
The Friends of the Paul Sawyer Public Library

Newsletter



Winter 2005 Volume 3, Number 1

FRIENDS NEWS Briefs

Our **Fall Book Sale** was a great success again this year, thanks both to your generous contributions of books and to your enthusiastic purchases! We had one of the highest quality collections of books for sale that we've had so far, some of which made their way into the PSPL's collection (see **Did You Know?**). Also, many thanks to all of our volunteers who helped sort, shelve, and sell books. All of your efforts help to make our book sales the successes they are!

The **Spring Book Sale will be held May 11–14**, and we are currently soliciting books for this next sale. As always, please be sure the books are clean and in good condition without mold or water damage. We are in particular need of children's books, recent novels, cookbooks, and gardening books. Friends will be available to accept book donations at the basement of the library from **10 A.M.–2 P.M. on Saturday, April 23, and Saturday, April 30**. If you have books that you would like to donate prior to the scheduled drop-off dates, you may leave them on the table in the basement near the rear entrance. We also accept used videos, DVDs, CDs, software, cassette tapes, and magazines. Donations are tax deductible.

Did you know? We received such **high-quality donations** for our last book sale that the library just couldn't let all of them go. Many books were plucked from your donation bags and boxes and used to replace lost or worn-out copies of books in the library's collection, including novels by Stephen King and other popular authors. The Friends thank you for your generosity in donating books in such excellent condition!

Librarian Tea. We are planning our second annual Librarian Tea for school librarians and the staff of the Paul Sawyer Public Library to be held at the library March 14 at 4 P.M. This is an opportunity for the school librarians to discuss with the PSPL staff ways that our public library and the Friends can assist the local schools. Everyone who attended last year had a great time, and we expect more of the same this year!



Friends will be sponsoring a visit by **children's author George Ella Lyon** to our local public elementary schools. On February 15, 16, and 23, she will be presenting a program about how she writes. To find out more about this author, read the interview with her on page 5 of this newsletter.

Join the **Southern Characters Book Discussion Group!** This group will focus on four books by Kentucky authors: *Caleb Kissed Miss America* by Billy Clark; *Yates Paul, His Grand Flights, His Tootings* by James Baker Hall (Kentucky's former Poet Laureate); *Famous People I Have Known* by Ed McClanahan; and *Elvis Presley* by Bobbie Ann Mason. Normandi Ellis, author of *Sorrowful Mysteries*, will lead the four-month exploration of the quirkiness of Southern characters. The Southern Characters Book Group series will meet at 2 P.M. every fourth Saturday of the month, January through April, starting on January 22, 2005, at the library. For more information and to pre-register, call the library at 502-223-1658 and ask for Stacy. This book discussion series is funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council.

On Monday, April 25, the PSPL and Friends will be hosting **mystery author Susan Wittig Albert** at the Library. She will be speaking with us and promoting her newest novel, *Dead Man's Bones*, copies of which will be available for purchase and signing by the author. Come join us for refreshments at the Library from 2:00–4:30 P.M. and meet one of your favorite mystery authors!

(continued on next page)

FRIENDS NEWS Briefs (cont.)

The Paul Sawyer Public Library will be hosting a **Databases and Desserts Open House** from 4–7 P.M. on February 15. Library staff will be on hand to introduce patrons to a variety of databases accessible via the library. Everyone is invited to come learn about these databases and enjoy some delicious dessert refreshments. Also, *Friends* will be providing and serving the refreshments for this event. Please contact Mary Lynn Collins at 502–695–5502 or at members@psplfriends.org if you would be willing to help serve or provide refreshments.

Join us for "**Pig Out With a Good Book**," this winter's reading club at the Paul Sawyer Public Library. The annual club runs from Tuesday, January 18, through Thursday, March 31, and is for registered patrons of the library. Adults can read books of their own choosing and complete a slip for every five books read. These slips will be used as entry forms for pig-related prizes, including a country ham, gift certificate, and cookbooks. Kids and adults who read and record at least five books get a Paul Sawyer Public Library piggy bank (one per patron, please). For more information about the Winter Reading Club, contact the library at 502–223–1658.



The *Friends* of the Paul Sawyer Public Library have recently joined **Friends of Libraries U.S.A.**, a national organization of *Friends* groups. You may want to check out their Web site at <http://www.folusa.org>.

Friends Board Members

President—Mary Lynn Collins
First Vice President—Joe Johnson
Second Vice President—Mimi Gosney
Secretary—Mary Cheek
Treasurer—Jules Delambre

Directors

Carol Baughman	Chris Evans
Mildred Browning	Amy Hodge
Evelyn Claffy	Ann Howard
Libby Cwiak	Rebekah Schillhahn
Mike Embry	Marguerite Wordell
Cecilia Broadwater (Past President)	

Message from the President of *Friends*

Dear Friends,

It is pretty daunting to follow Cecilia Broadwater as President of The *Friends* of the Paul Sawyer Public Library. With all her hard work, focus, and enthusiasm, she is a hard act to follow. We knew when we recruited her to lead us in efforts to revive the *Friends* organization that she was the right person for the job, and we were so right. Thank you, Cecilia, for a job well done!

With the building of a new library about to get underway, this will be an exciting year for *Friends*. Thanks to each of you for your support of the organization. I hope you will be able to respond in the future when we put out a call for help with library sales or other activities. As we begin this year, I would really like to hear from you. If you have ideas on how we could improve the book sales or ways we could support the library and its mission, please contact me at MaryLynn41@hotmail.com or 502–695–5502.

I come from a family of readers—who value the public library. Several years ago my parents made the decision to sell their home in London, Kentucky, and move to a small two-bedroom apartment in Lexington, Kentucky—to be closer to their daughters. It turns out being close to a good library was a major factor in searching for an apartment. Once the moving van arrived and dropped off the furniture, my sisters and I got down to the hard work of unpacking . . . and my parents took off to the library to get their new library cards! I share their love of books and libraries and hope to live up to the challenge of following Cecilia Broadwater as your president.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Collins

President, The *Friends* of the Paul Sawyer Library

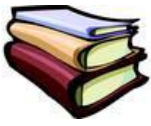
MEETING CALENDAR

The *Friends* Board is scheduled to meet the second Monday of each month at 5:45 P.M. at the Paul Sawyer Public Library as follows:

Feb. 14 **Mar. 14** **Apr. 11** **May 9**



Please be sure to look for upcoming events announced in *The State Journal* and on the *Friends* Web site at <http://www.psplfriends.org>.



FOCUS ON THE PAUL SAWYIER PUBLIC LIBRARY AND STAFF



—THE CIRCULATION DESK—

They are the heart of the Paul Sawyer Public Library—the clerks and volunteers who work at the circulation desk. They are the people we know best, the first people we see when we enter the Library and the last people we see when we leave. And they are always friendly, helpful, and efficient.

The circulation staff consists of **Donna Seals, Circulation Manager**, six part-time clerks, three part-time pages, and 12 volunteers. Donna Seals says these folks have one thing in common: they love to read! They were happy to provide recommendations on what to read in the coming year. Their favorite books can be found on the back of this page.

The front desk is a very busy spot (as you may have noticed), and the Library really needs more volunteers at the circulation desk. **On an average day, the staff checks out approximately 900 items to patrons.** Staff also checks in, resensitizes, and reshelves each item as it is returned. Donna points out that only through volunteer assistance is the library able to stay open the number of hours per week that it does.

If you love books and want to support the library (which is what being a friend of the library is all about), consider starting the year off right by committing three hours a week to help at the library. **If you would like to know more about volunteering, please call Donna Seals or Jaci West at 502-223-1658.**



The folks at the circulation desk do much more than just check in and out books. The front desk staff maintains and services a reserve list and calls patrons when books become available. **They typically have 500 books placed on “hold” in a month.** A quick check of the books in the library waiting for patron pick up revealed books by Mary Higgins Clark, Danielle Steele, James Patterson, Dean Koontz, David Baldacci, Jimmy Buffett, and Nora Roberts.

The circulation desk is also responsible for sending out notices to those of us who have overdue books and other materials. Another good way to start the year is to resolve NOT to be on the list to get such notice. **The library sends out 3,200 letters a month asking patrons to return the overdue materials.** That adds up to a lot in mailing costs and staff time—and less opportunity for other patrons to use those materials!

The clerks and volunteers renew approximately 2,000 items a month. Renewals of most materials can be accomplished in person or by phone or Internet. Videos and DVDs cannot be renewed.

The circulation desk staff is also responsible for processing new library cards, an average of 230 new patrons each month! In addition, the circulation staff repairs books, gives directions, helps patrons with the copier, distributes and accepts payments for computer print-outs and faxes, puts out the latest issues of magazines and newspapers, and acts as ambassadors of library good will.



The pages reshelve books, straighten shelves, retrieve items from storage, and assist patrons in the stacks and with the computer catalog. At the end of the day they help close the library by turning off the lights, clearing the tables, and locking the doors. **Unshelved items are logged into the computer at a rate of about 600 items a month.** The library keeps a record of these materials because it provides useful information on how people are using the library.

The circulation desk also is responsible for special book displays, focusing around specific themes. Anyone who visited the library in December could not have missed the arrangements of Christmas books. There were collections of Christmas cookbooks, Christmas crafts, Christmas fiction, and Christmas memoirs. That monumental effort was accomplished by Donna and the other circulation staff.

We very much appreciate the work of the folks behind the circulation desk and hope to see some new volunteers there in the near future!



Favorite Books of the Circulation Desk Staff

If you're looking for something good to read over the cold winter months, you might try curling up with one of these favorite books of the circulation desk staff:

Non-fiction

- Founding Brothers* (Joseph Ellis) (history, Revolutionary War)—
Bruce Siria, volunteer
The Long Goodbye (Patti Davis) (biography of Ronald Reagan)—
Anne Ueltschi, volunteer

Young Adult/Juvenile Fiction

- The Forgotten Beasts of Eld* (Patricia McKillip)—Jonathan Sands, clerk
Jacob Have I Loved (Katherine Paterson)—Martin Anderson, page
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (J. K. Rowling)—
Ellen Sullivan, page
The *Harry Potter* novels (J. K. Rowling)—Desiree Hall, volunteer

Adult Fiction

- Wedding Ring* (Emilie Richards)—Donna Seals, Circulation Manager
Tales of the City (Armistead Maupin)—Walter Smith, clerk
Cold Sassy Tree (Olive Ann Burns)—Beverly Hunt, clerk
Mystic River or *Shutter Island* (Dennis Lehane)—Libby Cwiak, clerk
Big Bad Wolfe (James Patterson)—Priscilla Van Meter, clerk
The Stand (Stephen King)—Mary Clay, clerk
Sleeping in Flame (Jonathan Carroll)—Staci Schoenfeld, page
Dirty Girl Social Club (Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez)—Amy Burchfield, page
Love in the Time of Cholera (Gabriel García Márquez)—Ellen Raine, volunteer
The Truth Machine (James Halperin)—Charleene Matheu, volunteer
Northern Lights (Nora Roberts)—Loretta Dunavent, volunteer
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (John Berendt)—Bonnie Hasler, volunteer
Alien (Allen D. Foster)—Tim Johnson, volunteer



Some of the helpful PSPL Circulation Desk staff
(from left to right):

- Walter Smith (clerk)
Donna Seals (Circulation Manager)
Beverly Hunt (clerk)
Libby Cwiak (clerk)
Loretta Dunavent (volunteer)
Priscilla Van Meter (clerk)

Several volunteers—Jerry Jones, Kathy Cloyd, Carol Bischoff, Mark Overstreet, and Celeste Moore—were not available to offer their favorite books, but we hope to hear from them in the future!

Many thanks to all the **friends** who volunteered at the Fall 2004 Book Fair and the Book Sale. We couldn't have done it without you!!

Cecilia Broadwater	Anna Gibson	Tom Knight
Richard Broadwater	Donna Gibson	Ruby Layson
Bill Cheek	Melissa Gibson	Celeste Moore
Mary Cheek	Chris Helvey	Nick Petit
Ev Claffy	Gina Helvey	Judy Rydman
Barbara Coleman	Amy Hodge	Richard Rydman
Bill Coleman	Thomas Hodge	Donna Seals
Mary Lynn Collins	Gina Hagan	Rebekah Schillhahn
Jules Delambre	Bill Holmes	Dottie Stumbo
Arlyn Dusso	Joyce Honaker	Richard Taylor
Colleen Dusso	Ann Howard	Anne Ueltschi
Chris Evans	Joe Johnson	Marguerite Wordell
	Barbara Kitchings	

Friends

Upcoming Events Calendar —2004—

January	18	22		
	"Pig Out With a Good Book" Starts	Southern Chars. Book Group		
February	14	15	26	
	Board Meeting	Databases & Desserts	Southern Chars. Book Group	
March	14	26	31	
	Board Mtg.; Librarian Tea	Southern Chars. Book Group	"Pig Out With a Good Book" Ends	
April	11	23	25	30
	Board Meeting	Book Drop-off for Book Sale; Southern Chars. Book Group	Susan Wittig Albert visit	Book Drop-off for Book Sale
May	9	11-14		
	Board Meeting	Book Sale		

Author Spotlight:

George Ella Lyon, a renowned Kentucky writer of nonfiction and fiction, poetry and essays, grew up in Harlan, Ky. She will be speaking to several schools in Franklin County, sponsored by The Friends of the Paul Sawyer Public Library.

Lyon, who is married to writer and musician Steve Lyon, earned a bachelor's degree from Centre College, a master's degree in English from the University of Arkansas, and a doctorate in English and creative writing from Indiana University. Among her many works are three novels for young readers and 19 picture books. She was the winner of the 1994 Appalachian Book of the Year Award for her book of poetry, *Catalpa*.

Ms. Lyon took some time during the busy holiday season to answer some questions about reading, writing, and libraries:

1. When do you recall first going to the library, and what effect did it have on you?

"The house I grew up in had a library over the garage, a room with built-in shelves along one wall and under the windows. That was my first library experience, and I made mazes out of the books before I could read them.

"My elementary school (Loyall) didn't have a library, but teachers kept books for borrowing on shelves at the back of the room, so I checked out those.

"And my mother took me to the Harlan Public Library, which was in the same building as the fire station."

2. Were you a reader as a child? If so, who influenced you to read?

"Books were a big part of life at my house, and I came naturally to reading, watching my parents and older brother read and talk about books. I was also drawn to stories as a listener, both stories read to me and those told by family and friends."

3. How important do you think libraries are today?

"I think libraries are crucial to community, to our ideals of equality, to our hope for a better world. I'm grateful for the abundance they offer every time I go."

4. What kinds of books do you enjoy reading and writing, and why?

"My loves as a reader and writer are the same: picture books, poetry, novels, memoir, books about writing. . . . Poetry is at the heart of all my work, I think."

5. What books are you reading now?

"Books I'm reading now: *I to I: Life Writing* by



Kentucky Feminists, edited by Jane Olmsted and Elizabeth Oakes; *The Go-Between*, by L. P. Hartley; and *Birthday Letters*, by Ted Hughes."

6. As you go out to speak to school children, do you sense that they want to read and write?

"Students' desire to read and write varies greatly from school to school and from teacher to teacher. If teachers themselves write and share this process of discovery with their students, the kids are much more likely to be interested themselves."

7. What is the title of your next book, what is it about, and when will it be published?

"I have two picture books coming out in '06: *Sleepsong*, which is a lullaby, illustrated by Elizabeth Sayles, and *You and Me and Home Sweet Home*, which is the story of a little girl who helps build her habitat house, illustrated by Stephanie Anderson. The second one is based on a build I took part in in Lexington."

Membership Update

The fall membership drive during our Book Sale and the Kentucky Book Fair was a success, with members receiving prints of Gene Burch's "Three Towers" photograph. Most Friends members join in the fall, but if you haven't renewed your membership yet this year, please contact us about renewing at members@psplfriends.org or dropping a note in our mailbox at the library circulation desk! Friends currently has 359 members in the following categories:

Individual	114
Family	89
Senior	41
Student	8
Patron (\$50+)	9
Benefactor (\$100+)	10

Treasurer's Report

The Friends Board prefers to use funds raised by the Friends to support library needs not covered in the regular library budget. The Board has asked the library to identify such needs, but is currently reserving the bulk of its revenues for a significant contribution for the new library building, or for needs or items that will serve both the current and the new library.

A brief summary of finances for The Friends from October 1, 2002, when the group was revived, to December 1, 2004, is available upon request and on our Web site at <http://www.psplfriends.org>.



The **Friends** of the Paul Sawyer Public Library
305 Wapping Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Non Profit
Organization
Permit #

Membership Application

Name _____

E-mail _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Circle programs which you might like to help.

Some of the FRIENDS programs and activities include:

**Book fairs and used book sales, Exhibits, Special programs,
Decorations, Exhibit display sitters, Newsletter, Public relations,
Children's programs, Fund-raising, and Committees.**

After completing this application, please cut it out and mail it to:
The Friends of the Paul Sawyer Public Library,
305 Wapping Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**Recommended
Membership**

Individual	\$5.00
Family	\$10.00
Senior	\$3.00
Student	\$3.00
Patron	\$50.00 plus
Benefactor	\$100.00 plus

Make checks payable to:
**"The Friends of the
Paul Sawyer Public Library"**

*Dues and gifts are
tax deductible.*