

Word for Word



Friends of the South Georgia Regional Library

April 30, 2010
Volume 1, Issue 1

Annual Meeting a Success

The Friends met on January 5th at Steel's Jewelry for the annual meeting. The event included the election of new board members, a silent auction to benefit the library, and door prizes graciously provided by Steel's Jewelry. Over forty members of the Friends of the Library gathered for refreshments and camaraderie. The



event featured a recognition ceremony for those special Friends who consistently go above-and-beyond. This year, Anne Gunter was selected to receive the "Best Friend" award for her longtime dedication to the library. Following the election of new

board members, Susan Steel drew the door prize winners. Both Kate Swiderski and Nancy Sartin received jewelry donated to the Friends by Steels Jewelry.

A New Year, A New Goal

In 2009, the Friends of the Library donated \$20,000 to the South Georgia Regional Library system to purchase desperately needed new books and material. This year, we are setting the bar even higher! With your help we hope to raise \$30,000 in 2010 to keep our libraries the best in the region.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Book Store	2
Letter from Merrilee	2
Inside Story.....	3
Why Join.....	4
Bookfellows	5
Need a Friend	6
Join FOL	6

FOL BY THE NUMBERS:

- \$20, 000 given to the library last year.
- 170 Number of Friends
- 41,112 the number of items circulated at SGRL branches in March.
- 99 number of new items added to the library's collection in March.



Back Door Bookstore Volunteers

The Friends of the Library were able to give \$20,000 to the South Georgia Regional Library last year because of the Back Door Bookstore. Every week dedicated volunteers spend their time going through donations, stocking the shelves, and working the book sale to make keep the

Bookstore running. The book sale is held every Tuesday (10am - 1pm) and Saturday (11am - 2pm) with additional volunteers coming in on Thursday mornings to straighten the shelves. If you are interested in helping with the Back Door Bookstore please email: fol@sgrl.org

“Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of the Library!”

Hello fellow Friends of the Library!

We are reviving the Friends Newsletter with the generous help of Halley Little, the library’s talented coordinator. We are sending it via email to everyone who joined in 2009 and 2010. If you don’t have an email address, we are sending it via USPS. Since this is the first newsletter for a long time, we would appreciate your feedback as to what you’d like to read about in the future.

The money from memberships and Bookstore proceeds have made it possible for the FOL to plan to buy \$10,000 worth of media and books for the library in April, 2010. It is so needed in these times of budget cuts. Thank you so much for your continued support. Remember if you want to join FOL and just haven’t gotten around to it, please feel free to do so! There is a membership form included.

I asked everyone at our annual meeting in January, to think of a project for the FOL to fund (like the easy chairs we purchased several years ago) that would have an impact on making the library a better place. So your ideas are welcome.

Do you have ideas for: money-making projects, a party that might make money for the library? Just let me know. Contact me @ merfol@bellsouth.net or 229-219-0723.

Thanks in advance for your help,

Merrilee Casady
President FOL

FOL Board Members

Helen Bennett
Charmaine Caldwell
Hal Carter
Stefani Carroll
Merrilee Casady
Jan Feese
Beulah Hennly
Tina Marzano
Alex McFadden
Catherine Nordin
Edward Rawls
Cindy Robinson
Nancy Sartin
Kay Scott
Sarah Smart
Rose Stone
John Thomas
Lyndall Webb

Celebrating 15 Years of Bookfellows

Some 15 years ago a small group under the aegis of the Friends of the Library and led by then Director of Libraries Liza Newsom, created the nucleus of a lively reading group calling themselves the SGRL Bookfellows. In early days, the group read and discussed titles from a list suggested by the Georgia Humanities Coun-

reflects member Anne Gunter, “have centered around books that not all of us liked.”

Twice each year, members and guests gather for a social occasion, such as a summer picnic or a Christmas party. Last December when the group discussed the life and work of American poet Emily Dickenson,



“Some of our best discussions have centered around books that not all of us liked”

cil, and made frequent use of guest speakers from the community and VSU.

Today, from fewer than 10 members, Bookfellows has grown to more than 40 active participants. Around 20 members attend the semi-monthly meetings on average.

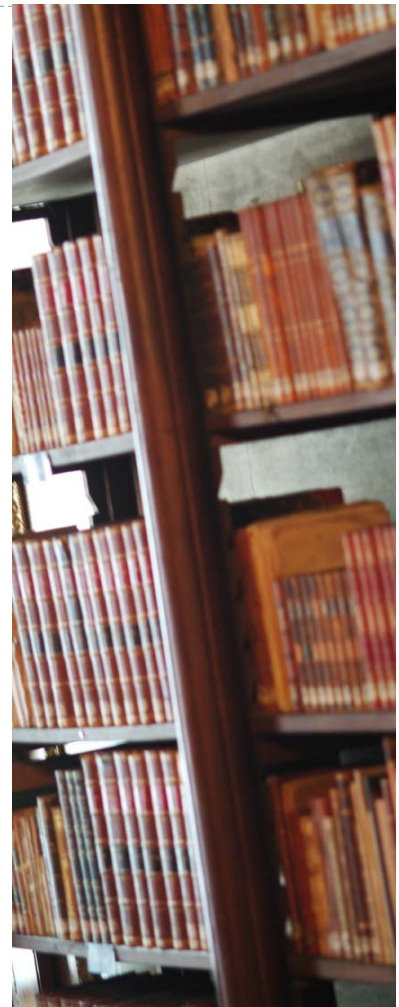
Members themselves choose the books they will read during the coming year and a member of the group volunteers to lead each discussion. The discussion leader makes the opening presentation, and opens the floor for questions and comments. The discussions often escalate into animated differences of opinion.

“Some of our best discussions,”

they celebrated the 179th anniversary of her birth with a beautiful cake and all white refreshments.

The group meets in the Friends Room of SGRL on Woodrow Wilson Drive, on designated Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00. Reminders of meeting times and books to be discussed are announced in the Valdosta Daily Times, and the public is always welcome to attend without obligation. A list of “Fifty Favorite Reads from Fifteen Years of Bookfellows” is available at the reference desk of the main library.

Contributed by Anne Gunter



Other ways to support FOL

In Memory

Give a monetary contribution to FOL for the purchase of a book in memory of a loved one. FOL will send an immediate notification to the family and an acknowledgement to you of the gift.

In Honor

Give a monetary contribution to FOL for the purchase of a book in celebration of an occasion for a loved one. FOL will send an immediate notification to the honoree and an acknowledgement to you of the gift.

Recruit

Recruit new members for FOL in your club or organization. Club memberships as well as individual memberships are welcome. For multiple membership flyers and forms, contact President Merrilee Casady at:

merfol@bellsouth.net.

Volunteer

Spend some time working in the Backdoor Book Store or spend an afternoon helping with a children's program. Whatever your interest, there is a way you can put it to use for the library. Contact Halley Little at: hlittle@sgrl.org

Lead

Volunteer to serve on the FOL Board, in the Friends Bookstore or at your local library. Contact President Merrilee Casady at:

merfol@bellsouth.net

Why Join Friends of the Library?

You know your hard-earned money is going to a good cause. FOL is a 15 year old Not-For-Profit organization run by a board of volunteers who love the library as much as you do. All tax-deductible contributions and all the Friends Bookstore earnings are used to support our six local public libraries and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In 2009, our libraries received more than \$20,000 for books, \$10,000 for computer upgrades and \$5000 for programs from FOL.

Our libraries are community assets that benefit all of us. Our libraries offer great services that we all enjoy and want to sustain: books in all formats, access to the collections of all Georgia public libraries through PINES, up-to-date public access computers, expert computer assistance and classes, and a variety of programs for people of all ages and interests. Our public libraries can't be beat as the best education and entertainment values in town.

Our libraries give us a sense of community and uphold our society's most cherished principles: family values, opportunities open to all through education, and respect for the individual. The library is a great family tradition to create. Visiting the

library every week with your family and participating in the many fun events each of our libraries offers every season makes family time sparkle and everyday life become memorable. For students and lifelong learners, the library has been and always will be "the people's university," a way free and open to all to improve your lives. And, finally, the library offers you the thoughts and opinions of great minds and not-so-great minds on its bookshelves, on its computers and in its many programs – and allows you and your children to decide for yourselves which of those minds are great.

To join FOL, use the membership form at the end of this newsletter. For more information, contact President Merrilee Casady at merfol@bellsouth.net.

Contributed by Liza Newsome



Thank You to all our 2009 - 2010 Friends !

The Family of Hansford Allen	Elliott, Sara	Leeper, Shannon	Rawls, Edward G.
Anderson, Fred & Emily	Ellis, Carmen & Jerry	Lenz, Kelly	Register, Janet
Anderson, Justin S.	Elza, Jane	Leonard, Donna & Larry	Robinson, Cindy
Antonoff, Deborah	Faisal, Halim	Levy, Carolyn M.	Roquemore, Mrs. W.A.
Armstrong, Jane	Feese, Jan	Mann, Anne	Rountree, Jeanne Davis
Bailey, Gloria S.	Finrock, Rev. Cecil	Marzano, Anthony & Tina	Rumstay, Kenneth S. and Sue Ellen
Bank Of Valdosta	Fletcher, Lisa	Marks, Drs. Dennis and Patricia	Rutledge, Austin (Jack) & Carolyn
Beck, M/M James	Funderburk, Carl	Mathews, Larry & Sementha	Sartin, Nancy
Beeland, Clinton & Jeana	George, Roberta	May, Lilla West (Sis)	Scott, Kay and David
Belflower, Joan	Gibson, Martha	McCall, Laurie	Shapiro, Carreen
Bennett, John & Helen	Gjertsen, Natalie & Gil	McClure, M/M Searcy D.	Shelton, Anita H.
Birchmore, Ricanne	Golden, Tim (Sen.)	McCoy, Mrs. Dennis (Gretchen)	Sinnott, Rose Marie
Black, Ellis (Rep.)	Grace Hospice	McFadden, Alex B.	Sirmans, Harikleia
Bo's Books/Marcelle R. Praetorius	Griffin, Mrs. Archie (Lee)	McLeod, Carol	Smart, Sarah B.
Brandon, Mary M	Gulliver, Marian G.	McMullen, J.C. & Judy	Smith, Ann H.
Brinson, Erline	Gunter, Anne	McNeal, Paul & Brinkley	Smith, Lane
Caldwell, Charmine	Harrington, Mary Brandon	Miller J. Elveta	Smith, Morris
Carroll, MM J	Hart, M/M George	McRee, Mary	Stewart, Robin A.
Carroll, Tom & Stefani	Harvel, Darwin	Family of Willis L. Miller III	Stone, Rose M.
Carter, Hal	Haworth, Mark & Janet	Miller, Wyn	Sturgeon, Ann
Carter, G. Robert (Lowndes Co. Comm.)	Hearn, Jane	Moore, Peter T.	Swiderski, John & Kate
Casady, Merrilee and Bob	Heidemann, Violet E.	Morrison, Dorothy	Thomas, John W.
Cawley, Jo	Hennly, Beulah	Nelson, Marilyn	Thornton, Nancy
Clanton, Audrey	Herndon, Jr., Arthur	Newsom, Liza & Walter	Threlkeld, Wm. A. and Constance
Clary, Ellen	Herndon, Wynnie	Nordin, Catherine	Trowell, Sam & Sandy
Coleman, Daniel S.	Hiers, John and Phyllis	Odom, Rebecca	Trulock, Joy B.
Connell, M/M C.M.	Hoffman, Daniel & Hellstern, Susan	Oliver, Cheryl G.	Valdosta Junior Service League
Corker, Frank and Diane	Holliman, Diane	Pace, June	Valdosta Junior Woman's Club
Courtney, Lynn	Howard, Riley and Jenny	Paoletti, E.	Valdosta Magazine
W.E. & Mary Crane	Hunter, Cate	Parker, Col & Mrs Clarence	Valencia, Willa
Criscuolo, Antonio	Ingeman, The Rev & Mrs Peter	Pearlman, Margot	Vallotton, Mala
Culpepper, Jackie	Ingram, Jim	Peeples, David	Van Peenen, Edward
Daughtery Jr., Rev. & Mrs. V.L.	Ison II, Byrd & Kathy Jo	Peters, Beverly	Vigerstol, Ole & Patricia
Delaney, W. Jay & Sue	Johnson, Jean	Pipkins, Mamie	Walker, Fred
DeThomas, Art & Trish	The Family of Edith Garlow Johnston	Pollard, Dr. Lucille A	Watson, Mary Helen
Devery, Ray & Lynn	Keller, Lee D. & Susan M.	Price, Catherine	Webb, Lyndal
Dickinson, Lori W.	Khalil, Dr. Hitham & Susan	Price Campbell Foundation C/O Barbara Passmore	West, Mrs. Jerry R.
Dobard, Wynette G.	Kilgard, Lynn & Frank	Prout, Terri	Wetherington, Hannah
Dover, Mike and Martha	Kirk, William M.	Pulliam, Lee	Wiggins, Mrs. John
Drumheller, Virginia	LaBranche, Gary & Sharon	Pyles, Jeanna	Wilkerson, James C.
Eager, Carolyn H.	Lackey, Ann	Rackley, Bonnie	Wisembaker, Faye
Eager, June H.	Langdale, Debrah Johnston	Rainey, Bonnie	Wolff, Anne-Marie
	Lawson, Dr. & Mrs. Quentin T.		Young, Dorothy (Dot)

About Us

Friends of the Library (FOL) is made up of people from all walks of life, diverse cultural and religious backgrounds whom all share a passion for the library and a earnest desire to see the South Georgia Regional Library system flourish. Members of the FOL volunteer their time and donate their resources to constantly improve the library.

Everyone Needs a Friend!

With the help of Friends of the Library, the South Georgia Regional Library System has reached a materials level of 2.6 items per person for the service area. But, the Friends aspire to have an 'excellent' system by state standards, which requires four items per person. This means that at least \$1,000,000 must be raised to achieve our goal.

Friends of the Library are concerned citizens who share the belief that a strong public library is the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational heart of the community. Friends support the library by being advocates who communicate the value of the library to elected officials and to the general public.

Join us today in becoming a member of the Friends of the South Georgia Regional Libraries.

Levels of Membership

Circle your contribution:

Basic	\$35
Bookworm.....	\$50
Booster.....	\$100
Patron.....	\$250
Silver Patron.....	\$500
Gold Patron.....	\$1,000

Ask about our
Corporate Memberships!



Join the Friends of the Library Today!

Name(s) : _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to "Friends of SGRL, Inc." and mail to:

Friends of the Library Membership

Friends of SGRL, Inc.

P.O. Box 5511

Valdosta, GA 31603