

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

WORD FOR WORD

WINTER 2018

GREETINGS FROM SARAH SMART, FOL BOARD TREASURER

As year-end approaches, the Friends have a great deal for which to be thankful. Our 2017 monetary gift to SGRL may be a record breaker. Donations that make book sales flourish have been bountiful, and our members and volunteers are invincible and faithful.

Gene and Janet Toffolo have provided new outlets for fundraising this year, namely, our first "Ye Olde Book Sale," some online selling, "Flash Bag Sales," and our Valdosta Regional Airport book cart. This last endeavor has given visitors a broader, favorable impression of our community and its values. A Durham, NC traveler who was so grateful for FOL's book cart wrote us a thank you letter and enclosed a generous donation that more than covered the cost of a used paperback. We, of course, responded with a thank you letter for the thank you letter.

Kay Scott has grown our membership roll this year, and I hope all our members will join us at the Annual Meeting January 18, 2018 at Steel's Jewelry. Put it on your calendar today and join us for a true celebration of the FOL organization.

And, if there are people on your holiday gift list that are hard to buy for, consider a donation to FOL in their name. Or a birthday gift. Or an anniversary present. It's a wonderful tribute for anyone who loves books and our library system.

Next year will be full of change and opportunity. With the help of our Friends, we're up to the challenge and will be creative in our continuing service to SGRL, our members, our patrons and our public. Watch for new FOL communication options through Facebook, our website, emails and texts!

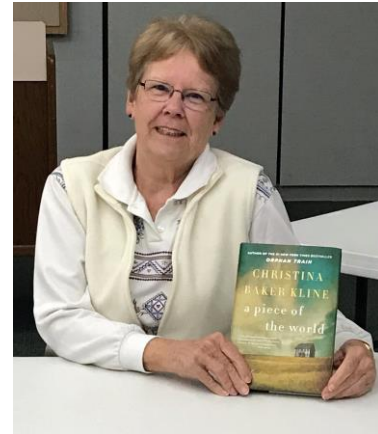
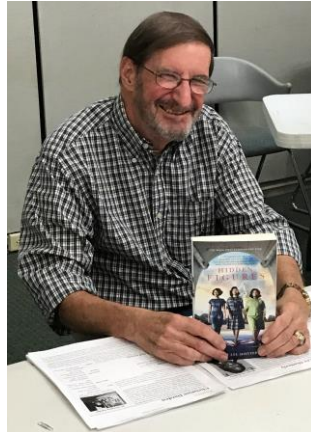


YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING

January 18, 2018, 5-6:30 p.m.
Steel's Jewelry, 3336 Country Club Rd.

Join us for convivial conversation with other Friends of the Library, a great silent auction, door prizes, and wine, cheese, and snacks.

UPDATED BOOKFELLOWS SCHEDULE



Many thanks to Roberta George, who reviewed *Gator Jack* in October, to Monty Miller, who reviewed *Hidden Figures* in November, and to Marilyn Miller, who reviewed *A Piece of the World* in December.

DATE	BOOK TITLE	REVIEWER
December 11	<i>A Piece of the World</i>	Marilyn Miller
January 22	<i>Hillbilly Elegy</i>	Hal Carter
February 26	<i>Lady Susan, The Watsons, and Sanditon</i>	Patricia Marks
 <i>Please Note:</i> The Valdosta-Lowndes County Public Library will be changing locations in the Spring of 2018. Please check for updates about the new location and possible library closure dates during March and April.		
March 19	<i>Poisoner's Handbook</i>	Pepi Nelson
April 16	<i>The Quiet American</i>	Patricia Tyson
May 21	<i>A Man Called Ove</i>	Mary Helen Watson
<p>All books, which are located on a shelf behind the Reference Desk of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Public Library, may be checked out on the honor system. Note your selection on the list provided, along with your name and the current date. Please return the book promptly once you are finished. If you have any questions, you may call Mary Watson at 251-1909.</p>		

THANK YOU, LEADERSHIP LOWNDES!

On Aug. 31, 2017, Leadership Lowndes held "Sip & See the Giving Tree," a fundraiser for the new Julia Drive library location that raised \$4550! The service project team included Courtney Gooding, Bush Wealth Management; Ellen Hill, Valdosta Main Street office; Keyara Hamilton, Goodwill Career Center; J.D. Dillard, South Georgia Regional Commission; Mark Mashburn, America's Homeplace; and Greg Moore, Commercial Real Estate Advisors. Thank you Leadership Lowndes!

TWENTY YEARS OF FOL (continued)

*This is the sixth installment of **The History of the Friends of the Library**
by **Liza Newsom**, retired Library Director*

MOVING INTO THE SECOND DECADE

In 2005 and 2006 **Jody Leonard** proved she knew how to draw a crowd. She oversaw two festive, well-attended dinners at the main library. The Mediterranean dinner in March 2005 featured a belly dancer who swayed enticingly in front of Lowndes County Commission chairman Rod Casey while the library director cringed. Fortunately, the chairman seemed to enjoy it, but the library director was relieved when the second dinner, a Polynesian affair in February 2006, did not feature dancers.

As successful as those parties were, the 'Dinner with Dean' in 2006 blew them out of the water. Library patrons were scalping tickets to the sold-out event, offering bribes to the director, and paying full price for SRO with no meal included to hear Dean Poling, the beloved Valdosta Daily Times columnist, read from his first book, COWBOY BOOTS AND PONY TALES. The reading area of the main library was packed with tables and people as Alex McFadden presented Dean with FOL's first award for promoting libraries and reading.

To close out these two years of FOL social activity, on November 3, 2006, **Merrilee and Bob Casady** hosted a FOL party at their home in honor of **Anita Shelton**. A FOL Board member since 1998 and a volunteer since 1995, Anita kept the bookstore crew of volunteers in stitches with her quips every Thursday morning. One of Anita's best comedic routines was with a large, standing cutout of **Fabio**, a hunky romance novel cover boy. When the cutout was used to greet guests at Anita's party, some of her friends and family winced, but Anita loved it.

FOL felt loved when the Stone Creek Garden Club chose the group to be the 2006 beneficiary of the Stone Creek Tour of Homes held on December 10, 2006.

On January 26, 2007, Sarah Smart, Merrilee Casady, Kay Scott and Liza Newsom went on a FOL book-buying spree at the Barnes & Noble in Tallahassee. An iconic picture of Sarah Smart holding the receipt—far taller than she—was featured in the next FOL newsletter. On March 1, 2007, the ladies were guests of the Stone Creek Garden Club at a lovely luncheon where they were presented with a check for FOL from the proceeds of the Stone Creek Christmas Tour of Homes.

One last party, a retirement party for library director Liza Newsom, was held at Kinderlou on March 25, 2007. The festive evening with most of her favorite people is one of her fondest memories. "Such fun! Although the Friends have always worked for our libraries, we have had such fun. We are kindred spirits united in our love of libraries and books," reminisced the retiring director. "I would estimate that over the past decade, the Friends have donated over \$500,000 to our libraries and it shows. Our once moldy collection has been replaced with bright, shiny books and over 75,000 items have been added."

During the spring and summer of 2007, while South Georgia went up in smoke from the Okefenokee wildfires, FOL began the process of adjusting to **new library director Chuck Gibson** and his new ideas. Eventually, after a rocky period, FOL emerged a stronger and more independent organization, no longer reliant on the library staff to handle its business activities.

Now Board members and other volunteers managed the bookkeeping, the membership records and the group's events.

In 2009, FOL purchased over \$20,000 worth of books and media for our libraries and gave another \$5,000 to support library programs. A generous local donor provided an additional \$10,000 through the Friends to upgrade all the computers in the library system. **Violet Heidemann** was another generous donor for years. After FOL received a second check from her for dues in 2009, new FOL president **Merrilee Casady** called to explain that Violet's dues were already paid. "Oh," said Mrs. Heidemann, "I love the library so much that whenever I have an extra little money, I send it to the Friends of the Library. The library has given me far more than I can ever repay."

FOL BOARD MEMBERS TOUR NEW LIBRARY



*For more photos, go to the **Friends of South Georgia Regional Library** Facebook page or to the website sgrlfriends.org*

IN MEMORIAM

The FOL community mourns the death of . . .

Alex McFadden (April 20, 1929-Nov. 24, 2017), who helped organize Friends of the Library, served as Chair and Parliamentarian, and volunteered in different capacities;

and

Donna Leonard (Aug. 7, 1933-Nov. 14, 2017), who, with her husband Larry, was a long-time FOL member.



FOL Board Chair Karl Osmus holds a "Thank You" to Friends of the Library plaque signed by our local librarians. The plaque was presented during a training day at the SGRL.

Friends of the South Georgia Regional Libraries, Inc.
2018 Membership

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ Please list me as an anonymous donor.

_____ Friend \$35	_____ Special Friend \$250	_____ Young Friend (Student) \$10
_____ Good Friend \$50	_____ Best Friend \$500	_____ SGRL Employee \$10
_____ Close Friend \$100	_____ Beloved Friend \$1000	

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

Friends of the Library Members for 2017

LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Family of Hansford Allen
Family of Ed & Mary Crane
Family of Edith Garlow Johnston
J.C. & Judy McMullen
Family of Willis L. Miller
Price Campbell Foundation
Mrs. W.A. Roquemore
Family of Walter Salter
Anita Shelton
Valdosta Daily Times

BEST FRIENDS:

Dennis & Patricia Marks
Chuck & Susan Steel

SPECIAL FRIENDS:

Joyce Aigen
CJB Industries
Stefani Carroll
Ray & Lynn Devery
Daniel Hoffman & Susan Hellstern
Monty & Marilyn Miller
Wyn Miller
Cindy Robinson
Careen Shapiro
Tomlinson Body Shop
Anonymous (2)

CLOSE FRIENDS:

Barry Barr
Bob & Merrilee Casady
Dan & Carolyn Coleman
Kathryn & Lynn Connell
Rich and Jan Feese
George & Arlene Gaumont
Jane Hearn
Wynn Herndon
John T. Hiers
Eleanor M. Howard
Riley & Jenny Howard
Dedra Hughs
Richard & Catherine Hunter
Hunter Family
Rev. Peter & Happy Ingeman
Lynn & Frank Kilgard
Donna & Larry Leonard
Brian & Margaret McDaniel
H. Arthur & Jane McLane
Paul & Brinkley McNeal
Pam Mackey
Helen Mitchell
Walter & Liza Newsom
Karl Osmus

CLOSE FRIENDS (continued):

Kyra Osmus
Elizabeth Paoletti
Betty Paulk
Catherine Price
David & Kay Scott
Sarah Smart
Ann Smith
Malinda Taylor
Sam & Sandy Trowell
Gene & Janet Toffolo
Stan & Margie Tullos
Jerry & Patricia Tyson
Mala Vallotton
Milton Ward
Mary Helen Watson
Dr. Owen & Joanne Youles
Dorothy Young
Anonymous (1)

GOOD FRIENDS:

Bob & Inday Bauer
Victoria Q. Benavides
Trish & Bill Bryan
Ingrid Carroll
Jo Cawley
Theodore & Holly Decker
Terry Dees, TDC of Georgia, Inc.
Mike & Martha Dover
Roberta George
Lilla Kate Hart
Jack Hartley
Beulah Hennly
Lee Johnson
Lee & Susan Keller
Dr. J. Elveta Miller
Karen Moore
Linda Most
Pepi Nelson
Cheryl Oliver
Mamie & Norman Pipkins
Lee Pulliam
Bonnie Rackley
Bonnie Rainey
Beverly Richardson-Blake
Emily Rogers
Ken & Sue Ellen Runstay
Nancy Sartin
Ann Sturgeon
John & Kate Swiderski
Marjorie Vickery
Ole & Patricia Vigerstol
Lyndal Webb
Thomas Wiggins
Anonymous (1)

FRIENDS:

Nicole Alemanne
Jeanna Allums
Deborah Antonoff
Michael Antonoff
Jane Armstrong
Arthur & Betty Barham
Hal Carter
Ellen Clary
Betty Cooper
Dr. Frank Corker
Elsie L. Crane
Rev. & Mrs. V.L. Daughtery
John Kent Edwards, Jr.
Jane Elza
Mickie Gieske
Anne Gunter
Linda Guy
Bonnie Hall
Mary & George Harrington
Nelda Harris
Christina Hopson
Ann Lackey
Tanya Lee
Thomas D. Lovett
Laurie L. McCall
Carol McLeod
Leland Moore
Dorothy Morrison
Frances Norris
Rebecca Anne Odom
Col. & Mrs. Clarence Parker
Sally Querin
Renita G. Redding
Paulette Rice
Sheri Rogers
Melanie Sainz
Rose Marie Sinnott
Harikleia Sirmans
Bob & Mary Jo Travillian
Loyce & Ingrid Turner
Miguel & Crystal Vicente
Claire Walton
H. Harris & Jerry West

Young Friend (Student):

Michael Vicente

Thank you for your 2017 support of the South Georgia Regional libraries. It is time once again to renew your Friends of the Library membership. Think of it as your gift to the library.