



FOL Membership Strengthens Our Library

August is a lively month for the Friends of the Starkville Library (FOL)! Join us Thursday, August 21, for our general membership meeting, where we'll elect officers and board members and share plans for the coming year. The Books & Authors series also launches with author and retired MSU professor Dr. John Mylroie. Join us at 11:30 AM for refreshments followed by the program and membership meeting.

Now is a great time to renew your annual FOL membership—or consider increasing your level of support! Memberships start at just \$25 for Individuals and go up to \$1,000 for a Lifetime membership.

Every contribution—memberships, memorials, honorariums, and book donations—directly strengthens the Starkville Public Library and the community.

It's easy to join or renew:

- Scan the QR code on page 2 to access an online membership form.
- Mail your check in the membership envelope you will receive in the mail later this month.

Take a moment to read this newsletter and celebrate all FOL is doing for our library and community. We are eager to see you on August 21!

– Linda Buehler, president

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Linda Buehler
Toby Hughes
Maureen Lang
Carol Lehman
Sue Minchew
Linda Morse
Lynn Reinschmiedt
Nancy Walsh

Join Friends of the Starkville Library

A vibrant, well-funded public library is essential to a thriving community. FOL is dedicated to strengthening our local library and enriching the lives of readers of all ages. Every dollar FOL contributes goes directly to the library to fund books, digital materials, resources, and essential equipment.

This vital support comes from grants, monthly book sales, and most importantly, membership dues. In addition to funding resources, FOL hosts engaging programs such as Books and Authors, bringing renowned writers to Starkville for thought-provoking conversations and community connection.

If you're already a member, thank you! We encourage you to renew—and consider doing so at a higher level to deepen your impact. If you're not yet a member, now is the perfect time to join us in this important work. Membership levels are listed at the right, and additional donations, memorials, or honorariums are always welcome and appreciated.

New members help our mission grow! Please invite your friends, neighbors, and family to become part of FOL. Joining is easy—just scan the QR code below to get started. Together, we can keep our library strong. Thank you for your support!



MEMBERSHIPS

INDIVIDUAL	\$25
FAMILY	\$35
PATRON	\$100
BENEFACTOR	\$250
ORGANIZATION/SPONSOR	\$500
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	\$1,000
CORPORATE	\$1,000

*Plaque in Library will acknowledge life and corporate donors.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST 21

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

Friends of the Starkville Library

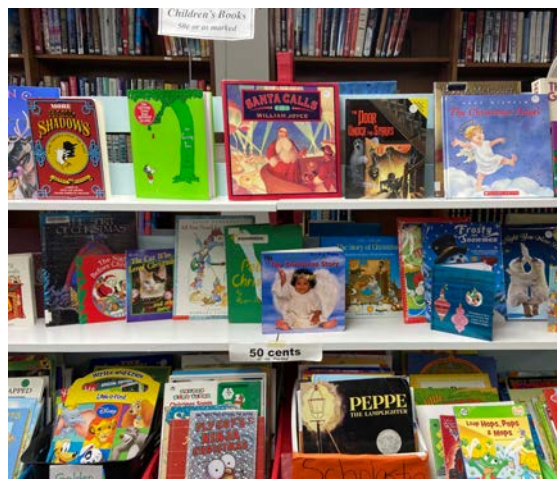


First Monday Book Sale – Browse, Buy, Support Your Library!

The day of the sale is a special event that people come miles to enjoy! Buyers often stand outside for 45 minutes to an hour waiting for the doors to open! Friends and customers come from as far as Kilmichael, Columbus, West Point, and even Memphis (for a grouping of featured sci-fi books). One of the newest hot items is our vintage books. We are steadily receiving more of these unique collections.

That doesn't mean we still don't receive great recent authors and children's books by the box-load. If you haven't been to our book sale in a while, give us a visit! We advertise featured books on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and in the newspapers. Please share our posts so more people can discover our wonderful collections—just like someone in Oklahoma who saw a post and requested books be mailed to them!

Remember, our monthly sale is the first Monday of the month from 11:45 a.m.–5:45 p.m. If the first Monday falls on a holiday, the sale is the following Monday. We hope to see you at our next book sale!



Book Donations Make a Difference

Donating books to FOL helps foster a love of reading across the community while supporting the library. Thanks to community donations, our monthly book sale offers something for everyone.

We welcome all children's books, including baby board books, Little Golden Books, Bible storybooks, Scholastic titles, and more. For older readers, donations include youth books, a wide range of fiction and

nonfiction, including history, politics, memoirs, religion, sports, and more. Also donate books by Mississippi authors, large-print editions, coffee table books, vintage collections, puzzles, and games.

Your donated books raise funds and spread the joy of reading. Give your books a second life and help us make an impact.

Fall Books & Authors Program



John Mylroie
August 21, 2025

Retired Professor, MSU
Department of Geology

Unveiling the latest novel
in the David Langwonaire
Thriller Series



Joey Thompson
September 18, 2025

Professor, MSU Department
of History

***Cold War Country: How
Nashville's Music Row and
the Pentagon Created the
Sound of American
Patriotism***



Scott Lenoir
October 16, 2025

Retired Episcopal priest
from South Mississippi

The Amendment, a tale
of revenge and
redemption



Hal Kitchings
November 20, 2025

Pastor of Easthaven Baptist
Church in Brookhaven

Dog-Gone, It Hurts, a book
about grief and healing for
beloved pets



The Friends of the Library
Books and Authors is
hosting an excellent slate
of authors for the fall of
2025, all of whom are
crowd pleasers. Their
works range from thrillers
to history, from drama to
compassion.

Come to the library at
11:30 a.m. on the third
Thursday of the month for
delicious snacks provided
by our social committee
and stay for the author
discussions and the
opportunity to get your
book signed by the author!



FOL Secures Major Grants

FOL is helping boost community programs at the Starkville Public Library by securing vital grant funding. This year, the volunteer-led grant committee partnered with library staff to secure \$17,300 for projects designed to enrich and support local needs.

We deeply appreciate the organizations that have partnered with us to strengthen the library's mission to inspire, educate, and serve our community.

100 Women Who Care Award – \$2,400

Project: Full STEAM Ahead

Enhancing the Teens Room with STEAM kits and materials to inspire tweens and teens through hands-on exploration in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math

Kids Who Care – \$400

Project: Full STEAM Ahead

Youth-led support to expand creative learning opportunities for local teens



Alison Buehler, 100 Women and Kids Who Care, presents check to FOL Board members Steve Turner, Joan Butler, and Linda Buehler.

Starkville Rotary Club – \$3,000

Project: Summer Reading Program

Supporting a dynamic lineup of 2025 summer activities and presenters that promote creativity, literacy, and lifelong learning for many children and families



Kyle Jordan, Rotary president, presents check to Joan Butler and Loraine Walker.

United for Libraries / Penguin Random House – \$1,000 + One-Year

Professional Development

Project: Check Out STEAM Kits

Launching a new initiative for families to borrow STEAM kits, making learning interactive, accessible, and fun at home
Selected as part of a national program for small and rural libraries

Margaret Murray Grant - \$500 plus \$50 match from FOL

STEAM kits will be purchased for the branch libraries in Sturgis and Maben for special STEAM activities

4-County Power Electric Association - \$10,000

Funded amount supports the purchase of a library van, which will be used to travel to events and transport materials between library branches

FOL Executive Officers 2024–2025



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

2024–2025 FOL Board

Peggy Bates
Linda Buehler
Pat Colwick
Connie Forde
Jeannie Godbold
Julia Hodges
Mary Howard
Toby Hughes
Diane King
Maureen Lang
Nancy McCarley
Cindy Morgan
Dave Morse
Linda Morse

Lynn Reinschmiedt
Charlie Spirrison
Joan Taylor
Lenore Tucker
Steve Turner
Cindy Walker
Nancy Walsh
Kevin Walters
Sherrie Welch
Gary Windham
Esther Howard, Honorary
Sue Minchew, Honorary
Phillip Carter, Library Director

Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony for Bos Stevens

As part of National Library Week, a Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony was held on April 8 at the Starkville Public Library to honor the life and legacy of Arthur Boswell “Bos” Stevens, III. The event celebrated Bos’ many contributions to the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System and FOL. Highlights included a plaque unveiling, a children’s book donation in his memory, and touching remarks from library staff and current and past FOL board members. His wife, Kim Stevens, and family members shown at right were present for the dedication.



Bos, who passed in 2023, was a passionate advocate for literacy. He served on the FOL Board, creating whimsical displays and shelving still used today. He also authored several children’s books, originally for his grandchildren, and shared them at library events.

The memorial plaque now hangs in the book sale room—a fitting tribute to someone who gave so much to the library and community.



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.

From Birthday Gifts to Bookshelves: How AI Is Shaping Literature

by Linda Morse, FOL Board Member

Last year a friend was approaching a milestone birthday, and I was trying very hard to come up with a useful and memorable gift for someone who doesn't need anything. I stumbled upon the idea of generating a poem to commemorate this milestone birthday. Luckily for me, I have a friend who is an AI (artificial intelligence) expert, so I turned to her for suggestions on how to do this. Her response was "give me a few characteristics and I'll get back to you." A few days later I had a funny, interesting, accurate, and charming poem. I framed it and presented it to the birthday person at his birthday party. It was a huge hit!

From my personal example, AI can clearly be useful in literature. In some cases, such as the one above, it could even result in the product!

How does AI affect the literary world? While most of us have experienced AI through chatbots or something similar at this point, we may be less aware that we are reading products generated by an AI program. In a very interesting article "The Intersection of Technology & Literature: How AI is Changing the Writing Experience" (no author, September 8, 2023, *Medium*, obtained on the internet), this very good review notes that AI can be used for grammar and style checking, to generate content for products like poetry and fiction, to sort through many texts to identify a pattern or theme, and for language translation.

This unnamed author notes that publishers find it useful for manuscript analysis, plagiarism detection, and genre analyses, as well as for market research. They even note that some audio books are produced with AI voices!

Given all of these applications and likely more to come, there are many concerns and issues facing how AI is used for good or bad (ex: generating a college term paper for a grade). While most of us are not yet using many high-level AI programs directly like my friend, that usage may come in the future. Meanwhile, stay aware of these possible uses and when you might be using them—even if at first it doesn't seem likely!



This poem was created in ChatGPT from the feature article, but its errors show why AI-generated content must always be checked.