

Word for Word

Friends of the South Georgia Regional Library

August 10, 2010
Volume 1, Issue 2

Spotlight on Kelly Lenz



Kelly Lenz works with children at the Ortega Migrant Camp.

Kelly Lenz always knew she would work around books, but never expected to be leading the South Georgia Regional Library in less than 4 years. It has been a journey of exploration and discovery for Lenz.

After graduating from Valdosta State University with a bachelor's degree in marketing she began working part-time at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Library on the weekends.

"I fell in love," Lenz confessed, "with the library, with the job, with the people, with the community."

It was at this time that Lenz decided to pursue a master's degree in library and information science at Florida State University. Although she graduated a few years ago, she continues to take classes and is currently finishing her Specialist Degree.

When the former director of the South Georgia Regional Library, Chuck Gibson, took a position in Ohio, Lenz became the interim director for the library system. She loves being able to connect patrons to services.



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FOL BY THE NUMBERS:

- 182 Number of Friends
- 118,345 the number of items circulated at SGRL branches since March.
- 1,831 number of new items added to the library's collection since March.

Dear FOL members,

The revived newsletter printed in April received positive feedback. I hope you will find this one informative also. Kudos to Community Relations & Development Coordinator, Halley Little for all her help and input. She puts it all together.

This is a time of big changes at our SGRL. Chuck Gibson, Director for the past three years has accepted a position elsewhere. Kelly Lenz is serving as temporary Director until a new person is hired. Please read the article profiling Kelly in this issue.

I am overwhelmed by all the people who give their time volunteering for the FOL bookstore week after week after week. All their hard work has paid off. The Backdoor Bookstore's total proceeds to date is over \$11,000 this year! Keep those book donations coming. The books donated help not only the Bookstore, but we give books to the prison and some schools also.

Jan Feese, Vice President, has designated herself the "Staff Appreciation Fairy" and she buys chocolate and goodies every other month for all the hard working branch employees. The staff works so hard and she just felt they needed to know how much she appreciates all their hard work. Thanks, Jan.

Also there are so many FOL members who give generous contributions and membership monies. I can't mention you all, but a huge thank you goes out to the W.E. Cranes, Wyn Miller, Hal Carter, John Thomas, Violet Heidemann, the McMullen Foundation, and the Price Campbell Foundation. We are so lucky to have so many of you that care about our library. Thank you! Your memberships, contributions and the bookstore proceeds help fund our purpose, which is to buy books and media for the library and support library programs. A quick run-down of where the board of the FOL has voted to spend your money so far in 2010: \$21,500 for books and media, which includes an order completed this first week in August, \$2,500 for staff scholarships to VSU for Master's in Library Science, FOL has helped to support the Summer Reading Program along with many other SGRL programs, \$280 to support local literacy programs, and \$500 for a new concrete table and benches for Johnson Lakes patio.

Thanks for helping,
Merrilee Casady
President FOL
229-219-0723
merfol@bellsouth.net

FOL Board Members

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Spotlight: Continued from page 1

“It brightens my day to greet regular patrons by name when they walk through the door and when I see the looks of amazement and satisfaction when people find out about a new service we offer or something they didn’t know we had,” Lenz said.

Lenz looks forward to a long relationship with the library and its patrons.

“One of the most special things about working at the library,” Lenz said, “is meeting a new family and then watching the children grow and change over the years.”



Kelly Lenz shows off her “handy” work while bringing Summer Reading Programming to underserved children in Echol’s County.

Books with Bite

Vampires are everywhere... or vampire fans at least.

It is undeniable that these creatures of the night have captured our culture’s collective imagination. The fanged fiends are on television, in movies and even the front of cereal boxes, but fans still can not get enough.

Those bitten by the vampire-bug can come together at the Main Library on Thursday’s at 5:30p.m. to meet with like minded fang-fans. The group of vampire fiction aficionados gather in the Folsom Room to discuss the most popular books in the vampire genre.

The group has read everything from Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* to Charlaine Harris’s *Sookie Stackhouse* series. All material is adult oriented, so participants must be 18+ to attend.

The Vampire Book Club selections are available at the Main Library’s circulation desk.

UPCOMING BOOKS FOR THE VAMPIRE BOOK CLUB

August 19

Salem’s Lot by Stephen King
First half

August 26

Salem’s Lot by Stephen King
Second half

September 2

Moon Called by Patricia Briggs

September 9

Blood Bound by Patricia Briggs

September 16

Iron Kissed by Patricia Briggs

Reaching Out to Langdale Place

Former longtime bookstore volunteer Anita Shelton recently welcomed Anne Gunter, a member of Bookfellows and the Best Friend of the Library for 2009, to the book-club meeting held in the new multipurpose room at Langdale Place.

Gunter introduced local author Morris Smith, who talked about her new book *Above Ground: Cemetery Stories*.

Smith also mentioned her first book, *Spencer Road*, reminisced about her experiences in Africa which form the basis for her second book,

Zambian Text, and referred to her New Orleans based novel, *Better than Jail*.

The recently opened multi-purpose room at Langdale Place affords increased opportunities for residents of the popular senior living facility to enjoy a wealth of in-house cultural and artistic activities.

According to Activities Director Sandi Truitt, "We have needed this space for a long

time to provide more room for ever larger groups to participate in seminars, crafts, and hobbies."

"Residents of the... facility enjoy a wealth of in-house cultural and artistic activities."



Left: Morris Smith discusses her latest book *Above Ground: Cemetery Stories* at Langdale Place.

Above: Langdale Place residents enjoy their new multipurpose room.

Truitt oversees a myriad of activities, both in-house exercises for mind and body, and off-campus excursions. Gunter, a frequent reviewer for the bookclub, often contributes multiple copies of the book to be read on behalf of the SGRL FOL-sponsored Bookfellows. In turn, Langdale often sends no longer needed books to the Backdoor Bookstore sale, held every Tuesday and Saturday in the Friends Room.

Contributed by Anne Gunter



Anne Gunter (right) poses with Anita Shelton at Langdale Place .

FOL Sponsored Events

The Friends of the Library sponsor many programs at the South Georgia Regional Library here is a sampling of just a few:

- Fall Carnival
- Summer Reading Program
- Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party
- Santa Meet & Greet
- Teen Rockband Competition
- Clifford the Big Red Dog Program
- Summer Celebration
- Teen Lock-in
- Agriculture Awareness Day
- Annual Staff Holiday Party

Ramping it Up @ the

Contributed by Liza Newsom

Ssh! Don't tell anybody, but Thursday mornings at the FOL Book Store are loud and raucous, according to Sarah Berckman who works in the Technical Services Area adjacent to the Book Store at the main library. Thursdays are the day a group of volunteers descend upon the book store to sort and shelve the weekly donations of books and other items that have piled up by the back door of the library.

Debbie Antonoff, Sarah's co-worker in Technical Services, laughingly agrees about the noise, but she's quick to add, "I can tell the Friends working here on Thursday have a system. They know what they're doing. They all have their stations to go to. You can tell the Book Store's their home away from home; they treat the store and the donations with tenderness. It's also important that they're all regular library users. They know what our patrons want in the library and in the bookstore."

Harikleia Sirmans, the third member of the Technical Services team, pipes up: "They're professional and

courteous and always come in to speak to us. They're dedicated."

"They care about the library," Debbie Antonoff says.

"Even though they're old and can't see and have a lot of aches and pains, they still make the effort," the irrepressible Sarah cracks.

"Good thing they have the ramp," Debbie says and laughs.

And then Sarah softens her act. "They do sift tons of donations and find treasures for the library."

Ignore Berckman's jokes. The Thursday Book Store crew is a treasure itself. Some are regulars, there at 9:45a.m. every Thursday for two hours of work; others come when



Before

they can.

At this time, the core members of the group are Boss Merrilee Casady; literature consultant Anne Gunter; humorist Dave Claggett; musician John Walton; sweetheart Cindy Robinson; site nurse Audrey Clanton; Deacon Nancy Sartin; ol' retiree Liza Newsom and worker emeritus Anita Shelton. Kay Scott is off for the summer, tenting along the Oregon Trail and the Lewis and Clark Trail, but she'll soon return to do the heavy lifting. The

Backdoor Bookstore

fairy godmother of the staff break room, Jan Feese, pops in a couple of times a month to join us for lunch. The group always welcomes new workers.

“I like to harass everyone and look at all the books coming in. I’m an avid reader so I can’t think of a better place to volunteer. I have fun. These people are funny, active. Everyone mixes in,” says Dave Claggett.

“Well, I enjoy interacting with the weird people ‘cause I’m weird, too,” says Audrey Clanton. “I was and am one of the

Book Store’s best customers so I decided to help out. I find it very satisfying to save all these books.”

John Walton said, “When you retire if you don’t do something, you die.” A pause. “Oh, you wanted something more upbeat. The Bookstore gives me a chance to work with books and intelligent people.” Good save.

“We find the most interesting things as we’re going through the donations,” says Merrilee Casady. “A few weeks ago we found a long, brunette wig that

we gave to the children’s department for the haunted house or whatever. Now if we’d only get more children’s books; we never have enough of those.”

Cindy Robinson, who purchased a fan for the Book Store to replace the one purloined by the Technical Services staff, says the library’s always been her favorite cause.

“The library gives so much to me – and, oh, to others – I want to give back to it. Besides, it’s the hot place to be on Thursdays.”

Anne Gunter says, “My horoscope for today in the *Valdosta Daily Times* sums it up: Hang out with companions who are both physically and mentally active. You’ll be far happier utilizing what you have going for you than you would be wasting your time doing nothing.”

“I enjoy the conversation with my fellow book lovers,” says Liza Newsom, “and, yes, I feel at home at the library, but another thing that appeals to me is the physical activity. We can all work at our own pace. We can sit in chairs and work, or we can crawl on the floor or lift heavy boxes. We do what we can do and have a good time doing it.”

There’s no need to sign up to work at the Book Store. Simply show up at 10a.m. one Thursday in work clothes and they’ll find you something to do until you find something you like to do better. Come join the fun at the library.



After

Friends of the Library Members

2009 — 2010

The Family of Hansford Allen	DeVane, Alice	Hunter, Cate
Allums, Jeanna (Pyles)	Devery, Ray & Lynn	Ingeman, The Rev & Mrs Peter
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Newsom, Liza & Walter	Smith, Lane
Nordin, Catherine	Smith, Morris
Odom, Rebecca	Stewart, Robin A.
Oliver, Cheryl G.	Stone, Rose M.
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Paoletti, E.	Swiderski, John & Kate
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Sainz, Melanie Mares	Wolff, Anne-Marie
Sartin, Nancy	Young, Dorothy (Dot)
Scott, Kay and David	
Shapiro, Carreen	
Shelton, Anita H.	
Sherman, Paul	
Sinnott, Rose Marie	
Sirmans, Harikleia	
Smart, Sarah B.	



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

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: _____

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

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