



News from Friends

Fall 2024
Volume 25

President's Message



Linda Buehler, president

The change in the season from summer to fall coincides with the beginning of a new Friends of the Starkville Library (FOL) business year and the kickoff of the annual FOL membership drive. Before moving on, a review of the high points of a very successful year is presented in this annual newsletter. It is also an opportunity to review the mission of FOL and the importance of the support of each and every FOL member.

The sole mission of FOL is to support the many programs of the Starkville Public Library. All financial support FOL provides is used by the library to purchase new materials, including books, magazines, newspapers, and more.

Each current FOL member will soon receive information about the various levels of membership in FOL. We hope you will renew your membership and perhaps even consider renewing at a higher level of giving. We also hope you will encourage friends and family to join as well. Membership dues are an important source of income. A membership form is available on page 7.

In addition to membership proceeds, our monthly book sales are another vital source of income. The sales are held on the first Monday of each month when the library is open. Your donations of books and your attendance at sales are greatly appreciated. FOL also relies on the support of grants from community organizations and corporate entities. Grants from 4-County Electric Power Association, Starkville Rotary Club, and 100 Women Who Care this year were key to our ability to support such library programs as the summer reading program, enhancement of the library's holdings in the area of diversity, and revitalization of the teen program. We are grateful to all who have contributed to our efforts in supporting our library.

The new business year also signifies the time when we have to say goodbye to board members whose terms are expiring in September. Myrna Lott has served for many years as board treasurer. Her advice and experience greatly helped several FOL Board presidents including myself. Myrna can always be counted on to get the job done with a ready smile. Joy Odom and her "can do" attitude

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2024–2025 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 2024

October 7
November 4
December 2

Spring 2025

January 6
February 3
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2
July 7
August 4
September 8

Book Sales and Donations

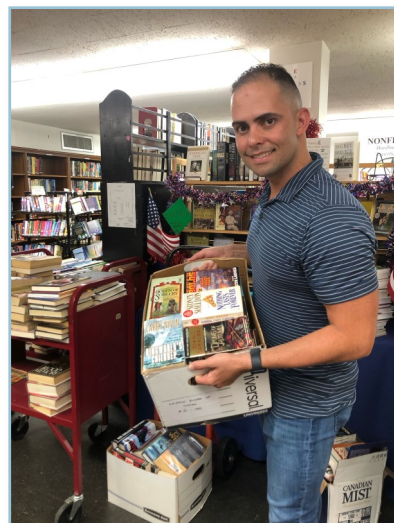
The monthly book sale is a highlight occasion for many area residents. It is exciting to see what new “great treasure” might be found there. Sales have continued to be successful, and each month special feature sales change and are as new and varied as you can imagine!

We continue to have wonderful fiction hard cover books in pristine condition for only \$3. Our paperbacks, both fiction and nonfiction, cover a huge variety of subjects for only \$1. The children’s section is consistently filled with lovely books that will appeal to all ages at only 50¢ a book. Finally, our special collections are ever changing and will appeal to many patrons’ interests.

We continue to thank all our members who are so faithful in contributing clean, good condition books. Remember we do not accept textbooks.

Our friend, Thomas Burk, is leaving our area, and we want to recognize him. Thomas has helped us so much with supporting what we do, purchasing books, giving us advice on internet sales, and providing valuable books for us to resell. He will truly be missed, and we wish him the best in his new career!

We could not put on this sale each month without you! Every book sale is different, and your next unexpected treasure is just around the corner. We look forward to seeing you at our next sale!



Thank you, Thomas, Burk, for your support.

DONATIONS

Your book donations are appreciated so much. Please leave your donations in front of the FOL book sale room. Remember no textbooks please.

THANK YOU



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

If you are not a partner, please consider making FOL your partner. Go to [Kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) and use the code **UW747** for FOL.

Local Organizations and Businesses Support the Work of FOL

Grants awarded this year have greatly enriched and expanded the programs offered by the Starkville Public Library. The purpose of FOL is to support the efforts of the library. This goal is achieved through the monthly sale of donated books, FOL memberships, financial donations, and grants. The grants portion is primarily obtained from applying to local organizations and businesses that have a grant-awarding process. Successful grant awards help FOL and the library to reach more community members by supporting meaningful and impactful experiences.

This year FOL focused on two main areas to seek local funding. The areas were to support the development of the teen room and the Summer Reading Program. 4-County Electric Power Association awarded \$4,250 toward purchasing new tables and seating for the teen room. Starkville 100 Women Who Care awarded \$1,264.39 to support the teen room to expand the number of teen-level books and materials highlighting a variety of themes for that age group. Both of these funding sources will help to create an inviting learning environment for teens and their activities.

To assist in the support of the Summer Reading Program, the Starkville Rotary Club awarded \$5,000. The program entitled “Adventure Begins at Your Library”

offered hundreds of children and families an opportunity to participate in exciting educational programs during June and July. The programs offered this summer allowed children to interact with live animals and be entertained with a magic show. These enriching programs and numerous other activities were offered at all three libraries within our county (Starkville, Ma-ben, and Sturgis).

It is a great pleasure to extend our appreciation to Starkville 100 Women Who Care, The Starkville Rotary Club, and 4-County Electric Power Association for their generous continued support of FOL to benefit the Starkville Public Library. The library uses these funds to expand and enhance its programs to serve our community better.



[From left to right] Brianna Newsom, library staff; Bob Fuller, Rotary president; Joan Butler, and Linda Buehler



[From left to right] Allison Buehler, 100 Women Who Care representative; Steve Turner; Joan Taylor; and Linda Buehler



[From left to right] Linda Buehler; Lynn Reinschmiedt; Brianna Newsom, teen librarian; Brad Barr, 4-County representative; and Joan Taylor

Successful Books and Authors Programs 2023–2024

The Books and Authors program had another great year with excellent authors, great snacks and record-breaking attendance! All the events are scheduled for noon on the third Thursday of the month (except December, June and July), preceded by delicious food and fellowship at 11:30 a.m.

The August 17 event was held in conjunction with the annual membership meeting which followed the presentation by **Susan Cushman** and co-author **Nancy Dorman Hickson**. They talked about their collaborative book of essays entitled *Life, Death and Angels*.

Our favorite former under-cover agent **Charlie Spillers** visited on September 21 to discuss his second Frank Marsh novel, *Flashpoint*. His current book was as full of tension and intrigue as his former publications.

If you are a fan of high suspense, **John Mylroie**, retired

professor of geology at MSU and prolific writer, is just the ticket. He presented *The 13th Girl*, a David Lang-wonaire thriller, on October 12 to a full house.

Anne Hart Preus visited on November 9. Co-written with her cousin Joseph Caldwell Townsend, *Out of Texas* is a historical novel with roots in a feud between warring families in Texas. This dramatic story of murder and mystery is set in post-Civil War Winona, Mississippi.

The January Books and Authors could not meet as scheduled because sleet and ice made roads impassable. Fortunately, **Marshall Ramsey**, political cartoonist and editor of “Mississippi Today,” was happy to postpone to the next Thursday, January 25, and we had a blockbuster crowd to hear his very entertaining presentation and have our books signed.

Michael Thorne was the speaker for the Books and Authors on February 15 before another good crowd. His novel of murder and mayhem, *Harper’s Bizarre*, while set in a small college town in Alabama, is in-

spired by true life events in Starkville. Yikes!

On March 21, a debut novel by **J. Stephen Beam** was presented by the author. *The Death Letter* is an atmospheric thriller set in small-town Mississippi. What is the secret that the town seems to keep hidden?

Christie Collins, a notable poet

at MSU, was the featured author for Poetry Month on April 18, the last Books and Authors event of the spring. She read some selections from her book, *The Art of Coming Undone*, and told crowd-pleasing stories of her literary journey.

Mark your calendar for the next season of Books and Authors and join your neighbors. What better way to spend an hour at the library than in sociable company with entertaining authors and delicious snacks.



Authors’ discussions, audience interaction, book signings, and social time are all part of Books and Authors the third Thursday of each month.

Welcome New Authors for 2024–2025

An exciting slate of authors is scheduled for the 2024-2025 Books and Authors series. Our selection committee collaborated with Carolyn Abadie, owner of the Book Mart & Café, to identify these outstanding guest authors.

At our annual meeting on August 15, **Candace Cox Wheeler** from the Gulf Coast will discuss *Sunset in the Sound*, the third novel in her Biloxi-based trilogy. The fast-paced novel focuses on illegal gambling involving Keesler Air Force personnel during the '50s.

On September 19, **Joe Lee and X.M. Frascogna, Jr.**, from Brandon will share their nonfiction book *The Saints of St. Mary's*. Based on his own reminiscences and interviews with former players, the book chronicles Frascogna's four years as a volunteer coach of elementary school football players and captures the positive impact of youth sports on the values of young men.

On October 17, **Jake Keiser** will present her memoir *Daffodil Hill: Uprooting my Life, Buying a Farm, and Learning to Bloom*, in which she describes how, at age 38, she reinvented herself. After a series of setbacks, Keiser traded her powerful big-city career for a life on a remote farm outside Oxford, Mississippi.

Gerry Wilson from Jackson, author of *That Pinson Girl*, speaks on November 21. Her literary historical fiction novel explores issues of race and class. In the book a white teenage mother with an illegitimate child and a biracial sharecropper face hate and prejudice in Mississippi during World War I. The influenza epidemic, Ku Klux Klan crimes, and family betrayals make for a compelling narrative.

Darden North, a practicing physician from Jackson, will speak on January 16. Inspired by the worldwide opioid crisis and rampant drug abuse, his novel *Party Favors* depicts a financially struggling orthopedic surgeon who is tempted to sell leftover narcotics to his patients. The novel details "complex characters, relationships, and situations that test the deepest moral and ethical codes."

On February 20, **Scott Hendrix** from Louisville, Mississippi, will discuss his novel *The Garden Spot*. The plot revolves

Come hear great authors speak at noon on the third Thursday of the month (except December, June, and July). Delicious snacks served at 11:30 a.m.



Books & Authors

2024 - 2025 Schedule

August 15	Candace Cox Wheeler
September 19	Joe Lee & X. M. Frascogna, Jr.
October 17	Jake Keiser
November 21	Gerry Wilson
January 16	Darden North
February 20	Scott Hendrix
March 20	Steve Robertson
April TBD	Burke Masters & Ron Polk
May 15	Dori Lowe & Brandi Perry

around a mother who had been a beautiful university homecoming queen now turned prostitute and a father who was once a successful real estate developer who has become an alcoholic. One review described the novel as "a youthful journey of self-discovery and a bold warning for poor choices in the name of greed."

Starkville's own **Steve Robertson** will speak on March 20. In his memoir *When the Bottom Falls*, Robertson recounts his life-changing journey from a drug-addicted convicted felon to a best-selling author and sports commentator. His candid and inspirational story is one you will not want to miss.

During Super Bulldog Weekend (TBD) **Burke Masters**, former star MSU baseball player, will share his own memoir, *Grand Slam for God*. Although he planned a career in Major League Baseball, Father Masters was called to serve God instead. His story reminds readers that God's plan may be different from our own. Father Masters will be joined by his former coach Ron Polk, who wrote *The Baseball Playbook*.

Just in time for summer vacation, on May 15, our speakers Dori Lowe and Brandi Perry from Columbia, Mississippi, will talk about their book *100 Things to Do in Mississippi Before You Die*. They provide a guide to historical architecture, delicious food, the Blues Trail, beautiful nature, and more in a detailed book that will make Mississippians proud.

FOL Executive Board 2023–2024



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

FEATURE ARTICLE

LOOKING FOR A NEW BOOK?

by Linda Morse, FOL Board Member

How do you look for a new book to read? Many of us rely on finding the latest from our favorite author, looking for a new book in our favorite category, or purchasing what our book club is reading. Some of you might even get inspired by the FOL Books and Authors programs and read books you have heard discussed. Here's another great source of good reads—the annual Pulitzer Prizes, and other various best seller lists. Here's a sample of this year's (2024) Pulitzer winners and finalists:

Fiction: *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips; *Same Bed Different Dreams* by Ed Park; and *Wednesday's Child* by Yiyun Li

Biography: *King: A Life* by Jonathan Eig; *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom* by Ilyon Woo; and *Larry McMurtry: A Life* by Tracy Daugherty

Memoir: *Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice* by Cristina Rivera Garza; *The Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the Tragedy of Good Intentions* by Jonathan Rozen; and *The Country of the Blind: A Memoir at the End of Sight* by Andrew Leland

Poetry: *Tripas: Poems* by Brandon Som and *Information Desk: An Epic* by Robyn Schiff

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FOL Board 2023–2024

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Peggy Bates

Treasurer

Myrna Lott

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Lynn Reinschmiedt

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the Library

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FOR YOUR SERVICE ON THE
BOARD

MYRNA LOTT
JOY ODOM

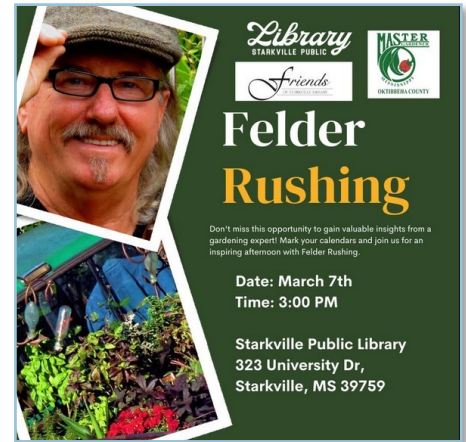
Felder Rushing Brings Record Crowd

Felder Rushing was the guest speaker at a special event co-sponsored by the Starkville Public Library, FOL, Master Gardeners, and Town and Country Garden Club on March 7.

Rushing is a well-known Mississippi horticulturist and the author of several gardening books. He is perhaps best known for his radio program, "The Gestalt Gardener," on National Public Radio. He has traveled to all 50 states and abroad sharing his extensive knowledge of gardening in his popular lectures.

At the special event in Starkville, he focused on the basics of gardening, specifically in Mississippi. He shared with the large and highly engaged audience samples of different plants and flowers common in Mississippi and tips on successful gardening for beginners or master gardeners.

The lecture was followed by a lengthy question-and-answer period. While the attendees enjoyed refreshments and beautiful table arrangements provided by the Master Gardeners and the Town and Country Garden Club, Felder was available to autograph his books which were available at the event.



Connect with FOL

Website:

<https://starkville.lib.ms.us/index.php/friends-of-the-library/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FOLStarkville>

X (formerly Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/OfStarkville>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/friendsofstarkvillelibrary/>

FOL Membership Form 2024-2025

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

It's so hard to believe that another Summer Reading Program has come and gone and we're looking forward to the fall—full of cooler weather, football Saturdays, and more opportunities to take part in the many activities and events happening at the Starkville Public Library!

Thanks to the generous support of FOL, the Starkville Library has continued to expand its programs and to build our collections for our patrons' benefit. Through their generous donations, FOL has again funded a major portion of our book collection, and they have been awarded grants that have helped pay for our Summer Reading Program. Soon we will see the first stages of building up our teen

room through their generous donations toward furniture for that space. The contributions of FOL are impossible to overstate.

As I am wrapping up my fifth year as director of the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System, I am in awe of the work this group contributes to our community through its support of the public library. Without their support, it would be impossible to complete the amazingly important community building done through the library. I am so thankful for the support of FOL. If you are not already a member of this amazing group, please consider joining and lending a hand in building up our community through the public library.

Teens Read for the Gold This Summer

Our teens truly excelled in this year's Teen Summer Reading Challenge! The 40 registered teen readers collectively read over 170,000 minutes!

The Teen Summer Reading Program was simple yet engaging. For each book read, a scratch off ticket was earned with a chance for a prize. To further motivate the teen readers, three additional challenges were implemented. The "Around the World " challenge required teens to read books by authors across the globe. Teen readers were issued a "passport" with a page to be completed describing each book read and the country in which the story took place. The "Genre Bingo" challenge encouraged teen readers to broaden their horizons by exploring genres not typically read. Also, the "Book Series" challenge encouraged teen readers to read books from a chosen series.

These new challenges earned readers multiple tickets for prizes. The prizes for the reading challenges included the grand prize of a VR (Virtual Reality) headset, gift cards for local businesses, a starry night projector, and reading calendars.

In addition to the reading challenges, special programs to keep teens engaged and coming to the library included decorating their own ceramic mug,

cupcake decorating, and even a Dungeons and Dragons program.

Several special programs hosting members of the Starkville Boys and Girls Club led by Miranda Barnes also were part of a busy summer schedule.

To celebrate the successful Summer Teen Reading Program, an exclusive teen lock-in was planned for August 9. It was a great ending to the 2024 Teen Reading Program.



Display of amazing teen books at our library

Successful Children's Summer Reading Program

This past summer, the Starkville Public Library welcomed children of all ages to a thrilling journey of reading, discovery, and fun at its annual Children's Summer Reading Program. Packed with exciting events and activities, the program provided an unforgettable summer for young readers and their families. Children were delighted to visit the treasure chest for every 15 minutes they read this summer!

Books and Bulldogs with MSU Football Team

One of the highlights of this year's program was the exclusive "Books and Bulldogs" sessions with members of the Mississippi State football team. Every week players joined children to share their favorite books and inspire a love for reading and sportsmanship.

STEM Adventures with MSU Departments

Children explored the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through engaging programs led by representatives from various departments at Mississippi State University. From robotics to environmental science, these hands-on activities ignited curiosity and creativity in young minds.

Tickled Pink Petting Zoo, Dinosaur Crew, and Freedom Ranch

Kids got up close to adorable animals from the Tickled Pink Petting Zoo and Freedom Ranch and embarked on a prehistoric journey with the Dinosaur Crew. These interactive exhibits thrilled and educated children about the wonders of the animal kingdom and dinosaurs.

Magicians, Performers, and More

Throughout the summer, magicians, entertainers, a train conductor with his trains, and other performers captivated audiences with their shows, bringing laughter, wonder, and joy to all attendees. The SAAC art and music literacy programs rounded out a diverse assortment of learning opportunities.

Miss Rainey's Story Time

Miss Rainey hosted magical storytelling experiences filled with enchanting tales, lively music, and delightful crafts. Story Time sessions were designed to foster a love for reading and creativity among children.

"We were thrilled to host another exciting summer of reading and adventure at the Starkville Public Library," said Loraine Walker, children's services librarian at the Starkville Public Library. "Our goal was to inspire young minds, encourage reading, and create lasting memories through a variety of engaging activities and events."

SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY



Dinosaurs, owls, petting zoo, trains, treasure box and more!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(continued from page 1)

also will be missed. Joy also has a knack for spotting the best path forward in everything she takes on. Both board members will be sorely missed.

The annual membership meeting is August 15 immediately following the Books and Authors program. The slate of officers and board members approved by the FOL Board and to be presented at the membership meeting is as follows: Board Members—Nancy McCarley, Cindy Morgan, Dave Morse, Charlie Spirrison, Lenore Tucker, Cindy Walker, Kevin Walters, and Esther Howard (honorary), and Executive Board—Linda Buehler, president; Diane King, vice president; Peggy Bates, secretary; and Steve Turner, treasurer. We look forward, with your assistance and the support of the Starkville Library and the FOL members, to another good year in 2024-2025.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?
(continued from page 6)

The **New York Times Best Sellers** list is also a great source for finding contemporary and popular books. The June 23 partial list shows these top-ranked books: *Eruption* by Michael Crichton and James Patterson, *Leather and Lark* by Brynne Weaver, *Camino Ghosts* by John Grisham, *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, and *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas. The full list is much longer with different categories but this gives you an idea. This newspaper is also a great source of reviews and also lists its top reads.

Additionally, there's always Amazon! When I checked out their current list, I noticed some overlap with the above titles, as well as many currently popular nonfiction books.

Finally, there's always a good chance you'll find an interesting book by shelf reading in places such as your favorite local independent book sellers, the library, or the FOL sales rooms in the basement of the library. And don't rule out unexpected places. I love biography, and one of the best I ever read I found at a thrift store by a totally unknown author.

After being intrigued by the description of *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom*, I purchased the book, and I can't put it down—quite a riveting story set in 19th century Georgia very close to where I grew up. Hopefully these lists will direct you to a new great read that's as interesting as this one.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST 15

Refreshments at 11:30 AM
Books & Authors at noon
Meeting immediately after

Friends of the Starkville Library





Updated Friends of Starkville Library Membership 2023-2024

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Starkville Rotary Club

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