



# News from Friends

Fall 2020  
Volume 21

## President's Message

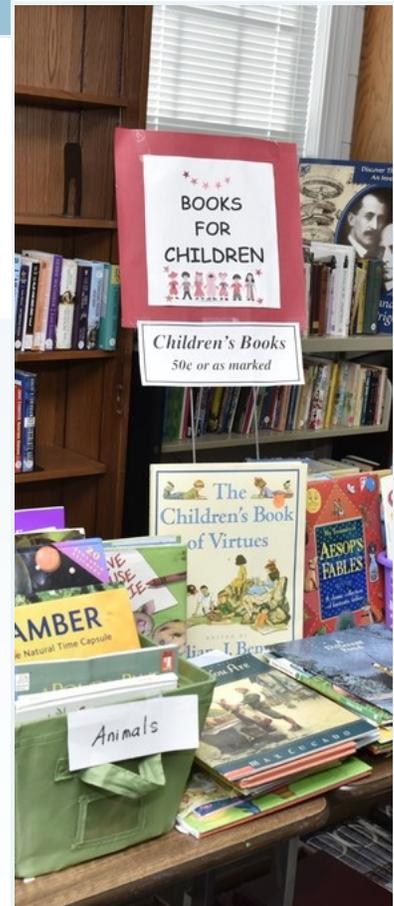
Unless one has been in a coma for the last six months, you have to know that COVID-19 has totally redefined the operations of your library and the Friends of the Library (FOL) programming. This newsletter will reflect some of those issues.

The fall newsletter always coincides with the kickoff of a new membership year as well as a new business year for the FOL, including the election of officers and retirements and replacements of board members. Maureen Lang, who has served as Secretary of the board for seven years, has asked to step down from that position but continue her service as a board member. Maureen has done a tremendous job in this capacity, and we regretted seeing her relinquish this duty, but what can one say after seven years of dedicated service? Linda Morse, a board member since 2019, has agreed to serve in this role. As such, I am pleased to announce that the 2020-2021 slate of officers includes myself as president with Connie Forde as Vice President, Linda Morse as Secretary, and Myrna Lott as Treasurer; they will assume duties starting in October. The departing and new board members are recognized elsewhere, but on behalf of the board let me offer a special thanks to these five retiring board members and their years of service: Gayle Hodge (12), Cherie Steele (11), Tani Dubisson (7), Danny Cheatham (5), and Sharon Nobles (4). As a group, these individuals have cumulatively contributed over 39 years of service to FOL. I recently read that the nonprofit community values volunteer help at roughly \$20 per hour. I have no idea how many hours these individuals have worked over those 39 years, but it represents a significant dollar amount of in-kind service to the library and the local community. Their dedication and commitment to the mission of the FOL will be sorely missed, not to mention the institutional memory they take with them.



*Lynn Reinschmiedt, president*

*Continued on page 10*



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## Newsletter Staff

Sue Minchew, Editor  
Connie Forde, Production Editor  
Linda Buehler  
Tani Dubisson  
Maureen Lang  
Sharon Nobles  
Lynn Reinschmiedt

## Meet the New Library Director—Phillip Carter

### 1. What is your background and how did you come to choose a career in the public library area?

My path to libraries was not very direct. My original intent after graduating college was to pursue a master's degree in Musicology and then follow with a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology and pursue a career teaching at the university level. Sometimes though, life happens. After graduating from college, I got a job part time at a public library. Then a full-time job opened up in my hometown library in Clarksdale. I ended up loving the work I was doing so much I decided that instead of pursuing a degree in Musicology, I worked toward and received a degree in Library and Information Science. The rest, as they say, is history. I still plan on getting that Musicology degree one day—but it may be what I call a vanity degree. It'll be my retirement project.

### 2. Why did you choose to live and work in Starkville?

I've been a Mississippi State fan my entire life—that means I've been coming back and forth to Starkville and I've grown to love this town, the people here, and the culture. I've always wanted to be a part of this town and community; and when the opportunity came up, I knew that I had to apply and here I am.

### 3. What is your insight in how the Library serves our community?

I tell people I'm a bad librarian. I don't read a lot of fiction. I much prefer non-fiction—histories, biographies, theory, and philosophy. I don't know the names of a lot of the most popular authors (though I'm getting better at it!), but I'm a big believer in building communities. That is the facet of librarianship that drew me to the profession the most strongly. Libraries are so much more than books although that aspect of our identity won't be going away anytime soon. We are also meeting places, study halls, computer and copy centers, an afternoon hangout, an organization that gives time to other projects in the community; and we devote our entire working life to finding ways to serve others. Through doing that we build a better and stronger community, we cultivate relationships, we celebrate

and encourage creativity; and ultimately, we bring people together. To achieve these goals, we must be responsive to shifts and changes in the community and adaptive in meeting the changing needs. We can't become complacent in what we've done in the past but focus on what we should continue doing in the future.

### 4. How can the community assist the goals of the Library?

Talk to us! Let us know what you need from us! That doesn't mean we can fulfill every request made of us. We are sometimes challenged just to get all the books that are requested, but it does mean we are listening, and it helps us identify a way we can plug in and meet a need. Tell us what you'd like to see, tell your friends and family to come to check out the programs and materials that we offer, and have them tell us what they'd like to see as well. We don't operate the library in a vacuum—it's all about service.

### 5. Would you share with our readers some of your hobbies?

I've been a musician most of my life. I earned my undergraduate degree from Delta State University in Music and Audio Engineering. I've played guitar in a bunch of bands over the years as well as for show choirs, musicals, and multiple churches. It's a major part of my life and who I am.

I also really enjoy running—or I should say, I enjoy having run. I don't always enjoy the act of running, but I always feel

better having done it. I've completed two marathons (St. Jude in 2017 and 2019) and many half-marathons. Running is a great stress reliever and has especially been great for my mental health during the current COVID-19 situation.



*Phillip Carter enjoying his music*

## Miss Rainey's Virtual Storytime

The saying “bringing the printed word to life” is shown in a whole new dimension when we listen in as Loraine Walker, our children’s librarian, does “Miss Rainey’s Virtual Storytime.” Whether it is following along with the adventures of Olivia the Pig, Llama Llama, or even little Ping, our young readers get not only to experience the written words, the illustrations in the book, and adorable puppets, but also all kinds of accompanying farmyard animals, such as cows, horses, ducks, turkeys, pigs, and dogs, which seem to be as interested in the stories being read as our young readers. Her fascinating story times aren’t just for children either, as they appeal to the kid in all of us.



*Miss Rainey on one of her many adventures*

Loraine has really captured a rich background for her stories. She incorporates a huge red barn which stands behind her, for example, as she reads a book by that title; another video depicts ponies that nuzzle her and bring to life the book *The Cowboy and the Black-Eyed Pea*. No small part of the enticement of the stories is the relaxed way that Loraine responds with these very alive and involved animals who may be nosing at the book as she reads, chewing on her hair, or even knocking over the camera.

Loraine has been creating these videos on Facebook since the COVID-19 pandemic closed the library, and to date she has done over 110 different videos that may be viewed by anyone, young or old, who is interested. She has received a tremendous amount of attention from such faraway places as New Zealand, Australia, Spain, South America, and even Brooklyn, NY! It is not uncommon for her to have over 2,000 Facebook views a day.

Her plans for the fall include more virtual storytimes. In addition, she is leading activities with Sudduth Elementary School, Starkville Academy, Starkville Christian, and Emerson School. She states that she misses seeing her little ones face to face. Although it is nice to be getting all of the attention around the world, it is really the children of Starkville that she most wants to serve. And so, we look eagerly forward, along with our young friends, to see what new story time adventures Miss Rainey and her farm friends will have in store for us.



*Llama Destroys the World*



*The Cowboy and the Black-Eyed Pea*

### Library Resources

#### **Access Miss Rainey's Videos**

For a playlist of all of Miss Rainey's videos, go to <https://www.facebook.com/watch/STKPUBLIB/161502711695772/>.

#### **Use Overdrive or Libby Apps**

We now offer Overdrive for eBooks and Audio eBooks. You can find an app in the app store by searching for either Overdrive or Libby.

You can also visit them online: [Mississippi eBook Consortium](https://www.mississippi-ebook-consortium.org/). In the app, search for Mississippi eBook Consortium. You will need your library card number and pin number.

#### **Tumble Book Databases**

TumbleBooks' databases are easy to use, and feature unlimited access from home! Read as many books as you want, when you want, and on any device. There are no check-outs, holds, or bulky downloads. Books are available instantly.



*Miss Rainey as the Cat in the Hat*

## 2020 -2021 Book Sales

Book sales are the first Monday of each month from noon until 6 p.m. The following dates are tentative and may change due to pandemic protocol.

### Fall 2020

October 5  
November 2  
December 7

### Spring 2021

January 4  
February 1  
March 1  
April 5  
May 3  
June 7  
July 5  
August 2  
September 13

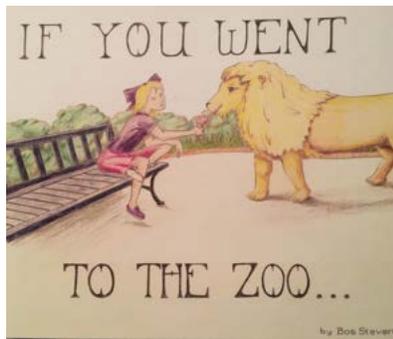
## Donate Books

Donations of books are greatly appreciated. Please drop off outside the backdoor of the library. When the library reopens, place donations outside the Sale Room.



FOL appreciates your book donations

## FOL Board Member Publishes Children's Book



Fellow FOL Board member Bos Stevens recently published a delightful children's book, including his own illustrations. He describes his motivation and some details about the book in the following article.

My grandchildren demand a "made up" story before bedtime and my imagination is not nimble enough to do justice to their expectations. After a few disappointing experiences, I lay in bed one night and tried to invent a reasonably acceptable story which might entertain them for a few minutes. The story came out in the form of a poem and the pictures flowed along with the words. Much work and many months passed between the original idea and the finished product entitled *If You Went to the Zoo*.

Since our eldest grandchild is a girl, the main character in this little book is, of course, a little girl. She comes home from the zoo with an uncommonly good-natured lion. She surprises her mother by bringing her new pet into the house and upstairs to her bedroom. From that point on, our heroine makes one attempt after another to find a place for her new friend...with limited success. In the end, the solution is for the girl to return her newfound friend to his former home and to the company of all his fellow creatures at the zoo.

I originally presented this book to my granddaughter's first grade class in Germantown, Tennessee, and then in November I was invited by the Children's Librarian, Loraine Walker, to do a reading at the Starkville Library. Further plans for readings and presentations were put on hold after the new year by the current pandemic, but I hope to resume them in the near future.



Bos Stevens reading his book at Storytime



Large group of children enjoying the new book

## Books and Authors Programs

Regrettably, the Books and Authors series is at a standstill due to the coronavirus pandemic. Normally, FOL hosts published authors throughout the school year. Last year we were fortunate to have an exceptional lineup of authors. **John Bateman**, the Executive Director of the Starkville Area Arts Council, debuted his first novel *Who Killed Buster Sparkle* at our first event September 12. On October 10, **Terry Lynn Thomas** of Starkville, a best-selling historical novelist, spoke about her books *The Spirit of Grace* and *The Silent Woman*. Novelist **Janet Brown**, a former editor and university creative writing teacher, was the November 12 guest to discuss her book *Deadly Visits*. We welcomed Mississippi native and award-winning short story writer **John Floyd** January 9. Floyd's latest book, *The Barrens*, contains a collection of short mystery stories. World traveler and

author **Sheldon Webster**, who grew up on the Noxubee Refuge, spoke about his book *Memoirs of a Writer* at our February 18 event. At our last program March 12, **Susan Cushman** discussed her latest book *Friends of the Library*, a collection of fictional stories based on her own visits to various public libraries.

Unfortunately, the April event, featuring **Steve Robertson**, had to be canceled. A sports journalist and the author of two books about Mississippi State sports (*Flim Flam* and *Stark Villains*), Robertson has agreed to reschedule whenever it is feasible to resume the Books and Authors events. As in the past, the Books and Authors programs will be held on the second Thursday of the month. We will use various social media, email, and the newspaper to notify you about the events.



Vance Watson introducing Sheldon Webster



Susan Cushman with faithful attendees



Janet Brown enjoying time with friends



Terry Lynn Thomas explaining her characters



2019-2020 FOL Officers

### FOL Board 2019-2020

#### OFFICERS

##### President

Lynn Reinschmiedt

##### Vice President

Connie Forde

##### Secretary

Maureen Lang

##### Treasurer

Myrna Lott

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Libba Andrews

Linda Buehler

Dannie Cheatham\*

Marianne Crowell

Pat Colwick

Tani Dubisson\*

Gayle Hodge\*

Eddie Keith

Cathy Kemp

Maureen Lang

Sue Minchew

Linda Morse

Sharon Nobles\*

Cheryl Rowe

Emily Rust

Cherie Steele\*

Bos Stevens

Sherrie Welch

Wayne Wilkerson

Phillip Carter, Director of  
the Library

\*Retiring Board Members

## Retirement Reception for Ginny Holtcamp

The Friends of the Starkville Library Board and the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Library Board of Trustees co-hosted a reception on January 23 in honor of Ginny Holtcamp, who retired after serving 31 years as Director of the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System. A large crowd turned out on a cold, rainy night to congratulate Holtcamp and show appreciation for her leadership.

Mistress of Ceremonies Sue Minchew, a member of both boards, introduced the following program speakers: Jack McCarty, President of the Library Board of Trustees; Lynn Reinschmiedt, President of the FOL Board; Kara Roberts, Assistant Librarian; and Perian Kerr, Genealogy Librarian. They spoke about the evolution of the library under Holtcamp's leadership. During her tenure as Director, the library added the Stark Genealogy and Rare Books Annex, as well as the Law Library. It transitioned from the old paper card catalog to fully computerized records. Public use computers were added to the library, and more recently apps have been added that allow patrons to check out books online and access the online catalog. The library's outstanding children's programs have fostered a love of books and reading among area children and even introduced them to robotics and coding.

The speakers also mentioned the library's cultural and literary events that Holtcamp has supported, such as the Books and Authors programs, featuring published authors, and Cups and Chaucer, providing literary discussions. Reinschmiedt pointed out the importance of the library to the community; he noted that authors James and Deborah Fallows (*Our Towns*), who visited small towns across the country, found that the most consistent commonality among the prospering towns was an active public library. He praised Holtcamp for her leadership in making our library a thriving part of the community.

Following the speeches, Holtcamp was presented with gifts. Kerr, representing the library staff, gave Holtcamp an album filled with memorabilia from her years at the library. Cathy Kemp, representing the FOL Board and the Board of Trustees, presented Holtcamp with a McCarty's vase. She pointed out Holtcamp's love of flowers and her talent for flower arranging.

Holtcamp thanked everyone for their support and spoke of how much she had enjoyed her years at the library. Family members and friends joined in congratulating her and wishing her well after the program concluded.

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*“President Reinschmiedt praised Holtcamp for her leadership in making our library a thriving part of the community.”*

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*Ms. Holtcamp greeting the many community members who attend the reception to wish her well*



*Friends of the Library, patrons, library staff, and community members gather to recognize Ms. Holtcamp for her dedication and years of service to the library*

## Notes from Phillip Carter, Library Director



This was not how I envisioned my first six months as the director of the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System going—

but here we are. Only six weeks after I started on February 1, we were forced by a global pandemic to act for the safety of our patrons and staff. I had barely gotten to know the staff and the patrons of the library before everything changed.

That doesn't mean we've been waiting around and lamenting—we've been working. We've got some wonderful things on the horizon as we start to expand our open services again as well as the services we have been working to provide during this difficult time. Our children's librarian Loraine Walker has been posting incredible videos to Facebook sharing stories and experiences with animals "live" from the farm. She has surpassed over 100,000 views on Facebook since starting! She's really gone above and beyond to make sure that storytime continues even when our doors have closed.

The Friends of the Library have, of course, been very busy. They've been making sure that the freebie tables in front of the public library are staying stocked with books for people to take home and enjoy. Their work and support cannot be understated. This is truly the most vibrant and giving Friends of the Library groups with which I've ever had the privilege of working.

We adopted curbside service in late May, and that has been a great success. Patrons can call and request books, let us know when they are here, and we bring the books right out to them. We have since expanded that service to include faxing, printing, and copying. I have a feeling quite a few people who will ask us to maintain this service once we return to fully open hours, and we'll have to evaluate that possibility when we get there.

I can't wait for us to be able to return to full service and to see everyone's smiling faces again. We have lots of children's programs, author events, book talks and clubs, young adult events, and even training and workshops planned! While we don't know exactly when that will be—just now that it is coming. I can't wait to see you all at the library.

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*"...a mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge." Tyrion Lannister - A Game of Thrones (George R.R. Martin)*

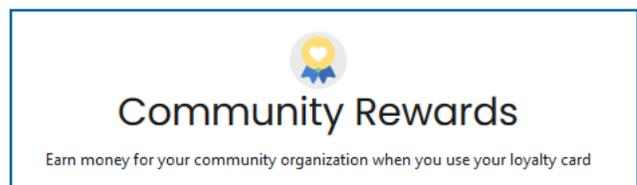
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## Make FOL Your Kroger Community Rewards Program

Kroger is committed to helping our community grow through the Kroger Community Rewards Program. By joining this partnership, the Friends of the Starkville Library is earning needed dollars to assist in funding the outstanding library programs showcased in this newsletter. We need 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](http://www.kroger.com).

2. Login to your Kroger account and select "Friends of the Starkville Public Library" as your community rewards program. 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 the Friends of the Starkville Library.



# Grants Provide Needed Library Support

The Friends of the Library would like to thank all our membership and community organizations for their support in the past year. Since the middle of March when the library closed because of the pandemic and the resulting economic disruptions, FOL has had to get creative to fulfill our mission.

Of great importance has been the financial support received by FOL. The Create Foundation provided a grant to FOL that made possible improvements in our efforts to publicize the programs and services provided at our library. The Starkville Woman’s Club has been a consistent supporter through the years. Another organization that has supported the library is the Modern Woodmen of America. Grants from this community organization supported additional purchases of needed books for youth, as well as support for the Summer Reading program. A substantial grant from the Four County Electric Association made possible the purchase of four new computers and needed software. These computers are used

throughout the day by adults and youth and continue to be in demand in this difficult time.

A new goal of FOL is to obtain funding for new shelving for the main floor of the library. Library Director Phillip Carter explained that current shelving was purchased for the library in Oktibbeha County’s first library location. Shelving that will fulfill long-term needs and that meets safety standards will require a substantial investment. In addition to these grants, we appreciate support from our life-time members of FOL and all yearly members. Our whole team has achieved great things!



*FOL board members thanking our sponsors*

## FOL Board 2020-2021

**President**

Lynn Reinschmiedt

**Vice President**

Connie Forde

**Secretary**

Linda Morse

**Treasurer**

Myrna Lott

**New Board Members**

Peggy Bates

Nelle Elam

Julia Hodges

Joy Odom

Suzu Turner

**Special Thanks to Retiring Board Members**

Danny Cheatham

Tani Dubisson

Gayle Hodges

Sharon Nobles

Cherie Steele

# Join Friends of the Library for 2020-2021

Become a Friend of the Starkville Library for 2020-2021 and enhance your library’s collections, and services. Supplement library programs for children, youth, and adults. Strengthen the library’s vital role in our community.

Join by completing the membership form and mailing to Friends of the Library **or** complete the form online and pay online. Click the links below to join Friends of the Starkville Library. Your generosity and support are appreciated.

**Complete Membership Form and mail completed form:**

<https://starkville.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Membership-form-2020.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.



# Friends of the Library Membership October 2019—September 2020

## LIFE MEMBER

Anonymous  
John and Mary Lee Beal  
Catherine Boyd  
Michael and Alison Buehler  
Russell and Lynn Gaines  
Ernie George Family Foundation  
Elizabeth J. Hawkins  
William and Ginny Holtcamp  
Bill and Billie Lane Hood  
Warren and Judi Housley  
Walt and Ellen Newsom  
Doyle and Julia Pendley  
Bob and Donna Reese  
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Joe and Becky Stockwell  
Helen Thomas  
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Robert Wolverton

## SPONSOR

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SOAR

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John and Pat Colwick  
Marianne M. Crowell  
Elliott and Tani Dubuisson  
Bill and Nelle Elam  
Joe and Barbara Farris  
Tom and Fay Fisher  
John and Connie Forde  
Stanly and Jeannie Godbold  
Jim and Brenda Harden  
Gerald Emison & Donna Harrison  
Jim and Ruth Haug  
Kent and Connie Hoblet  
David and Betty Lynn Hunt  
Pam Jones  
David and Maureen Lang  
Deborah O. Lee  
Jim and Page Leftwich  
Bryan and Myrna Lott  
Paula C. Mabry  
Kent and Emily Maret  
Jesse and Anne Snell McDonald  
Wynema McGrew  
Jim and Marion Meade  
Doug and Sue Minchew  
Roy and Fairfax Montgomery  
David and Linda Morse  
Robert and Lucy Phillips  
Hal and Joyce Polk  
Lynn and Myra Reinschmiedt  
Richard and Emily Rust  
Evelyn Simmons  
Charlie and Marty Sparrow  
Starkville Woman's Club  
Bob and Anne Thompson  
Hayes and Judy Truitt  
Vance and Jo Ann Watson  
Graham and Martha Wells  
Sandra Sistrunk & Wayne Wilkerson

## FAMILY

Andy and Libba Andrews  
Larry and Virginia Brewer  
George and Linda Buehler  
C. T. Carley  
Betty Jane Chatham  
Terry Crow  
Armando and Ruth de la Cruz  
Wayne and Jo Durst  
Edwin and Diane Ellis  
Sharon M. Fly  
Brenda C. Garner  
Robert and Edna Jean Gunn  
John and Virginia Harkness  
Bill and Maureen Henry  
Judge and Mrs. Lee Howard  
Paul and Nancy Jacobs  
Eddie and Susan Keith  
Mark and Carol Lehman  
Mark and Karen Lilly  
Wayne and Mary Ann Livingston  
Jack and Jimmie Faye McCarty  
John and Kay McReynolds  
David and Barbara Monts  
Dolly Moore  
Ralph and Sharon Nobles  
Jim and Helen Ormon  
Freddie and Anna Marie Rasberry  
Keith and Ruth Remy  
Norma Jean Smith  
Bos Stevens  
Joe and Emilie Thompson  
David and Sherrie Van Ladingham  
Johnny and Bobbie Walton  
Glenn and Sherrie Wiygul

## INDIVIDUAL

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Nancy M. Critz  
Yvonne Doss  
Barbara A. Frank  
Susan Gordon  
Cathy Kemp  
Lydia King  
Kim Laird  
Susie Lowery  
Quinn Manuel  
Ellen Drane Mauldin  
Cindy Morgan  
William M. Porter  
Linda Ratliff  
Cheryl Rowe  
Martha Helen Swain  
Nancy S. Walsh  
Martha Watkins  
Margaret Weining  
Sharon Welch  
Elaine White  
Sara Wilson  
Opal W. Wood

*We thank all of our supporters of the Friends of the Library and the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library. The community benefits from your generosity and involvement in our programs.*

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*  
*(Continued from page 1)*

The mission of FOL is to support, expand, and improve the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library. In a normal year we generate funds through membership fees, donations, grants, and monthly book sales. These funds not only enable the library to purchase additional books supplementing the library's collections, but they have provided many extra services and programs for the community that would not be possible on the library's operating budget alone.

This past year the FOL Board started off the year as normal, hosting five published authors in the Books and Authors series and monthly book sales from October through March. Then, the pandemic hit, and we all know what happened. The pandemic forced the closure of the library to the public and the end of business as usual in mid-March and continues to this day. However, the Friends continue to process book donations on a limited basis and have maintained "freebie" tables outside the main entrance to the library to dispose of books we are unable to sell. We have also donated books to other outlets, such as the Salvation Army, the Habitat for Humanity, and the Palmer House. Presently, we have no idea when we will be able to sponsor another book sale or books and authors program.



*Free books available at main entrance of the library*

At the end of the calendar year, when Mrs. Ginny Holtcamp retired after 31 years of service to the library, she was honored with a retirement reception; details are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. We welcomed her replacement, Phillip Carter, in early February. Phillip barely got his feet on the ground in Starkville before COVID-19 forced him to totally rethink the functioning of the library to operate under severe capacity limitations and social distancing practices with the safety of the staff and patrons always at the forefront of all policies.

This newsletter includes a listing of the 2019-2020 (October-September) FOL members. On behalf of the FOL board, let me extend our appreciation for your continued support. With a new membership year beginning in October, we are asking you to continue to help serve your community by renewing your FOL membership. Additionally, we ask that you help spread the word about FOL and its role in supporting your local public library. I am sure that you each know individuals who, like you, strongly believe in the importance of having a vibrant, active public library and are supportive of its activities, but who are not currently FOL members. Please encourage those individuals to join FOL.

Thanks to all the Friends of the Library who continue their annual support of the Friends through your membership dues, book purchases, and donations. Without your financial support, the library simply could not continue to offer many of the services currently provided.

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*"...Without your financial support, the library simply could not continue to offer many of the services currently provided."*

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P. O. Box 80035  
Starkville, MS 39760

**Website:**

<http://starkville.lib.ms.us/friends-of-the-library>

**Facebook:**

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

**Twitter:**

<https://www.twitter.com/OfStarkville>

**Instagram:**

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