

**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.

A Word from FOGL President--Kathy Ash

COMING IN APRIL! FOGL'S ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & WORKSHOP

This year's Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) annual spring business meeting and workshop, entitled "Things Friends Should Know About Their Georgia Libraries, But Are Afraid to Ask," will take place Saturday, April 18 at the Piedmont Regional Library System's Jefferson Public Library.

"Our focus will be on advocacy, along with a bombardment of information about Georgia's libraries, their partnerships, and what is offered around the state," said FOGL President Kathy Ash.

The event includes a box lunch, and the cost is \$20 for FOGL members or individuals representing a Friends group that is a member. The cost for nonmembers is \$30, which includes an annual membership. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Additional information and the required registration forms are available online at www.georgia-friends.org.

“Good friends make great libraries.”

Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.—Anne Herbert

As Neil Gaiman says: “Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.”

Quotes and commentaries about libraries abound, and, we all have our favorites. A current favorite around the Piedmont Regional System is a commentary written by Joe Queenan entitled “In Praise of Libraries”, recently published in *The Rotarian*. Queenan reminds us of the very essence of our love for our libraries, with depictions of our libraries being our community’s kindly grandmothers, reminding us that libraries are indispensable institutions that manage to get taken to get taken completely for granted—while being both aspirational and inspirational, reaching all levels of society, without judging either patrons or the materials circulated. Queenan’s comments shared with a library funding agency representative have apparently been inspirational....the official commented that it was indeed the best article written ‘in praise of libraries’ and should be shouted from the rooftops.

As a Friend to my local library, Queenan’s words further fill my heart with a lifetime of loving my library. As a Trustee, I giggle at the comments regarding the library’s value, and how it is free – being reminded that I can hang out at the library for free – which can’t be said for hanging out at the coffee shop, or the diner, or at the senior center – if you aren’t a senior citizen.

As both a Friend and a Trustee, responsibility for financial support weighs heavy, but is one of the highest priorities in my life. I am aware of the cost of providing the freedom offered to every level of society; a truly public offering to anyone choosing to walk through the doors.....or, in this rapidly-changing technological age, ‘walk through the digital doors’. (There is a special satisfaction in accessing my library to reserve a book online – at 2am – in my PJs. –and having that book magically appear at my local library from somewhere else in the state.) Selling that satisfaction not only at budget time, but throughout the year, has not been my strong suit, but, with guidance from great mentors and fellow library lovers, I’m learning. I’ll get there.

How are you ‘selling your satisfaction’ with your local funding agencies? And, your community?

This, too, is a Friend’s responsibility, along with daily reminders to your friends that your community’s library has much to offer – from entertaining grandchildren during Story Hour, to assistance with re-invention of work history on online job applications—apparently, now the only way you will gain access for an interview. A wise man taught me that my job as an advocate for my library is more than just showing up to a council/commission meeting when the budget rolls around each year....it is also showing up at those meetings during the year to say ‘thanks’. (which is apparently also a good tactic for startling those funding agency representatives involved—a story for another time)

The eventual goal of this writing is to remind us all further that being a good Friend to our library isn’t just about the annual book sale.....it’s about reminding us to remind others why our libraries are crucial to our communities, and that our libraries are not - and will not become obsolete, to share the success stories of our patrons, to support our library’s staff—who will always be better search engines than Google, and that “our libraries are not just Houses of Knowledge, but Houses of Dreams.”

An Afternoon with Award-Winning Author Terry Kay



The Ingram Library's Penelope Melson Society presented "An Afternoon with Award-Winning Author Terry Kay" on Sunday, February 8, at the University of West Georgia's Ingram Library. A reception followed Mr. Kay's speaking event.

Terry Kay was born on February 10, 1938, in Hart County, Georgia, the eleventh of twelve children. He grew up on a farm, played football for Royston High School, and enrolled in 1955 at the then two-year West Georgia College, now the University of West Georgia. He was highly involved in extracurricular activities and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." He went on to complete his undergraduate studies at LaGrange College in 1959 and married Tommie Rae Duncan later that year.

Kay is the author of twelve novels, as well as a childrens book and a collection of nonfiction prose. His novel *To Dance with the White Dog* (1990) made him internationally famous and was dramatized in a Hallmark Hall of Fame production. Terry Kay is the recipient of four Georgia Author of the Year Awards from the Georgia Writers Association (1981, 2004, 2008, 2011), as well as an Emmy (1990), the Southeastern Library Association's Outstanding Author of the Year Award (1991), and the Townsend Prize for Fiction (2004). He was inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame in 2006.

Photo courtesy of Terry Kay

National Library Legislative Day 2015

Registration for the 41st annual [National Library Legislative Day](#) is now open!

This two-day advocacy event brings hundreds of librarians, trustees, library supporters, and patrons to Washington, D.C. to meet with their members of Congress rally support for libraries issues and policies.

Registration information and hotel booking information are available on the [ALA Washington Office website](#). This year, National Library Legislative Day will be held May 4-5, 2015. Participants will receive advocacy tips and training, along with important issues briefings prior to their meetings.

Towns County Public Library – The Community’s Living Room

The Towns County Public Library, a branch of the Mountain Regional Library System, re-opened after a year-long renovation and expansion project on Saturday, October 18th. A large crowd of citizens, library boards and staff, and elected officials were on hand for the festivities to celebrate.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, State Senator John Wilkinson, State Representative Stephen Allison, Regional Board Chair Teresa Moore, Towns County Library Board Chair Jounida Bradley, Towns County Branch Manager Debbie Phillips, and Mountain Regional Library System Director Donna Howell are all thrilled with the outcome of the project. Apparently, Towns County citizens are enjoying the new library spaces – library use has more than doubled since the reopening. Towns County has one of the highest level of library use in the state with more library card holders than registered voters. The renovation and expansion project was funded with a Towns County Special Local Option Sales TAX (SPLOST) that passed by more than 90% and a state Capital Outlay Grant administered by Georgia Public Library Service.

Architect Randy Smith with Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench & Jarbeau, did an amazing job of maximizing the restricted lot and wrapping the existing building with expansion on three sides. The job was done so skillfully that it is almost impossible to tell where the old building ends and the new begins. Contractor, Chad Winkler of Winkler & Winkler worked with library staff to insure that the library had no wasted space and that everything functioned as the building committee and staff envisioned. Building Project manager, Kevin Hamby with CHA, made sure all the work was done on time and under budget. One of the best parts of the project is that more than 85% of all work done on the project was done by local craftsmen, and more than 85% of the building materials and supplies came from local suppliers. The project had a real impact on the local economy.

The library grew from 3,800 square feet to 7,800 square feet. It features energy efficient LED lighting, a dual source HVAC system, and low-maintenance exterior finishes to insure low upkeep costs for the county. There is a terrific youth area with spaces for story time and a separate teen area, public computers in a configuration that will allow for classes, and a hospitality room where library users can enjoy a cup of coffee or a snack. It also has comfortable reading and conversation areas to fulfill the requests from library users that the library become the community’s living room – a place to have a conversation, read, watch a program, or just relax and enjoy the space. The views from the interior make the most of the unique location of the library – with windows and the screen porch affording views of Lake Chatuge and Brasstown Bald (the highest point in Georgia). The screen porch is a favorite spot for visitors to talk, read, sit and enjoy the scenery, or warm in front of the fireplace.

The next time you are in the mountains, come on by and check out this unique and special library – it’s worth the trip!

17th Annual Blended Heritage Celebration

The 17th annual Blended Heritage Celebration at the Fayette County Public Library, was held Friday, February 27 at 7:00 pm. We host this sensational cultural arts program on the last Friday evening in February every year, absolutely free of charge. Amazing entertainment and delicious food make for a thoroughly memorable, one-of-a-kind event. There was standing room only! It was an amazing event.

The 17th Annual Blended Heritage Celebration
Patchwork Nation
Friday, February 27, 2015 · 7:00 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION · LIMITED SEATING



MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 \$ _____

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