

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

WORD FOR WORD

SUMMER 2016

GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT MARY HELEN WATSON

Hello, all you loyal Friends. By now you probably know that we have been receiving very, very large numbers of used books for resale in our BackDoor BookStore. It is a blessing, true. But, such a blessing brings needs as well and we are truly in need of volunteers to sort and shelve books. If you can, please consider giving an hour or two once a week. More news: Thursday the FOL Board Members had an opportunity to meet with the library architect to discuss our needs and dreams for space within the soon-to-be library on Julia Drive. This planning process is exciting and has so much possibility. If you have ideas about the library how about letting one of the FOL Board Members know all about it? Every idea is welcome.



STAY IN TOUCH!

FOL has many exciting innovations in store! We would love to hear from you. Go to our FaceBook page or website:

<http://www.sgrlfriends.org/>



For general inquiries, use **FOL@sgrl.org**
For BookStore inquiries, use **FOLBookStore@sgrl.org**



FOL CELEBRATES ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY!



YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS FUND....

Valdosta-Lowndes County, McMillen Southside, Johnson Lakes, Satter Hahira, Miller Lakeland, and Allen Statenville libraries with

- Purchase of books and media
- Support for children's events such as Dr. Seuss Day and Snow Day
- Arts and Crafts programs
- Guest speakers and presentations
- Summer reading programs
- Additional supplies as needed by libraries

In April, Friends of the Library celebrated twenty years of giving to South Georgia Regional Libraries by holding a membership drive. In 2015, FOL contributed almost \$30,000 from donations, dues, and the BackDoor BookStore. Thanks to our many loyal members, the funds went to purchase books and media and to provide support for special requests, such as children's events, programs for all ages, guest speakers, and summer reading programs.

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER FAIR



Merrilee Casady, Sarah Smart, Tiffany Cohran, and Janet Toffolo attended the VSU Experience in order to advertise and scout for volunteers for the FOL. Most of the students and many of the other vendors did not know about the BackDoor BookStore. They handed out brochures with information about the FOL and BackDoor BookStore with a BOGO coupon. It was a very successful afternoon, and we hope to continue strengthening our ties with the VSU community. We have many prospective volunteers, but more are always needed! Contact us at FOLBookStore@sgrl.org.



TWENTY YEARS OF FOL

Everyone needs a friend to cheer them on during the good times and to support them during the bad times. The Friends of the South Georgia Regional Libraries, Inc. (FOL) has been that kind of friend to the six libraries in our regional library system since 1996.

THE FIRST DECADE

"I could not imagine a library without a Friends group," said **Liza Newsom**, explaining why FOL was formed twenty years ago. "These are the folks who treasure a library and celebrate the joy of reading. They make the library a community."

On January 4, 1996, the initial organizational meeting of FOL was held at O'Ryleys with a few library supporters and staff members, and shortly thereafter they began compiling a mailing list of possible members. **Lilla Kate Roberts Hart** played a vital role at this early stage. A longtime library employee, Lilla Kate is a lifelong resident of Valdosta and a descendant of a founding family of Valdosta. She was an excellent resource for the names of community leaders and library lovers who were sent an invitation to become charter members of FOL. Her knowledge of the community helped target the people who would respond quickly and favorably to an opportunity to strengthen their library and their community. As the memberships flooded in, administrative assistant **Sherolyn Ellinburg** was awed: "I didn't know all you had to do was ask and people would respond," she said. The secret was asking the right people, and Lilla Kate was FOL's secret weapon.

During the spring of 1996, the library staff drafted the bylaws, constitution, budget and calendar; advertised for members in the newspaper; and visited the Friends of the Gainesville, FL public library system, intrigued by the news that the FOL there regularly made \$100,000 a year at their semi-annual book sales.

On July 11, 1996, the organizational meeting of FOL was held in the newly christened Folsom Room. The **charter Board members** elected were **Margaret Ann Griffin**, who was also elected the first FOL president; **Sally Kurrie**, who served as Regional Board chair that year; **Michael Ann Valloton**, a faithful library user; **Searcy D. "Mac" McClure**, who became the library director's trusted FOL advisor and who served as treasurer for over a decade; **Janet Haworth**, who served on the Board for a decade, keeping the books for several years; and **Alex McFadden**, who also served on the FOL Board for over a decade, three of those as president.

The FOL held its first book sale, spearheaded by **Cathy Bradley and Cynthia Francouer**, from October 24 to October 26, 1996. By the last day, the volunteers were snapping at each other, but the sale cleared \$4000. In November 1996, FOL made its first purchase for the library system: a public access computer for the main library, and the organization received its first grant (\$10,000) from the **Price Campbell Foundation**. **Barbara Passmore**, one of the two trustees of the Foundation, wanted to create a special collection of books about birds. In the years to come, Price Campbell gave over \$200,000 for this cause and the library's bird collection became one of the premier collections in the Southeast. *(To be continued.)*

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

NEW TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

At the April 5th FOL Board meeting, Mary Helen Watson established a new Technology Committee. Four Board members (Marilyn Miller, chair; and Janet Toffolo, Patricia Marks, and Tiffany Cochran) agreed to serve. The committee is focusing on steering FOL forward in the technology area in its various activities, beginning with the BackDoor BookStore. Its role includes aspects such as e-mail, Facebook, and website, and it will interact with FOL committees dealing with membership, the newsletter, and publicity. Overall, it hopes to foster consideration/development of ideas and initiatives for using technology to further the awareness of FOL and create interactive abilities for FOL's activities.

Since the beginning of May, an e-mail for general communication with FOL ([mail to: FOL@sgrl.org](mailto:FOL@sgrl.org)) and a more user-friendly web address (<http://www.SGRLfriends.org>) have been established. The Committee is in the process of setting up an e-mail address dedicated to communication inquiries for the FOL BookStore, including the new online booksales activity, the existing bookstore and BOOKNOOK at the main library, and the new BookStore bookcart at the Valdosta Airport. In addition, through new membership in the statewide FOGL organization the existing FOL webpage is now hyperlinked from two of their web pages (see article on FOGL), increasing internet visibility for our SGRL FOL. Stay tuned for more news of new technology happenings! --Marilyn Miller



THE BACKDOOR BOOKSTORE IS WAITING TO GREET YOU!



Now passengers arriving at the Valdosta Airport will find selections from the BackDoor BookStore awaiting them in an FOL cart. Donations are requested for books and magazines, and bookmarks are free. Whether you are stepping aboard or returning from a journey, you will have a book to keep you company!



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Tiffany Cochran

HAPPY NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK! APRIL 10-16



SGRL FOL REJOINS STATE ORGANIZATION

In April our SGRL FOL group became a member of the state organization, FOGL (Friends of Georgia Libraries). This statewide organization (georgia-friends.org) consists of friends of libraries groups from the other Georgia public libraries. The mission of FOGL is:

To create an informed statewide voice for Georgia's libraries through a grassroots network of citizens who communicate the value of libraries as essential community services, and,

To strengthen the ability of local Friends organizations to support their libraries.

The Annual Spring Business Meeting & Workshop of FOGL was held on April 22nd at the Athens-Clarke County Public Library in Athens. Two of our SGRL FOL members, Marilyn and Monty Miller, volunteered to attend this workshop meeting, making it possible for our SGRL FOL to have personal interaction and visibility immediately after joining FOGL.

The theme for this workshop was "Friends Helping Friends," and the workshop consisted of three panel/discussion sessions: the morning session focused on organizational support available among FOL groups. The first afternoon session focused on grants/awards available to FOL groups; and the second session focused on ideas for Friends ("Love your Library") in their role of supporting their local libraries, growing and promoting their FOL organizations, and establishing relationships in their local communities. Marilyn and Monty returned with lots of information, ideas, and handouts to pass along to our SGRL FOL Board, with good personal contacts having now been established in this statewide organization.

**Visit on the web: <http://georgia-friends.org> or on FaceBook:
<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofgeorgialibraries?fref=ts/>**



FOL offers condolences to the family of Jeff Hunt, loyal BackDoor BookStore volunteer. Mr. Hunt's love of reading and public service to the Lake Park and Valdosta communities inspired many, as did his 22 years with Bottie Chitty and The Singing Americans.

FOL VOLUNTEER LUNCH

MAY 25, 2016

Thank you to all the FOL volunteers who help at the
BackDoor BookStore. Come and join us!



Friends of the Library Members for 2016

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

GOLD PATRONS:

John & Lee Mikuta

SILVER PATRONS:

Dennis & Patricia Marks
Chuck & Susan Steel
Edward Van Peenan

PATRONS:

Mike S. Chiang, M.D.
CJB Industries, Inc.
Ray & Lynn Devery
Jack & Paula Hartley
Daniel Hoffman &
Susan Hellstern
Paul & Brinkley McNeal
Monty & Marilyn Miller
Margot Pearlman
Careen Shapiro
Ann H. Smith
Wyn Miller
Valdosta Junior Service League
Anonymous (1)

BOOSTERS:

Barry Barr
John R. Bennett
Senator Ellis & Aletha Black
Erline Brinson
Bill & Trish Bryan
Bob & Merrilee Casady
Dan & Carolyn Coleman
Kathryn & Lynn Connell
V.L. & Catherine Daugherty
Rich and Jan Feese
George & Arlene Gaumond
Wynn Herndon
John & Phyllis Hiers
Dedra Hughs
Peter & Happy Ingeman
Lee & Susan Keller

BOOSTERS: Continued

Kelley, Lovett & Blakey, P.C.
Frank & Lynn Kilgard
Langdale Ford
Larry & Donna Leonard
Walter & Liza Newsom
Karl Osmus
O'Steen Subaru of Valdosta
Betty Paulk
Frank Rice
Penelope Schmidt
David & Kay Scott
Sarah Smart
John & Kate Swiderski
Gene & Janet Toffolo
Grover & Amelia Ward
Mary Helen Watson
Lyndal Webb
Dorothy Young
Anonymous (1)

BOOKWORMS:

Arthur & Betty Barham
Bob & Inday Bauer
Victoria Benavides
Amy & Doug Carter
Jo Cawley
Theodore & Holly Decker
Robert DeVan
Mike & Martha Dover
George & Lille Kate Hart
Beulah Hennly
Eleanor M. Howard
Riley & Jenny Howard
Pam Mackey
Tina Marzano
Helen Mitchell
Karen Moore
Linda Most
Dan Odum
Col. & Mrs. Clarence Parker
Beverly Peters
Mamie Pipkins
Sally Turner Querin
Bonnie Rainey
Ken & Sue Ellen Rumstay
Nancy Sartin
Ann Sturgeon
John Thomas
Mala Vallotton
Marjorie Vickery
Patricia Vigerstol
Thomas Wiggins

BASIC:

Jeanna Allums
Mary Boatright
Ingrid Carroll
Hal Carter
Tiffany Cohran
Betty Cooper
Elaine Cronin
Art DeThomas
Carmen Ellis
Jane Elza
R.M. Mickie Gieske
Anne Gunter
Robert & Dora Harding
George & Mary Harrington
Owen & Nelda Harris
John & Shirley Hunt
Anne C. Hutchison
Hazel Keith
Ann Lackey
Dorothy Morrison
Pepi Nelson
Frances Norris
Rebecca A. Odom
Kyra Osmus
Jean Plondke
Paulette Rice
Beverley Richardson-Blake
Sheri Rogers
Rose Marie Sinnott
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Travillian
Sam & Sandy Trowell
Loyce and Ingrid Turner
Hugh & Jerry West
Anonymous (1)

LIBRARY STAFF:

Deborah Antonoff
Eric Mathis
Janet Register
Harikleia Sirmans
Miguel Vicente

STUDENT:

Phillip Burns
Andrew Jackson
Michael Seago
Michael Vicente
Anonymous (1)

As of May 4, 2016

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH GEORGIA REGIONAL LIBRARIES, INC.

2016 Membership Form

Thank you for your commitment to our public libraries.

Donor Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email Address _____

_____ Please list me as an anonymous donor.

_____ Basic \$35

_____ Patron \$250

_____ Bookworm \$50

_____ Silver Patron \$500

_____ Booster \$100

_____ Gold Patron \$1,000

_____ Employee of SGRL \$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.

Friends of SGRL Mailing Address

Please send your check and this membership form to:

Friends of SGRL

P.O. Box 5511

Valdosta, GA 31603

_____ I am willing to help at the BackDoor BookStore. ____Tuesdays ____Saturday