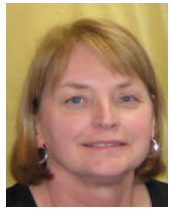




Houston County Friends of the Library Newsletter

Fall 2009

Message from President Pam Yates



With so many economic woes swirling around us all, I want to invite you to **MAKE A WISE ECONOMIC CHOICE FOR YOURSELF!** Visit your local library for free literary services. And also **READ THE**

RECYCLED BOOKS provided by the labors of the Friends of the Library. You can help your own personal literary goals as well as help the Houston County Libraries by getting on board with the Friends of the Library book recycling program. Houston Citizen's past book donations placed in the Friends donation boxes found their way to the Old Book Sale held annually in May. Houston County citizens flocked to the Sale and loaded up on book treasures of all kinds. One Book Sale patron was so excited that he was nearly skipping. "Guess what, he smiled!! I just bought an unbelievable amount of books for only \$25.00. That is what I would have paid for only one (1) book at the store" Then after the Old Book Sale, the Friends were able to turn around the profits to give \$30,000 to the Houston Libraries. With all the budget cuts coming down from the State of Georgia that \$30,000 may be all our libraries will have this year to buy new books.



Donated by Houston Friends of the Library

WATCH FOR THE NEW FRIENDS BOOKPLATES! With the \$30,000 from the Friends, the libraries are in the process of purchasing new books and audio books for both adults and children. Over the summer specially designed bookplates

were prepared for the Friends to designate these new purchases which came directly from the proceeds of the Old Book Sale. The circle of recycling repeats itself. Donate old books, buy old books at the Sale and new books will appear at your library.



Donated by Houston Friends of the Library

LEARN THE USED BOOK BUSINESS! Come join us because the Friends only wish they could do more for the libraries. We are still a rather small group but welcome enthusiastic book lovers. Each



Donated by Houston Friends of the Library

year we gather more faithful volunteers. We already have a mountain of books to process for the Old Book Sale in May 2010. We have installed a new "Friends Learning Center" to teach the basics of book sorting, pricing and packing. Come see what we do with books.

SPECIAL THANKS to Mr. Bill Livingston of Livingston Properties for providing a home for the Houston Friends to process and store the books for the Old Book Sale.

Websites of Interest

- Friends of Georgia Libraries www.georgia-friends.org
- Houston County Public Library www.houpl.org
- Houston County Friends of the Library www.houpl.org/html/friends.htm
- Georgia Public Libraries www.georgialibraries.org
- Georgia Center for the Book www.georgiacenterforthebook.org

Donations Needed

The Friends of the Library collect books all year round for their annual book sale. Bring your "gently used" books to any of the libraries or to the Friends Book Donation HQ in the Big Lots Shopping Center on Watson Blvd. Look for the red Friends of the Library Book Donations boxes.



2009 Old Book Sale Best Yet

By Georgette Lipford

Twelve months of planning and work by the Friends resulted in the most successful Old Book Sale yet. The volume of books was greater than previous years, the number of volunteers working the sale exceeded 2008 and the revenue from memberships and book sales topped 2008's.

On April 30 as the early volunteers arrived at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry at 8:00 a.m. the first truck load of books was ready to be unloaded. Several truck loads later, at 3:00 p.m. workers had completed the unpacking of more than 3,000 boxes of books and arranged them on tables.

The success of this sale was due in large part to the many volunteers who gave so generously of their time and energy during the four days required to load and unload the trucks, arrange the books on tables, staff the check out tables, assist patrons to locate particular books, restock book tables and pack up leftover books at the end of the sale. More than 140 volunteers worked on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This year's sale was truly a community event as volunteers included FOL members, high school students, scouts, community service workers and Robins Air Force Base military personnel.

The total revenue from the 2009 sale was \$37,814.52 which exceeded the 2008 Old Book Sale by about \$6,000. The amounts raised each day at this year's sale were as follows: Thursday, \$16,251.85 (\$2,122 of which were for FOL memberships), Friday, \$13,692.90 and for the Saturday half price sale, \$10,281.76.

Every year the FOL workers fine tune the operational plans and features of the OBS, always trying to make the sale more enjoyable for patrons. This year an additional row of check out tables was added to accommodate the long lines on Thursday evening and Saturday. Rather than the silent auction from previous years collectible books were sold on a "Buy It Now" basis. For the first time this year OBS patrons could rent shopping carts for a small fee. A drawing was held for the most popular stand-up figure this year, Edward the vampire, and he went home with a lucky teenager on Saturday.

When the sale ended at 3:00 on Saturday there were still hundreds of books remaining on the tables. Those books (approximately 800 boxes) are

being sold by an online book store and continue to provide a revenue source for Houston County libraries.

Proceeds from the 2009 Sale

At the May 18, 2009, meeting of the Houston County Friends of the Library, President Pam Yates and Treasurer Sharon Sullivan, presented \$10,000 checks to each of the branch librarians for a total of \$30,000 to the library system.



(Pam Yates, president FOL; Marsha Christy, Houston County director; Sharon Sullivan, treasurer FOL.)



(Glenda Thompson, Houston County Assistant Director accepts a check on behalf of the Centerville Public Library.)

Nancy Granger, Centerville Public Library branch manager, reports that they have not spent any of their money at this time other than what has been spend for all three branches.

Friends of the Library money was used to support the 2009 Summer Reading Club. The Friends purchased yellow plastic book bags for the participants, paid for three storytellers to perform at all three branches, and purchased new children's books for all three branches.



In addition, the Friends pay for Junior Literary Guild books for all libraries.



(Elyse Thompson, Perry Branch Manager, accepts the Perry Check.)



New Perry Library Branch Manager, Jay Dragon, reports that the Perry Library has been using their money to purchase new young adult books and new

recorded books. He also states that Friends money is being used for "Bookpage," the book review magazine, which is available in all three libraries, and for the purchase of downloadable audio books which patrons may access through the library's website, www.houpl.org.



(Karen Odom, Nola Brantley Branch Manager, accepts the check for the Warner Robins library.)

Karen Odom reports that the Nola Brantley library has ordered new reference books including literary criticism books that will be a help to both high school and college students.

Membership Dues

If you are not currently a member of the Houston County Friends of the Library, become a member now. Membership is good for a year. Dues are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for military families, \$10 for other families, \$50 for patron/corporate, or \$100 for life membership. If you are a current member, be aware that all memberships need to be renewed in April.

For your membership you receive free admission to the preview sale, \$2 off on the price of a book bag, the FOL newsletter and the opportunity to help your local libraries with your money, your time, your book donations.

Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL)

The fall workshop for the Friends of Georgia Libraries is "It Takes a Village" featuring Peter Pearson, president of The Friends of The Saint Paul Public Library with Joshilyn Jackson, author of *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*; *Between, Georgia*; and *Gods in Alabama*. The workshop will be held Saturday, November 7, at the Smyrna Public Library in Smyrna, Georgia.

Mr. Pearson will share some ways that The Friends of the Saint Paul Library have kept library funding on the increase when neighboring library systems' budgets have been cut.

Registration is \$35 for FOGL members. Non-member registration is \$40 and includes a year's membership. For more information and to register for the workshop, go to the FOGL website at www.georgia-friends.org.

In addition, there are opportunities for FOGL and FOL members at the COMO (Council of Media Organizations) annual conference in Columbus.

These include the annual author reception; a program entitled "Ten Stupid Things Board Members Do to Mess Up Their Organizations" by Illene Roggensack of Third Sector Innovations; a program entitled "What's Up With Friends and Trustees?" a sharing session.

For more information about the COMO conference and to register, visit <http://www.georgiacomo.org>. Friends and trustees may register using the "support staff" category.

Book Work Sessions General Info

It's that time of year again; time to begin sorting and pricing books for the annual book sale.

During October through April, there will be three sessions each week.

Monday sessions: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Wednesday sessions: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Saturday sessions: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

President Pam Yates will send out email info on any changes in the schedule throughout the year. If you have questions about the work sessions, you may contact Pam using any of the following methods:

Home: 953-3801

Cell: 952-6493

Email: pamyates@cox.net

What do work sessions involve? Book sorting, book pricing, and book packing. Following is a brief lesson in book packing as applied to Houston County Friends of the library.

Book Packing 103

- A. Choose a sturdy, small to average size box. (Liquor store boxes are about the right size). Even paperbacks get very heavy. Remember women must lift many of these boxes at the actual sale so do not pack them too heavy. The copy paper boxes with detachable lids are perfect for packing paperback books. Every corner can accommodate the paperbacks with no wasted space. Using this same type box for hardcover books is not wise. It makes the box too heavy.
- B. Be ever mindful of lifting. We want no one to have a back injury.
- C. Avoid too large or too small boxes which are not space efficient.
- D. Repair the box before use if necessary with tape or discard it for recycling.
- E. Place the books flat in the box. Do not over fill or under fill a box, otherwise the stacked boxes for storage will fall. Books placed spine up can be damaged in the final stage of storage for stacked boxes. You may need to pack a few books in the

position as if they were on a book shelf but let no weight fall on those books. Use extra cardboard to fill up a box to the top or sides if necessary.

- F. When a box is full, cross fold the top. Be sure the top of the box closes flat. Do not tape the boxes closed. Too loosely packed boxes or rounded-top boxes can cause the stacks of boxes to fall.
- G. Write the number of the book category on a white label legibly using a large permanent marker. Draw a line under the number. Place the white label on the top of the box and make no other markings or word explanations on the box top. Use scotch tape on the ends of each white label to prevent the label from lifting off. Boxes filled with mostly current good condition books should also have a colored label or dot placed on top of the box to designate this box as our best books.
- H. Make a mark on the Master Tally Sheet under the appropriate book category to indicate the completion of a box in that category. This gives us an estimate on how many book tables to allow for this category at the book sale.
- I. Place the "ready-for-sale" box in the back of the building beside the large mirror.



Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting Schedule 2009-2010

All meetings start at 7:00 P.M.

September 1 (Nola Brantley)

October 6 (Centerville)

November 3 (Perry)

December 1 (Nola Brantley)

January 5 (Centerville)

February 2 (Perry)

March 2 (Nola Brantley)

April 6 (Centerville)

April 27 (Perry) *Note: this is instead of the May 4 meeting in order to meet before the 2009 sale*

May (Nola Brantley)

June-August No Meetings