Sarah Jessica Parker announces first pick for Book Club Central


Book Club Central’s sponsoring partners are *Booklist*, the book review magazine of the ALA; United for Libraries, and Libraries Transform, ALA’s public awareness campaign, along with Corporate Platinum Partner Penguin Random House.

Ms. Parker made the announcement during the ALA’s Annual Conference & Exhibition in Chicago, where then United for Libraries Executive Director Sally Reed presented Ms. Parker with lifetime honorary board membership in United for Libraries.

Book Club Central ([www.bookclubcentral.org](http://www.bookclubcentral.org)), a new initiative of ALA, was designed in consultation with expert librarians to provide the public with the very best in reading. The online resource is a one-stop shop for engaging content and helpful information for book clubs and readers of all types, including author interviews, book recommendations and reviews, as well as discussion questions and information on how to start and moderate a book club.

“It is exciting to have the opportunity to share Book Club Central with libraries, librarians, book clubs and readers everywhere,” said Julie Todaro, then president of ALA. “As an online resource, Book Club Central will connect people to a new and engaging world of reading and books. We are grateful to Honorary Chair Sarah Jessica Parker for joining us for the launch of Book Club Central and using her star power to champion books and literacy.”

Ms. Parker stated, “*No One Is Coming to Save Us*’ marks the arrival of a wonderfully gifted new American writer. JJ, Ava and Sylvia are easy characters to fall in love with, and Stephanie Powell Watts brings them to life with warmth and generosity. I can’t wait to share their story, their search for fulfillment and attempts to better understand their past and shape their future, with readers everywhere, and I’m jealous of all who will open to page one for the first time.”

*continued on page 11*
Continuing the fight for libraries

The effort to protect federal library funding isn’t over.

For now, libraries will continue to receive funding — and have yet to experience budget cuts — for fiscal year 2018, according to the American Library Association.

The ALA Washington Office said the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations approved a draft of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Funding Bill (LHHS). The draft is expected to be brought before the full House for a vote when Congress resumes after Labor Day.

As written, the bill would provide fiscal 2018 funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), $231 million; Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), $183.6 million; and the U.S. Department of Education’s Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL), $27 million. It also includes a $20 million increase for the National Library of Medicine, the ALA said.

According to our data, your efforts since mid-March led to over 21,000 emails to the U.S. Senate, 42,000 emails to Congress, and nearly 26,000 tweets using the hashtag #saveIMLS. The newly formed Corporate Committee for Library Investment (CCLI), which promotes libraries as an economic necessity, also delivered a letter to the Senate, urging them to sign the LSTA and IAL letters.

Ten returning senators signed the LSTA letter, who did not sign previously. Other signatories included all five freshman Democrats. Six returning senators signed the IAL letter, who did not last year.

ALA President Jim Neal and I continue to urge you to alert your Congress members to oppose President Donald Trump’s proposal to eliminate the IMLS and other vital library programs. The passage of this cut would greatly weaken the survivability of libraries and museums in the U.S.

It is important to remember libraries are more than a place for our communities to have great access to books, text, periodicals, and other reference material. Libraries provide a range of services that some people don’t immediately have available at home.

According to the ALA, libraries in the U.S. attract 4 million visitors every day. These library-goers arrive to use a variety of tools and services including education research, degree attainment, job training, resume-building, 3D printing, and more. Libraries also provide a safe, neutral place for community gathering. It’s no surprise these public spaces have become increasingly popular venues to host youth events, poetry slams, and other lively activities catered to all ages.

The LSTA is the primary source of federal library funding. It is funneled into the IMLS, which states use as part of a population-based formula to provide a local funding match. These funds are often used for database access, computers, summer reading programs, bookmobiles, and other technology.

That means any threat to federal funding directly affects how much your state leaders contribute to your local libraries. In return, this can affect how many books you see each year and the budget to keep libraries staffed appropriately.

The IAL is the main source for school literacy programs. This funding allows school libraries to maintain up-to-date books and promote family literacy through adaptive technology. Millions of students in the U.S., who suffer from economic hardship, benefit from these services.

Here’s how we can continue a successful fight to protect and secure library funding. Show your elected officials how important libraries are to your community. Give them a tour, write a letter to the editor for your local newspaper, and meet with your congress members.

You really can’t argue with the results. It’s very clear your calls and emails to Congress are making a difference. Continue to reach out to them. Make your voice heard at the state and federal levels throughout the year to ensure library funding remains protected.

For the latest ALA news, visit www.ala.org/fight-for-libraries. You also can share your story here about how LSTA, IAL, or how other funding makes a difference at your library or in your community.
**Book review: ‘To the Stars Through Difficulties’ by Romalyn Tilghman**

This novel, named for the Kansas state motto, reflects well what women at the turn of the 20th century experienced in bringing Carnegie libraries to their hometowns.

The story is told in three voices — that of a researcher working on a Ph.D in library science and focusing on Carnegie libraries, a troubled young woman who leaves New York City to trace her roots in the same small Kansas town and takes on a job as artist in residence, and a woman who has lost everything in a devastating tornado one town over.

As the lives of these three women intersect, they find they have a shared love of libraries, particularly the library housed in the art center in their town of New Hope. It is the art center that brings them together and introduces them to the No Guilt Quilters, along with an unlikely group of misfit teens.

As was the case with the women who wrote grants and raised funding for long ago Carnegie libraries, these women soon learn that they, too, can be a powerful force for change when they work together.

Expect romance, history, and friendship in this lovely novel that is hard to put down.

*She Writes Press; 978-1-63152-233-8; $16.95.*

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**Upcoming events**

**Teen Read Week**
Oct. 8-14, 2017
[http://teenreadweek.ning.com](http://teenreadweek.ning.com)

**National Friends of Libraries Week**
Oct. 15-21, 2017
[www.al.org/united/events_conferences/folweek](http://www.al.org/united/events_conferences/folweek)

**International Games Week**
Oct. 29-Nov. 4, 2017
[http://games.ala.org](http://games.ala.org)

**Picture Book Month**
November 2017
[http://picturebookmonth.com](http://picturebookmonth.com)

**ALA Midwinter Meeting**
Denver, Colo.
Feb. 9-13, 2018
[www.alamidwinter.org](http://www.alamidwinter.org)

**Teen Tech Week**
March 4-10, 2018
[http://teentechweek.ning.com](http://teentechweek.ning.com)

**Public Library Association Conference**
March 20-24, 2018
[www.placonference.org](http://www.placonference.org)

**School Library Month**
April 2018
[www.al.org/aasl/slm](http://www.al.org/aasl/slm)

**Children’s Book Week**
April 30-May 6, 2018
[http://everychildareader.net/cbw](http://everychildareader.net/cbw)

**GLBT Book Month**
June 2018

**ALA Annual Conference**
New Orleans, La.
June 21-26, 2018
[www.al.org/conferencesevents](http://www.al.org/conferencesevents)

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**Gala Author Tea sponsored by ReferenceUSA at the ALA Midwinter Meeting Denver, Colo. Mon., Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m.**

Save the date for United for Libraries’ Gala Author Tea sponsored by ReferenceUSA. Bestselling authors will discuss their writing lives and forthcoming books. Enjoy a light offering of tea, finger sandwiches, and a variety of sweet treats. A book signing will follow.

Buy your ticket early, as this event often sells out. United for Libraries will recognize the winners of the 2017 National Friends of Libraries Week Awards during the program. Tickets cost $60 in advance ($55 for United for Libraries members; discount available at [www.al.org/united](http://www.al.org/united)), $65 onsite (if available). For more information, visit [www.al.org/united](http://www.al.org/united).

The 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting will be held in Denver Feb. 9-13. For information, visit [www.alamidwinter.org](http://www.alamidwinter.org). For information about United for Libraries events and meetings, visit [www.al.org/united/events_conferences/events](http://www.al.org/united/events_conferences/events).

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To ensure you or your group is receiving all available member benefits, United for Libraries needs your email address. To add your email, send it to [united@ala.org](mailto:united@ala.org).
Book review: ‘Library Book: Writers on Libraries’

Beginning with a foreword by T.C. Boyle, this book contains more than 80 original stories, poems, and essays about the importance of the library in the contributing authors’ lives. Luminaries such as Sue Grafton, Fannie Flagg, Neil Gaiman, Ray Bradbury, and many made these literary contributions in honor of the Santa Barbara (Calif.) Public Library’s Central Library’s 100th anniversary.

We all know that books open the world to anyone seeking adventure and knowledge. Fannie Flagg echoes this by saying in her essay One Library Book, “I grew up in Alabama, a mighty far distance from London, England. Even though I was only 11 years old at the time, thanks to the local library, I was able to travel across the sea to London (in my mind, of course) and learn about people I might never have ever heard of.”

The book was produced by the Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the library. With a price of only $18.50, this book belongs in every library... even those across the sea.

http://a.co/7yRiH8n; $18.50.

United for Libraries seeking Literary Landmarks for Children’s Book Week, April 30-May 6, 2018


In past years, Literary Landmarks have been dedicated across the country for authors of children’s books during this week. Authors honored with a Literary Landmark dedication include Barbara Park, Virginia Sorensen, Mark Twain, Margaret Wise Brown, Carl Sandberg, Walter Dean Myers, and Robert McCloskey. This program was spearheaded by Rocco Staino of the Empire State Center for the Book and is presented in conjunction with the American Library Association/Children’s Book Council Joint Committee.

The Literary Landmark program is administered by United for Libraries. More than 160 Literary Landmarks across the United States have been dedicated since the program began in 1986. Any library or group may apply for a Literary Landmark through United for Libraries. For more information about applying for a Literary Landmarks, including for those during Children’s Book Week, visit www.ala.org/united/products_services/literary_landmarks.

Every Child a Reader is a 501(c)(3) literacy charity whose popular national programs include Children’s Book Week, the longest-running literacy initiative in the country; the Children’s and Teen Choice Book Awards, the only book awards chosen by children and teens; and the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature program, in partnership with the Library of Congress. Launched in 1919, Children’s Book Week will celebrate its 100th anniversary in May 2019. Every Child a Reader works in partnership with the Children’s Book Council, the nonprofit trade association for children’s book publishers in North America. The CBC offers children’s publishers, from independent presses to large houses, the opportunity to work together on issues of importance to the industry at large, including educational programming, diversity in employment and books, literacy advocacy, and partnerships with other national organizations. For more information, visit http://everychildareader.net.

Launched in 1919, Children’s Book Week will celebrate its 99th anniversary April 30-May 6, 2018. For more information, visit http://everychildareader.net/cbw.

SPECIAL OFFER: Orders of 100 or more Books for Babies kits will include free onesies courtesy of Penguin Random House. Offer is valid while supplies last. Color, graphic, and size will vary and will automatically be added to orders of 100 or more kits. To order, see Page 24.

The United for Libraries office will be closed Nov. 23-24. For assistance during that time, please email united@ala.org and allow 24 hours for a response.
Texas and Nebraska renew United for Libraries and ALA membership for their public library groups

The Texas State Library and the Nebraska Library Commission have renewed their statewide membership in United for Libraries, granting more than 1,300 of Friends of the Library groups, Foundations, and Boards of Trustees group membership in United for Libraries and the American Library Association.

“We are very pleased to continue to offer Texas library Trustees and Friends access to the excellent resources available through their membership in United for Libraries so that they can remain competitive, effective, and responsive to the needs of their communities,” says Mark Smith, director of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

“United for Libraries provides expertise and essential resources for libraries and their Trustees, Foundations, and Friends,” says Rod Wagner, director of the Nebraska Library Commission. “Information for governance, programming, training, fundraising and more are available. Nebraska’s statewide membership offers libraries ready access to a variety of informational and educational resources — print publications, online access, web-site sections exclusive to members, and no-fee access to timely webinars.”

Public libraries in Texas and Nebraska receive membership for their board of Trustees, Friends group and/or Foundation and library staff members. Membership includes the bimonthly newsletter The Voice for America’s Libraries; access to the Friends & Foundations Zone and Trustee Zone, which include toolkits, publications, archived issues of The Voice, webinars and more; and other benefits such as award eligibility and deep discounts on publications.

In addition to the standard United for Libraries membership benefits, statewide purchases include full access to:

- The Trustee Academy, a series of online courses to help library Trustees become exceptionally proficient in their roles on behalf of their libraries;
- Short Takes for Trustees, a series of 10 short videos that can be shown during Trustee meetings to stimulate discussion about the important role that Trustees play in the governance of their libraries;
- Engaging Volunteers for Libraries and Friends, a three-part series of webcasts designed to inform library Friends, Trustees, and staff about the new generation of volunteers — including what they want from service opportunities, and how libraries and Friends can attract them.

For a complete list of United for Libraries membership benefits, and to join as an individual, group or library, visit www.ala.org/united/membership/nbrbenefits.

United for Libraries offers discounted pricing for states or regions that want to purchase membership for their libraries. Discounted pricing is also available for states or regions that purchase the Trustee Academy, Short Takes for Trustees, and/or the “Engaging Volunteers” webinar series.

For information about purchasing United for Libraries membership for a state or region, the Trustee Academy, Short Takes for Trustees, or the Engaging Volunteers series, please contact United for Libraries Executive Director Beth Nawalinski at (800) 545-2433, ext. 2161, or b Nawalinski@ala.org.

ALA extends commitment to Libraries Transform public awareness campaign

The executive board of the American Library Association has extended its commitment to the Libraries Transform campaign (www.librarystransform.org) for an additional three years (Sept. 1, 2017–Aug. 31, 2020).

Libraries Transform is the ALA’s public awareness campaign and serves to highlight the transformative nature of our nation’s libraries in today’s changing world. Since the campaign launched in 2015, more than 7,100 libraries and library advocates have joined Libraries Transform.

The ALA executive board voted to extend the campaign following a presentation from Jodie Borgerding, chair of the Public Awareness Committee, and Jeff Julian, director of the Public Awareness Office and staff liaison to Public Awareness Committee, during ALA’s 2017 Annual Conference in Chicago. The presentation drew on data illustrating the success of the campaign thus far: more than 75 percent of respondents in a recent ALA survey agreed that Libraries Transform had been useful in their public awareness and advocacy efforts. The campaign has had wide reach online, with more than 32,000 downloads from its digital toolkit and nearly 60,000 uses of the hashtag on Twitter.

“The executive board is thrilled to extend the vital work of the Libraries Transform campaign, which has become an essential part of the ALA’s efforts to showcase the value and impact of libraries and library workers,” said Jim Neal, 2017-2018 ALA president and university librarian emeritus at Columbia University. Neal’s “libraries
Friends & Foundation of the Rochester (N.Y.) Public Library hosts Diamond Jubilee Celebration for Books Sandwiched In

BY REBECCA FUSS
Director of Advancement, Friends & Foundation of the Rochester (N.Y.) Public Library

On Oct. 25, 2016, a group of 40 Books Sandwiched In (BSI) reviewer alumni gathered for a reunion to celebrate 60 years of luncheon book reviews at the Central Library of Rochester (N.Y.) & Monroe County. The event was the culmination of the Diamond Jubilee of BSI, a yearlong look back at six decades of noontime reviews of nationally-acclaimed fiction and nonfiction books. Reviewers were and are the “who’s who” of Rochester, community leaders who are experts in their respective fields.

Back in 1956, the Friends of the Library — now the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) — began Books Sandwiched In, and it has been a staple of Rochester literary education ever since, thanks to the dedication of hundreds of volunteer reviewers, committee members and donors to the library. In 2016 we celebrated BSI’s wonderful memories and our hopes to continue enlightening the community long into the future.

The goals of the yearlong BSI Diamond Jubilee Celebration were:

1. To deliver the message that BSI is a signature program of FFRPL, consistent over the decades in educating the community about contemporary issues and a program worthy of continuing support.
2. To deliver the message that the best way to support the Rochester Public Library and programs like BSI is through the Friends & Foundation of RPL.
3. To prepare the audience for a future BSI fundraising challenge, ensuring the sustainability of BSI and other FFRPL programs.

The process goals were to develop the spring 2016 and fall 2016 schedules of books and speakers, special “pop up” mini-reviews before each review, a reviewer alumni reunion for the Diamond Jubilee, and to coordinate media messaging.

The BSI volunteer committee began planning in December 2015. The committee members represent the fields of business, law, academia, and the media. They are well connected to community leaders, and they choose who would be ideal reviewers for the topics, and ask them to review the books. This volunteer peer-to-peer recruitment leverages considerable expertise and knowledge at no cost to FFRPL.

FFRPL recruited a student in January 2016 to research and develop the BSI anthology (included in the attachment), using archived resources in Central Library’s Local History & Genealogy Division. The FFRPL program director then selected pertinent books from the anthology to write and deliver the “pop up” mini-reviews. Race relations, education, national defense, poverty, and mental health are just some of the topics covered in books of both generations, demonstrating that the library then and now is a safe, trusted space for discussions on contemporary issues.

The FFRPL program director met with the retired Friends of the Library director to determine which reviewers were still living in the Rochester area, then worked with the committee in the spring and summer of 2016 to find contact information for as many as possible to invite them to the reunion. A total of 119 reviewer alumni were identified and invited, including college presidents, school superintendents, government officials, business leaders, judges and attorneys, prominent authors, and media personalities.

FFRPL included traditional and social media in its implementation. FFRPL ran purchased spots on local AM and FM public radio during the fall 2016 series, directing listeners to our website at www.ffrpl.org for more information about the series. The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle daily newspaper ran a front-page story, highlighting the significance of BSI (the writer himself was a BSI alumnus). Some of the BSI reviews were broadcast live on Periscope via Twitter and archived on YouTube for additional outreach. (Note: the 2017 BSI reviews are now livestreamed on Facebook, with better results.)
Evaluation was measured against the goals:

**Message Delivery (goals 1 and 2):**
Total attendance for the Spring 2016 and Fall 2016 BSI series (eight reviews each) was 1,015, with about 100 additional Periscope/Twitter viewers and 36 YouTube watchers. A total of 88 people attended the October 25 BSI reunion, with an almost equal mix of reviewer alumni and the general public.

During the two eight-week series, everyone who attended enjoyed a short “pop up” talk linking a book reviewed in the early decades to the book being reviewed that day. Every “pop up” stressed that the library has always been and remains a place where discussion on timely, relevant topics is welcomed, and that FFRPL is pleased to continue that tradition with BSI and thanks the audience for its past and future support.

**Preparation for Fundraising Challenge (goal 3):**

The messages delivered throughout 2016 made a positive impact on the sustainability of BSI. The spring 2017 BSI series introduced audiences to the “BSI Challenge,” applicable to the 2016-17 annual campaign. Several staff and board members committed to matching $1,000 in donations received from the BSI audience. This goal was met after just three of the eight spring reviews.

Many in the audience commented that they enjoyed the “pop-up” mini reviews. Showing connections across the decades offered a historical glimpse while creatively building the BSI brand as a signature program of FFRPL designed to educate the community about contemporary issues.

Making former reviewers part of an “alumni” group gave a feeling of prestige. All alumni at the reunion were given a custom-made name tag with images of the books they had reviewed, which served as a good discussion starter with the general public. The name tags became very popular — many commented that they would keep the name tag as a souvenir, and some alumni who could not attend even requested a custom name tag. The BSI alumni were also presented with a keepsake diamond-shaped paperweight recognizing their membership in this elite group.

Getting 40 community leaders in one room was a celebration and recognition of the importance of BSI for providing access to these leaders and their expertise. Both the alumni and general public were impressed with the scope of people in the room, including college professors, past and current city council members, the head of the Community Foundation, and Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* reporter David Cay Johnston.

Technology has expanded the BSI audiences and the options for reviewer presentations. Today, BSI sustains weekly audiences of 75 or more, and reaches another 20-30 remote viewers simultaneously on Facebook Live. Reviews are recorded and archived on YouTube for additional audiences to watch from their homes or offices.

Reviews are now held in Central Library’s Kate Gleason Auditorium, which is equipped with technology for video streaming and audio enhancement. Many of today’s reviewers use PowerPoint or videos to enhance their presentations with images, author interviews, music, and/or short informational videos expanding on their book’s content.

While people are receiving the information through new technologies, the message in 2016 and now remains the same as in 1956 — the best place for the general public to learn about issues from knowledgeable and engaging experts in their fields is at their local library!

For more information about Books Sandwiched In, visit [www.ffrpl.org](http://www.ffrpl.org).

To submit to Framework for Foundations, email [united@ala.org](mailto:united@ala.org).
AT&T Michigan honored with United for Libraries Major Benefactor Citation

United for Libraries, along with Troy (Mich.) Public Library and the Troy Communication Foundation, honored AT&T Michigan with a Major Benefactor Citation during an event at the library on June 29.

During the event, Troy Public Library (TPL) unveiled their Donor Wall to invited Endowment Fund donors. The TPL Endowment Fund first launched in September 2016 with a goal of reaching $20,000 by the end of 2016. The occasion marked how quickly that goal was surpassed and honored the first group of donors to ensure the endowment fund’s success.

The event was attended by more than 125 guests. Library Director Cathy Russ and Chairman of the Troy Community Foundation Doug Tietz thanked guests for their contributions and continued support. AT&T Michigan’s Major Benefactor Citation plaque was placed on the new Major Benefactors Wall, near the Donor Wall. TPL also received a $1,000 check from the Troy Women’s Association, which grew the Endowment Fund total to more than $60,000. TPL’s goal for 2017 is to reach $100,000.

The Donor Wall plaques are in the shape of book spines, with plenty of space available for future donors. Troy Councilwoman Edna Abrahim and Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Hodorek attended the event, and each have a book on the wall. Donations of $100 or more to the Endowment Fund ensure a “book” on the wall.

The Major Benefactor Citation is awarded by United for Libraries to recognize individuals, families, or corporations that have made major gifts to libraries. The Major Benefactor Citation comes with a plaque for the library and a plaque for the donor. For more information about the Major Benefactor Citation, visit www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/benefactor.

Madison (Wis.) Public Library Foundation receives $5,000 from American Transmission Co. for kitchen program

The Madison (Wis.) Public Library Foundation received a $5,000 gift from the American Transmission Co. (ATC), who signed on as a corporate partner of the Meadowridge Library kitchen program. The gift will be used to help a neighborhood experiencing homelessness, unemployment and food insecurity.

The partnership also has a volunteer component: ATC employees will have the opportunity to prepare sack lunches for school-age children, run a food drive at its offices to stock the kitchen’s cupboards, and help out at the kitchen’s community potluck suppers.

At least 30 children spend their free time each day in the library, and they often don’t return home for meals, said Meadowridge Supervising Librarian Alice Oakey. “In the summer, many kids are here from the moment the doors open in the morning until the lights are turned out in the evening,” she said.

Teaching kids how to prepare nutritious snacks is a goal of the Meadowridge kitchen program.

For many of the students who spend a substantial amount of time at Meadowridge, a significant barrier to academic success is an adequate supply of healthy food. After eating sack lunches provided by the library over spring break, children were noticeably more focused on reading, homework, and playing chess or board games.

The library also recognized that by offering food, it was able to build relationships with the kids, resulting in more reading in the library and better overall behavior.

“We support the Meadowridge kitchen program because it promotes community involvement, and creates a safe and fun environment for kids,” said Sarah Justus, External Affairs Manager at American Transmission Co. “We think it is important to connect with and support the communities we serve.”

In addition to the sack lunch program, which runs at various times of the year and has support from local churches, the kitchen serves meals to students several times a week through Al’s Supper Club. Albert Watson shops for the food, prepares and teaches the kids how to cook simple, healthy meals together. The children then eat together in a communal setting, with Watson

continued on page 13
Getting support for your library: the personal approach

Trustees have an important role to play in assuring that the library budget and goals are well supported by those who make the final decision. Most libraries are funded by the community’s governing authority. Whether a city council, a county commission, a select board, or other type of government body, it’s critical that you have a good relationship with them.

A face-to-face visit with your funder is the most effective way to communicate your message and keep the library top of mind. While community leaders have demanding schedules, they generally welcome opportunities to stay in touch with their constituents — especially those who are governing or advising the library. Here are some tips for making the most out of your meetings with your community officials.

Before You Go

Know your officials. The more you know about an official, the more effective you can be in communicating the library message.

- Check your officials’ websites to familiarize yourself with their committees and other interests.
- Consider ways to connect their issues to the library.
- Look at their voting record.

Fill out the “Know Your Community Official Worksheet” (available at www.ala.org/united/trustees/orgtools).

Know your message. To be effective, your message should show how support for the library benefits the community and is a part of the solution to many of the issues your community faces.

- Have a clear agenda. Tell your government official exactly why libraries remain essential in today’s world.
- Determine how you can connect library services with your official’s issues (consider his or her committees and voting record). Why should he or she care? For example, if crime is a major concern, talk about how teen programs keep kids off the streets and help them do better in school. If bringing in new business matters, talk about how healthy libraries signal a community that invests in its own well being.
- Tell your story. Think of brief heart-warming anecdotes of how your library has had an impact on a job seeker, a new business owner, or a new parent. Be ready to capture the unique, essential contributions your library makes in a clear and concise way.
- Keep the emphasis on the return on investment that libraries provide the community.

Back up your message with facts. Be ready to use statistics and other facts to provide context to the impact the library has in your community (or the impact any of legislation you may be discussing). Here are some examples:

- Information about databases and digital collections, including statistics on usage. Connect use of these databases to the expertise of librarians. Remind them that everything is NOT available on the Internet for free.
- Translate the number of job searches and resume searches into what that means for unemployment and social services spending — turning tax users into tax payers.
- Be knowledgeable about state standards for libraries. Bring a copy of salient points with you, if possible.
- Inform them about the fact that children who enter kindergarten without a book-rich experience enter behind those who have had books read to them, and that many never catch up. Talk about the cost of remediation and failure in comparison to the cost of children’s services with bountiful collections and experts on staff who can connect children and their parents or guardians with the right books for them at the right time. Talk about outreach services and storytimes.
- Let them know about your summer reading program and the cost of that compared to the cost of remediation needed in September (up to three months) for children who have not read over the summer break.
- Inform them that new business entrepreneurs use the library as business incubator space when they are starting up.

Practice your presentation with at least one person who is unfamiliar with your issues. They may point out inconsistencies or ask questions that you’ve overlooked. Edit accordingly.

Know who to bring:

- Fellow Trustees.
- Articulate library supporters.
- Someone for whom the library made a tangible difference.

Keep the group small enough to allow for an easy conversation and exchange of views.

At the Meeting

Call in advance to make an appointment, and always reconfirm right before your visit.

Make it easy for your official to support you. Keep your visits/presentations brief and to the point. Provide a one-page briefing sheet with a clear statement of the value of the public library to the community.

Know what to bring. Photos or examples of library users can bring your story to life. However, it’s important not to overwhelm official with materials. If you plan to bring items to your visit, be sure that they support your stories and help you further make the case.

continued on page 10

October 2017 9
Supplementary information may include:

• Library newsletters.
• Press coverage.
• Photos (if appropriate use a tablet — it gives a high tech and sophisticated feel).
• The percentage of the overall community operating budget spent on the library.
• The amount of money raised by Friends, grants, Foundation, or other outside sources.

In addition, don’t forget to say thank you — for the official’s support and for taking the time to see you.

Keep your delegation organized. Create a game plan before the meeting and be sure that everyone agrees on it before the visit.

• Choose a spokesperson who will lead the discussion and keep the conversation focused.
• Assign specific people to address key points, but try to let them speak to their own expertise. Remember, not everyone needs to speak to make a contribution.
• Be prepared to answer hard questions.
• Practice your presentations before your meeting.

Follow-Up

Stay in touch. Send them a thank you note. Begin to schedule regular visits. Call or drop by to chat, if that is an option. Send your library’s newsletter, annual report, and articles of interest. Invite them in. Invite your officials to your library. Provide appropriate contact names. Remember to make the visit a photo-opportunity, and then follow up when the photo is published.

Make sure community’s governing officials know about your successes. Send news clippings, copies of noteworthy thank you letters, and items that reflect well on the library’s contributions. Thank your officials. In person, in writing, and in public.

ALAn Trustee Citation applications due Jan. 8

United for Libraries gives the ALA Trustee Citation to a Trustee(s) annually. The application deadline is Jan. 8, 2018.

The ALA Trustee Citation, established in 1941 to recognize public library Trustees for distinguished service to library development, honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 American citizens who serve on library boards.

It is presented during the Opening General Session of the ALA Annual Conference. Recipients are expected to be present to accept the award, and expenses for attending must be borne by the recipients or their library organizations. The next ALA Annual Conference will be held in New Orleans, La., June 21-26, 2018 (for more information, visit www.alaannual.org).

Trustee service may have been performed on the local, state, regional, or national level or at a combination of levels. Equal consideration is given to Trustees of libraries of all sizes. Citations may not be awarded when there is no sufficiently outstanding achievement brought to the attention of the Awards Committee.

To apply for the ALA Trustee Citation, visit www.ala.org/united/grants/awards/trustees/trusteecitation. Those who have questions about applying can email united@ala.org or call United for Libraries at (800) 545-2433, ext. 2161.

United for Libraries to host Oct. 17 webinar

United for Libraries will present the webinar “Troubled Boards: Prevention and Survival” at 2 p.m. Eastern time on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Troubled library boards are increasingly common. Serving on a troubled board is stressful, and it can take the focus away from a board’s primary mission. What essential practices can prevent or minimize board problems? When a board does become dysfunctional, how can those involved survive and create change?

The webinar will be led by Sally Gardner Reed, former executive director of United for Libraries; Trustee Jo Beckwith of Illinois; and Stephen Bero, director of the Algonquin (Ill.) Public Library.

Participants will be invited to send in questions (anonymously if preferred) ahead of the webinar so that personal cases can be addressed during the question and answer period. The webinar will be archived so that access can be purchased in the future.

Webinar participants will learn:

• Best practices to prevent or minimize board problems.
• What can be done to get a wayward Trustee back on the right track.
• How to move forward as a high functioning team.

Sally Gardner Reed is the former executive director of United for Libraries, formerly executive director of Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA). Prior to accepting this position in 2002, she spent nearly 20 years in library administration running small public libraries in New England and the Midwest, and most recently she was the director of the Norfolk (Va.) Public Library. Reed is the author of eight books on library management, advocacy, volunteers, and fundraising and numerous articles for professional library journals. She has presented programs and workshops to hundreds of Friends of Library groups, boards of trustees, and librarian groups nationally and internationally. She is the 2000 recipient of ALA’s Herbert and Virginia White Award for promoting libraries and librarianship.

The cost of the webinar is $75, $50 United for Libraries members. To register, visit www.ala.org/united/training/webinars, call (800) 545-2433, ext. 5, or email registration@ala.org. Registration is limited for the live webinar.

continued from page 9

Tools for Trustees
Toolkit on hiring a new director available through COSLA

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) has made available a toolkit on hiring a new director (www.cosla.org/content.cfm/id/trustee_toolkit_hiring_a_new_library_director).

The toolkit is intended for use by library board members or Trustees when faced with the important task of hiring a new leader to run their library. Hiring a director is one of the primary responsibilities of many boards — a process is important for success, setting a trajectory for the future course of the library and the community it serves.

While the hiring process may be prescribed by local state and municipal laws and rules, the materials shared by COSLA were created and selected because they apply broadly to most situations. Sample tools and templates are a starting point for boards and are intended to be modified for local use.

The toolkit includes a checklist, timeline, sample job descriptions and ads, a recruiting newsletter template, sample interview questions, a reference check sample query form, sample letters to candidates not selected, and a sample offer letter. There are also links to reference materials from several states.

The toolkit was developed through COSLA's CE (Continuing Education) Connector project in April 2015, supported through state library volunteers and made possible in part through funding by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information, visit www.cosla.org/content.cfm/id/trustee_toolkit_hiring_a_new_library_director.

We want to hear from you! Please send United for Libraries your library and/or Friends or Foundation group’s newsletter.

For digital newsletters, please add united@ala.org to your distribution list.

For print newsletters, please mail to:

United for Libraries
859 W. Lancaster Ave.
Unit 2-1
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

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Book Club Central continued from page 1

As honorary chair of ALA Book Club Central, Ms. Parker will provide additional recommended titles throughout the year. Her next pick will be announced this fall.

On learning No One Is Coming to Save Us was selected for ALA Book Club Central, Ms. Powell Watts said, “Since I was a child, I have spent many happy hours in libraries. The library offered me respite, refuge and an opportunity to experience the beauty and complexity of the world and its people. I am particularly thrilled and honored for my book to be selected by Ms. Parker and the ALA.”

No One Is Coming to Save Us is an exploration of the American dream among African Americans in the South. A story about the ghosts of the past and departed, as well as the lives of the living, the novel is a complex, post-integrationist tale that charts new territory. Publishers Weekly wrote, “… [it] hits home — and hard” and “Watts powerfully depicts the struggles many Americans face trying to overcome life’s inevitable disappointments.” Booklist stated, “This feels like an important, largely missing part of our ongoing American story.”

Ms. Powell Watts is an associate professor of English at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., and has won numerous awards, including a Whiting Award, a Pushcart Prize and the Southern Women’s Writers Award for Emerging Writer of the Year. She is the author of the short story collection We Are Taking Only What We Need.

Book Club Central Sponsoring Partners are Booklist, the book review magazine of the ALA; United for Libraries, a division of the ALA; and Libraries Transform, the ALA’s public awareness campaign, along with Corporate Platinum Partner Penguin Random House. Other Book Club Central Corporate Partners include NoveList and OverDrive.

For more information about Book Club Central, including book club tips, author interviews, and more, visit www.bookclubcentral.org.
The mission of Friends of Smyrna (Tenn.) Library is to focus public attention on the library and to stimulate the use of the library’s resources and services. Public libraries are the ultimate destination for learning, information, and fun for children and adults as well.

Our goal is to support and cooperate with the library in promoting literacy, developing special library programs, and providing library materials beyond the regular resources of the library. It is the Friends’ purpose to promote the interest and welfare of Smyrna Public Library as a cultural, educational, and recreational asset to the town of Smyrna and Rutherford County. In keeping with the strategic plan for the library system, the Friends seek to provide a safe, comfortable, and engaging environment for the patrons of Smyrna Public Library.

Smyrna Public Library has now been open in its present location almost 18 years, in which time the population it serves has more than doubled. Wear and tear have taken their toll. In the summer of 2014, the board of Friends of Smyrna Library established a committee to investigate the scope and cost of revitalization. As a result, the Spruce Up Campaign began in April 2015 with two prominent community leaders, Ginny Williams and Kenneth Victory, as honorary co-chairs. The goal was to raise $100,000 to begin the refurbishment.

The kickoff event was on April 24, 2015 — planting a tree in the park adjacent to the library. Well attended by library board and Foundation members, library staff, Friends volunteers, local dignitaries, and interested citizens, the event set the tone for a collaborative effort. The Friends found support from the local government, businesses, and civic organizations, as well as individuals and patrons of the library.

What followed was a series of informative meetings led by members of the Spruce Up committee with a PowerPoint presentation designed by one of the Friends’ committee members. The community rallied. From a birthday party where the requested gift was a donation to the Spruce Up campaign, to fish fries, to friendly challenges between businesses, the local community saw the need and stepped up to help. A committee member fashioned a five-gallon water bottle into a “wise old tree,” encouraging people to drop in coins to help recarpet the library. It sat at the check-out desk and was very popular, especially with children.

The local newspaper did a couple of articles about the campaign. It was one of these articles that caught the eye of a local real estate agent. Her firm, Keller Williams, has a R.E.D. Day each year (Renew, Energize, and Donate). They choose a local nonprofit to help. The Spruce Up Campaign was submitted for consideration and eventually selected.

Of course the full project, which we knew was going to be in two, three maybe even four stages, was far too large for their one-day commitment, but phase I, the children’s library and the program room seemed the place to start. The real estate firm involved their contractors to provide the expertise, much of the materials, and the skilled labor.

R.E.D. Day turned into a four-day marathon of moving, painting, cleaning, and reassembling. The library was closed to the public. Volunteers from Keller Williams and the Friends worked together to remove everything from the children’s library, including the circulation desk and the office/storage room, and the community room; paint; reassemble shelving and reshelve books; and reestablish order to main desk and office areas. When it was finished, the area was totally repainted; there was new tile in the community room and new carpet in the children’s library. The library had a new office and a charming storytime/play area for the children. It was a herculean task, but proudly everyone showed up for the grand reopening the following Monday.

By June 15, 2016, the Friends had met our fundraising goal for phase I and had completed most of the remodel for that area. Phase II will be to repaint the remaining library areas. Phase III, recarpeting the main library, will require additional fundraising, as the library will need to be closed and all materials, books, computers, shelving, furniture, etc. will be removed from the premises. The Friends are striving toward complying with our strategic plan goal of providing a safe, comfortable, and inviting environment in our library.

This project was, and still is, an ambitious one. It is the Friends’ major project at this time. However, it is only one of the many projects that the Friends help to sponsor, which include an ongoing used book sale, a movie license, adult winter reading program, summer children’s program, summer reading program, staff appreciation gift cards, Scholastic Book sale, and special events throughout the year.

Because of the Friends efforts, the enthusiasm of volunteers, and the dedication of members, Friends of Smyrna Library were chosen as Tennessee Friends of the Library for 2017. This honor goes to the volunteers, of course, but reflects the attitude, cooperation, and support of the library staff and administration.
United for Libraries has made available a free webcast on “Celebrating National Friends of Libraries Week: Promoting Your Group and Library.”

Plan for National Friends of Libraries Week, Oct. 15-21, 2017. This webcast offers ideas on how to celebrate the week within your group, library, and community. Hear about National Friends of Libraries Week Award winning projects, and find out how to apply. Learn about the ALA Store’s new customizable “Friend Your Library” products designed specifically for Friends.

To view the webcast and learn more about National Friends of Libraries Week, visit www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek.

This year marks the 12th annual National Friends of Libraries Week. National Friends of Libraries Week offers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate Friends. Use the time to promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to increase membership.

National Friends of Libraries Week is also an excellent opportunity for your library and board of Trustees to recognize Friends for the help and support of the library. Find a sample press release, a sample letter to the editor, and marketing materials, and explore ideas and resources for Friends groups, libraries, and state Friends groups at www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek.

Applicants must be current Friends group members through Jan. 31, 2018. Applicants must provide a 1-page minimum (2-page maximum) summary of all activities and efforts in conjunction with the celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week, Oct. 15-21, 2017.

Applications are judged on the following:
• Creativity and innovation.
• Involvement of Friends, library staff, Trustees, and/or advisory committee.
• Recognition of Friends group.
• Promotion of Friends group to the community, school, students, and/or faculty.

For more information on the awards, visit www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/friends/friendsweek. Friends groups who have won this award in the past, and their projects, can be viewed on the page.

For future dates for National Friends of Libraries Week, visit www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek.

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### National Friends of Libraries Week Award applications due Dec. 4

United for Libraries is coordinating the 12th annual National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 15-21, 2017. National Friends of Libraries Week of -fers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate Friends, who use the time to promote their group in the community, to raise awareness, and to increase membership.

United for Libraries Friends group members are eligible to apply for National Friends of Libraries Week Awards. Two groups will be awarded $250 each in honor of their celebrations during the week.

For more information on the awards, visit www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/friends/friendsweek. Friends groups who have won this award in the past, and their projects, can be viewed on the page.

For future dates for National Friends of Libraries Week, visit www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek.

### Madison Public Library Foundation continued from page 8

leading discussions about life choices and his experience growing up as an African-American male in the United States. (He works in the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center.)

The library also works with neighborhood organizations to host community suppers. Food is prepared by the organizing committee, or the library hires a neighborhood cook. The supper discussions include such topics as neighborhood gardens, voting, and police safety advice. Sometimes, City Council representatives for the neighborhood attend.

This piece originally appeared in the summer 2017 newsletter of the Madison Public Library Foundation. Reprinted with permission.

The mission of Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO; www.okfriends.net) is “Strengthening Libraries through Friends of Libraries.” FOLIO has served Oklahoma library Friends and libraries since 1978, a result of the Governor’s Conference on Libraries, which called for the creation of a statewide Friends group. Current President Dr. Karen Neurohr states, “I stand on the shoulders of giants who founded FOLIO and established its good work! I first became aware of FOLIO through their awards luncheon held annually during the Oklahoma Library Association conference. The luncheons typically feature a popular Oklahoma author or artist, and recognize several award-winners. FOLIO’s newsletters, social media, website, and activities such as Literary Landmarks™ also help promote the organization throughout Oklahoma.”

**FOLIO Awards and Activities**

FOLIO’s oldest awards are Seed Grants (1993). These grants help citizens establish or re-invigorate Oklahoma Friends’ groups. Oklahoma libraries, nonprofit organizations, or individuals can serve as fiscal agents of the grant. These funds can be used to help library Friends with the expenses of incorporation (obtaining 501(c)(3) status, or obtaining promotional materials and supplies). The current grant amount is $425. Sixty-three seed grants have been awarded since 1993.

In 2001, FOLIO began recognizing two “Best Friends” awards to Oklahoma Friends groups who demonstrate exemplary success in support of their local library. The John Harvey Best Friends Award recognizes a Friends group in a city with a population of less than 10,000, and the Oklahoma Best Friends Award recognizes a Friends group in a city with a population of more than 10,000. Currently, the award amount is set at $500. Since inception, 30 awards have been presented.

Also in 2001, FOLIO began coordinating Literary Landmarks™ in Oklahoma. Thirteen sites honoring twelve writers have been dedicated. FOLIO submits applications to United for Libraries, pays for half the cost of the plaque, and collaborates with local groups for sponsors, partners, publicity, and the ceremony.

Through a competitive application process, FOLIO offers scholarship opportunities to full or part-time employees of a public, academic, or special library in Oklahoma who are in the process of furthering their education. Since 2006, 47 scholarships have been awarded. The current award amount is $500.

In 2017, FOLIO is expanding the awards program by instituting a new award for exemplary Friends of Libraries Week activities in Oklahoma. Modeled after the United for Libraries Friends Week awards and FOLIO’s Best Friends awards, two awards of $200 will be available this year.

FOLIO’s other activities include providing outreach ambassadors to help promote, expand, and offer guidance to Friends’ groups, and co-sponsoring the Oklahoma Center for the Book’s Reading Roundup author and illustrator tours in Oklahoma and the Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel Poetry Contest for Oklahoma rural high school youth.

FOLIO is a 501(c)(3) organization. Several sources of funds including membership dues, grants, donations, and annual distributions from the FOLIO Endowment (established in 2009) help sponsor FOLIO’s awards and activities. In 2016, FOLIO received a Smart Investing @ Your Library national grant, administered jointly by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association. Through grants, exhibits, and librarian training, this project supports efforts to provide library patrons with access to effective, unbiased financial education resources.

*continued on page 20*
Friends of the Libraries, education and consideration: an executive assistant’s first ALA Annual Conference

BY LISA KIPPUR
Executive assistant to the deans, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

I have been working at the University of Colorado Boulder for 25 years but only recently started working for the University Libraries, as the executive assistant for the deans, of which there are three. Having had more than 10 years of experience as an executive assistant to university administration, and prior experience as an associate director of a career center on campus, I had a sense of what a fundraising board did, and how I could support it administratively.

In my first week on the job, I met with the president of our Friends of the Libraries board. We met at the Boulder Public Library, and I was very excited to see what sort of expectations she would have for me and what my role would be. She simply said to me, “You do everything.” In my state of shock and horror, I did not ask her what she did as a board member; I think I was too stunned at her answer to my question. I was not sure if my predecessors had taken on all of the board responsibilities themselves, as I was unsure of the board’s history. Never did I imagine I would be the board, the officers and the event coordinator, so my quest for understanding the University Friends of the Libraries began.

Shortly after this meeting, I reviewed the bylaws and constitution of the Friends organization. There were board positions listed in the document for president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. That made me feel much better, but when I went to my first board meeting a couple of weeks later, after hours, the board consisted of eight women in their 70s, 80s, and 90s (we actually have identical twins in their 90s). The monthly meetings appeared to be a time for socializing, not a working board, and when I met with each member individually and asked them to describe their participation on the board and their office on the board, they didn’t know they had the office and just wanted to volunteer.

Not knowing the library culture, I went on a quest to find out about other university library Friends organizations. In total, I communicated with 14 universities, and it became abundantly clear that there needed to be changes to our Friends of the Libraries board. I learned that the majority of universities also have an aging Friends groups, and some had even disbanded their groups and advised I do the same. I spoke with many development directors and deans, but not one executive assistant.

Ever determined, I met with our development staff member, who devotes 5% of her time to the library. We worked on an annual letter and put together a professional thank-you note for all of the donors to the libraries, signed by the dean. In previous years, the typical fundraising had brought in approximately $12k. My first year on the job that letter alone brought in $40k. I then put together some marketing materials with the library communications director and away we went. So the fundraising went great, but the board not so much. Enter the United for Libraries/SAGE Academic Friend Conference Grant.

I applied, as I felt I had a pretty good case, and really needed help from professionals in the field. Ultimately, I was chosen for the award, which I was honored to receive. In addition, I was asked to be on a panel as part of the upcoming ALA Annual Conference. Scared and excited, I continued pursuing my goal to turn our Friends organization around. Two recent efforts included partnering with the Boulder Public Library on an event, and our Special Collections and Archives department on another event.

On my first day at the ALA Annual Conference, I went to a wonderful session called Nuts & Bolts for Trustees, Friends, and Foundations, presented by United for Libraries. I had an amazing breakout session with Charles Hanson, director of library services for Kettering University Libraries in Flint, Mich. He gave me some great advice, including the fact that the success of a Friends group is dependent upon support from the development office, without which proceeding on the fundraising front is virtually impossible. His story was all too familiar to me, as his administration decided to eliminate their Friends group. He advised that I set up a structure for our Friends group. He also mentioned that the executive assistant in his office is in charge of the roster, but it’s really the director or the dean who coordinates the Friends group. He mentioned that the structure of the group should be based on a SWOT analysis, and getting strong members on the board is key. He said there is a chance — after I analyze our Friends group — I may decide to dissolve it, but to make sure I redirect the board members to another volunteer opportunity, so they continue to feel needed.
**Fundraising**

**Eastham, Mass.**

The Friends of the Eastham Library began selling a new canvas tote bag, introduced in November at the Eastham Turnip Festival, featuring an original design is by Eastham Public Library’s own Freya Hemley. The cost is $15. The Friends’ Turnip Cookbook, with original recipes donated by library staff and patrons, is also for sale for $15. Both are available at the library, with proceeds benefitting Friends of the Eastham Library programs.

The Friends of the Eastham (Mass.) Library are selling a new canvas tote bag with an original logo and design by Freya Hemley.

**Madison, Wis.**

The Madison Public Library Foundation held its fourth annual Rock & Read fundraiser on Sun., June 18, from 3-6 p.m. in the Capital Brewery Bier Garten. This event featured autographs and photos with the University of Wisconsin Spirit Squad, live music by Yid Vicious and Sean Michael Dargan, free book giveaways, Summer Reading Clubs signup, crafts by the Monroe Street Arts Center, refreshments, and Capital beer for sale. All proceeds from this event helped fund the Madison Public Library Summer Reading Clubs and summer youth literacy efforts, particularly for children from low-income households. Admission was free with a $5 suggested donation. Also available were $100 Family Sponsorship Packages, which included event admission for six, seven raffle tickets, six ice cream tickets, and recognition at the event.

**Northampton, Mass.**

The 24th Northampton Garden Tour was held Sat., June 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Six delightful gardens were on display for this fundraiser for the Friends of Forbes Library, Inc. The Garden Tour is intended to inspire and educate everyday gardeners with plantings in a variety of appealing and unique landscaping styles and creative use of hardscape. At each garden, there are descriptions of the plantings and garden guides are on hand to answer questions. Tickets come with directions to this self-guided tour of gardens within easy driving distance of the library. Tickets for the tour were $15 in advance and $20 on the day of the tour.

**Altadena, Calif.**

The Altadena Public Library’s 50th Anniversary Committee presented “Taste of ‘Dena” on Sat., Sept. 23, 7-9:30 p.m. The evening featured wine, beer, and spirit tastings; amuse-bouche from local restaurants and caterers, and prize drawings. Proceeds benefitted the development of a community oriented, interactive, outdoor space around the main library building.

**Milton, Ga.**

The top sponsors of the 2016 Milton Tour of Homes recently received recognition from the Friends of the Milton Library (FOML) for their support of the tour, which raised money for the organization and its outreach programs. The top-level tour sponsors each received their own engraved gold leaf that will be placed on the library’s Giving Tree located in the building’s atrium. “This allowed us to say thank you once more to our generous sponsors,” said Marsha Spear, Friends of the Milton Library board member and 2017 Milton Tour of Homes chair. “The Holiday Tour of Homes was very successful and we hope our sponsors, and others in the community, will support the Tour once again this year so we can raise even more money for these valuable FOML programs.” More than $20,000 was raised from the Tour in 2016 and went toward supporting some of the library programs, including: STEM and STEAM programs, Lego Club, Astronomy Club program supplies, chess boards and timers, Teen Advisory Board meetings, Youth Book Club, Wildlife Program, Children’s Music Performance, Atlanta Audubon Youth programs, summer reading, as well as capital items such as additional shelving and chairs. The 2017 Milton Tour of Homes will be held Oct. 21-22. For more information, visit www.miltongatourofhomes.com.

**Brainerd, Minn.**

On March 20, 2017, literati in Brainerd dined on the “Mae Holland-aise Burger”: a truly unique entrée composed of bacon, cheddar, hollandaise drizzle, and a heaping side of literary inside jokes. Mae Holland is the plucky protagonist in The Circle by Dave Eggers. It is only one of many one-of-kind dishes prepared in recent months for the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library and their guests as part of “Books, Burgers and Brews.” The Friends inaugurated this innovative program in hopes of spreading the group’s fundraising and messaging to an inviting locale outside the library. “Books, Burgers and Brews” is held at Prairie Bay, a popular farm-to-table eatery not far from downtown. Each
month, the restaurant’s book-loving head chef crafts a menu themed to that month's Friends book club selection. Attendance now tops 40 during any given month. Recent installments have included the nonfiction hit *Hidden Figures* (Margot Lee Shetterly), which centers around African American women at NASA in the 1960s and inspired the spicy pepper “Blast Off Burger,” and *The Nest* (Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney), namesake of the fried onion Nest Egg Burger. Each month’s dinner is accompanied by a short program, including a slideshow presentation (or live author Skype discussion). This project was nominated for the Minnesota Association of Library Friends’ Eve Nordley Award.

**Programs**

**Madison, Wis.**

A Madison Public Library Foundation grant funded two May events at the library as part of the Library Takeover initiative. Library Takeover encouraged the community to “take over” the library by providing space, time and resources for community members to host their own events, helping to set the stage for future library programming that involves and reflects all of Madison. About 80 members of the Madison writing community came together at Central Library on Fri., May 5, for “Share the Word.” The event allowed local poets, writers, hip-hop artists, storytellers, and spoken word performers to share ideas, showcase their works, and spawn innovative collaborations. The second project celebrated the Madison Indian-American community’s heritage and contributions to the city with “Namaste Madison,” an all-day event on Sat., May 13, at Central Library. Visitors enjoyed children’s activities, panel discussions, STE(A)M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) demonstrations, a poster exhibit, and Indian cooking demonstrations and sampling.

**Eastham, Mass.**

The Eastham Public Library’s Youth Services staff began offering an outdoor science program, My Own Back Yard (MOBY), for grades 3 through 8. It’s modeled on several already up and running at southeastern Massachusetts libraries. Twenty themed backpacks encourage exploration of natural surroundings, each containing thematic books, activity sheets, equipment and more. Phase 1 included Animal Tracks, Bird Watching, Camp-ing, Insect Explorer, Organic Gardening, Pond Life, Renewable Energy, Seashore Explorer, Stargazing, Sticks & Stones, A Walk in the Woods, and Weather. Phase 2 will feature Bat Boxing, Composting, Invasive Species, Nature Journaling, Nature Photography, Rockhounding, Snow Day, and Wild Plants. MOBY is designed to encourage children and their parents to discover the world around them by checking out kid-friendly backpacks full of STEM-themed goodies for them to take along on their exploring. The backpack shows them things to do and becomes a learning experience for the entire family.

**Roslindale, Mass.**

The Friends of Roslindale Branch Library have formed a Racial Justice and Inclusiveness Committee to plan educational events, discussions, and presentations related to race, ethnicity, religion, and culture. The Friends also created a special list of books related to these topics ([http://friendsofroslindalelibrary.org/2016/12/20/race-inclusion-book-list](http://friendsofroslindalelibrary.org/2016/12/20/race-inclusion-book-list)). As part of the Race and Inclusion Summer Reading Series, the Friends hosted a discussion on Phoebe Robinson’s *You Can’t Touch My Hair* on Thu., Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m. The Friends purchased copies of the book for patrons to borrow on a first come, first served basis.

**Maynard, Mass.**

The Friends of the Maynard Library started a four-event cookbook club to showcase fresh local foods from the Maynard Farmers Market, and great

**2018 Book Lover’s Calendars available**

United for Libraries members can purchase the 2018 *Book Lover’s Calendar* at a greatly reduced price. Sell these calendars at a deep discount to Friends, use them as an incentive for joining your group, in recognition of volunteer hours, or as prizes. A great fundraiser, these calendars are so popular they practically sell themselves.

The retail price for the 2018 *Book Lover’s Calendar* is $14.99; the discounted rate for United for Libraries members is $3.50 per calendar. There is a 30-copy minimum order (no maximum), and calendars must be purchased in increments of 30. Calendars are non-returnable.

Shipping and handling is included in the cost of the order. Other Workman calendars may be added to your order at 50% off the suggested retail price (plus 7% shipping and handling). A wide selection of wall and Page-A-Day calendars can be viewed online at [www.workman.com](http://www.workman.com). Stock your book store with a selection of calendars offered at a special discount.

For more details, including ordering information, log into the [Friends & Foundations Zone](http://www.ala.org/united) of the Trustee Zone at [www.ala.org/united](http://www.ala.org/united).
cookbooks from the library. These meetings that included a potluck meal and discussion were so popular that the Friends continued on through this summer. The only problem was that meetings were held during the day, so many people could not attend. In August, the Friends hosted the cookbook club in the evening. Participants prepared a dish of their choice from the selected cookbook *Mexico One Plate at a Time* by Rick Bayless. Place settings and drinks were provided.

**Altadena, Calif.**

Altadena Public Library hosted “Must Love Books: Speed Dating Between the Stacks” on Fri., Aug. 25, 6-8 p.m. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres were served and drinks will be available for purchase from Altadena Ale & Wine House. The speed dating session was immediately followed by a live music and dance concert with guitarist El Twanguero.

**Brattleboro, Vt.**

Stung by the many recent attacks on journalists, journalism, the First Amendment and the importance of a free press, the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, Vt., put together a unique coalition consisting of the local daily newspaper, the local weekly newspaper, the Friends, the library and the downtown Art Deco movie theater. Then the Friends began a journalism film festival. They started with the 1952 black-and-white Humphrey Bogart drama *Deadline U.S.A.* On a bright Sunday afternoon in May the Friends attracted about 60 people, who watched the film and stayed afterward to talk about newspapers and journalism with the news editor of the weekly. After a summer hiatus so the theater can show action movies, the series is returning in the fall with *All the President’s Men, Ace in the Hole, Sweet Smell of Success*, and, hopefully, *Spotlight*.

**Booksales**

**Eureka, Calif.**

In a special resolution, the board of supervisors of Humboldt County recently recognized 96-year-old Friends of the Redwood Library volunteer Frances Rapin for her work on the Friends’ Serendipity Book Store. Begun by Rapin, the store opened in 1999 and has raised more than $500,000 for the library since then.

**San Francisco, Calif.**

The Community Literacy Program — CLiP for short — is the new name for what has been known over the years as the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library’s Book Operations program. The new name identifies the evolution and growth of a core program area of Friends, and builds on a 42-year commitment to serving the mission of the San Francisco Public Library: getting books in the hands and homes of San Franciscans. CLiP’s four fundamental goals balance literacy and a national model for environmental responsibility. These goals are:

- to increase access to low-cost books and media through multiple venues of convenience and affordability
- to redirect free books from the traditional market to underserved and low-income children and families
- to promote literary engagement through free literary activities
- to keep more than one million books and media out of landfill and recycling plants each year.

To inaugurate CLiP, the Friends are reaching out to corporations and individuals who share the community commitment served by these goals, to become founding donors for its CLiP Champion Circle. Founding donors can take advantage of several dynamic benefits associated with The Big Book Sale, along with other benefits all year long.

**Awards**

**Belleville, Kan.**

Sara Van Horn of Friends of the Belleville Library has been named Kansas Friend of the Year by Friends of Kansas Libraries. She has been a Friends of Belleville Library board member for many years, and help’s with the library’s preschool storyline each week. She volunteers with nearly every Friends event, and organized a successful vintage jewelry sale in 2015. The award includes a $50 gift to the Friends of Belleville Library in her honor.

**Northampton, Mass.**

On Wed., June 14, the Trustees of Forbes Library presented Mikki Michon and Jarrett Krosoczka with the Gertrude P. Smith Trustees Award. This was the 30th annual award ceremony, established to recognize community members who have given exception volunteer service to the library. Members of the public were invited to attend the short program in the Coolidge Museum on the library’s second floor, followed by a reception in the Hosmer Gallery. Mikki Michon faithfully served for more than 15 years on the Friends of Forbes Library Board, and Jarrett Krosoczka is a *New York Times* bestselling children’s book author and illustrator who created a mural for the library.

**Outreach**

**Columbus, Ohio**

Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) partnered with Columbus City Schools (CCS) and Panera Bread to collect new and gently used kids’ books for the Books for Breakfast program. The goal of the program is to provide the more than 26,000 boys and girls in CCS K-5 with books to read at the start of their day. Donated books will be available when students ride the bus, eat breakfast at school or want something new to read during designated morning reading times. To
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October 2017 19

kick off the program, on Tues., Aug. 1, CML, CCS and Panera Bread held a special collection event at Panera Bread. Customers who dropped off new or gently used kids’ books between 7 a.m. and noon received a coupon for one free breakfast sandwich at Panera Bread. For those unable to make it to Panera on Aug. 1, collection boxes were available at all 23 CML locations from Aug. 1-31. Monetary donations can be made at any Columbus area Panera Bread location. Last year, CML collected approximately 8,000 kids’ books in support of the program.

United for Libraries designates the Sonoma County (Calif.) Library a Literary Landmark in honor of Charles M. Schulz

United for Libraries, in partnership with the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, designated the Sonoma County Library a Literary Landmark in honor of Charles M. Schulz on Aug. 10.

As a resident of Sonoma County for more than 40 years, Schulz (1922-2000) is remembered for bringing to life stories of the Peanuts gang, including Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Lucy, who are seen through comic strips, books, television and the big screen.

The Schulz family, including Charles Schulz’s wife Jean Schulz, joined the community in dedicating the Literary Landmark, which is at the entrance of the Central Library in Santa Rosa.

The Central Library is a space where many discover Schulz’s work and are greeted by Chuck (Charlie Brown), an honorary resident of the county himself, as they walk through the doors of the branch. The Literary Landmark dedication coincided with the 15th anniversary of the Charles M. Schulz Museum.

The Literary Landmark program is administered by United for Libraries. Since the conception of the program in 1986, more than 160 Literary Landmarks across the United States have been dedicated. Any library or group may apply for a Literary Landmark through United for Libraries; visit www.ala.org/united/products_services/literarylandmarks.

Friends on Campus continued from page 15

as part of the university family. Great advice!

The United for Libraries panel I was asked to serve on was called “Board Development for Library Trustees, Friends Groups and Foundations.” One of the speakers had a board development matrix, which highlighted obtaining board members based on experience, skills, and interest. This was definitely a great takeaway from the session.

The following day I attended the United for Libraries program “Engaging Book Clubs in Your Community.” There were some great ideas on starting book clubs. Now I’m totally rethinking my Friends group focus and bouncing the idea of starting a Friends book club group, so we keep those on the board engaged in something they love to do — read. Book clubs were a highlight of the conference, as Sarah Jessica Parker was named the honorary chair of Book Club Central (www.bookclubcentral.com), as well as a lifetime board member of United for Libraries. Actually, seeing Sarah Jessica Parker was a big highlight for me as well!

Attending the conference gave me an appreciation for the library professionals I work with every day; it was a great opportunity to understand more about librarians and the profession as a whole. I am so grateful to SAGE for taking me under her wing — what a great lady!

I am looking forward to attending and volunteering at ALA Midwinter Meeting (www.alamidwinter.org), which is going to be hosted in my backyard — Denver.

I would encourage anyone, who has not been to the ALA Annual Conference and who works with a Friends group on a university level, to apply for this grant — it’s truly life changing.
Notable Quotables

“My mom was a single mom and she would take us to the library. I mean, where else in the world could you go and be welcomed with these five little kids?”

—Stephanie Powell Watts, No One is Coming to Save Us, 2017 (Book Club Central inaugural pick by Sarah Jessica Parker; visit www.bookclubcentral.org).

“It is no exaggeration to say that I could not do what I do without public libraries. I am a long-time abuser of interlibrary loan, which I think of as nothing less than a miracle. The internet is a tease: ‘Yes, that old obscure book is out there! But nowhere you can get your hands on it!’ Public libraries deliver. I love them strongly.”


“Wherever I live, the library becomes my second home. Walking through the doors, I know that there are books calling to me that will make me laugh, stir my passions, and comfort my heart. And the people you meet there are wonderful.”

—Wendy Jones, An Extraordinary Life: Josephine E. Jones, 2017

“A library is the home for the imagination.”

—Lisa Scottoline, Exposed, 2017

For more library quotes, visit http://libraryquotes.org.

FOLIO continued from page 14

FOLIO’s Governance and Leadership

FOLIO has an all-volunteer governing board of 21 people who meet quarterly and an advisory board of 11 people. The Executive Committee includes the president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, plus one additional member, all of whom serve two-year terms. Incoming presidents hold biennial planning retreats to articulate a vision and goals for their presidency. FOLIO advisory board members include the director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, executive director of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, and president of the Oklahoma Library Association.

FOLIO recognizes its leadership in two ways. First, the FOLIO Hall of Fame award honors outstanding and dedicated service to FOLIO. Currently 33 names are inscribed on a plaque that hangs at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Second, FOLIO’s Board of Directors may grant emeritus status to retiring board members. Seven members have received emeritus status.

Recognition of FOLIO

FOLIO’s efforts over the years have not gone unnoticed. In 2015, the Oklahoma Library Association awarded FOLIO the Citizen’s Recognition Award, which recognizes “a sound and special interest in libraries and library services on a state-wide level” and “effective and important service to the advancement of libraries over a period of time.” In 2012, the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book presented FOLIO with the Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service Award which “honors contributions to Oklahoma’s Literary Community.” In 2010, FOLIO received the Carl Gauer Library Champion Award given for “demonstration of repeated conscientious endeavors toward libraries, library staff, Trustees and professional activities” from the Mountain Plains Library Association. In 1998, Baker & Taylor presented FOLIO with the Outstanding State Friends Group award.

Looking Ahead

The FOLIO board and members are grateful to United for Libraries and all of their wonderful resources. As FOLIO enters its fifth decade of service in Oklahoma, they pledge to continue striving to “Strengthen Libraries and ideas or implementation, visit www.librariestransform.org.

Libraries Transform continued from page 5

lead” presidential initiative will be a key focus for Libraries Transform over the coming year, with campaign messaging highlighting the leadership of libraries and library workers in their communities. A new “Because” statement reflecting this focus, “Because libraries make leaders,” is now available in the Libraries Transform toolkit.

Recent Libraries Transform success stories include the Missoula (Mont.) Public Library, which utilized the campaign toolkit in their successful $30 million referendum campaign for a new building; the Bay Shore Middle School library in Long Island, N.Y., which adapted the 2016-2017 “expert in the library” campaign theme to recognize the talents of their students; and the Ohio Library Council (OLC), which chose “Ohio Libraries Transform” as their 2016 OLC Legislative Day theme.

For more information about FOLIO, visit www.okfriends.net. For more information about state Friends groups, visit www.ala.org/united/friends/state friends.
Jeff Kamin of the Saint Paul, Minn. book club show Books & Bars on reading, and why libraries are better than Netflix

BY KIM HORTON
Director of Marketing and Communications, Friends of the Saint Paul (Minn.) Public Library

Books & Bars in Saint Paul, Minn., is a twist on traditional book clubs. Open to the public and held in bars, this moderated book club show “provides a unique atmosphere for a lively discussion of interesting authors, fun people, good food and social lubrication with liquid courage.”

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library has been a supporting partner of Books & Bars since the Saint Paul version started in 2011.

Creator, moderator, and host Jeff Kamin tells us a bit about this almost 14-year series and why he loves it so much.

How did the idea for Books & Bars start?

I’ve always loved books, writing, and literature. I really wanted to join a book club, but actually none of the groups I talked to would have me. They said I wouldn’t like their groups because they didn’t really talk much about the books, they just drank wine.

So while I was at City Pages, I was working with an independent book store, and we decided to try a different version of the book club. We thought “let’s make it public and bring strangers together to talk about books.”

We started in the basement of the Green Mill in Uptown, and it’s grown from there. We’ve read 175 books as a group, and we’re now in both Minneapolis, soon to be back at Bryant Lake Bowl, and Saint Paul at Amsterdam Bar & Hall.

How do you choose your books?

I sit down and start a list, usually one season at a time. I ask the question, are these books “discussion-worthy?” I’m usually looking at new paperbacks — I want them to be accessible to everyone — and I really try to mix them up to appeal to both men and women, and to represent diverse authors and diverse interests. These are not “Jeff’s favorite books” that I try to push on people — I’m reading them for the first time as well. Then I let people vote on the books.

Why do you love the Books & Bars concept?

We all read the same book, but none of us read the same book. Everyone interprets things in their own way, and when they come together to talk about it — that’s what makes it interesting.

Everyone is welcome. You don’t have to read the book. You don’t even have to talk if you don’t want to, though I like see a “fresh hand” from someone who’s never spoken. You just show up and enjoy.

I really think it creates a sense of community. I’ve been doing this for over 13 years; there’s a sense of longevity. I’ve seen people leave and come back [to the series]. I’ve seen lasting friendships made. People have gotten married after meeting at Books & Bars. I’ve even officiated a wedding because of it.

What has surprised you about the series?

It’s people’s willingness to trust in a book they’ve never read or wouldn’t normally pick for themselves, because they know it will be worth it. People have sometimes told me that after our discussions they would rate a book higher because they now see it in a different way.

Why do you love reading?

You can connect with someone else whom you’ll probably never meet and who may be different than you, but with whom you have something in common because you’re reading their words. You’re an active participant in this art form. You’re creating the picture inside your head, and it’s your interpretation that gives it meaning.

Why do you love libraries?

I walk to Central [Library] a few times every week — it’s my lunchtime routine. I love that I can reserve books and videos online and pick them up right there. [The Library] is really like the new video store. Their “lucky day” section with the newest Blu-rays and books is the best. It’s better than Netflix, because I have a chance of getting the newest titles. I love it.

The above piece was reprinted with permission from the blog of the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library at https://thefriends.org/blog/2017/06/28/jeff-kamin-on-books-bars-reading-and-why-libraries-are-better-than-netflix.


**Book Club Choices**

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**Little Fires Everywhere**  
*By Celeste Ng*

Shaker Heights, Ohio, is a planned community, and proud residents Mr. and Mrs. Richardson have strictly planned their lives as well, from their careers to their perfectly manicured home.

However, their four teenage children — Moody, who lives up to his name; Trip, a self-involved jock; smart but impulsive Lexie, and troubled Izzy — don’t always do what is expected of them. When Mrs. Richardson rents out an apartment she owns to a mysterious artist, Mia, and her daughter Pearl, the two families become intertwined in ways no one could anticipate, and the effects are life-changing for everyone.

This suspenseful and satisfying novel, which takes place in the pre-cell phone, Bill Clinton-era 1990s, will have book clubs discussing everything from class and wealth to parenthood, adoption, privacy, the limits of friendship, and family bonds.


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**Love and Other Consolation Prizes**  
*by Jamie Ford*

This novel is inspired by the true story of a boy who was auctioned off as a prize at the 1909 World’s Fair in Seattle. From this author Jamie Ford builds a story around Ernest Young, an orphan who is half-Chinese, who is “won” by a madam and becomes her houseboy.

*Ballantine Books/Penguin Random House; 978-0-80417-675-0; $28.*

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**Logical Family**  
*by Armistead Maupin*

This memoir by the author of the Tales of the City series is named for those he became close to beyond his relatives, rooted in the South. “Sooner or later, we have to venture beyond our biological family to find our logical one,” says Maupin — “the one that actually makes sense for us.”

Growing up gay in North Carolina in the 1950s, Maupin was taught that what he felt made him mentally ill, that his desires were, as the state had officially phrased it, an “unspeakable crime against nature.” His world opens after attending college, enlisting in the Navy and going to Vietnam, and then heading to California and becoming “San Francisco’s newest celebrity.”

Fans of Tales in the City will be intrigued by Maupin’s life story, and anecdotes like the time he shared a joint with Tennessee Williams, or when he and his parents watched an impromptu performance by Joan Baez. There is much for book clubs to discuss, including the gay rights movement, family ties, and how an author’s life can shape his fiction.

*Harper/HarperCollins; 978-0-06239-122-3; $27.99.*

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**Little Secrets**  
*by Anna Snoekstra*

This thriller, set in an economically depressed town in Australia, has several deeply creepy elements — including porcelain dolls resembling real girls showing up on neighborhood doorsteps. This happens following an arsonist’s spree that has included burning down the town’s courthouse, killing a boy.

When aspiring journalist Rose’s sister receives a doll, she is unnerved, but it also becomes an opportunity for her to further her writing career, so she begins covering the case. Why are families receiving these dolls? Is it a pedophile marking his victims? Does a new resident of the town know more than he is letting on? The more Rose discovers, the more danger she might be in.

If your book club enjoys crime thrillers, this will be the perfect pick.

*MIRA/Harlequin; 978-0-77833-109-4; $15.99.*

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For a full archive of Book Club Choices and reviews, visit [www.ala.org/united/friends/bookclubchoices](http://www.ala.org/united/friends/bookclubchoices). For information for book clubs and readers of all types, including author interviews, recommendations, discussion questions, and more, visit Book Club Central at [www.bookclubcentral.org](http://www.bookclubcentral.org).
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Your Friends group can help increase literacy in your community by supporting a love for books at the earliest ages. “Books for Babies” has been a successful Friends project in towns and cities across the country.

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- Books for Babies brochure with Reading Tips

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