

**Friends of Georgia  
Libraries  
2014-2015  
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**Our Mission**  
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.

News for Friends of Georgia Public Libraries

OCTOBER 2014

## Fall Workshop Reaped a Good Harvest

Great Friendships were strengthened and new ones made at the Fall Workshop in Columbus in October!

Terrific ideas were exchanged as Friends from around the state gathered together.

Discussions centered around recent events and fundraising activities completed by Friends groups around the state. Braselton-West Jackson Friends often host "Lunch and Learn" programs. Soups and salads are provided by their Friends board, and speakers engage attendees on a wide range of topics. The B-WJ Friends also hosted an e-vent fundraiser for e-books for the Piedmont Regional System.



Even if you are a lifetime book sale volunteer, there are **new** ideas and issues to be faced each year. Be reminded that your library needs more than money from your

Friends group. Staff need volunteer hours given in many ways from helping at programs to sorting books. Ask them how you can be a

A web-site, booksale-manager.com, was shared as a source of ideas to

make your Friends book sale go from good to great.



**GOOD  
FRIEND!**

## Many Thanks to Great Friends

We would like to thank Georgia Author of the Year, Victoria Wilcox, for speaking at our Fall Workshop in Columbus.

Victoria shared her story of Doc Holliday and how library research helped her gather facts for her story. If you would like Victoria to come speak for your group,



you can contact her through her publicist on her website. <http://victoriawilcoxbooks.com/>

FOGL would also like to extend a big THANK YOU to Alan Harkness and the Staff of the Columbus Library for providing a wonderful meeting space for us. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated.

## A Word from FOGL President Kathy Ash



FOGL President  
Kathy Ash

FOGL has just completed its Fall Workshop, hosted by the wonderful Chattahoochee Valley Regional Director, Alan Harkness, and Staff of the Columbus Public Library. As attendance numbers were down, a modified format/agenda was eagerly accepted by Friends from around the State. As I reflect on the day, I recognized that leadership, adaptability, creativity, along with fellowship among Friends around our great state, are needed by **all** Friends groups as they support their community and academic libraries. Friends groups desperately need leaders; volunteers who will step up and accept duties, along with the support of their members. Friends need to recognize that **new** leadership is not just required by a set of by-laws enacted by the group 20 years ago - but **is** required, and often, - for the **continued** energy, efficiency, and success of the group. Friends members also should be marketing agents - both for their group, and for their library. Friends groups need **all** sorts of volunteers - from **all** age groups - willing to assist with story hours, grow membership rosters, share artistic abilities, or sort books for the annual sale. Many groups offer members the option of volunteering for events that make the best use of their skills. The difficult task of respecting **all** volunteer hours while balancing **all** members' skill sets, coupled with accomplishing **all** chores to be done - requires a special person.....**YOU!** Be **BOLD** - step up - approached in a positive and supportive manner, you might find that your Friends' group leader(s) whole-heartedly welcome your input, and, your energy!

**NOTE TO SELF:** There is **always something** to be learned by spending a day sharing with Friends! If you imagine that there isn't anything left to learn about supporting your library - it is probably time to welcome new leadership to your group! (just saying....)

Looking forward to seeing you all in the Spring!

Kathy

**A GOOD LIBRARY**  
WILL NEVER BE TOO NEAT, OR TOO DUSTY  
BECAUSE SOMEBODY WILL  
**ALWAYS BE IN IT**  
TAKING BOOKS OFF THE SHELVES  
**AND STAYING UP LATE**  
**READING THEM**  
~LEMONY SNICKET

# DID YOU KNOW?

## 10 Simple Things ...you can do to help your library

1. Take a friend or relative — or even a class of youngsters — to the library. Show them what you most enjoy and offer to help them sign up for a library card of their own.
2. Consider a tax-deductible gift to your library. Libraries and library systems often have memorial programs and endowments that provide opportunities to support and improve library services.
3. Remember the library in your estate planning.
4. Sponsor a magazine subscription for the library or donate books — either to the library or to your local Friends organization to raise money for the library.
5. Volunteer your time. Opportunities could include delivering reading materials to shut-ins, helping children or teens with homework or being a reader to preschool children. Ask your library director or branch manager how you can best help.
6. Nominate your library as your community's, your company's or your school's project of the year.
7. Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper expressing how important the library is to you — and to your community.
8. Speak up for libraries at community groups that you belong to, such as the PTA, Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Rotary, Optimist, Garden Club and others — even your book club! Invite your library director or branch manager to attend a meeting and talk about your library's services and its needs.
9. Attend a regular meeting of the city or county commission or other local funding agency and take the opportunity to thank its members publicly for supporting the library. Or send a short note to a council member to let them know how much you use and appreciate the library.
10. Develop a short "elevator speech" (just a sentence or two) that will help you quickly explain to others why libraries are more important than ever — and use it when you have an opportunity to encourage others to get involved.

## How to save \$100

**LIBRARY LOAN PROGRAM:** If you have a library card from a Georgia public library, you can check out a ParkPass and Historic Site Pass, just like you would check out a book. You'll enjoy free parking at Georgia's State Parks and free admission to State Historic Sites.

## Can you say Cha-ching?

### ZOO ATLANTA

One Zoo Atlanta Family Pass is available for checkout in each participating public library. The pass may be checked out once per year, per card, per household, and is valid for two adults and up to two children. The pass is not valid for fee-based events or programs and may not be combined with other discounts or promotions. Standard general admission will apply to families with additional children; children must be accompanied by an adult.

# Swing Time

Ingram Library's Penelope Melson Society presented "Swing Time: An Extravaganza of Big Band Music from the World War II Era" on Friday, October 17, in the Campus Center Ballroom. This event was in conjunction with the exhibit "Over Here and Over There: Georgia and Georgians in World War II" on display at Ingram Library October 13 through December 7. Guests



Lorene Flanders

enjoyed a spectacular evening of live music and dance performances by the University of West Georgia's Jazz Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Dan Bakos, and the UWG Dance Team "WOLFPRIENTS" directed by Dr. Karen Clevenger, UWG alum and current Instructor in the Department of Leadership and Instruction. Dr. Fred Richards was the emcee for the event. Period dress was welcome. Admission was free. "Swing Time" recalls an era when the world was at war and big band music was played everywhere and broadcast to millions



Julie Dobbs

overseas and on the home front via radio. Swing and jazz was the soundtrack for the war. Expressing a defiant hope for liberation and freedom, big band music had a unifying, patriotic effect, raising the morale of soldiers and inspiring Americans at home to fully support the war effort.

INGRAM LIBRARY • UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA  
October 13 – December 7, 2014

**Over Here & Over There**  
Georgia & Georgians in WWII  
TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Free Admission [www.westga.edu/library](http://www.westga.edu/library)



#### EXHIBIT TALKS:

**Mobilizing the Arsenal of Democracy:**  
*How Georgia Was Transformed Economically and Socially by World War II*  
Presented by Dr. Charles Chamberlain  
October 28 • 11:00 a.m.

**Rationing for Victory:**  
*Food as a Weapon on the Home Front in World War II*  
Presented by Dr. Jennifer Jensen Wallach  
November 11 • 11:00 a.m.



# Books: Our Bricks

At the Fall Workshop, **Rita Spisak** discussed the development of a "Paint Your Favorite Book on a Brick" contest for the Kennesaw State University students and how the "books" can be used for marketing, decorating and promoting community engagement. Her library director received a free gift of 100 bricks from a fellow Rotary member in the construction business. The library director, Linda Golian-Lui, wanted to use the bricks at the library renovation groundbreaking. It would be a good "hook" at the groundbreaking. Bricks may be the foundation of the building but books are the foundation of the library.

Rita and the library staff cleaned the bricks and painted the bricks various colors with leftover house paints. The students used magic markers to decorate the bricks with their favorite book titles. There were

individual student winners and a student group winner. The bricks are now used to decorate shelves or as centerpieces at library functions.

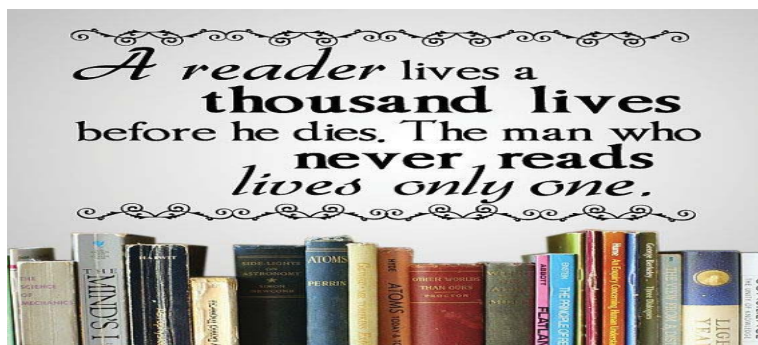
So many students wanted to keep their brick that next spring, Rita plans to have "Paint a Brick" for \$3 or two for \$5 for bookends at the next used book sale.

If you would like more information on this project, contact Rita at [rspisak@kennesaw.edu](mailto:rspisak@kennesaw.edu).



## Friends! Coming to a library near you?

In the Spring Workshop, several Friends in attendance expressed interest in a special gathering of just Friends for your area. If this is something you/ your group would still be interested in, contact Kathy@ [notsofastlane56@gmail.com](mailto:notsofastlane56@gmail.com)!

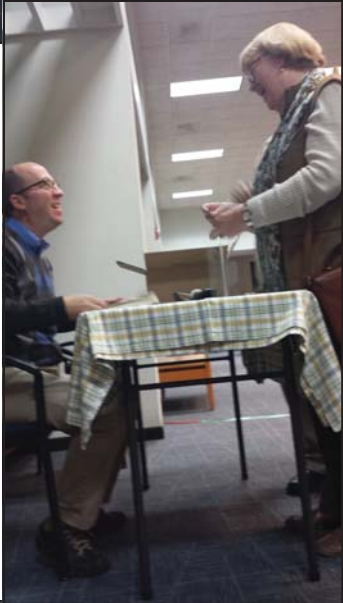


# Author Stephen Roth



Author and LaGrange native Stephen Roth engaged in a homecoming of sorts on November 10th, visiting the city all the way from his current home of Kansas City, MO. Stephen surveyed the room early on in his presentation, and humbly admitted he didn't know whether to address attendees as "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_" or "Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_" considering so many were a part of his upbringing as a child in this small town county seat of Troup County.

Having established a long-overdue first name basis, over 50 fans, friends, and family rejoiced in memories of growing up in LaGrange with Stephen, as he shared copies of and read from his latest book, "A Plot for Pridemore." The event, book sale, and refreshments were sponsored and coordinated by the Friends of the LaGrange Memorial Library, led by their president Dr. Brenda Thomas.



# Meet Your Board

Each newsletter will bring you a snippet about the people that volunteer their time and talents for the FOGL board.

**Dan A. Aldridge, Jr.**

B.S. University of Virginia

J.D. University of Georgia

Currently:

Retired

Author of Nonfiction work: *Lassoing Clouds*, *The Untold Story of Georgia's Version of the Wright Brothers* (being reviewed for publication)

President, Friends of the Braselton-West Jackson Library

Active in volunteer work for Winterville United Methodist Church

**Beth Ratliff**

Follower of Christ, Wife of my hero, Mom of 4, Marmee (grandma) of 2

Formerly: Girl Scout national delegate, leader, Service Unit manager Suncoast Council GS

Owner of Made By Marmee cards & co-Owner of FLOCK publications VBS curriculum

Newsletter editor and board member of FOGL

Board Member, Friends of Fayette County Public Library

**Keith Schuermann** graduated from Columbia College with a BFA in Film and Video Production in 1993. While homeschooling his children he fell in love with public libraries. In 2003, Keith graduated from Kent State University with a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. He has worked in public libraries in Cleveland, Cape Coral FL, and Gwinnett County GA. Keith currently serves as the Director of the Troup-Harris Regional Library System. Keith is a member of the Board of Regents Public Library Advisory Council, and in this capacity recently served as a facilitator to help draft a strategic plan for public libraries through the State of Georgia. He is also the treasurer of FOGL.

Keith and his wife Mary celebrated their 21<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past February, and are the proud parents of Alice (20), Edie (19), and Casey (15).

**Rita Spisak** is the Outreach Librarian at the Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University. She has been the chair of the Friends of the Sturgis Library at KSU for 8 years. Rita has worked at the library since 1985. In her spare time (surprise!) she likes to read, go to movies and museums.

**BE REMINDED!**

FOGL offers an Author Appearance Grant to its members! \$500.00 is awarded each year to a FOGL Friends Group to assist in hosting a Georgia author event. Check it out on our website!

FOGL's Fabulous Friends award is presented each year to a deserving group of committed volunteers who support their library! Nominate your group!

FOGL's Best Friend Award is given each year to a deserving library supporter/volunteer. Is there someone in your library community that you would like to recognize? Find the application on our website!

Friends of Georgia Libraries , 1800 Century Place, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30345-4304

**www.georgia-friends.org find us on Face Book! @ The Friends of Georgia Libraries**

**JOIN FOGL TO HELP FRIENDS SUPPORT GEORGIA LIBRARIES! You can join at the website listed above, or by completing the form below and mailing it with your payment to FOGL Treasurer:**

**Friends of Georgia Libraries**

**c/o Keith Schuermann**

**Director, Troup-Harris Regional Library**

**115 Alford Street, LaGrange, GA 30240-3041**

**Yes, I want to join/renew membership in Friends of Georgia Libraries!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Easiest phone # to contact \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Categories of Membership:**

Individual (\$10) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Local Friends Group (\$50) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (provided benefits for up to five local Friends members)

Other Organization (\$100) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Member (\$500) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Friends of Georgia Libraries, Inc. keeps all personal information private and does not share members' phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses with third parties. Friends of Georgia Libraries is a non-profit 501-c-3 organization. Your donations are tax deductible.**