

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

BETWEEN FRIENDS

News for Friends Of Georgia Libraries

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Save the Date - Fall FOGL Workshop

Susan Schmidt, presenter for FOGL's fall workshop on November 15, has devoted much of her life to supporting American libraries, from leading a local Friends group in Maryland to the presidency of the Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), with a coast-to-coast reach.




The day-long workshop - **Back to Basics: Starting or Revitalizing Your Friends Group** at the Fayetteville Public Library will cover core issues in getting the most out of a local Friends group, such as:

-  **starting or revitalizing a group**
-  **membership and fundraising**
-  **building relations between Friends and Trustees**
-  **business aspects of a Friends group**

The complete program is on the registration form on page 3. Registration is \$30 for FOGL members. Nonmember registration is \$40 and includes a year's membership.

Susan's activities in local Friends include the presidency of the Little Falls Chapter of Friends of the Library for Montgomery County. She was later a board member and president of the Friends of the Library for Montgomery County. The county organization includes 16 chapters with 23 public libraries and 3,000 members. She was national president of FOLUSA in 2004 after serving as vice president. Working in the past in support of the national organization on panels, programs and workshops during her term of office, Susan is still active in library advocacy at the national level. She recently appeared on several panels at the American Library Association's Advocacy Institute in Washington.

Susan holds a B.A. in English from Brooklyn College and an M.A. in literature from American University in Washington. She and her husband make their home in Bethesda, MD, where she currently works as a media assistant in a school media center. 

A Message from the State Librarian



Dr. Lamar Veatch,
State Librarian

I want to thank FOGL for providing this opportunity to share some thoughts with you. One of the events of which I am most proud during my tenure as State Librarian is the creation of a state-wide support group for libraries – Friends of Georgia Libraries. I believe that advocacy and support by local Friends groups and FOGL is essential to the long-term success and prosperity of Georgia's public libraries.

Friends are even more vital in these days of restricted financial resources. As you know, the State of Georgia is going through a tough patch just now. The Governor's Office is predicting a budget revenue shortfall of between 6 and 10 percent for this year and next. All state agencies, including the Georgia Public Library Service, have been instructed to prepare contingency budgets that would trim these same amounts from their present spending plans. *(continued on page 4)*

From the President...



There's a famous first line from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Mr. Dickens' words resonate across time and circumstances, and include the public libraries of this state and nation today.

Let's talk about the worst first. Unless you've been in a newsless, wireless cabin in North Georgia for the last three months, you know that budgets are beyond the term "tight." The governor has asked all units of state government to come up with plans for six, eight or ten percent cuts in the current fiscal year. It's hard to get a handle on belt tightening at the local level, but it's happening.

News stories already reflect the effect on school and university libraries. One story I pulled off the Internet said "no new books" this year for a community's school libraries. That is likely to be repeated across Georgia. It's less clear as to the effect local budget shortfalls will have on the public library. The best case would be to hold at current funding levels, but the odds are many library directors and trustees will face tougher than usual decisions on how to deal with the nation's economic woes at a very real, local and personal level. All the budget lines - new collection materials, pay raises, repairs - become cause for scrutiny. That's the half-empty glass or "worst-of-times" side of the world.

There is a "best of times" side to this for public libraries, and for the Friends that support those libraries. A real friend sticks with you in good and bad situations. Our public libraries must work with the money made available, but they have seldom turned out the lights, shut the doors and hung out a "closed until the next economic uptick" sign. A library is a community's best friend, in good times and bad.

Indeed, the value of a local library goes up in hard times. Checking out a book costs you nothing, as opposed to buying a book at the big box bookstore. There are more magazines on the shelves than you can ever hope to read. There are computer labs where the latest software is available to upgrade skills or learn new ones. If you wanted to turn off your high speed internet service, you could substitute a trip to the library to check e-mail or do whatever you wish on the banks of computers waiting for you. Your kids can still find homework assistance, children's and juvenile collections, and activities to keep them learning after school.

Local Friends play an even more important role in library support in tight budget years. The money they raise and share is even more critical. In the last fiscal year, for instance, the Athens-Clarke County Library needed money to cover a gap in SPLOST collection funds. Local government would not step up, but the Friends and other groups did. We continued to build collections, thanks to that support.

While it may be difficult to advocate for additional funding in hard times, it's a great time to remind public officials of the ongoing cultural importance of libraries. They are always there, serving the public in a seemingly endless list of ways. That is what libraries do, and Friends help make that possible. Although we must share public funds with other government departments, libraries will always be there to serve, and that service is supported by Friends, in the best and worst of times.

Wally Eberhard

Wally Eberhard

President, FOGL

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Author Talk at Calhoun-Gordon County Library

Noted author and lecturer Dr. Thomas McHaney recently spoke at the Calhoun-Gordon County Library. Dr. McHaney, who is the Kenneth M. England Professor of Southern Literature emeritus at Georgia State University, presented a lecture-discussion program on "Southern Women Writers of the 19th and 20th Centuries." The event was sponsored by Friends of the Library, was open to the public and was free of charge. A reception followed the program.

"The community was invited to visit the display in the library, choose a book from the suggested reading lists, compiled by Dr. McHaney, of works by 37 different Southern women writers, and then join the annual meeting to

discuss their books with Dr. McHaney," said Juanita King, president of Friends of the Library.

Dr. McHaney has received numerous awards for his outstanding work in the literary field, including Georgia Governor's Award in the Humanities. His literary works include several books, short stories and conference papers, and more than 60 essays. 📖



Pictured are (from left) Dianne Cronon, library manager; Ed Weldon, library board chairman; Dr. McHaney; Juanita King, Friends of the Library president; and Roberta Charbonneau, president-elect.

FALL WORKSHOP: **Back to Basics—Starting or Revitalizing Your Friends Group** **Saturday, November 15, 2008 – Fayette County Public Library**

Workshop leader: **Susan J. Schmidt**, Bethesda, Maryland, former president, Friends of Libraries USA and Montgomery County, Maryland, Friends organization.

8:30-9:30 a.m.	Sign-in, coffee
9:30-10 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions: FOGL president; Fayette County Library; Fayette County officials Dr. Lamar Veatch, State Librarian of Georgia
10-10:50 a.m.	Starting and/or Revitalizing a Friends Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Strategic Planning: Who Needs Friends? — Board Development: Give, Get or Get Off — Make a Statement: Kick-off Event
Break	
11 a.m.-Noon	Membership and Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Paperwork—It’s the law! — Membership Management — Fundraising, Tried and True — Book Sales, Do’s and Don’ts
Noon-1 p.m.	Lunch
1-1:45 p.m.	Making Best Friends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Friendly Relations among Friends, Trustees and Staff — Advocacy Inside and Out
Break	
1:55-2:45	You Are a Business Franchise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Public Relations — Marketing — Public/Private Partnerships
2:45-3:30	Sharing, questions and possible answers

INFORMAL RECEPTION: Holiday Inn Express Fayetteville • Friday, November 14 • 6-7:30 p.m. **FOGL Board and Friends - Everyone Invited!**

Fayette County Public Library is located at 1821 Heritage Park Way, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214, 770-305-5426.

Directions from Atlanta: Take I-75 South to Exit 237-A Riverdale Georgia S.R. 85. Continue on Georgia S.R. 85 South through Riverdale and into Fayetteville until you see the old Courthouse on the square in Fayetteville. The building complex is located just past the Courthouse on the right hand side of the street located at 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville. The Library is located directly behind the Administrative Complex.

Accommodations: The Holiday Inn Express in Fayetteville is holding a block of rooms for workshop attendees. Rates: \$85 for a king and \$90 for two queen beds. Phone 770-461-5600 or 1-800-Holiday and mention group code FGL. This block will be held until Oct.14.

Name _____

Address _____

Your local Friends group, if any _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

- FOGL member registration \$30
 Nonmember registration \$40 (includes one year membership)
 Meal Preference: meat vegetarian

Mail to: Christine Hoskins, FOGL Treasurer, 112 Willow Creek, Bonaire, Georgia 31005. Make checks payable to FOGL.

A Message from the State Librarian

Continued from page 1

In consultation with all of Georgia’s public library directors, GPLS has completed the required budget cuts for both state agency operations and state grants to public libraries. Among the areas targeted for reduction are elimination of a state agency staff position, loss of repair and renovation grant funds, reduction in the state grant book fund, and cuts in state funding for the PINES system and other state level library operations.

HOWEVER, in the face of these cuts during this temporary economic downturn, public libraries in Georgia are doing marvelous things. PINES is the envy of all the other states. There are now 2 million card holders using over 9.9 million library items in 275 libraries around Georgia. This is an outstanding model of cooperation and collaboration that maximizes the resources of these libraries for all Georgians.

FOGL and the many local Friends of the Library groups around Georgia are helping to sustain these successes and build on them by advocating for libraries at the local, state and national levels. While public libraries operate extremely efficiently, they do need adequate financial resources to keep up with increasing demands for their services. Friends of Libraries are essential partners in this worthy effort!

Dr. Lamar Veatch, State Librarian
Georgia Public Library Service

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	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

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.

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 Mail payment and membership form to:
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