

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

# BETWEEN FRIENDS

News for Friends Of Georgia Libraries

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*Atlanta*

## 3 from Georgia Active at National Library Legislative Day

State Librarian Lamar Veatch led the Georgia Delegation to National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) in Washington, D.C. on May 12, 2009. Joining Dr. Veatch were Mariclaire LaForte, a student in Valdosta State University's Master of Library and Information Science Program, and Elaine Yontz, vice-chair of Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) and professor of library science at Valdosta State.

They met with staff members of Georgia Representatives and Senators to explain how federal legislation affects Georgia libraries. One important effort is to seek increased funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). LSTA supports GALILEO, Web access for public libraries, and the Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS), among other projects.

The American Library Association Washington Office staff presented training sessions on May 10 and 11 to prepare the delegates for the legislative visits. Future dates for NLLD are June 28, 2010 and May 9-10, 2011. Plan to attend! 📖



**The Georgia delegation to NLLD 2009, from left to right: Mariclaire LaForte, Lamar Veatch, Elaine Yontz. The location is outside the Russell Senate Office Building. The dome in the background is the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress.**

## Nov. 7 Workshop Date Set at Spring FOGL Board Meeting

Here's a summary of the FOGL Board of Directors meeting in Warner Robins April 16.

- 📖 Treasurer Christine Hoskins reported a bank balance of \$4,181.79.
- 📖 Library Legislative Day seemed to be a success for all library organizations represented. Friends from around the state were perhaps the largest single group represented.
- 📖 The Newsletter is going well, but behind schedule for the next issue.
- 📖 Additional information has been provided the IRS to complete FOGL's application for 501c3 tax exempt status.
- 📖 FOGL and the Friends-Trustee Division of the Georgia Library Association will partner for a program at the fall COMO meeting in Columbus in October.

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**Chuck Gibson, Valdosta, and Lyn Hopper, Dahlonega, chat at Warner-Robins meeting.**



**Author Patricia Sprinkle autographs book for a Friend.**

## From the President: Six things I've learned as FOGL president...



Life is a continuous wake-up call, presenting frequent shock waves to keep us off balance and open our eyes to what's going on out there. My year as FOGL president has been that.

I thought I knew a lot about what Friends do, after five years on the FOGL board and a dozen as a local library Trustee. That was on top of being born in a Carnegie Library, probably with a World Almanac as an arrival gift.

The past months -- full of justifiable anxiety over the economy and the state of the world -- were an eye-opener about people in general and Friends in particular.

First lesson learned: Friends have stepped up more than ever in support of their community libraries. Thousands and thousands of dollars are spent annually in good times, and those non-tax dollars have kept on coming -- or increased -- when the budgets are trimmed by the sheer brutality of a downward economy.

Second lesson learned: The love of libraries is deep and enduring in this state and nation. If you listen to a Friends member tell their particular story, there's a sense of ownership and participation under it all. A community library is as much a part of the American soul as is the idea of a free and open society. That one of the state's most populous and diverse counties would approve a \$275 million library bond issue by a 2-1 margin in hard times says it all, and that's what happened in Fulton County last November.

Third lesson learned: Advocacy works, in good and bad times. Friends from across the state gathered for the annual Library Legislative Day in Atlanta in February, buttonholing their representatives to do their best on collections funds and urging support for library construction grants. And they didn't quit after they went home. When the grant program appeared to be near the scrap heap, they kept reminding

their representatives of the need. As a result 18 grants -- not the original 10 on the recommended list -- totaling \$27 million were approved.

Fourth lesson learned: The strength of the Friends movement is at the local level, and each group is as different as the 159 counties that make up Georgia. Friends are action oriented and respond to community needs. Mostly it works well, and Friends become part of the community glue along with churches, civic groups and other service agencies. That's true nationwide. I entered "Friends of the Library" in Google News recently. Result: 6,424 hits, representing libraries coast to coast.

Fifth lesson learned. Once in a while a Friends group doesn't work, and needs outside help or mediation or group counseling for a fresh start. Predictably this type of problem is not put on the table at state meetings; it's kind of a private, family issue. We ought to be developing a quiet method to help a foundering Friends group right itself.

Sixth lesson learned. Never underestimate the power of people to achieve miracles, small and large. The library on Hog Hammock (you have to get there by boat) came about because a few folks saw the need for one and made it happen. The rebuilding of the Atlanta-Fulton County libraries will happen because the planners had an organized vision about what was needed. The voters -- who increased their taxes by dong so -- agreed, and it will get done in the years ahead.

Time to pass the FOGL gavel to Bede Mitchell, and say thanks to all Friends for what they do for their state and their communities.

*Wally Edwards*

President, FOGL  
wbe1955@aol.com

## Flannery O'Conner Expert to Speak at Waycross Friends Event

On September 10, Craig Amason of the Flannery O'Conner-Andalusia Foundation will be at Waycross Library, and Storyteller Betty Ann Wylie will be a guest on October 22. The final program of this year will be presented in December by local storyteller Martha Donaldson.

The Friends began the year with a celebration of Black History Month led by Willie Character. Too Human Jazz duo and Harry O'Donoghue were welcomed guests earlier in the year. The Friends also hosted the Chamber of Commerce's Rise and Shine Breakfast on April 14 with Representative Jack Kingston in attendance.

In celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday, Carol Clark presented a big Dr. Seuss party, which was attended by hundreds of children from the area. Face painting, stories, and creating a big birthday card for Dr. Seuss were highlights of the afternoon.

The Friends of the Waycross-Ware County Library sponsored a dramatic presentation on Caroline Miller by Joy Cauthen on May 21 at 7 p.m. Joy Cauthen is the great niece of Caroline Miller, and she presents a program on the author and her novel, *Lamb in His Bosom*. 📖

## A GREAT TEAM:

### *Friends of the Fannin County Public Library and Boy Scout Troop 460*

The Friends of the Fannin County Public Library hold two used book sales per year which coincide with the two major arts and crafts festivals held in Blue Ridge in May and September. It has become a



**Pictured in Photo:** Aaron Jourdan, Frank Rule, Chris Fain, Adam Boyce, Gable Jackson, D.J. Haymore, Joe Webb, and Trey Smith.

tradition for our local Boy Scout Troop 460 to provide the “manpower” to move all our books from storage to our sale location in the lobby of the county courthouse where the library is located. The cooperative teamwork has proved to be a benefit for both groups. The Friends receive the help of some strong, young backs and the boys receive credit for service hours to help the community and count toward rank advancement within their troop. It is a win-win situation with the library being the ultimate beneficiary when the Friends donate large sums every year following the sales. The most recent gift of \$2,008 was donated in honor of Children’s Book Week to purchase those much-needed children’s books! Also, \$1,000 was donated to provide funding for the Vacation Reading Program this summer. 📖

## April 16 FOGL Board Meeting

*Continued from page 1.*

- 📖 Nov. 7 was set as the date for the FOGL fall workshop at the Smyrna Public Library, hosted by the Smyrna Friends.
- 📖 Dr. Lamar Veatch, state library director, suggested a new Friends award, with the tentative title, "Friends Group of the Year." A committee was appointed to develop criteria.
- 📖 Terry Kay, Athens author, has suggested working with the University of Georgia Library and other organizations to promote the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame. The board will study the proposal.
- 📖 The board will meet again June 1 at the Athens-Clarke County Library.

## FOGL President Guest Speaker at Gilmer County Friends

Wally Eberhard, president of FOGL, was the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Gilmer County Library on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Eberhard joked that he was born in a Carnegie Library in Michigan. He has not visited a public library that he didn't



**Wally Eberhard, President of FOGL peruses the collection at Gilmer County Library.**

like, though he admitted that some are better than others. Prior to the event, he was given a tour of the 20,000 foot Gilmer library that opened in November of 2007. The Friends of the Gilmer County Library operate a store there open six days a week. It was designed by the architect of the building for the exclusive use of the Friends. Revenue raised in 2008 for the library by the Friends was \$20,700, most of which was used for book



**Staff librarians Judy Griggs and Judy Duckworth perform puppet show.**

lease and book purchases. Staff librarians Judy Griggs and Judy Duckworth performed one of their puppet shows created for children for the assembled crowd of

approximately 75 members of the Friends to demonstrate an important and popular children’s program and the use of some of the Friends money—the purchase of some of the puppets.

For more information about the library and the Gilmer Friends, go to [sequoyahregionallibrary.org](http://sequoyahregionallibrary.org) and click on “Friends.” The name of the shop is “The Bookshelf.” Hours are M-F 10:30-5 and Saturday 11-3. 📖

## New FOGL Officers Picked

FOGL officers for 2009-10 elected at the June 1 board meeting are: Bede Mitchell, Valdosta, president; Elaine Yontz, Valdosta, vice president; Arlys Ferrell, Fayetteville, treasurer; Lyn Hopper, Dahlonega, secretary. Liz Camp, Newnan, was chosen to fill a board vacancy. 📖



## 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 Arlys Ferrell  
 130 White Oak Court  
 Fayetteville, GA 30214

# FOGL

## Friends of Georgia Libraries

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