- over 1500 books were purchased;
- the Lakes, Hahira and Southside libraries were connected to the Internet;
- the group hosted a reception for author Dori Sanders;
- a computer and printer for use by the public at the main library was purchased;
- the group hosted end-of-Summer Reading Club parties at all the libraries and provided free books as incentives for the children;
- a quarterly newsletter was published;
- the Friends book sale room was set up;
- FOL volunteers worked and worked in the book sale room;
- and, FOL was deservedly named 'Club of the Year' by the Valdosta Civic Round Table.

Through the years, FOL has followed the excellent example set in the first year. Each year FOL's major contribution to the libraries has been designated for books, books, books, including incentive books for the Summer Reading Program. Generally, the next largest annual contribution has been for program support, often for such items as bounce houses, refreshments and Legos to entice the kids to the libraries. More and more through the years, FOL has funded new technology for the library system as it has struggled to keep up with the information revolution, and in 2006 FOL proudly funded its first scholarship for a library employee to enroll in a Masters of Library and Information Science Program. Harikleia Sirmans was the first scholarship candidate to receive her MLIS from VSU in 2013. FOL's second scholarship student Jeanna Allums began the MLIS program in the fall term of 2014.

One achievement of the first year did not have to be repeated. Local attorney **Walter F. Newsom** incorporated FOL *pro bono*, and the group received its 501 (c) 3 IRS status in 1996, completing its provisional year of tax exempt status the following year. In May 1997, as the volunteers worked in the book store sorting books, they discovered \$1800 in savings bonds stashed between the pages of a donated book. Using the skills they had gleaned from years of reading mysteries, the volunteers were able to trace the donor and return her father's bonds; the grateful donor joined FOL. The fall book sale was held that year on October 16-18. The three day event included a Saturday bag sale and a silent auction for rare books. On the Saturday morning, FOL volunteers watched in delight as a bidding war for a rare art book kicked the sales event totals over \$3200. Staff member **John Belflower** was also delighted with the sales. He found them a welcome break from his regular job of cataloging and considered handling the cash box at FOL sales events a great addition to his job description. A former pharmacy owner, John relished brushing off his old sales patter with the customers, and he was blazingly fast in totaling the amounts owed for purchases. *(To be continued.)*

### PRESIDENTS of FRIENDS OF SGRL, INC.

1996-1997	MARGARET ANN GRIFFIN
1997-JULY 1999	CATHY BRADLEY
JULY 1999-2002	ALEX McFADDEN
2003-2004	LYNNETTE KENWORTHY
2005-2006	JAN FEESE
2007-2008	SARAH SMART
2009-2011	MERRILEE CASADY
2012-2013	KAY SCOTT
2014-2016	MARY HELEN WATSON

*Note: This is the second installment of **The History of the Friends of the Library** by Liza Newsom, retired Library Director and FOL Historian.*

## IN MEMORIAM

The Friends of the Library extend their condolences to the families of FOL members who have recently died. We are grateful for their membership and support through the years. May they rest in peace. (Obituaries: [www.mclanefuneralservices.com](http://www.mclanefuneralservices.com))



**Owen Harris**  
September 1, 1934  
October 20, 2016



**Jeff Hunt**  
August 6, 1928  
May 14, 2016



**John Thomas**  
October 16, 1925  
October 30, 2016

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### Memorial Gifts

John Thomas, given by Deedee Girardin  
The Rev. Cecil Frinfrock, given by Merrilee Casady

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## WHAT BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERS DO . . .

Receive books from donations by our generous community members and library withdrawals--then they go to work! They . .

- sort the books (determining what category the books falls into)
- shelve the books (in the proper place in the book store)

Next, they work in the bookstore. They . . .

- open the bookstore
- take money for purchases from our patrons
- close the bookstore

### To put it simply, volunteers

**Receive**

**Sort**

**Shelve**

**Sell**

And in the process, they meet many wonderful members of the community!

### **Volunteers are needed!**

Volunteers are needed to help in the BackDoor BookStore on Tuesdays (10 to 1) and Saturdays (11 to 2). The work is not hard, and training will be provided. To volunteer, contact Merrilee Casady ([merforl@bellsouth.net](mailto:merforl@bellsouth.net)) or Janet Toffolo ([toffloindy@aol.com](mailto:toffloindy@aol.com)).



## SOUTH GEORGIA LITERACY FESTIVAL



The Friends of the Library and South Georgia Regional Libraries attended the South Georgia Literacy Festival at the Turner Art

Center on September 10th. This first annual author roundup was held to promote literacy in celebration of International Literacy Day. The Roundup featured readings by regional authors, a children's book corner and children's reading events. Sixteen authors attended and gave short readings from their books or poems. Those participating from the FOL were John Swiderski, Gene Toffolo, and Merrilee Casady and from the library were Eric Mathis, Deborah Antonoff, Helen Mitchell, Celia Strickland, and Bernard Bulemu.



## ASHLEY HOUSE



Barry Barr suggested to the FOL that Ashley House in downtown Valdosta might be able to use a donation of books to fill their book shelf. Janet Toffolo contacted Rhett Holmes of IPD Housing and was referred to Laurie Jarvis. Laurie said that they would prefer hardback books of all genres, including craft, biographies, and children's books for visiting grandchildren. She also said the Ashley House was beginning an adult literacy program.

## STAFF DAY AT SGRL



On Oct. 10, special guest speaker Joyce Aigen provided a seminar on customer relations/marketing at SGRL. Twice a year, all the staff of the six branch libraries in the South Georgia Regional Library System come together to enhance their customer service skills and knowledge of the policies and procedures of our library system. In addition, updates and skills reviews are given on

important library resources such as the GALILEO databases and other information sources. Our main objective is to better serve our communities by having a well-trained staff. *From l. to r, Joyce Aigen, Guest speaker, Marketing Professional; Miguel Vincente, Director; George Aigen.*

# *Friends of the South Georgia Regional Libraries, Inc.*

## *2017 Membership*

Thank you for your commitment to our public libraries:  
Allen Statenville, Johnston Lakes, Miller Lakeland, McMullen  
Southside, Valdosta Lowndes County, and Salter Hahira.

### **Donor Information:**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please list me as an anonymous donor.

\_\_\_\_\_ Basic \$35                      \_\_\_\_\_ Silver Patron \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ Bookworm \$50                      \_\_\_\_\_ Gold Patron \$1,000

\_\_\_\_\_ Booster \$100                      \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$10

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$250                      \_\_\_\_\_ SGRL Employee \$20

Membership dues are for one calendar year. The Friends of South Georgia Regional Libraries is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you would like a receipt for your donation.

Please send your check and this membership form to:

Friends of SGRL

P.O. Box 5511

Valdosta, GA 31603

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The BackDoor BookStore needs volunteers. Please check below if you would be willing to help one day a month.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesdays (10 AM – 1 PM)

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturdays (11 AM – 2 PM)