

**Helping build stronger  
Georgia communities  
through stronger  
Georgia libraries!**

# BETWEEN FRIENDS

News of Friends Of Georgia Libraries

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## Students, Friends Hear 'White Dog' Author

Terry Kay, nationally acclaimed Georgia author, is shown here surrounded by eighth grade English students from Montgomery County after he spoke at the annual meeting of Friends of Georgia Libraries in Brunswick in April. The students had studied one of Kay's best-loved books, *To Dance with the White Dog*. Kay's appearance was sponsored by the Georgia Center for the Book, headquartered in Decatur. FOGL members also heard a talk by Center director Bill Starr on his experiences as writer and editor, gave their views on FOGL's future and voted on three new board members. 📖



## Friends News from DeKalb

### New Doraville Friends Group a Success

Since its founding in February, 2007, the Friends of Doraville Library, Inc. (FODL) has garnered widespread community support and made numerous contributions to the Doraville Library, a branch of DeKalb County Public Library. The key to its success has been its grassroots approach to attracting members, including door-to-door distribution of informational flyers in both English and Spanish and advocating for the library at the Doraville City Hall, which provides significant funds for the operation of this semi-autonomous branch. As a result of the Friends' actions, the City is providing more materials and has increased staff pay. The Friends' two book sales in the last year have bought materials for the library and librarians.



**DeKalb County Public Library Friends officers share experiences at an April 29 meeting.**

### Friends Officers Meet and Exchange Ideas

For the first time, Friends officers from throughout the DeKalb County Public Library system met together to exchange ideas and information. The April 29 meeting was held at the Decatur Library, the system's main branch. About 20 people attended.

The officers discussed their experiences in 2007 — what they did, what worked well and what did not, and their plans for the future. Director Darro Willey gave the group an update on the Library's building project and other major activities. Donna Brazzell, Executive Director of the DeKalb Library Foundation, talked about the Foundation's current projects. Marketing Coordinator Ron Leonard, who planned the meeting, acted as moderator. The officers said they found the event so helpful that another has been scheduled for the fall. 📖

## From the President...



I'm reading a letter about the smoking policy at the Athens-Clarke County Library. I'm a library trustee, and I try to prepare ahead for our quarterly meetings. We long ago banned smoking inside the building, but now a patron has asked that we prohibit smoking anywhere on the library campus.

The letter is as well written and persuasive as they come, though I can't say what will happen. But in one poignant paragraph, Mrs. Brenda Hart Neilhouse reminds us of the unique way that a library joins with a community and its people.

"Athens-Clarke County Library is my library," she writes. "It is my daughter's library. It is the library of every citizen who calls Athens-Clarke County home....We both find incredible value in our relationship with our library and our librarians."

Ms. Neilhouse describes connections that remind us why some of us go beyond being loyal patrons. We become trustees and Friends members so we can help build better libraries. We become pesky and persistent

advocates, reminding state and local officials that we can't live and grow and prosper solely on the fact that the Neilhouses of the world love libraries.

Without proper financial support to meet the needs of growth and change, we fall behind. That is not in the great tradition of public libraries in this state or nation. And it leads us to the reason that the Friends of Georgia Libraries was organized about three years ago. Our mission is twofold: unify our voices at the state level and assist local Friends groups to become better at what they do so well. We need your help in building our membership base of Friends groups and individuals. We solicit your ideas and participation in what we do. Mrs. Neilhouse, her daughter, your children, my granddaughters and millions of Georgians are depending on us to speak out for better libraries.

Wally Eberhard

*Wally Eberhard*

President, FOGL  
wbe1955@aol.com

## Friends of Libraries Donates \$25,000 to New Branch Construction

The Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System (CVRLS) would like to thank the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries for their generous donation of \$25,000 towards the construction of the new Mildred L. Terry Branch Library. Because of the positive impact it will have on the community it serves, the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries are extremely proud to support this project. Construction on the new 16,000 square foot structure is set to begin this summer with a projected opening date of fall, 2009. 📖



**Friends of Libraries Board Members, Bunky Clark (left) and Alice Budge (center), present Claudya Muller, Director, Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System (CVRLS), with check for \$25,000.**

## Friends Move A Success

Friends of the Nancy Guinn Memorial Library in Conyers have just completed the Herculean task of moving thousands of their used books out of the library building to a temporary off-site facility. This was necessary because the Nancy Guinn Library will be expanded and renovated over approximately the next 18 months.

Under the outstanding leadership of President Linda Kelly, elected in January, dozens of volunteer Friends made plans and prepared a space (built a ramp), boxed up


thousands of used books, broke down and moved the shelving, and set up an organized used book store in less than six months.

Their first monthly book sale at the new location was held June 14th and tons of books were sold, as usual, earning over \$1,000 to enhance their public library. "WAY TO GO Friends of the Nancy Guinn Library!," says Library Director Debbie Manget. 📖

## FOGL Board Meeting Highlights, Atlanta, June 6, 2008

- Elected officers:
  - President, Wally Eberhard
  - Vice-President, Elaine Yontz
  - Secretary, Lyn Hopper
  - Treasurer, Christine Hoskins
- President Wally Eberhard shared a draft letter encouraging Friends of the Library groups to join FOGL.
- Past President Jenny McCurdy reported on attending Library Day in Washington, D.C., with State Librarian Dr. Lamar Veatch.
- The fall workshop will be held at the Fayetteville Public Library on November 15. The topic will be relationships between Friends and the library directors and staff. There will also be an update on the upcoming merger of Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and the Association for Library Trustees & Advocates (ALTA).
- Ideas for programs included an advocacy workshop in conjunction with Georgia Library Day and an event tied to the Georgia Literary Festival in Bainbridge in October.
- Approved a Conflict of Interest policy and a Gifts Policy
- Participated in a vision exercise, and the following suggestions were made:
  - FOGL should continue to serve as a **resource to FOL groups**. A speaker's bureau was mentioned as one possibility.
  - FOGL should help grow an effective grassroots **advocacy** organization (as Charles Beard said, "Nobody in the state legislature will cross the garden clubs!"). FOGL should be known as the "spokesgroup" for libraries in Georgia, which may include advocacy beyond the political arena.
  - FOGL should be able to **articulate what we do**, both for education and advocacy.
  - FOGL should **raise its profile** by branding and marketing the organization.

## Got News?

Please send us news of upcoming events, successful programs, fundraising ideas and photos. All article and photo submissions should be sent to Halley Little at [hlittle@sgrl.org](mailto:hlittle@sgrl.org). The deadline for the October issue is September 15. For more information, contact Halley Little or Sarah McGhee ([smcghee@chestateelibrary.org](mailto:smcghee@chestateelibrary.org)), co-editors of *Between Friends*. 

## Teamwork Puts Books into Bookbags for Pre-schoolers


Reprinted with permission from *Houston Home Journal*

What's the best thing to put in a kid's backpack just as summer is beginning? How about storybooks to take home for keeps?

In June 2008, the Houston County Friends of the Library, the Houston County Certified Literate Community Program, the Warner Robins T.J. Maxx Store and Kohls were all involved in a project bound to bring smiles to faces of children from disadvantaged families and encourage a love of books. It all got started when Christine Hoskins of the Friends of Library had a talk on radio with Joe Bishop, who does double-duty as news director for Georgia Eagle Broadcasting and coordinator of the CLCP.

Hoskins pointed out that the Friends of the Library were likely to have children's books leftover from their big annual sale, and offered to donate the books to the literacy program. Bishop then brainstormed with Dorothy Ferguson, who chairs the literacy program at Middle Georgia Technical College, about how to distribute the books, and got in touch with Debbie Stephens, director of Cherished Children, a preschool with plenty of kids in need of books.

As it turned out, somebody else had been thinking of Cherished Children. The T.J. Maxx store had just donated 100 backpacks to the school. The next step was to pick up the storybooks from the Friends of the Library—more than 1,000 books in 32 large boxes. Bishop handled the transportation, volunteers from Kohls helped with stuffing the backpacks.

The first 20 backpacks were given to children graduating from the program, and the remaining 80 will be given out in the months ahead. 

## Mark Your Calendar: Nov. 15 is Date for FOGL Workshop


The Fayette County Public Library in Fayetteville and its Friends group will host an all-day FOGL workshop on Saturday, November 15. FOGL leaders are negotiating for a nationally known speaker to discuss topics designed to build better Friends groups across the state, including building and retaining membership, involving members and working with library directors. Details will be posted on the FOGL website — [www.georgia-friends.org](http://www.georgia-friends.org) — as soon as they are available.



## Community Celebrates Success at Whitesburg Library Opening

In an afternoon of celebration and recognitions, state and local officials joined more than 200 people gathered to mark the grand opening of the Whitesburg Public Library on Saturday, June 21.

All of the day’s speakers noted the community effort that made the dream to open a library in Whitesburg a reality. That community involvement was dramatically demonstrated during the ceremony when everyone present who had contributed through their donations, time or talents were asked to stand. Almost everyone in the audience stood up.

The Friends of the Whitesburg Public Library concluded the program by presenting a \$1,000 check to the Rural Library Project ([www.rurallibraryproject.org](http://www.rurallibraryproject.org)). In making the presentation, The Friends said they want to “pay it forward” as they asked that the money be used to “pay it forward” as they asked that the money be used in building another library in a rural community. The Rural Library Project, a nonprofit organization committed to the establishment of new, small libraries in rural areas, views local public libraries as centers of learning, community building and civic pride. 



Whitesburg Mayor Amy Williford, center, was joined by former Mayor Bud Hines, right, and James Cooper, Director of the West Georgia Regional Library system, left, in cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the Whitesburg Public Library. More than 200 people joined state and local officials in celebrating the opening of the library on June 21.

Photo by Juanita Howell, Whitesburg Police Chief

**Yes, I want to join Friends of Georgia Libraries!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Categories of Membership**

Individual (\$10)	\$ _____
Local Friends Group (\$50)	\$ _____
<i>(provides benefits for up to five local Friends members)</i>	
Other Organization (\$100)	\$ _____
Sustaining Member (\$500)	\$ _____
Additional Gift	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

*Friends of Georgia Libraries, Inc. keeps all personal information private and does not share members’ phone numbers, mailing addresses or e-mail addresses with third parties.*

Make check payable to: FOGL

Mail payment and membership form to:

Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL)  
 c/o Christine Hoskins  
 112 Willow Creek  
 Bonaire, GA 31005

  
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