

Kathy Ash

Elizabeth Camp

Kay Pinkney

Keith Schuermann

Barbara Hale

Thomas Thibeault

Chris Snell

Dan Aldridge

Beth Ratliff

Rita Spisak

Lorene Flanders

Dr. Diana Very

Between Friends

News for Friends of Georgia Libraries

May 2014

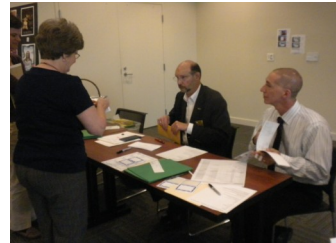
Navigating Quicksand...

The 2014 FOGL annual business meeting and workshop is now behind us. FOGL would like to thank the Athens-Clarke County public library staff for hosting the FOGL event and accommodating our every wish! FOGL would also like to thank Marilyn Smith and the Athens Friends of the Library for their amazing day-long hospitality.

Navigating Quicksand ...

....became the topic for the workshop due to many inquiries from Friends around the state. Dealing with Friends members, library staff, library policy, and, sometimes, even funding agency policy as it applies to volunteers, and the different roles involved can quickly feel like...being bogged down in quicksand.

The workshop segment "Navigation Techniques"(from horror to success) , moderated



Registration- April 2014

by Mountain Regional Library System Director Donna Howell, was perhaps not a PC session. It did however, honestly and directly explain the roles of Friends, staff, and even trustees.

The following segment, "Your Mission should you decide to accept it..." offered a panel/ audience discussion regarding successful structure of your Friends group, including growing membership, the growing importance of social networking, and activities.

Our thanks to Keith Schuermann, Rita Spisak, and Kathy Ash for navigating those topics.

The final segment "Finding the Golden Egg", offered tips on non-profit status, grants, and even a treasure hunt through the library for the golden eggs. Thanks to Dr. Diana Very, GPLS, Director of LSTA, Statistics, and Research, for many words of wisdom and for making grant-writing an interesting topic!

The goal was to teach Friends to successfully navigate through (around) the mire—through discussion, a better understanding of relationships and roles of all involved, and being reminded of the common goal of all involved-**to make and support the best Georgia libraries for all Georgians.**

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.

FOGL board member Barbara Hale brought 'Friends' from Towns County



Moderator- Donna Howell Mountain Regional Library System Director

Piedmont Regional System staff and Friends—April 2014



FOGL's 'BEST FRIEND'.....



LtoR:
Mountain Regional Director, Donna Howell, FOGL board member Barbara Hale, Towns County Commissioner, Bill Kendall

FOGL's 2013 'Best Friend' Award....presented to Commissioner Bill Kendall.

We must admit—this was a first...a county commissioner named FOGL's 'Best Friend'.

Commissioner Bill Kendall came highly recommended by both the Mountain Regional Director, Donna Howell, along with the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County. Commissioner Kendall is indeed a true Friend to Georgia librar-

ies! The Commissioner is the sole commissioner for Towns County. He has served in a variety of positions over the years, teacher, school superintendent and commissioner.

During his years of service, he has always supported the libraries. During difficult economic times, Commissioner Kendall has encouraged the county to step up funding. He has also issued a Commissioner's Challenge Grant each year, offering to match up to

\$5,000.00 of funding offered by the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County. He believes this helps to raise awareness of the critical need for library services in the county, along with drawing attention to the efforts of the Friends group. This will be the fourth year of the grant, despite a shrinking tax index. This may not seem like much money, but it adds up to about a dollar per capita in materials funding for the libraries. Kudos to Towns County!!!

FOGL honors Dr. Veatch...

Friends of Georgia recognized State Librarian, Dr. Lamar Veatch, for his continued support and encouragement of FOGL, its mission, and its efforts.

Dr. Bede Mitchell, ex-officio President of FOGL, presented Dr. Veatch with a Lifetime Achievement Award during the FOGL 2014 Spring Workshop at the Athens-Clarke County

library in April of this year.

Dr. Veatch will retire from Georgia Public Library Services this summer, and is eagerly looking forward to spending additional time with FOGL, and with Friends groups around the state.



"In the non-stop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim."

-Linton Weeks

FOGL's FABULOUS FRIENDS!!!

FOGL president, Kathy Ash, Braselton-West Jackson President, Dan Aldridge, Jr.



"There is a ripple effect to every volunteer hour spent working on behalf of our libraries." This was part of a speech given by Braselton-West Jackson Friends President, Dan Aldridge, recognizing the efforts of the BWJ volunteers. Never has

there been a truer statement. The Braselton-West Jackson Friends have contributed mightily, not only raising funds for library services in their community, but in making funds available for the e-book collection for the entire Piedmont Region. This group's dedication to the support of

their library, and Georgia libraries, has earned them the distinction of being selected as FOGL's 2013 Fabulous Friends.

This strong, vibrant group is a shining example for Friends around the state. Congratulations!

From the President.....

Many, many articles on libraries and their uses are flying around the state, electronically, of course. The new digital library in Texas has caused quite a stir; both positively and negatively, it seems. This library supporter often uses that example as I advocate to those who fund our libraries. How can it be a positive? No, there are no traditional books on shelves, etc. The fact that resonates with me is that the city still provided a LIBRARY, with LIBRARIANS. Our formats and technology may change through the

years, but in my mind, it reinforces the concept that we will always NEED libraries...and librarians.

The NYPL video voicing the many services provided by the 22 libraries in the city is powerful. It demonstrates the need for public libraries, and—public libraries that are OPEN. You can check it out at: http://gothamist.com/2014/05/17/video_library.php# .

Libraries, large and small, around the country are finding creative ways to advocate for their libraries.

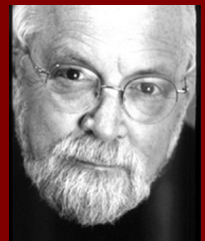
The DeKalb Alliance video that aired during the break at our Spring Workshop is a great example demonstrating the need for continued funding in the county. Thanks to the Alliance for sharing. I am reminded of a comment offered by a south GA county commissioner's comment during an ACCG study meeting. Upon seeing a GPLS video offered during the meeting, he leaned back in his chair and said, "Now, with something like THAT, I can sell my commission on funding our library!"

OUR SPECIAL THANKS.....

To Georgia author, and former FOGL board member, Terry Kay, for a delightful author appearance.

Terry graciously encouraged Friends to continue good works on behalf of Georgia's libraries, offered a reading, and autographed books for our Friends. FOGL could not have met in Athens without inviting our favorite GA author and library supporter!

Look for Terry's newest releases, "The Greats of Cuttermace", and "Bogmeadow's Wish" .



FOGL reaches out.....

The Board members of Friends of Georgia Libraries will be contacting/calling/visiting Georgia libraries to meet with Friends at the local level. FOGL hopes to ensure future interaction with Friends of Libraries to offer continued support, library information, education, and to pass along tips and creative ideas for increasing Friends support of their libraries.

"We are not in this alone." stated FOGL President, Kathy Ash. "Friends groups should not have to re-invent the wheel. Georgia groups have been creative in their efforts to grow their memberships, raise funds, tackle political issues, and advocate at the local, regional, state, and federal levels on behalf of libraries. We can learn from each other."

If your Friends group would like a visit from a FOGL representative, or assistance, please contact us through the FOGL website at

www.georgia-friends.org

Or contact Kathy directly at

notsofastlane56@gmail.com or

770-868-9202

More Photos from the Workshop...



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.