



News from Friends

Fall 2023
Volume 24

President's Message

Summer is almost over, and fall is fast approaching. The change of the seasons also signals the beginning of a new business year for Friends of the Library (FOL). As we begin the 2023–2024 year, a debt of gratitude is extended to those board members who are completing their terms of office. Departing members include Wayne Wilkerson, Eddie Keith, and Nelle Elam. Each brought unique talents to our group. Wayne was the inspiration for a new source of funding for FOL—the utilization of eBay as a venue for the resale of selected donated materials. He and his wife, Sandra Sistrunk, have invested many hours in this new endeavor that has resulted in significant funds that will be used to support our library in the years to come. Eddie took the lead in quite a few of our monthly sales events and, with his committee members, was quite successful in one of our most important fundraising efforts. He also generously contributed excellent book reviews for the Book of the Month program. Nelle provided an extra creative perspective to the programs of FOL. She also served as a liaison with the Starkville Area Arts Council. Her discerning eye for detail will be missed.



Linda Buehler, incoming president

Another loss for FOL was the passing of two of our valuable members—Joyce Polk and Bos Stevens. Joyce always had creative ideas and was always ready to step up and volunteer her help whenever needed. Bos contributed greatly by utilizing his construction skills to create much-needed infrastructure improvements, including better shelving to display our popular children's books and free books. Both individuals will be missed by FOL and the Starkville community.

Also completing her term of office is our current president, Connie Forde. Connie will remain on the board and continue to assist the Board in many different areas. Connie spearheaded new policies and services including the Book of the Month book review series on the FOL web page as well as the annual meeting of the



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Publication Committee

Connie Forde, Editor
Peggy Bates
Linda Buehler
Maureen Lang
Carol Lehman
Sue Minchew
Linda Morse
Lynn Reinschmiedt
Steve Turner

(Continued on page 10)

2023–2024 Book Sales

Book sales occur the first Monday of each month (except for holidays) from 11:45 a.m. until 5:45 p.m.

Fall 2023

October 2
November 6
December 4

Spring 2024

January 8
February 5
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3
July 1
August 5
September 9



Each month's feature table is new and filled with the best finds of the month.

Book Sales and Donations

The book sales this year have been very successful because of you, our faithful buyers, and to those who fill our stock of books through ever-appearing donations. Both groups keep board members working diligently to have the outstanding assortment of books ready for our monthly book sales.

If you have not been to our Sale Room lately, perhaps this tour will demonstrate the excellent collection available at low prices. As you enter, turn to the right to find paperback books by popular mystery authors, followed by our collection of Mississippi authors and large print books.

The large children's collection grows weekly as outstanding, very good condition books are generously donated. Brightly colored bookshelves and display cases crafted by our beloved and recently deceased board member Bos Stevens offer a fun place for children to browse this collection. Most children's books are 50¢ with special books marked separately.

The back wall houses nonfiction, priced at \$2 for hardcover and \$1 for paperback. Cookbooks offer a huge variety of topics and are fun to linger over. Our hardcover fiction books are located around the room at the low cost of \$3. Paperbacks, located throughout the room, are always \$1. Specialty books, gift books, collections of books, and puzzles are additional sales options. Publication dates for fiction are 2013-2023.

The Anytime Room is across the hall from the Sale Room and is always open and replenished weekly with new hardcover and paperback books

for only 50¢ each. Another display of 50¢ books is located on the east wall of the main floor of the library. Just make your selection and pay the library staff member at the circulation desk.

Our newest venture in sales is posting our more valuable books on eBay. This project is proving to be effective and has added considerable revenue to our sales.

Every month we have special features which are publicized online on social media, in FOL emails, and in the local newspapers. Please support our monthly book sale held from 11:45 a.m.–5:45 p.m. on the first Monday of the month and share the sales dates with your friends! Also, we need your good used books to keep our book sale materials interesting and new. You are our best resource, and we truly appreciate your support of FOL and the library.



Sale day brings children to browse for their favorite books.

Grants Provide Valuable Library Support

FOL appreciates all our membership and community organizations for their continued support. Grants received from community organizations provide an important source of FOL funding.

Three grants were received to support the “Mirrors and Windows Diversity” project. The goal of this project is to expose readers through the printed word to the experience of seeing themselves in the text (Mirrors) and to expose readers to cultures different from their own (Windows). These grants include:

- Starkville’s 100 Women Who Care—\$2,000
- SOAR—\$1,000
- Margaret Murray Grant grant given by the Mississippi Library Association—\$500. The FOL grant proposal was one of only three statewide chosen to receive funding.

Grant funds will be used to purchase texts that reflect a wider range of diversity than currently exists in the library’s holdings. These added books will help readers learn and appreciate other cultures, identify with

characters that “look like me,” understand the perspectives of different cultures, and appreciate our culturally diverse city of Starkville.

In addition, two grants were received to support the summer reading program at the main library and the branch libraries.

- Walmart Neighborhood Market—\$1,000
- Starkville Rotary —\$5,000

FOL appreciates the support from Brandon Williams, Manager of Walmart Neighborhood Market, and the entire membership of our Starkville Rotary for their continued support of this program. The funds will be used to sponsor guest presenters who offer unique and fun learning experiences for the children. Awards and prizes are presented to summer readers.

Again, we extend thanks to our local organizations for their generous support. Thank you 100 Women Who Care, SOAR, Mississippi Library Association, Walmart Neighborhood Market, and Starkville Rotary.



[From left to right] Steve Turner, Connie Forde, 100 Women Who Care representative Meghan O’Nan, and Linda Buehler



Walmart manager Brandon Williams and staff with Linda Buehler and Connie Forde



[From left to right] Connie Forde, SOAR representative Suzanne Dressel, and Joan Taylor



Linda Buehler with Jeff Read, Starkville Rotary president

Successful Books and Authors Programs 2022–2023

FOL Books and Authors hosted an excellent slate of authors for 2022–2023, all of whom were crowd pleasers. Their works ranged from humor to history, from thrillers to Westerns and heart-felt dramas. And let's not forget the delicious snacks provided by our social committee and the opportunity to have books signed by the authors! What better way to spend an hour at the library than with sociable company and interesting and entertaining authors.

Joe Lee, who grew up in Starkville, was the series headliner on August 11. Owner and editor-in-chief of Dogwood Press in Brandon, Mississippi, he has mentored and published a number of writers including two on our recent slate. He presented his latest novel, *Resting Place*, a prequel to his suspenseful Oakdale series.

Mark Lehman talked about his debut novel, *The Anderson Conspiracy*, on September 15. Associate professor emeritus in accountancy at MSU and a prolific author of academic texts, Mark drew on his extensive expertise in forensic accounting to craft a thrilling tale of fraud, loyal friendship, and forgiveness. Now working in various professions, a unique group of high school friends are reconnected to solve a crime stumped by the police.

Candace Cox Wheeler discussed her second novel, *Squall in the Gulf*, on October 13. Set in the 1920s, this excellent thriller with a cast of characters from flappers to gangsters, from rumrunners to jazz artists, is set in Chicago, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

John Floyd, award-winning writer of crime and mystery stories, concluded the fall schedule on November 10. A change from his usual genre and much to the amusement of the crowd, he shared his delightful book of humorous poetry, *Lighten Up a Little*.

Pete Melby opened our 2023 slate with a discussion of his first fiction thriller, *Third in Line*, on January 12. Displaying his vast experience in landscape architecture, his novel is a tribute to Mississippi estuaries and ecology as the young Speaker of the House and her family are threatened by politics. Pete also showcased his marine artwork.

In a departure from the usual time and date, we hosted **Johnnie Bernhard** on Friday, February 24, at 3 p.m. so that she could travel from her home in Texas to be at the library in person. Set near the Texas border with Mexico, her latest best seller, *Hannah and Ariela*, tells the story of an elderly widow and the bond she forms with a young victim of human-trafficking as they seek a safe haven and freedom for Ariela.

On March 9, **E. Stanly Godbold**, professor emeritus in history at MSU, entertained the audience with lively stories of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. His recently published second volume of the former President, *Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter: Power and Human Rights, 1975–2020*, covers the presidency and their extraordinary life beyond.

Garry Smith, resident member of a prolific writing duo with Danny Arnold, visited the Books and Authors on April 13. Both retired professors and long-standing friends, Smith and Arnold write Western fiction set in post-Civil War era Colorado in a newly established community called Freedom Town. Their most recent publication is *Cannon Mines*.

Randy Pierce, director of the Mississippi Judicial College at Ole Miss spoke on May 11. The energetic and affable speaker talked about his latest novel, *Missy*, a story of loss, grief and redemption and told with humor that will tug at your heartstrings.



Authors' discussions, audience interaction, book signings, and social time are all part of Books and Authors each month.

Books and Authors Programs Fall 2023

Ready! Set! Go! Once again engaging authors are scheduled for Books and Authors following our summer hiatus. Please support this program and welcome these authors.

A date change has been made. To accommodate more patrons, the Books and Authors presentations will be held on the **third** Thursday of the month instead of the second.

The format has not changed. Refreshments will begin at 11:30 a.m., and the speaker will be introduced at noon. When possible, books will be available for purchase and autographed by the author.

Originally from Starkville, **Susan Cushman** will return as our first guest author on August 17 at noon. She and co-author **Nancy Dorman Hickson** will talk about their collaborative book of essays entitled *Life, Death and Angels*. Our short annual membership meeting to elect officers and board members will follow the presentation.

On September 21, our favorite former undercover agent **Charlie Spillers** will visit. After writing his memoir, *Confessions of an Undercover Agent*, Spillers turned his hand at fiction. He will discuss his second Frank Marsh novel, *Flashpoint*, expected to be released by then. It's reported to be as full of tension and intrigue as his former publications.

John Mylroie, professor emeritus of geology at MSU, is a prolific writer. His first published high suspense novel is out, and it will take you on a wild run. He will be presenting *The 12th Girl*, a David Langwonaire thriller, on October 19.

Last but not least is **Anne Hart Preus** on November 16. Co-written with Joseph Caldwell Townsend, this celebrated book, *Out of Texas*, is a story with historical roots of a feud between warring families in Texas. Eventually this dramatic story of murder and mystery continues in post-Civil War Winona, Mississippi.

So join us at noon on the **third Thursday of the month**, from August through May (excluding December), and remember that fabulous snacks precede the meetings at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see you there.



Come at 11:30 a.m. for refreshments and fellowship preceding the program.

FOL Executive Board 2022–2023



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

Retiring FOL Board Members

FOL appreciates the service, commitment and dedication of its board members. At the end of this fiscal year in September, the following three members are completing their terms.

Nelle Elam
Eddie Keith
Wayne Wilkerson

This year has been extremely difficult for the FOL Board as two of our members passed away. We express a heartfelt debt of gratitude to Joyce Polk and Bos Stevens. As Linda Buehler stated so beautifully in her president's letter, both contributed in their own special ways and talents that enhanced FOL's work for the library and the community. Joyce and Bos will be greatly missed.



Joyce Polk gave so generously of her time and knowledge of literature.



Bos Stevens is reading his book at Ms. Rainey's Story Time.

FOL Board 2022–2023

OFFICERS

President

Connie Forde

Vice President

Linda Buehler

Secretary

Peggy Bates

Treasurer

Myrna Lott

BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Colwick

Nelle Elam

Jeannie Godbold

Julia Hodges

Eddie Keith

Diane King

Maureen Lang

Linda Morse

Joy Odom

Joyce Polk

Bos Stevens

Joan Taylor

Steve 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)

X (formerly Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/OfStarkville>

Instagram:

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

Join Kroger Community Rewards Program

By selecting FOL as your partner in the Kroger Community Rewards program, a portion of your shopping dollars is donated to FOL to fund outstanding library programs.

If you are not a partner, please consider making FOL your partner. Go to Kroger.com and use the code **UW747** for FOL.

Book Reviews Contributed in 2022–2023

<p>Anne Glenconner <i>Lady in Waiting and Whatever Next?</i></p>	<p>Daniel Silva <i>Portrait of an Unknown Woman</i></p>	<p>Joanne Huist Smith <i>The 13th Gift</i></p>
<p>Nelson Demille <i>The Maze</i></p>	<p>Dolly Parton/James Patterson <i>Run Rose Run</i></p>	<p>Bonnie Garmus <i>Lessons in Chemistry</i></p>
<p>Erin Morgenstern <i>The Starless Sea</i></p>	<p>David Baldacci <i>The 6:20 Man</i></p>	<p>Julie Clark <i>The Last Flight</i></p>
<p>To access all book reviews, go to the FOL website at https://starkville.lib.ms.us/index.php/fol-books-of-the-week/.</p>		
<p>David McCollough <i>The Wright Brothers</i></p>		

FOL Membership Form 2023-2024

Name _____ Date _____
(as you wish it to appear in Friends of Starkville Library records)

Phone _____ Email address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please check all that apply:

- I am a new member.
- I am renewing my membership.
- I wish my donation to be anonymous.

Please check type of membership:

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

*Plaque in Library will acknowledge life and corporate donors.

Please make checks payable to **Friends of the Starkville Library** and mail to P.O. Box 80035, Starkville, MS 39760. *Friends of the Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; all contributions are tax deductible.* Honorarium and memorial gifts are welcome at any time.

News from Phillip Carter, Library Director

I should say that it's hard to believe another year has gone by, but that's trite. It's cliché. Everyone says the same thing when they start trying to encapsulate a year in the life of any organization, family, or individual. The reality is, it's not hard to believe a year has gone by. We've been through so much—challenges and joys, successes and failures, growth and setback—the tides of life ebbing and flowing. In the last year we have ramped up our programming in the library, looking to serve an ever-growing community of patrons with the best possible opportunities we can offer.

We've had a petting zoo, magic shows, computer programming, and so many story times. From author talks to knitting groups, the library staff, the Friends of the Library, and our many partners have built a network of programs here that brought in more than 14,000 patrons to our program events in fiscal year 2022. As if that wasn't enough, we broke that number in fiscal year 2023 by almost 3,000 (as of the time of writing) with two months to go!

This growth could not have been possible without the support of our incredible Friends of the Library. I hold all of you who have given of your time, your energy, and your money in the highest respect and esteem. Your belief in our mission has helped us to achieve our goals. Your efforts help to enrich the lives in our community, provide access to diverse culture and educational experiences, celebrate imagination, promote creativity, connect people, and encourage lifelong learning.

“programs here that brought in more than 14,000 patrons to our program events in fiscal year 2022 . . .”

We have so much more to do, so many more lives to touch and affect, but I wanted to take this pause, this moment, to tell you all thank you so much for your support and your faith. Here's to another wonderful year of doing more.

Young Adult Programming

During the summer young adult program teens participated in a variety of fun projects that challenged their creativity and expanded their intellectual horizons. Teens built miniature bookshelves, made a piano out of tangerines, solved puzzles together, explored an in-depth view of filmmaking, and discovered new interests in anime clubs.

With reading always a priority, the teens read over 300 books in a wide range of topics and genres. Their reading enabled them to explore different points of view, thanks to the library's diverse book collection.

The teens especially enjoyed their own meeting room. In addition to reading and doing projects, they discovered the new teen room to be a perfect space to interact with friends and/or pursue their interests. By the end of the summer, a few teens were empowered and encouraged to create their own programs/groups for the upcoming school year. The new opportunities planned include the following: (1) a volunteer group of high schoolers who will meet once a

week to read to and be read to by children in an effort to foster a love of reading, (2) a Korean club for teens interested in the Korean culture and language that for now will meet once a week, and (3) a group interested in hobbies such as “cubing” (solving a Rubik's cube as quickly as possible) and games that will meet every Thursday beginning later in August.

Thank you to all of the FOL who have dedicated their time, effort, and energy to helping provide a space for young people to flourish. Libraries play such an essential



Teens enjoying the new teen room

role in the lives of young people, especially today.

Children's Summer Reading Programs

The Starkville Public Library recently concluded its highly successful and enchanting Summer Reading Program 2023, themed "Reading is Sweet." This year's program took reading to new heights by incorporating STEAM science programs, weekly art and music education classes, and awe-inspiring performances. With the added incentive of trips to the Treasure Chest for every 30 minutes of reading, children embarked on a captivating literary journey that blended education, imagination, and pure fun.

STEAM Science Programs. Collaborating with departments from Mississippi State University, the Starkville Public Library created an innovative environment where children could explore the fascinating intersections of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Through interactive workshops, hands-on experiments, and engaging demonstrations, young readers were introduced to the wonders of STEAM education. They had the opportunity to conduct experiments, explore robotics, and unravel the mysteries of the natural world. These programs not only sparked curiosity but also encouraged critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, providing a well-rounded learning experience for participants.

Art and Music Education Classes. Weekly art and music education classes were held, allowing children to explore their imaginations through various media and discover the joy of artistic endeavors. From painting to sculpting, participants were encouraged to unleash their creativity, express their ideas, and develop their artistic skills. Music education classes provided a platform for young readers to explore different instruments, learn about rhythm and melody, and experience the joy of making music together.

Enchanting Performances. Magicians wove captivating spells, singers serenaded the audience, and dinosaurs roamed the library's halls, creating an atmosphere of wonder and excitement. These performances transported young readers to magical worlds, sparking their imaginations and leaving them with lasting memories.

Foam Party in Fire Station Park. As a delightful and unexpected surprise, a foam party in Fire Station Park was a lively event that allowed children to cool off, have fun, and celebrate their love for reading in a unique and interactive way. Frolicking in the foam-filled park was an unforgettable experience, bringing joy and laughter to all participants.

The Treasure Chest Incentive. Throughout the Summer Reading Program, participants were incentivized with trips to the Treasure Chest for every 30 minutes of reading. The Treasure Chest, filled with a variety of enticing rewards such as books, toys, and other surprises, served as a tangible representation of the children's reading achievements. This incentive system motivated young readers to immerse themselves in books, strengthening their reading skills, and fostering a love for literature.

The Starkville Public Library's commitment to fostering a love for reading and holistic development shines brightly through this exceptional program, leaving a sweet and lasting impact on the community.



The summer reading program resulted in children reading, hands-on experiences, special performers, and fun.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(continued from page 1)

entire membership of FOL. She also led our publicity efforts using a variety of media channels to keep the community aware of the activities of FOL throughout the year.

The beginning of a new business year for FOL also means new incoming volunteers for the FOL Board. The nominating committee consisting of Linda Buehler, Pat Colwick, Diane King, Myrna Lott, and Steve Turner has presented their slate of individuals to become board members and those to fulfill the duties of officers. The slate approved by the FOL Board to be presented at the membership meeting is as follows:

Board Members:

Mary Howard
Toby Hughes
Lynda McReynolds
Lynn Reinschmiedt
Nancy Walsh
Gary Windham

Honorary Board Member:

Sue Minchew

Officers:

President—Linda Buehler
Vice President—Diane King
Secretary—Peggy Bates
Treasurer—Myrna Lott

The mission of FOL is to serve and support our library and all its programs monetarily. FOL also contributes by providing services such as the monthly Books and Author series and recognition of the hard-working library staff not only during National Library Week but at other special events as well. FOL supports the library with the proceeds of monthly book sales, donations, and grants from local businesses and organizations, but just as importantly through the donations of you—the members of FOL. Our support makes it possible for the library to purchase additional library materials and provide services to our community such as the summer reading program.

Fall is the time to renew your memberships, and we hope you will continue to support FOL through your membership, your donations, and your purchases of books at our sales. We value each and every member and encourage you to spread the value of our organization and the importance of a strong public library to friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

This newsletter includes a review of the events and accomplishments of the past year that demonstrate the importance of you—the members of FOL and what your support has made possible. To keep up with FOL activities, visit several electronic media sites including the library's website <https://starkville.lib.ms.us/>, the library's Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/STKPUBLIB/>, and FOL's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FOLStarkville>.





Friends of Starkville Library Membership October 2022—September 2023

LIFE MEMBER

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 Catherine Boyd
 Drs. Michael and Alison Buehler
 William and Nelle Elam
 Tom and Fay Fisher
 John and Connie Forde
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 Ernie George Family Foundation
 Bob and Elizabeth Hawkins
 Keith and Gayle Hodge
 William and Ginny Holtcamp
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 CREATE/SOAR
 Modern Woodmen
 Starkville Rotary Club
 Walmart Neighborhood Market

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 Robert and Lucy Phillips
 Lynn and Myra Reinschmiedt
 Evelyn Simmons
 Charlie and Martha Sparrow
 Starkville Woman's Club
 Doug and Terry Thomas
 Mike and Wanda Thorne
 Mary M. Thornton
 Jim and Jacqueline Tisdale

JUDY TRUITT

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 Vance and Jo Ann Watson
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 Robert and Joan Wilson
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 Judge and Mrs. Lee Howard
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 Toby and Katie Hughes
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 Gaddis and Pam Hunt
 David and Kathryn Laughlin
 Mark and Karen Lilly
 Dolton McAlpin
 Jack and Jimmie Faye McCarty
 John and Kay McReynolds
 David and Barbara Monts
 Richard and Melanie Mullenax
 Carroll and Georgia Murphy
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 Saunders and Jordan Ramsey
 Bos and Kim Stevens
 Sonny and Patsy Stewart
 Dennis and Jeanie Truax
 Sherrie Van Landingham
 Johnny and Bobby Walton

INDIVIDUAL

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 Eileen Carr-Tabb
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 Nancy M. Critz
 William Crosby
 Barbara A. Frank
 Marty Friend
 Susan Gordon
 Carole L. Gospodnetich
 Edna Jean Gunn
 Carole Haynes
 Julia Hodges
 Conor Hultman
 Pam Jones
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 Sarah L. Laughlin
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 Anna Marie Raspberry
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