



News from Friends

Fall 2022
Volume 23

President's Message

The Friends of the Starkville Library (FOL) has had an exceptional 2021–2022 year in fulfilling its mission to support, expand, and improve the Starkville–Oktibbeha County Public Library. These accomplishments are only possible with the continued annual support of the FOL members through membership dues, honorariums, memorials, book purchases, and book donations. Thank you, FOL members, for your support of the library! Our community thrives by having a strong library. I am grateful for the dedication of our members.



Connie Forde, president

With a new membership year beginning in October, we ask you to continue serving your community by renewing your FOL membership online at <https://socpls.square.site/friends-of-the-library>. Additionally, please share the work of FOL with your family, friends, and colleagues and encourage them to join FOL. A membership form is also found on page 10 that lists the various membership options.

The FOL membership meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 11, at noon** in conjunction with the Books and Authors program. Please mark your calendar to attend this meeting at the Starkville Public Library. Come at 11:30 a.m. for refreshments, followed by a program by author Joe Lee and a brief membership meeting.

FOL was led this year by Connie Forde, president; Linda Buehler, vice president; Peggy Bates, secretary; and Myrna Lott, treasurer. A devoted and hard-working board (names on page 7) led the well-planned work of FOL this year. Thanks and much appreciation also are extended to our retiring board members Libba Andrews, Kim Cadenhead, Cathy Kemp, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Cheryl Rowe, and Suzy Turner.

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Publication Committee

Connie Forde, Editor
Peggy Bates
Linda Buehler
Maureen Lang
Sue Minchew
Linda Morse
Lynn Reinschmiedt

2022–2023 Book Sales

Book sales occur the first Monday of each month (except for holidays) from noon until 6 p.m.

Fall 2022

October 3
November 7
December 5

Spring 2023

January 2
February 6
March 6
April 3
May 1
June 5
July 3
August 7
September 11

Book Sales and Donations

Monthly book sales this summer have been sizzling! Board volunteers have been kept busy sorting and dating books several times each week. We have had wonderful turn-outs of customers for both May and June.

Books have been donated in record numbers, especially in the children's category. We have had some wonderful history books that cover both the Civil War and the World Wars, as well as lots of books of a political nature. Inspirational books come in regularly, as well as beautiful cook-books. The classics bookshelves are stocked well, too! Truly there are books to meet anyone's interest. Come have a look at all we have to offer!

Donations are always welcome, but please remember that we do not accept textbooks. We hope you find your own special books at our first Monday of the month book sales. We look forward to seeing you there!



Sales committees design a special feature table for the month.



Children's books are 50¢.



NEW FEATURES MONTHLY

HOURS AND PRICES

BOOK SALE ROOM

HARDCOVER: FICTION \$3 AND NONFICTION \$2
ALL PAPERBACKS \$1

ANYTIME ROOM

ALL BOOKS 50¢

The Book Sale room is open first Monday of each month; Anytime room is open when the library is open. Books are also for sale on the library's main floor. Browse at your leisure and pay at the circulation desk.

Grants and Donations Provide Library Support

FOL is committed to supporting not only the many ongoing programs of the Starkville Public Library, but also to providing needed equipment and additional library materials. The primary source of our fundraising is the monthly book sale held in the FOL sale room downstairs at the library on the first Monday of each month. We are thankful for the many generous donations of books as well as all those who attend our sales. Many loyal supporters attend each sale. In addition, in the past year we have been able to expand our presence on the main floor of the library. New shelves against the wall are loaded with a large selection of books that can be purchased at the front desk anytime the library is open.

Another very important component of our fundraising efforts is the financial support we receive through grants from local organizations and businesses. In the past year we received funds from a number of generous grants. Modern Woodmen again provided a \$1,000 matching grant given to FOL in support of the library's popular summer

reading program. Adding to support for this program was a grant for \$2,000 from the Starkville Rotary Club, and a grant of \$500 came from the Walmart Marketplace. The summer reading program serves all the children in Oktibbeha County with programs scheduled at all of the library branches. Special guest speakers and competition prizes make the summer program a favorite for schoolchildren in the area.

4-County Electric funded FOL with a grant of over \$5,000 that has been used to make needed improvements in the library facilities. Visit the library to see the recent updates.

We look forward to working with these and other organizations and businesses in the coming year.



[From left to right] Modern Woodmen representative Barbara Coats and Linda Buehler, FOL board member



[From left to right] Brad Barr; 4-County representative, Linda Buehler; FOL vice president; Phillip Carter; library director; and Connie Forde, FOL president

Successful Books and Authors Programs

The FOL Books and Authors program offered outstanding authors representing a variety of genres. Our fall lineup consisted of a poet, a novelist, and a short story writer. In the spring, we had a nonfiction author, a literary discussion, and concluded with a poet during the National Poetry Month in April. We transitioned to in-person talks in November. In January, we returned to noon presentations, and that time slot will be continued for the 2022–23 season.

Mississippi Poet Laureate **Catherine Pierce** was the September speaker.

A resident of Starkville and an English professor at Mississippi State, Pierce has won several awards for her fascinating books of poetry. She discussed her latest collection *Danger Days*. She has also written *The Tornado Is the World*, *The Girls of Peculiar*, and *Famous Last Words*.



In October, **Susan Cushman** spoke with us from Memphis via Zoom about her latest novel, *John and Mary*. Combining personal anecdotes with her discussion of the book, Cushman gave a compelling presentation that challenged us to re-examine some of our own attitudes related to race. Her previous works include *The Cherry Bomb* and *Friends of the Library*.



The fall lineup concluded in November with MSU English Professor **Becky Hagenston**, who has published three award-winning story collections: *Scavengers*, *Strange Weather*, and *A Gram of Mars*. Hagenston discussed her recent publication, *The Age of Discovery*, a book of short stories that covers a wide variety of thought-provoking topics.



We continued with in-person talks in the spring and were very excited in February to host **Steve Robertson**, who discussed his book about the MSU baseball team's magical 2021 season that culminated in winning the College World Series. Robertson, who covers MSU sports for Gene's Page and hosts a blog, gave a very thorough and informative talk about the 2021 baseball season to a large crowd of MSU fans. The attendees were excited to purchase signed copies of *Dawg Pile*, his recently published book, which chronicles the entire season and includes many color photos. It's a definite keepsake for MSU fans.



A record audience attended the Zoom meeting with Catherine Pierce in September.

Books and Authors Programs (cont'd)

In March, as a preamble to the Library's April Grape Gatsby Gala, MSU Giles Distinguished Professor Emerita **Nancy Hargrove** provided an insightful literary discussion of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel *The Great Gatsby*. Her well-attended talk drew many devoted fans from her literary discussions held at Starkville Public Library. She discussed details about Fitzgerald's life reflected in the novel, as well as comments about the time period and the motifs and symbolism in the novel.



In April, during the National Poetry Month, **Laurie Parker** spoke about her latest publication, a book of poetry entitled *Fistfuls of Starlight*. The audience was thoroughly entertained by Parker's nostalgic and amusing poems, which are both relatable and lots of fun. A special treat was provided by Billie Lane Hood, Parker's senior English teacher, who introduced her and shared some of the poems and cards Parker created in high school.

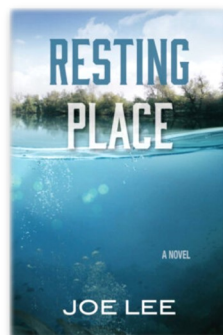


"We are returning to our noon format, with refreshments available starting at 11:30 a.m. and a book signing to follow the speaker."

Fall Books and Authors Programs

The 2022 slate of Books and Authors presentations for the fall has been set. We have four compelling authors, whom we are excited to bring to our library for in-person events. We are returning to our noon format, with refreshments available starting at 11:30 a.m. and a book signing to follow the speaker. We also will begin the Books and Authors fall schedule early this year, starting in August and running through November, as always on the second Thursday of the month.

Joe Lee, who grew up in Starkville and is no stranger to the world of publishing in Mississippi, will headline the series on August 11. He will be presenting his latest novel, *Resting Place*, a prequel to his suspenseful Oakdale series. He is also the owner and editor-in-chief of [Dogwood Press](#) in Brandon. He has mentored and published a number of writers, including the next two on our slate this fall.



Book & Authors Programs

Fall 2022

August 11

Joe Lee

September 8

Mark Lehman

October 13

Candace Cox Wheeler

November 10

Johnnie Bernhard

Spring 2023

January 12

February 9

March 9

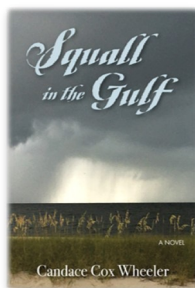
April 13

Fall Books and Authors Programs (cont'd)

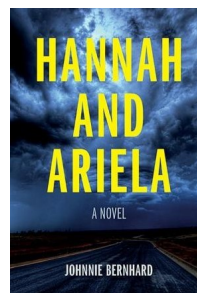
Mark Lehman will be talking about his debut novel, *The Anderson Conspiracy*, on September 15. An associate professor emeritus of accountancy at Mississippi State University for 35 years, and a prolific author of academic texts, Mark uses his skills to craft a thrilling tale starting with a unique group of friends from high school and ending in an intriguing mystery. His book has been described as “what do you get when an accounting professor with a passion for fraud prevention and detection writes a novel about baseball and money? *The Anderson Conspiracy*.”



Candace Cox Wheeler will present her second novel, *Squall in the Gulf*, on October 13. Set in the 1920s, this thriller has a cast of characters from flappers to gangsters, from rum running to jazz and is set in Chicago, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. A native of Biloxi and lawyer by trade, her highly-regarded first novel, *Cradle in the Oak*, also a period piece set in 1906, was based on a fascinating true story of a woman's determination to find her missing children.



Johnnie Bernhard will return to Books and Authors to complete the fall series on November 10. She previously presented *Sisters of the Undertow* in 2020. This award-winning author will present her fourth novel, *Hannah & Ariela*. Set in Texas, the book portrays Hannah as a 73-year-old widow who finds Ariela, a 14-year-old victim of human trafficking. Do they follow the law or their consciences? You will not want to miss this one.



Food and Fellowship at Books & Authors Program



Come at 11:30 a.m. for refreshments.
Second Thursday of the month

Friends of Starkville Library ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

12 NOON

Immediately after Books and Authors Program

Starkville Public Library, 326 University Avenue

FOL Executive Board 2021–2022



[Left to right] Myrna Lott, treasurer; Peggy Bates, secretary; Linda Buehler, vice president; and Connie Forde, president

Tribute to Six Retiring FOL Board Members

Six members are leaving the FOL Board in 2022. Their names and tenure on the board are listed below. All total, this represents 21 years of service to the board.

Libba Andrews – 3 years
Kim Cadenhead – 1 year
Cathy Kemp – 4 years
Lynn Reinschmiedt – 8 years
Cheryl Rowe – 3 years
Suzy Turner – 2 years

Each board member is required to work four sales events per year. This entails diligently sorting book donations, shelving salable books, and replenishing the two freebie tables located at the back door of the library the month preceding the sale, as well as conducting the sale. This represents approximately 20 hours per sales event. Additionally, board members are required to attend monthly board meetings. In all, board members devote about 90 hours of service annually.

Their willingness to give freely of their time and service is greatly appreciated. Their efforts are helping to provide a firm foundation for the continued growth of the Starkville Public Library. We thank them for their service and their many contributions to the FOL Board.

FOL Board 2021–2022

OFFICERS

President

Connie Forde

Vice President

Linda Buehler

Secretary

Peggy Bates

Treasurer

Myrna Lott

BOARD MEMBERS

Libba Andrews
Kim Cadenhead
Pat Colwick
Nelle Elam
Julia Hodges
Eddie Keith
Cathy Kemp
Maureen Lang
Linda Morse
Joy Odom
Joyce Polk
Lynn Reinschmiedt
Cheryl Rowe
Bos Stevens
Suzy Turner
Sherrie Welch
Wayne Wilkerson
Phillip Carter, Director of
the Library

Website:

[https://starkville.lib.ms.us/
index.php/friends-of-the-library/](https://starkville.lib.ms.us/index.php/friends-of-the-library/)

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
FOLStarkville](https://www.facebook.com/FOLStarkville)

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/OfStarkville>

Instagram:

[https://www.instagram.com/
friendsofstarkvillelibrary/](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofstarkvillelibrary/)

FOL Book Reviews Released Monthly

The FOL Board, along with two guest writers, provided the Book of the Month book reviews during 2021–2022. Board members Peggy Bates, Julia Hodges, Eddie Keith, Maureen Lang, Lynn Reinschmiedt, and Sherrie Welch contributed, as well as MSU Professor Emerita Nancy Hargrove and Sue Minchew, member of Library Board of Trustees. As you can imagine, this project was a major undertaking and commitment of the FOL Board. Each month another exciting book review is available for our members and social media followers.

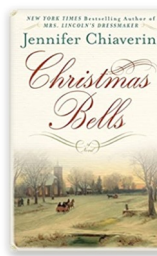
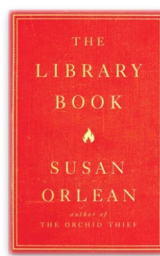
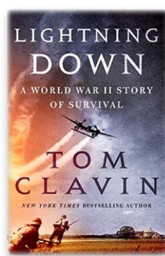
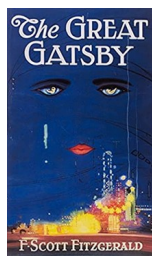
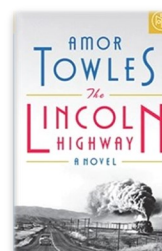
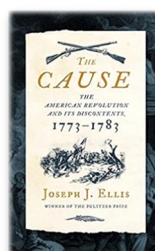
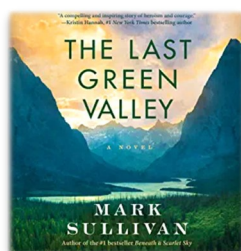
How to Find the Book Review

To allow all interested readers to enjoy these selections, all the book reviews are available on the Starkville Public Library website at <https://starkville.lib.ms.us/index.php/fol-books-of-the-week/>.

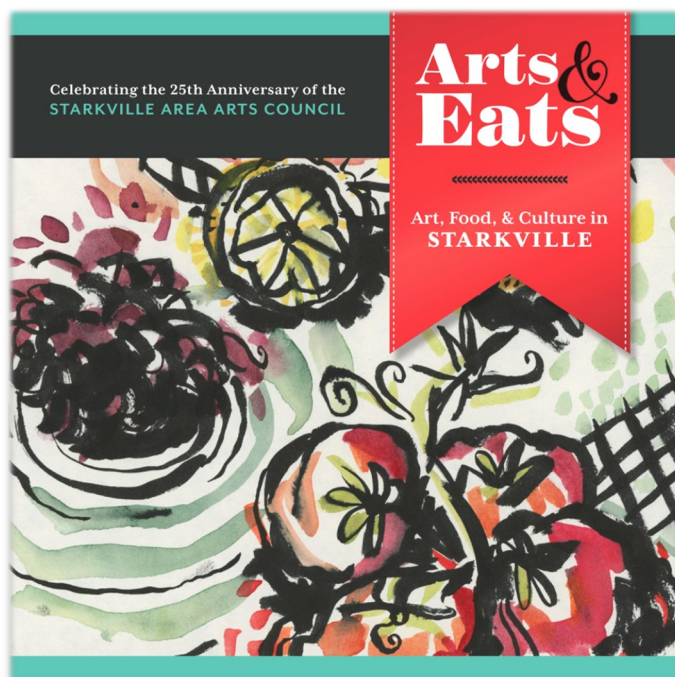
Each month the book review is posted on the FOL Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram. Be sure to watch for the new book review each month. The responses from our Facebook views ranged from a high of 1,044 viewers on one book review post and a high of 32 engagements (likes, comments, shares, post clicks).

How Books Are Selected

The FOL Board members are avid readers of the many popular book genres and are often asked by the book sale shoppers to recommend books. Actually this interest in book recommendations was a driving reason to inaugurate this project. The FOL Board is delighted to provide the book reviews and welcomes FOL members and library patrons to offer book suggestions and to write reviews.



FOL Contributes to Arts & Eats Cookbook



Arts & Eats: Art, Food & Culture in Starkville, is the Starkville Area Arts Council (SAAC)'s beautiful new cookbook which celebrates the organization's 25th anniversary, as well as all things Starkville. The cookbook, which came out in March 2022, is now available from the SAAC for \$35. It can be ordered on the organization's website at starkvillearts.net. Patrons may also purchase one at the agency's new office located on 122 East Main Street.

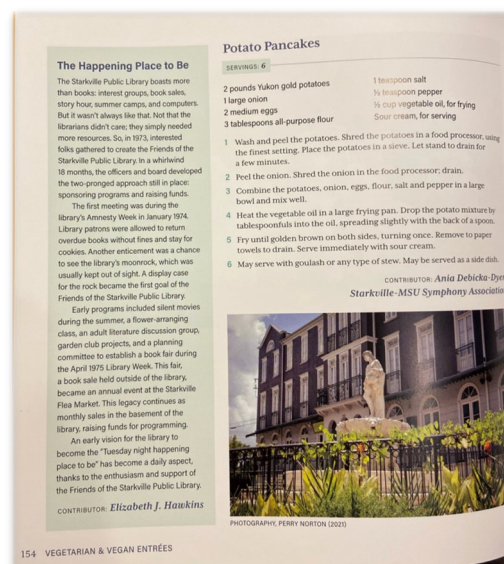
This lavishly illustrated book is 224 pages of recipes, stories, pictures, and illustrations. Various sections feature recipes from traditional divisions, such as Soups and Salads, and newer categories of interest, such as

Vegetarian and Vegan Entrees. Each recipe was tested by committee members before its inclusion in the book. Additionally, wonderful stories about Starkville are interspersed into the chapters. Examples include "For Whom the Cowbells Toll" and "Before the Show Goes On." Other stories feature local icons such as Dan Camp and Carol McReynolds Davis with many other interesting pictures, illustrations, and stories about Starkville life, people, and places. The content of recipes, stories, pictures, and illustrations makes this a "must have" for anyone with ties to Starkville or Mississippi State University.

This book was made possible through individual contributions and business support. The proceeds from this book will be used to support the arts in Starkville, including the work of the FOL.

Patty Roper, *Mississippi Magazine's* editorial director, writes in the foreword as follows: "This book is all that we hold dear about Mississippi and her stories. Along with great recipes, it embodies our love of community and hospitality, our cherished Southern heritage . . ." (p. 6).

We encourage you to purchase this beautiful and useful book. Not only will you enjoy the book, but it will help support the arts in our community. You will find the book a delightful look at Starkville culture and cuisine favorites.



The history of FOL is shown here on page 154 of the cookbook.

Make FOL Your Kroger Community Rewards Program Partner



Kroger is committed to helping our community grow through the Kroger Community Rewards Program. By joining this partnership, FOL is earning needed dollars to assist in funding the outstanding library programs showcased in this newsletter. FOL started with only eight households participating in Kroger Community Rewards. Now 35 households are contributing almost \$100 per quarter and \$400 annually. That's amazing!

Thank you for your support if you are one of those 35 households. If you are not, please consider making FOL your Kroger Community Reward Partner. FOL needs your support to secure these community dollars generously donated by Kroger.

Here is how you get started:

1. You'll need a Kroger Plus Shopper's card. If you do not have a card, stop by the customer service desk at Kroger to obtain your card. You'll need a Kroger account. To create an account, go to www.kroger.com.
2. Log in to your Kroger account and select "Friends of the Starkville Public Library" as your community rewards program partner. You can search for the name or enter **UW747** as the code and click **Enroll**.
3. Now comes the easy part. Each time you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card, Kroger will contribute a portion of your purchase to FOL.

Join Friends of the Starkville Library for 2022–2023

Become a member of FOL for 2022-2023 and enhance your library's collections and service; supplement library programs for children, youth, and adults; and strengthen the library's vital role in our community.

Join by completing the paper membership form and mailing it to FOL or by completing the online form and paying online. Click the links below to join FOL. Your generosity and support are appreciated.

Complete Membership Form and mail completed form:

<https://starkville.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Membership-form-v2.pdf>

Complete online Membership Form and pay online:

<https://starkvillelibraryfriends.square.site/>

Types of Memberships

Individual Membership	\$25
Family Membership	\$35
Patron	\$100
Benefactor	\$250
Sponsor	\$500
Life Membership	*\$1,000
Corporate	*\$1,000

*Plaque in Library will acknowledge donors.

Honorarium and memorial gifts are welcomed.

News from Phillip Carter, Library Director

Speaking at the grand reopening of the downtown public library in Charleston, West Virginia, a keynote speaker stated that “[libraries] are no longer warehouses of books. They are marketplaces of ideas. They are a community’s living room.” This is why I made the decision to begin working in public libraries. I believe that libraries are more than the books that we house and that they are instead places of education, entertainment, and air conditioning to escape the oppressive Mississippi heat.

Over the last year the staff and I have worked to increase the number of programs offered, the number of partnerships, and even the number and variety of materials we carry to better serve all of Starkville and Oktibbeha County. From our Summer Reading Program that saw over 682 kids register for summertime activities and reading (over 240,000 minutes read as of the writing of this article!), to our adult program activities that included plant exchanges, book clubs, and crafting groups, to our Grape Gatsby Fundraising Event held in April that brought over 120 people together in the Starkville Public Library for food, wine, and music, we have diversified the offerings of the public library to genuinely have something for everyone. None of this has been without challenges—but they are challenges that have been met head on. With

increased support from the City of Starkville, Oktibbeha County, and the Friends of the Starkville Library we’ve been able to purchase more materials, increase staffing, and create new partnerships within our community to strengthen our citizens, and I’m so very proud of all that we have done and will continue to do.

“[libraries] are no longer warehouses of books. They are marketplaces of ideas. They are a community’s living room.”

The future is bright—we have new Wi-Fi infrastructure on the horizon as well as a new 16-seat computer lab complete with projection screen and sound system for workshops, lectures, and entertainment. We are using the funds raised from our Grape Gatsby fundraiser to upgrade our book drop behind the library and to decorate and stock our new Young Adult Room for new and exciting teen programming here at the Starkville Public Library. I am so proud of the work we accomplished in the last year and look forward to the work we will accomplish in the coming year with the support of our community, this amazing staff, and our Friends of the Starkville Library.

The Grape Gatsby Fundraising Gala Enjoyed by All



Library director celebrates with library trustees.



FOL Board Member Maureen Lang and friends dress in style.



Library staff enjoy gala.

Children's Programming Is Huge Success



Summer reading at Starkville Public Library (SPL) got off to an auspicious start with over 1,000 people attending our kick-off event with the Tickled Pink Petting Zoo! Our second highest-turnout event was Dr. Wacky's Dinosaur Crew with 535 patrons inside the library. We were bursting at the seams with fun! Of course, none of these amazing programs would be possible without the support of the Friends of the Starkville Public Library.

Starting June 1 and going through July 31, we had an amazing summer reading program this year with an "Ocean of Possibilities"! We had a record-setting total of 682 reading participants in the children's summer reading program. When our end-of-summer reading treasure chest was finally empty, 247,860 minutes had been read this summer!

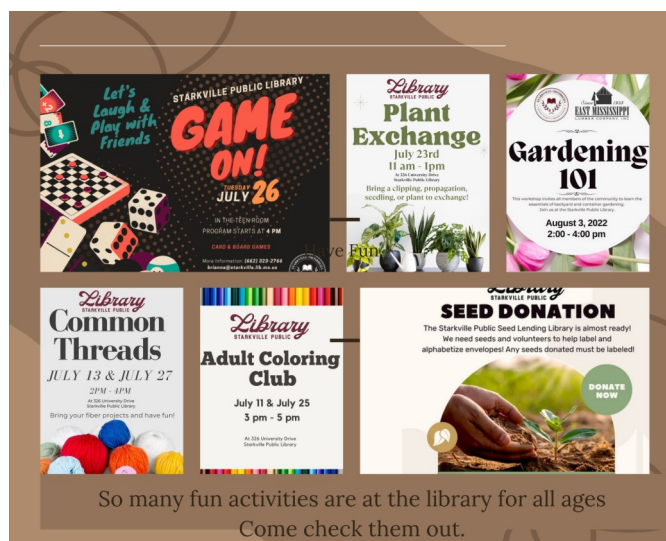
SPL had 40 programs attended by 4,301 patrons in June and July. In addition, our summer reading program set another record at SPL! Some of the programs were continuations of series, like our weekly art program funded by the Starkville Arts Council.

Other programs were animal and science performers, like our Harry Potter Night and Yarbrough's Educational Reptiles, that were new and very well-received. With our STEAM and LEGOs programs, the library was able to ensure that children throughout the community not only had the opportunity to participate in summer reading, but also the chance to strengthen their skills in science and technology. Additionally, Miss Rainey's Storytime featured a life-sized dancing shark to help lead the music, along with ocean-themed books and puppets.



Programs for Everyone

The library offers programming for children, teens, and adults. The graphic at the right illustrates games night for teens, plant exchange, gardening workshop, adult coloring club, and a common threads sewing day for adults. All these and more are being planned by the library staff. To be alerted to what's coming up at the library, check the Starkville Library Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/STKPUBLIB>.



Confessions of an Audio Book Convert

by Sue Minchew, FOL Member and Library Board of Trustees

An avid reader, I have always preferred physical books, favoring hardbacks with their colorful covers and informative flaps. But paperbacks have their own appeal. I can slip one in my purse to carry along on a trip or prop one up while walking on the treadmill. Often, I have scoffed at friends who extolled the virtues of audio books. Was that really reading? Was it cheating? I just knew it wasn't for me. Then disaster struck. I got COVID!

Along with it, I got a raging eye infection that prevented me from reading. In desperation, I turned to audio books. Stuck at home, I had to rely on my electronic devices. Fortunately, I already had installed the Library's **Libby App**, but I had seldom used it and, admittedly, had to call the library to obtain my PIN number. Once in, I found a treasure trove of books right at my fingertips, and, to my delight, many of them were audibles.

After browsing the fiction section, I decided on one of Michael Connelly's Bosch books, *Two Kinds of Truth*. Titus Welliver, the narrator, breathed life into Harry Bosch in ways my imagination never could. I began carrying Welliver's rich voice with me throughout the day as I applied makeup, did the laundry, or fixed lunch. Never before very good at multitasking, I had become a

pro! Moreover, those menial daily tasks had become so much more enjoyable. As soon as I finished the book, I began scrolling Libby for another one. I liked Libby's feature that allowed me to listen to a sample before borrowing the book. I found that I was most attracted to a really good narrator.

My eyes have recovered, but, believe it or not, I now actually prefer audio books! If you've never tried one, take it from me, a former physical book snob, it's worth a try! You might become a convert, too.



The Library staff can help you download and set up the **Libby app** on all your devices.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(continued from page 1)

Accomplishments are listed below and described in detail in this newsletter:

- 146 FOL memberships, including lifetime, patron, family, individual, sponsors, benefactors, and corporate members;
- \$25,000 gift to the library to purchase books and provide other support needed;
- A bronze sponsorship of The Grape Gatsby event at the library on April 9;
- Four successful grants totaling approximately \$8,000. Funds used to support children's and young adult summer programming, and other needs of the library;
- Book sales held monthly that offer affordable books for all genres and all ages;
- Six excellent literary programs featuring Mississippi authors who spoke about their creative work (two via Zoom this year and four in person); and
- Monthly book reviews contributed by FOL Board members and guests. Go to <https://starkville.lib.ms.us/index.php/fol-books-of-the-week/> to read all the excellent book reviews.

Please enjoy reading the fall newsletter, renew your FOL membership, and mark your calendar for the membership meeting on Thursday, August 11, at noon. We look forward to another milestone year for the library.

Board Recommendations for 2022–2023 Officers and Board

Officers

President: Connie Forde

Vice President: Linda Buehler

Secretary: Peggy Bates

Treasurer: Myrna Lott

New Board Members

Jeannie Godbold

Diane King

Joan Butler Taylor

Steve Turner

Martha Watkins

**FOL Annual Membership meeting is Thursday, August 11, at noon at the Starkville Public Library.
Election of officers and board members will take place at this meeting.**



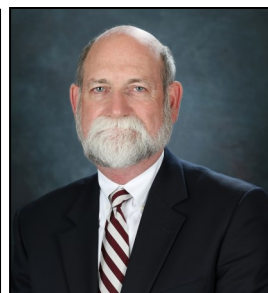
Jeannie Godbold



Diane King



Joan Butler Taylor



Steve Turner



Martha Watkins

Friends of the Library Membership October 2021—September 2022

LIFE MEMBER

Anonymous
John and Mary Lee Beal
Catherine Boyd
Michael and Alison Buehler
William and Nelle Elam
Tom and Fay Fisher
John and Connie Forde
Russell and Lynn Gaines
Ernie George Family Foundation
Elizabeth J. Hawkins
William and Ginny Holtcamp
Bill and Billie Lane Hood
Warren and Judi Housley
Doug and Sue Minchew
Walt and Ellen Newsom
Pendley Family Foundation
Bob and Donna Reese
Rudy and Beth Rogers
Lynn Spruill
Glenn and Cherie Steele
Clayborne & Joan Butler Taylor
Barry Stewart and Penny Walsh
Joe and Becky Stockwell
Helen Thomas
Suzy Turner
Robert and Amy Wills
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