

**A HISTORY OF  
THE FRIENDS OF THE  
FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
1981 - 2013**



**by Gretchen Baerg Gearhart**

## COVER PHOTO

Fayetteville Public Library main entrance in 2010,  
courtesy of the Fayetteville Public Library.

The Fayetteville Public Library was first created in 1916 and was housed in the brand-new Washington County Courthouse. The library was contained in two rooms in the basement of the building. The building quickly became too small, and the Fayetteville Public Library moved to the City Administration Building in 1937 along with several other city offices. This building became too small following Fayetteville's rapid post-World War II growth.

Residents began fundraising for a new building, and a site on East Dickson Street was selected by the City of Fayetteville in 1959. A funding measure of \$255,000 was approved for the site, with architect Warren Segraves in charge of the design. The site was dedicated on June 4, 1962 by Senator J. William Fulbright. The plot to the east was purchased in 1966 and the plot to the west in 1989. The building on the west plot was connected to the library, forming a large facility of 31,500 square feet. This large building held the FPL, the Ozark Regional Library System and the Talking Books service.

The Ozark Regional Library System split into the Washington County Library System and the Benton County Library System in 1999, and the WCLS left the FPL building the following year.

In 2000 Fayetteville citizens approved a sales tax increase to build a new library. A significant contribution of \$3 million from Jim Blair in honor of his late wife, grandmother, and aunt was announced in 2002, and ground was broken two months later. The 88,000 square feet building officially opened October 9, 2004 at a cost of \$23 million.

The building, located at 401 W. Mountain Street, was designed by Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle, Ltd. of Minneapolis. The library was built a few blocks away from the Fayetteville Historic Square. The library was the first building in Arkansas to register with the U.S. Green Building Council, in June 2001, and achieved the silver LEED designation in 2006. To earn this designation the library employed many green-design techniques.

Throughout the project, almost 99% of the construction waste was recycled or reused. By incorporating a green roof and using alternative roofing materials, the design team reduced heat island effect by as much as 20 degrees. Water collected on the roof is reused for landscape irrigation through an underground cistern, saving about 500,000 gallons of water a year. In 2009, the library received a grant from the City / County Management Association to install 10 kW solar panels for energy generation.

Capping off an extraordinary year of accomplishment, the Fayetteville Public Library earned one of the industry's highest honors – winning the 2005 Thomson Gale/ Library Journal Library of the Year award. The award was announced on June 13, 2005. The cover of the June 15 issue of Library Journal featured the Fayetteville Public Library and a lengthy feature article about the library's seven-year journey to build a world-class library in terms of both collection and facilities.

## A HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1981 - 2013

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Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library

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## **FOREWORD**

**by Jake Lamkins**

This history has been under consideration for several years. At the May 2010 Friends monthly Board meeting I shared a notebook about the early days of the Friends discovered by long-time president Lois Alward. I suggested at that time a history of our organization would be a worthwhile project.

The next several years I approached several well known Fayetteville historians and writers about writing a history but they all were committed to other projects.

On January 23, 2013 I saw long-time FFPL Board member Genie Donovan in the lobby of the Fayetteville library and chatted with her awhile. I mentioned my idea of a FFPL history and she said she knew someone at Butterfield Trail Village where she lived that might be interested. Genie phoned me next day and told me Gretchen Baerg Gearhart was agreeable to doing it. She was an old hand at this sort of thing, having done a history of Fayetteville's C.E.O. and St. Joseph's Church. Gretchen was once editor of the Washington County Historical Society's publication Flashback

I was excited and phoned Gretchen and invited her to the FFPL Annual Meeting the coming Monday, January 28, 2013. I introduced her to the board and made a motion for the board's support which passed unanimously.

The rest of the year I searched for FFPL records to furnish Gretchen material for the project. We had tentatively set a date of having the history ready by the January 2014 FFPL annual meeting. After numerous meetings Gretchen had the history ready on January 12, 2014 and she emailed me a copy. It was exactly what I had been hoping for and Gretchen attended the January 27, 2014 annual meeting where we thanked her and voted her a lifetime member of the Friends.

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# A HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY 1981 - 2013

by **Gretchen Baerg Gearhart**

## 1981

A need for funding for the Fayetteville Public Library in addition to that realized from county property taxes prompted a group of library patrons to propose the founding of the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library, whose mission would be to raise funds, serve as volunteers, and provide publicity for the Library. On October 29, 1981, the first organizational meeting, at which a small group of invited library patrons were present, Dottie Wood, temporary chairman, selected Carolyn DeLille, Genie Donovan, and Harriet Jansma to choose a slate of officers.

At the next meeting, on November 12, the following officers were elected by the twenty-five or so persons in attendance: president, Dottie Wood; vice president, Harriet Jansma; treasurer, Foster Park; secretary, Mary Jane Haley. Standing committee chairmen appointed were: publicity, Carolyn DeLille; gifts, Ellis Shelton; arrangements, Betty Askew; membership, Mary Alice Pearson.

Moving quickly, the president appointed a bylaws committee and charged it with having it ready to present at the December 3 meeting, when it passed with three revisions. Also at that meeting, dues were set in these categories: Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Supporting, \$25; Sustaining, \$100; Life, \$500.

A November article in the Northwest Arkansas Times stated that the Friends would be working toward a change in state law that restricted the library allotment of the counties' property tax to one mill.

## 1982

In March 1982 members of the board signed a petition for incorporation of the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library as a non-profit corporation. (The by-laws state that "The four officers and the five members who chair the standing committees shall comprise the Board of Directors of the organization and shall be its governing body." Martha Brewer had accepted the position of chair of legislation.) In April this petition had to be resubmitted due to a technicality.

A tea and open house in May encouraged membership in the Friends.

At the August meeting Harriet Jansma and the book committee suggested a book review program to be held at the library on the first Friday of each month with local book clubs participating. Sara Sharp had agreed to be chairman of a book sale and the date was set for October 15, 1982. Paperbacks would sell for 10 cents and hardbacks, 25 cents, with the exception of collector's items and especially nice books. Signs asking for contributions were to be placed in the library.

The financial report for the organization's first year presented at the annual meeting in October 1982 showed a balance of \$3,148, exceeding the projected budget by \$1,863. \$2,644 came from membership dues and the balance from the book sale. Expenses totaled \$715. The Friends approved its first purchase for the library of two coat racks from McRoy-McNair for \$236. Also reported were the decision to continue First Friday Book Reviews, the purchase of a bulk mail permit, the sending of 126 acknowledgments by the membership committee. The officers were reelected for one more year: president, Dottie Wood; vice president, Harriet Jansma; treasurer, Foster Park; secretary, Mary Jane Haley.

The Junior Friends had a book sale and gave the proceeds to the Friends. Additional purchases for the library approved in 1982 were furniture for the children's library, a carousel slide projector, \$1,000 to update computer science books and replacement of worn volumes of standard literature.

The Friends initiated a practice of placing books in the library to show appreciation to persons who have substantially contributed to the work of the Friends. The first to be so honored were Elizabeth Danley, A. D. McAllister, Jr., Jessie O'Kelley, Sara Sharp, and Kathy Thompson.

## 1983

By May 1983 the amended bylaws and articles of incorporation had been sent to the IRS office in Dallas after a lengthy revision process. In a letter to the Board Foster Park said that "most of the changes suggested by the IRS agent are generally cosmetic, to be sure that the language of our bylaws and articles insures that no profit will go to any individual member or officer of the Friends." In August Foster reported that the Internal Revenue Service had approved the Friends as a non-profit organization and all donations were legally tax deductible.

At the September meeting those present agreed to provide a plaque bearing the names of Life Members of the Friends and that such members be given the option to designate whether their contributions go to the endowment fund or to some more immediate use.

The Friends held their second annual meeting on October 20, 1983. In their first two years they accumulated \$7,100 (\$5,300 in membership dues and \$1,900 from book sales.)

Expenditures in the second year included \$2,900 for a slide projector, \$1,161 on chairs for the Children's Department and \$967 on books. The balance on November 1 was \$3,174.

The slate of officers presented by the nominating committee passed unanimously: president, Foster Park; vice president, Melanie Stockdell; secretary, Frances Fleming. Also approved was a motion that the president may appoint a treasurer.

Those attending passed a motion for purchase of a microfilm reader-printer and allocation of \$2000 for books.

## 1984

The board met next on March 1, 1984. Dorothy Metcalfe had agreed to serve as treasurer. The following chairs of committees appointed were: arrangements, Mary Lee Pinkerton; publicity, Carolyn DeLille; gifts, endowments, and bequests, Keith Newhouse; legislation, Keith Newhouse.

From the \$5,900 balance in the treasury, \$334 was earmarked for the Genealogy Department and purchase of a reader-printer at \$4,599 met with approval. Genie Donovan, representing the Library, suggested a standing order with Arkansas publishers August House and Rose Publishing for books about Arkansas or by Arkansas authors at \$200 per publisher annually, which will be a significant saving over ordering the books individually. In April Mary Bond was to speak on the works of Clementine Hunter. Sara Sharp agreed to supervise the October book sale and Dickson Street Bookstore would again have books to donate in exchange for a discount at the book sale. August 16, 1984: Board members discussed ways to retain and increase members, the book sale to be held to October 26, and discontinuing the book reviews because of low attendance. Book prices were set: paperbacks, 10 cents; hardbacks, 25 cents; special books, 50 cents.

As of the October 26, 1984 annual meeting the treasury showed receipts of \$4,199 and expenditures of \$5,470, leaving a balance of \$2,514 in the bank. Officers were chosen: president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Jerome Jansma; secretary, Frances Fleming; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe.

At the Board's November meeting the treasurer's report showed proceeds from the book sale as \$1,042, a 40% increase over the 1983 sale.

Frank Sharp had had printed letterhead for an invitation to join, book marks, and return envelopes for the Friends. Foster Park's and Sara Sharp's efforts on behalf of the Friends were to be recognized by the purchase of books for the Library.

## 1985

In January 1985 the Board approved a plan for the treasurer's membership list to be duplicated for the newsletter chairman and compiled into a card index for the Library which would be kept up to date. Later on the Library asked for a volunteer for this ongoing task.

Standing committee chairs for the year were as follows: arrangements, to be announced; publicity, Melanie Stockdell; membership, gifts, endowments, and bequests, Robbin Anderson; legislation, Robbin Anderson. Melanie offered to tape two programs a month, each to be run on KUAF at a cost of \$20-\$25 a month. These might be book reviews or discussions of new acquisitions.

Genie Donovan presented a list of items desired by the Library: a package of Arkansas related items including a cabinet for microfilms of the Arkansas Gazette from 1868 and Encyclopedia Britannica III. Most of the items were approved. The cost would be \$3,211.

In February work began on plans for the Fall Book Sale and a motion to purchase for \$300 a projector screen for the Library.

By May membership numbered 285, and the up-to-date membership file was in place in the Library. Committee chairs spoke of the need for storage space for books collected before the fall sale. The Friends sold these books throughout the year. A Saturday morning radio series had begun with Genie Donovan's talk on new books in the Library.

The following month Linda Harrison, librarian, presented a wish list: refinishing of the top of the circulation desk, chairs for the reading tables, adjustable chairs for use with microfilm reader, and a book list to be compiled by Genie Donovan. A motion to pay for the refinishing job and book purchases was approved. At a special meeting funds were approved for refinishing of the circulation desk (\$400) and books (\$1,300). That summer a book, "Flight in America, 1900-1983" was given by the Friends in memory of May Pinkerton. \$310 in memberships were realized as a result of the most recent newsletter. Foster Park, chairman of the fall book sale, announced that the sale would include a silent auction of a few choice books by secret bid submitted in a ballot box for one month before the sale.

The financial report presented at the annual meeting on October 17, 1985, showed receipts of \$3,420 in memberships, 89 of which were new; fall book sale, \$1041; miscellaneous book sales, \$669; disbursements, \$2,790, books; microfilm file, \$1,110; \$400, refinishing circulation desk; funds not allocated, \$2,098. Officers elected were: president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Cathy Boyd; secretary, Kim Harington; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe.

Hugh Longino, a member of the Fayetteville Public Library Board, spoke on long-range planning for the Library including the need for expansion as affected by population growth and for financial support by the City and the community. Standards for our Library as prescribed by the State of Arkansas must be evaluated in making long-range plans. The book sale on October 25 and 26 brought in \$1,306 in sales. Member dues paid amounted to \$355. The silent auction was judged to be a success worthy of repeating and perhaps enlarging the next year.

At the November meeting Martha Brewer distributed lists of 420 persons to whom board members were asked to prepare

membership invitations for mailing and return by December 2.

Genie Donovan presented a list of possible purchases: needed reference books, equipment to be used with microfilm readers. \$1,000 was allocated for books, and \$1,000 for a microfiche cabinet. The forty-four titles remaining on the list were approved for purchase in January 1986.

## 1986

In April 1986 the Board discussed a Darragh grant for purchasing books about Arkansas in honor of the sesquicentennial. The Library could apply for a \$500 grant with a matching amount if approved by the Ozarks Regional Library Board. The Friends' Board agreed to furnish \$500 if the Library received this approval.

At its May meeting members were shown a book, "Typographic Design: Form and Communication," which was a gift to the Library by the Friends in honor of Frank Sharp in appreciation of his numerous contributions of design and printing.

Cathy Boyd, membership chair, proposed a potluck pool party at her home in September to increase membership. Each Board member was asked to submit ten invitees.

The Board learned in October that the Friends received the Darragh grant. Books purchased under the grant had to be written by Arkansas writers though an Arkansas subject was not required. A vote approved allocating funds for a \$1200 book allowance plan, a loudspeaker system, and a flat book truck.

Flyers to announce the upcoming book sale were distributed for board members to post around town. Volunteers were asked to help with sorting and pricing books during the week preceding the sale. The sale was to follow the annual meeting, giving members an opportunity to browse and buy books. The sale to the public was to be the next day.

The annual report on October 24th showed \$6,321 in receipts, \$4,233 in disbursements and \$4,498 in allocations, a cash balance increase of \$2,087 for the fiscal year, and 229 members. A member recommended purchase of Donald Harington's latest book, "Let Us Build Us a City." in "talking book format."

The nominating committee presented the following slate for the coming year: president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Jerome Jansma; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe; secretary, Kim Harington. The vote to approve was unanimous.

In November the Board heard that the book sale was very successful, with sales totaling \$2,158. Frank Sharp's contribution of stationery was acknowledged. The group decided to place a book in the Library for Genie Donovan for her valuable services.

## 1987

The upcoming membership drive was discussed at the January 1987 Board meeting. Following up on an earlier suggestion by Frank Sharp, they decided to contact area writers and ask them to submit a statement endorsing the Library and the work of the Friends for use in the membership appeal.

The Library was ready to move into the world of computers as Genie Donovan asked that the Board consider allocating money for computer terminals for use in library circulation. They agreed to explore the idea.

The following month the Board agreed to purchase music books including the Grove Dictionary of American Music, children's film strips, a Bicentennial of the Constitution collection, children's books, and a worktable for handicapped personnel from the \$4,539 in non-allocated funds on hand.

In March the treasurer's report showed that the membership drive was very successful, bringing in 30 new members, 110 renewals and \$2,045. Board members agreed to sponsor, for \$100, a meeting at the State Library Association Conference in November. Funds were approved for a reading table for young adults instead of the already allocated funds for a table for handicapped personnel. Both groups can use the table, which can be built. Additional purchases approved were books, \$1,250 and a microfilm reader, \$1,200.

After a discussion of the matter, the Board stated that it was the "generally expressed opinion of the Board that 60% - 75% of spendable funds should go for books for the Library and the rest for equipment."

At the April 30 Board meeting Genie Donovan announced that with matching funds the Friends could apply to the Mellon Foundation for a \$500 grant to pay for the remainder of the Library of America series. The Friends had already purchased 34 volumes in this series of classic books by American authors; there are 26 more available and 40 scheduled to be available in the future. The members voted to apply for the grant.

By July the match had been met and the first volume had arrived. Melanie Stockdell submitted a letter of resignation. The board expressed its appreciation for her work on the newsletter.

Genie Donovan asked if the Friends could spend \$1000 for books on the Most-Asked-For List of Books. A motion to do so passed unanimously. Also approved was a request to spend \$450 for law books from the Legal Almanac Series. A proposal to sell canvas bags printed with "Friends of the Library" was discussed and tabled for consideration.

By August it was time to plan the annual book sale. It was similar to past sales with an exception: prices were raised to 25 cents for paperbacks and 50 cents for hard backs. The September sale raised \$2,201.

At the annual meeting in November the following were elected for the coming year: president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Jerome Jansma; secretary, Elizabeth Walker; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe. Andrea Cromwell and Frank Sharp had volunteered to work on a Friends brochure. The financial report showed \$5048 raised through memberships. A motion to spend \$3,928 on some continuing purchases plus the Agathie Christie Winterbrook reprint series and a new collection of children's books.



## 1988

By January 1988 members were already talking about the fall book sale. Robbin Anderson suggested that hardback prices be raised and that better books be put aside for a silent auction.

The following month Board members were pleased to learn that the Ozarks Regional Library would give books to the Friends to sell.

At the March meeting the Board members voted, at the suggestion of the auditor, Bobbie Hay, to change the fiscal year to November 1 - October 31, as proposed by Dorothy Metcalfe. A suggestion to give receipts at the book sale was seen as impractical.

Members approved a motion to give a contribution to the Arkansas Library Association in honor of Genie Donovan to clear up a suggestion made in 1986. Robbin Anderson explained the upcoming ballot issue to raise the millage for support of libraries. A motion passed to let the County Commission for the millage support to use the Friends membership list.

By the April meeting the spring membership drive netted \$1,790. Purchases approved included the Contemporary Classics list for \$500, new children's books, \$400, newspaper rack, \$300. A discussion on the purchase of videocassettes led to a decision to purchase only "good" tapes of music, books, and ballets.

In May Cathy Boyd and Genie Donovan reported on a visit to the Springdale Public Library for the purpose of learning about their experiences lending video tapes. Their librarians were very enthusiastic but said it was a costly service to keep going. The Board felt the Library would have to make a commitment before the Friends would contribute to it.

Genie suggested that the U of A Press books be placed on standing order - motion passed. Additional motions passed asking Genie to order \$200 worth of travel books and to make a list of 20 to 50 science books for about \$800. Robbin Anderson was to review that list.

In June a motion passed to apply to the Arkansas State Library for a grant to participate in a program involving the sharing with other libraries a videocassette collection of 200 tapes. Genie announced that David Malone (state senator) had given the Library a personal collection of 30 books on tape, forming the nucleus of an audio collection.

In July confirmation of the long sought IRS approval of non-profit status for the Friends was in hand. At its meeting the Board approved spending \$500 for science books and \$200 for math books. Dorothy Metcalfe suggested that each board member keep a file of what they have done so there would be continuity. Cathy Boyd asked that she be authorized to purchase a four-drawer file cabinet to keep at the library.

The city would like the Board to circulate a petition for getting the library millage raised from .5 to 1 mill. Also the city would like an estimate of the volunteer time given by the Friends.

Good news in August - the Library received the video grant which will pay for a video cassette recorder and a rewind machine. Needed will be a storage cabinet and display rack for the 200 videos available for circulation. The Board set aside \$1,000 for this equipment.

The following month funds were approved for a video, film strip, and book, "All about Arkansas." Also, time was drawing near for the annual book sale. Shea Crain reported that announcements on radio, television, newspapers and flyers had been done. Book sale chairman Clarence Storla reported that members had been recruited to sort books and to work at the sale on Friday night and Saturday for the sale. Finally, Dorothy Metcalfe moved and the Friends approved purchase of "Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians" for \$1,600 and "Barron's Language Series" for \$135.

The treasurer's report at the annual meeting in November showed income from memberships of \$6225, book sales totaling \$4604, and gifts of \$10. Spending approved included a stereo system for the children's library, \$500 for young adult books for the new young adult section planned by the Library, \$200 for audio tapes with directions to choose classic and works of authors narrating their own work, and for shelves to house videocassette tapes obtained by grants from the Arkansas State Library and the John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation.

Officers elected for the coming year were president, Leighton Rudolf; vice president, Jerome Jansma; secretary, Cathy Boyd; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe. Robbin Anderson moved that the Friends express thanks to Clarence Storla for his work as chairman of the most profitable book sale in the history of the Friends. Genie Donovan suggested that books be purchased in honor of Storla and George Ray, chairs of the book sale, and for Cathy Boyd, outgoing president.

## 1989

Board members present at the January 19, 1989 meeting heard from Clarence Storla that the Veterans Administration Hospital had given the Friends 14 boxes of books.

President Leighton Rudolf appointed the following committee chairmen: Clarence Storla, book sale; publicity, Jerome Jansma, publicity; Carolyn DeLille, arrangements; and Robbin Anderson, legislation. He asked Dorothy Metcalfe to help solicit life memberships.

Purchases approved in February include Grove's Dictionary of Jazz, Smithsonian Guide to Historic America, Science Experiments on File. Approved in April were: book truck (\$189), bulletin board (\$483), and \$1,000 for books about the states, Sierra Club Guides, fiction replacements, and Oxford Illustrated Histories.

In May the membership drive closed after realizing \$3,365, which is a gain over \$2,460 in 1988.

At the June meeting Friends did their part to move the Library ahead in technology as Jeanie Wyant began to enter its membership list into the library computer, which will print the mailing labels. Library staff will enter new members and maintain the list.



Pat Donat agreed to write the Friends newsletter and will become a Board member in the capacity of publicity chairman.

In July the Board authorized the purchase of the 2nd edition of the Oxford English Dictionary up to a cost of \$2,500. The library was to search for the lowest price available.

By September the OED was on the shelves. Genie Donovan suggested that the old edition be an auction item at the book sale with a bottom reserve of \$10 per volume.

The annual report for 1989, as presented on November 16, showed returns of \$6,875 from memberships. The return from book sales, at \$2,718, was down from the previous year (\$3,021) and may have been due to lack of publicity. Suggestions for future sales were to return to Friday and Saturday sales and to create a book sale committee which would meet separately from the Board to insure maximum planning and to draw up written guide lines for preparations. Officers selected for the coming year were president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Jerome Jansma; secretary, Mary John Jones; and treasurer, Helene Furst. The president appointed the following committee: book sale, Clarence Storla; book sale assistant, George Weiss; publicity, Carolyn DeLille; membership, Jerome Jansma.

## 1990

At the first meeting in 1990 Charles Kirchen presented a possible fund-raising project--selling tote bags with the Library name and/or logo on the side. He suggested that funds to start the project might be available from the Fayetteville Rotary Club.

Leighton Rudolph, outgoing president, Dorothy Metcalfe, and Robbin Anderson were honored for their services with books for the Library.

A highlight of the February meeting was an announcement that local author Doug Jones had agreed to read one of his stories at an event in observance of National Library Week in April. Invitations were to go out to Friends members.

The Board approved spending up to \$1,000 for a short story collection.

In March Board members met to address envelopes to people not on FFPL's membership list and to stuff, stamp, and seal the 700 letters. Zip Print had printed the letters at no charge. Membership cards were to be sent to all dues paying members.

By August the book bags were on sale in the Library for \$5.00. Several had already been sold. Dorothy Metcalfe had suggested tapes and/or compact discs as a memorial gift for Edward Metcalfe. She offered to match money given for a cabinet to house the collection.

The need to preserve copies of the minutes was demonstrated in a discussion at the Board's September meeting. A donor, Helen Adams, had specified that her Life membership contribution go to the Library endowment fund. Board members questioned the inclusion on the membership forms of the phrase: "Life memberships may be earmarked by the donor for the Endowment fund or for immediate use by the library." The secretary was instructed to search past records, especially those from around 1982, for references to the Endowment Fund. The minutes of successive meetings do not include a report of such a search and the option was offered on some membership solicitations as recently as 1983.

Clarence Storla was recognized at the November 15, 1990 meeting for his work as chairman of the book sale, which brought in \$2,170. The books were returned to 25 cents for hardbacks and 10 cents for paperbacks. Some select books were priced separately. Included in the total was \$238 raised by the silent auction.

Suggestions for future sales included using more intense publicity, avoiding dates of football games and craft fairs, sending a newsletter at the beginning of the book sale month, printing bookmarks to be distributed by the Library announcing the event.

At the annual meeting on the same day the officers elected for 1991 were: president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Sandra Hopkins; secretary, Mary John Jones; treasurer, Helene Furst.

## 1991

At the first board meeting of 1991, Carolyn DeLille, president, read a letter from Bobbie Hay thanking the Friends for their support at the City Board meeting on the budgeting for the year and explaining the plan for financing the Library in 1991.

President DeLille outlined plans for the year, which include the membership drive, a public meeting, book sale, the annual meeting, and a newsletter mailing before each event. She appointed the following committee chairman: publicity, Cathy Boyd; gifts and bequests, Louis Gottsponer; and book sale, Clarence Storla. In February Genie Donovan announced that the legislature was considering a constitutional amendment to raise the one mill cap for libraries. She asked Board members to call the Legislative Committee and urge passage.

At the next meeting the Board approved a suggestion that the treasurer should be able, if budgeted items exceed the budgeted amount, to make up the difference without reporting to the Board, unless the amount is excessive.

Good news in April - book bag sales reached the break even point. Future income from the bags would be all profit.

Change was in the air in May. Because of pending Library construction the Board decided to have an ongoing book sale for the remainder of the year, enlarge and lengthen the silent auction, and have an autumn book sale on Saturdays with volunteers manning the desk. Plans for a Summer Social at Cathy Boyd's home for the purpose of attracting new members and raising funds for a Periodical Abstracts computer program for the Library. Local authors were to receive special invitations. A timely newsletter would inform those on the mailing list of the Social and plans for the book sale. Purchase of 5-Day Ranger walking day tour cassettes for \$49.95 and the 1991 Encyclopedia Britannica with Compton's Encyclopedia for 1991 were approved in June. At the July meeting Genie Donovan announced that the Computerized Periodical Index was proving to be invaluable. She requested that \$2,000 be authorized to cover all

costs of the Index. This was approved.

With the ground-breaking scheduled for September for the new space in the Library, its Board asked the Friends for assistance with a fund drive for furniture.

The annual report of income and expenses presented at the annual meeting on November 20 showed income from memberships of \$8,840, book sale, \$1,647, silent auction, \$1,141, miscellaneous book sales, \$3,312, donations, \$1,801. The following officers were elected to serve in 1992: president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Mary John Jones; treasurer, Helene Furst; secretary, Martha Middleton. Among the suggested purchases approved were Everyman's Library or 1991 and 1992 (146 titles) and the Social Issues Resource Series and a modular book stand to contain it.

## 1992

At its February 1992 meeting board members voted on nine proposed changes to the bylaws. The membership was to be informed in a newsletter and the changes kept on file at the Library's main desk. The date for the membership vote was set for March 26.

A special edition of the newsletter appealed to readers to contribute to the Committee for Amendment 3, City and County Library Amendment, which would have allowed localities to call special elections to raise millage (up to 5 mills) on their own libraries, with an additional amount of up to 3 mills for capital improvements. It would not have raised taxes. This amendment was later declared unconstitutional.

The annual report for 1992 given in November shows receipts from memberships, \$7,805; book sale and silent auction, \$3,538; ongoing book sales, \$3,628, book bags, \$810; gifts, memorials, donations, \$426. Major purchases were for books and videos, \$11,632; non-book, \$3,653 (microfilm reader, listening center for children's library, Procrest magazine index); miscellaneous expenses, \$888 (supplies and newsletter mailings). The report goes on to give a count of 458 paid members, which includes memberships, donations, memorials, and silent auction purchasers. New members totaled 62.

## 1993

At the January 27, 1993 meeting board members decided to buy 50 more packets of note cards for \$1.50 each and sell them for \$5.00, plus the original rendering of the sketch for the cards for \$25.00. Officers for 1993 were president, Mary John Jones; vice president, Jerry Jansma; secretary, Martha Middleton; treasurer, Helene Furst.

At that February meeting members heard the distressing news that the Fayetteville Public Library could order no new books because the sales tax was declared unconstitutional by the Arkansas Supreme Court. The Friends had \$8,005 on hand. Genie Donovan, representing the library staff, proposed dividing this amount by department and giving the Friends credit with what is purchased with its funds. A motion passed to give \$7,000 to the Library as an outright gift. The discussion had mentioned that the City Board should not be given the chance to say that the Friends will always take up the slack and that the one-mill tax should be voted back in. Ideas for additional fund raisers were explored.

In March members decided that the secretary's book will be kept in the Library and the vice president will keep a scrapbook.

In May members were reminded to record their volunteer hours. These are reported to the city and state, which recognizes cities with the greatest number of hours. Jerry Jansma announced that Merrill Lynch had donated a year's subscription to Barron's. The Junior Civic League had offered to put the book sale on their community calendar. To take advantage of this, the Friends would need to set the date sooner.

A pool party at Cathy Boyd's home was set for June 27. Plans include items for sale, and a book shower from a Library wish list.

At the June 17, 1993 meeting Susan Sisson announced that a CD of "Night on Bald Mountain" had been damaged and that the Library had no funds to replace it from memorial donations. The Friends Board decided to discuss this at its next budget meeting. One Board member felt strongly that Friends funds be used only for books. Sisson suggested two gardening books honoring Genie Donovan, who is retiring after 20 years, be purchased for the library and that a large-print book be given in memory of Jan Storla.

In September Susan Sisson, representing the Library, presented a list of needed books for which the Library lacked funds. Board members voted to allot \$1,000 to each of six categories: social sciences, science and technology, fiction and music, history, genealogy, and literature. They also moved to give \$150 to the Library of America to qualify for a grant, thus enabling the purchase of the next ten volumes for \$15 each, adding to the 60 Library of America volumes already on the shelves.

The following month Mary John Jones reported on meeting with the Library Board, where she explained what we purchased and future plans for our funds. Board members voted to accept an invitation to join Arkansas's 55 Friends organizations and pay the \$5.00 dues.

The annual report for 1993, given in November, shows receipts from memberships, \$10,515; annual book sale, \$2,698; ongoing book sales, \$3,582; book bags, \$200; note cards, \$95. Paid up members numbered 451 and new members, 100. A note says that 300 names were added to the mailing list. thirty-six of these became members. Those who pay nothing for the previous three years are dropped from the the mailings. Major purchases were for books and videos, \$15,278; a bench for the lobby, \$387; and supplies and mailings, \$973.

At the annual meeting on November 18, members discussed the annual book sale and agreed to shorten the night sale to three hours. Someone suggested monthly pricing and boxing by categories throughout the year. A vote raising dues was approved as follows: Individual, \$10; Contributing, \$20; Supporting, \$30. Officers chosen for 1994 were: president, Mary John Jones; vice

president, Nona Vinzant; secretary, Martha Middleton; treasurer, Ray Shipman. Members gave Helene Furst a rousing cheer for serving as treasurer for four years.

## 1994

The February 1994 meeting was held at the home of Carolyn DeLille because inclement weather had closed the Library. Cathy Boyd presented a statement she had written to the Library staff requesting a staff member be assigned to the Friends' Board to provide continuity. The need for advice as to specific goals was becoming acute. Board members felt Cathy's statement presented the Friends' need accurately and in a business-like manner.

The annual silent auction was a topic of discussion at meetings in the spring of 1994. Apparently the Friends were disappointed that it brought in \$582.50. The minutes read, "The committee needs to make more definite plans for the next auction as the past one was 'a little muddled.'" At the request of staff member Susan Sisson, the Board voted to set a February or March date for the 1995 silent auction. Susan presented a list of books on order with Friends' funds. Also requested were a poetry magazine subscription and replacement of popular Spanish tapes, as they have disappeared and are always on request.

The bookstore was to benefit from a donation of 1500 books by John Lewis to the Library after the librarians made their selections for the shelves.

At the April meeting Friends president Mary John Jones, who was on the steering committee for a millage request, discussed some of the committee's goals: 1. county-wide distribution; 2. all systems computerized; 3. additional staff; 4. additional material.

The following month librarian Susan Sisson introduced the need for an answering machine. One bid received was for \$655 to upgrade the system and \$3,396 to put in 8 lines. Members voted to put in the service after more bids have been solicited.

In October 1994 the Friends sponsored an autograph party at the Bank of Fayetteville for Julianne Lewis Adams and Thomas DeBlack, editors of *Civil Disobedience*. The book, published by the University Press, is an oral account of desegregation in Fayetteville public schools from 1954 to 1965, and includes an introductory essay by Distinguished Professor Willard B. Gatewood. Financially the event was not a success for the Friends. Returns from the sale of books were \$315 but postage for the newsletter announcing the event was \$509. Susan presented a list of books on order with Friends' funds.

The 1994 annual meeting was held in November. Mary John discussed asking present members to renew in the next newsletter. She stressed that the \$10 dues will not even buy one book. Member Peg Anderson reported that Fayetteville overwhelmingly voted in favor of the library tax.

Officers chosen for 1995 were: president, Nona Vinzant; vice president, Sandra Parker; secretary, Cathy Boyd; treasurer, Ray Shipman.

A 1994 newsletter told of the need for volunteers in the Library. Some areas where help would be welcome were children's story hours, genealogy, book repair, and computer data entry.

## 1995

At the January 1995 meeting staff member Linda Harrison reported on Library funding problems following the failure of the millage increase at the November election. She suggested that Board members attend the February 7 meeting of the City Council at which the Library Board may begin seeking additional funding from the City.

Mary John told the Board in March that she was preparing 100 letters to corporations asking for donations of \$100. Ray Shipman suggested that Friends associated with corporations, whether actively or retired, seek matching corporate gifts.

Jerry Jansma discussed the use of Community Access Television for publicity for the Library. He agreed to look into posting a notice on the CAT bulletin board saying that CAT certified programmers are invited to doing a library program explaining services, problems, and needs.

At the August meeting treasurer Ray Shipman was preparing to send reminders to members who had not renewed during the past year. The Board discussed ways to get rid of more books. Ray suggested a sale of children's books. A room was available in October for a sale if the Board wanted to have such a sale. However, at the September meeting they decided that a date at the time the reading programs begin in the summer would be a better time for sale of children's books.

September 20 was adopted as the date for a party with wine, cheese, and snacks for the Library staff at Cathy Boyd's home.

The Board and members met on November 16, 1995 and learned that the book sale was a success with an excellent turnout and no books returned to storage. The silent auction was off to a good start. Books offered for sale at the auction included *The Book of Bottle Collecting*, *Rattlesnakes*, and *Peculiarities of the Presidents: Strange Facts Not Usually Found in History*. Purchases for the Library which were approved included \$250 for CDROMs for *Encyclopedia Britannica*, \$5,508 to continue purchase of unabridged recorded books, and \$2,903 toward purchase of videos. Officers elected for 1996 were: president, Anne Prichard; vice president, Pat Donat; secretary, Cathy Boyd; treasurer, Ray Shipman.

On December 5, 1995, volunteers for the Library, including the Friends, were honored with a recognition event at the Bank of Fayetteville. Genie Donovan reported that there were 32 volunteers working in every area of the Library, an increase of almost 60 percent over the previous year. About 80 volunteers and family members attended the event.

**1996**

At the February 1996 meeting Genie, now the Library's volunteer chairman, said the Library needs volunteers to read to hospitalized children. At that time the Library had twenty volunteers working in its various sections. The president appointed Genie volunteer coordinator and record keeper for the Friends.

The Friends decided to continue with their Thursday morning book sorting. Jerry Jansma suggested they be more aware of special pricing on better books.

Carolyn DeLille reported that there would be only one silent auction in 1996. She asked board members to be on the lookout for unusual books that would sell at the auction.

David Johnson of the Library staff announced that during Library Week in April the Library was to hold a "Night of 1000 Stars," during which local celebrities would read to adults and children.

At their April meeting the Friends Board approved a motion to purchase a directory of certified and approved medical specialists at a cost of \$395 each time it is published and to add \$125 to the Value Line Investment survey to receive information on an additional 3,000 stocks. They were informed that, because the genealogy section will be receiving the 1920 Federal Census for the United States on microfilm, its equipment will soon be inadequate.

A spring newsletter told that the Library was beginning a delivery service to shut-ins. Called Lending Hand Program, it is designed to make the Library's resources available to members of the community who are unable to visit the Library. Volunteers were needed to deliver the materials and return them to the Library. June Jefferson of the Library staff submitted a request in June for additional funding for the CD collection and new and replacement videos, as well as file cabinets for office staff storage.

At the August meeting Ray Shipman, treasurer, brought up the subject of overruns on designated fund items. These are customarily paid, but Shipman wanted the Board to be aware of this and perhaps take action. David Johnson explained that in ordering discounts are not made clear and at times the cost did not exactly correspond to the amount presented to the Board for approval. The Board approved a measure that would give the treasurer authority to pay any overruns less than 10% of the total cost. Board approval should be sought for any amount of 10% or more.

They discussed the problem of Regional Library discards which are filling the storeroom to overflowing and someone suggested that the Regional Library could organize its own Friends group to help dispose of their discarded books. Jim McClintock, representing the Veterans Hospital, had called David Johnson about books for the VA's patient library. The Board agreed to contact him and allow him to take what books he could use to the VA. This would be an ongoing commitment.

David Johnson asked the Friends to purchase for the Library videos for \$2,000 and music CDs for \$2,000. The Board approved.

The October meeting was brief. Members had been busy getting ready for the book sale. Posters were printed and Board members assigned to place them in public places. Volunteers had been found to set up for the sale and checkers recruited for the sale. A decision was made to sell all books for 25 cents unless otherwise marked. They responded to a request from Tex Trumbo for a donation of books to the new Community Center by approving a motion to allow Trumbo to come to the Sunday clean-up sale and help himself to as many as he needed.

The November meeting was, as often was the practice, combined with the annual meeting of the Friends. Clarence Storla reported that revenue from the book sale was the highest ever, \$3,109, and that on-going book sales continue to be brisk. Carolyn DeLille said the silent action appeared to be going well and that Dottie Reddig had contributed several of her paintings to the auction.

David Johnson showed a list of CDs which had been purchased by the Friends. The Board approved a library request for additional funding for the children's library.

Mary John Jones introduced a motion to modify Article IV, section VI, of the bylaws to allow four more at-large members of the board, to be proposed by the president and appointed by the board. This was approved.

Mary John, as chairman of the nominating committee, presented a slate of officers for 1997 as follows: president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Pat Donat; secretary, Lois Alward; treasurer, Ray Shipman. These nominations were elected.

**1997**

The first meeting of the board in 1997 was held on February 20. Walt Danforth was introduced as a new member-at-large. The treasurer's report showed a cash balance of \$19,807. Of this amount \$8781 represents the designated fund balance, the remainder being undesignated. Bill Reddig handed out copies of a press release telling about the new officers and plans for the coming year. He will serve as the Friends Board liaison with the Library Board of Trustees. The Friends Board will endeavor to cooperate with the Trustees, especially in the area of fundraising. June Jefferson stated that the Library is considering the establishment of a foundation or endowment. She expressed appreciation for the Friends and said that the Library depends on their help.

Genie Donovan spoke about the upcoming membership letter. The second page of the letter may include quotes from a variety of people of all ages on "Why I Love the Library."

The purchase of a CD-ROM on genealogy of the Civil War era met with approval.

At the March meeting members learned that Nan Lawler had volunteered to set up a web page for Friends of the Library. Board members present liked the idea and Genie was authorized to tell Nan to proceed.

They voted to renew membership in the national Friends of the Library.

Cathy Boyd handed out corrected copies of the bylaws.

Lois Alward gave a report on plans to sell books out of the storeroom on Friday mornings from 9 to 11, weather permitting. A group of Friends sorting books in preparation for the fall book sale has started setting boxes of books out on the sidewalk in good weather, thus the name "Fairweather Friends." At the April meeting the Fairweather Friends reported a profit of \$43. They plan to continue selling books on Fridays. They donated ten boxes of books to the Springdale Hospital for their auction. A motion passed to let the Fairweather Friends make decisions on donating surplus books. Also, a motion passed to honor Jim Thompson for all his efforts by purchasing a book for the Library in his name.

Among the funding requests from the Library presented by June Jefferson were the Timestep Players for summer reading program, an outside return chute for audio-visual materials, and book trucks. These and others for a total of \$8,837 were approved.

The minutes of the May meeting lists almost a dozen decisions and changes. All funds had been moved to the Bank of Fayetteville. New book bags in teal and white print were ordered. An article about the Friends that had appeared in the in the Northwest Times was distributed. The Board decided to distribute copies of the Friends' brochure to Welcome Wagon and the Chamber of Commerce. Bill Reddig announced that the Library Board of Trustees approved the Friends offering corporate memberships. Nan Lawler announced she will proceed with the website, which will be placed with the UARK INFO Aladdin. David Johnson said he had resigned from the Library staff and that Mary Saxon will be his replacement.

Ray Shipman, treasurer, reported in June that the cash balance was \$19,264, of which \$18,238 was designated leaving \$1,386 undesignated. As usual, there was no meeting in July.

A report on membership at the August meeting showed 74 more members had paid their dues than in August 1996 and an increase of \$2,065 in dues for the year. The Board decided to have 800 copies of the October newsletter printed.

Mary Saxon of the Library staff presented a list of requests in September: update Science and Technology references, \$2,000; update Health references, \$300; \$250 for genealogy needs, microfiche and adapter. Funding for these needs was approved. The Board heartily approved of the signs and posters designed by Nan Lawler.

Those present at the November meeting learned that the book sale took in \$2,214.

The annual meeting took place on December 4, 1997. In addition to the Board and Library representatives, one member, Mac McLendon, attended. Ray Shipman, treasurer, reported a cash balance of \$26,035, \$7700 of which was undesignated. Membership numbers were up 13%.

Carolyn DeLille thanked Jim and Diana Thompson, Fairweather Friends of the Library, and Bill Reddig for their outstanding help on the silent auction, which earned \$1407 with some payments still outstanding.

Bill displayed a scrapbook he was keeping on publicity items and newsletters.

June Jefferson requested \$5962 for the recorded book purchase for 1998 as well as about \$600 to pay the recorded book bills for 1997. Lois Alward moved that the \$600 be paid after a proper bill was submitted to the treasurer. Genie Donovan moved to commit \$1500 quarterly to recorded books for the next year with a report from staff each quarter. If the amount goes over this, the books were to be sent back.

Pat Donat requested a staff member be assigned to be the liaison with Fairweather Friends of the Library.

Officers nominated and accepted for 1998 were president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Lois Alward; treasurer, Ray Shipman.

## 1998

Louise Schaper, the new director of the Library, along with Steven Thomas of the Library staff, attended the February 1998 meeting of the Friends of the Library Board. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$22,609. \$1960 of that amount was undesignated. After a discussion some designated funds were moved to the general fund. The Library staff requested renewal of Value Line Survey, a two-year subscription to Poetry Magazine, and the Info-Line, for a total request of \$5,931. A motion to approve these purchases passed.

Lois Alward read a proposal from Pat Donat for a feasibility study of a bookstore run by the Friends. A motion to accept the proposal passed. The information to be gathered was meant to help guide the Friends as they pursued the idea of a more permanent bookstore.

The Board voted to purchase a book in honor of Greg Jones, who donated his time to do the annual audit.

Finally, they voted not to renew membership in the national Friends of the Library.

Lynette Terrell, silent auction chairperson, attended the March meeting. Louise Schaper and Steven Thomas of the staff also attended. Louise announced that the Library's extended hours would start April 13, with a ribbon-cutting open to the public. A representative of the Friends was invited to say a few words. Louise also said there would be a planning session for the Library on April 17 and 18. She asked for two articulate representatives from the friends. Mentioned was made that a group of people would like to start a subcommittee of the Friends group dedicated to aiding the children's section.

At the April meeting the treasurer reported that a memorial gift from Billie Jo Starr and a gift from the Len and Louise Schaper had been used, in part, for a membership for the Library in the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. Memberships in the Friends totaling \$3,515 had been received in response to the membership letter.

The Fairweather Friends had taken in \$132 within two hours the previous Friday selling books from boxes on the honor system.

Steven Thomas said that Cathy Boyd had given a very nice speech at the ribbon-cutting. Cathy said that the Library's new programs, the revised meeting room policy, and the computer training for senior citizens should be featured in the Friends' June

newsletter.

At the June meeting the Board discussed supporting a funding request asking the city for about \$192,000 for library materials. The national average for library materials was \$3.53 per capita. Locally Rogers allots \$3.26, Springdale \$2.84, but Fayetteville only \$1.52 per capita.

In August the Board clarified the policy that anyone donating \$500 or more, regardless of the nature of the donation, would be awarded a lifetime membership in Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library.

Pat Donat announced that the Continuous (formerly Fairweather) Book Sale was now able to expand its operation from Friday mornings to include Saturday mornings as soon as two volunteers could be recruited to be responsible for Saturday. The September News added that the Fairweathers now had space indoors and bookcases to show off the books. Many books are priced at 25 cents.

A letter was given to each Board member from Louise Schaper expressing her gratitude for the Friends' efforts and outlines her preliminary requests for the Board's consideration.

Louise announced that the website was operational and that soon there would be an email address through which patrons could send their questions.

She then presented her funding requests: outside garbage cans, reupholstering of some library furniture (some of which are considered collector's items), painting, and signage. The largest request was for printing stationery, thank you notes, and business cards with the new logo. These requests were approved.

At the October meeting Cathy Rew of the Library staff announced that the national consultant on the future of the Library would be in Fayetteville on November 9 and 10 for public hearings.

The annual meeting of the Friends was held on November 30, 1998. Ray Shipman read the treasurer's report. He pointed out that the number of paid members was down by 96 and membership revenues by \$930. The cash balance was \$28,862, of which \$21,108 is designated and \$7754 undesignated.

Tee-shirts were selling slowly and were perhaps in need of a better display.

The nominating slate accepted by acclamation was: president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Betty Solis; treasurer, Ray Shipman. The following will continue in their present responsibilities: Nan Lawler, producing the newsletter; Genie Donovan, membership; Bill Reddig, public relations; Pat Donat, ongoing book sales.

Louise Schaper announced that Miles James of James at the Mill would be at the Library on December 5 to share some of his delicacies, answer questions about foods, and sign his new book. She also announced that the library funds in capital improvement projects had been approved. A radio frequency monitoring system would soon be added to the library because of the 6% shrinkage in library materials. The architects were to report on their study and recommendations on December 1 and on December 17 meet with the Library Board and other interested parties.

## 1999

In January 1999 Cathy Rew reported on the options for the library project. If the city will fund it, models will be made of three possibilities--remodel and add on, tear down and start over, or relocate and build a new building. The public would be invited to see these options and take part in public discussions.

Because membership in Friends had been declining, Genie Donovan and Walt Danforth were assigned to explore ways to get new members, such as benefits or an event with refreshments and a program.

Diana Thompson had agreed to supervise the Saturday book sales.

Nan Lawler spoke about doing the newsletter and a new brochure in house.

Cathy presented a request for books on tape, additional work stations, a server, and a database. The Board approved this request.

In February the business meeting was followed by a meeting with the architect regarding the new building or remodeling of the library.

At the March meeting Cathy Rew presented a request for \$1500 to pay performers in the summer reading program, adding that the Friends would be sponsors of the program.

Nan Lawler brought a sample newsletter on letter-size paper. Bill Reddig, Walt Danforth, and Genie Donovan were to help determine the contents of the newsletter and a new brochure to introduce the group and its activities. These brochures were to be given to new patrons of the library with their library cards.

The Spring 1999 News announced a special event. Dr. Elliott West, a prominent historian of the American West, was to speak to the Friends at a membership get-together on May 18. The public was welcome to attend. Current members could renew for 1999 and non-members would be encouraged to join.

At the June meeting Louise Schaper presented a request for \$5,000 for the public service area, which was being reorganized with better display space. The money was to be spent on paperbacks, including books for children's school assignments, and collections of mysteries, science fiction, and adventure. The Board approved this request.

The Summer News said that the Friends Bookstore was open every Friday and Saturday morning and had brought in \$2,900 as of June 1 for the year. The talk by Dr. Elliott West drew a near capacity crowd of about 50. It tied in with the library's summer reading program, which was sponsored by the Friends.

Cathy Boyd and Genie Donovan shared memories of Clarence "Dude" Storla. Beginning in 1988 he assumed the chairmanship of the Friends' Annual Book Sale and continued in that post until he moved to Houston in 1997. He also devoted several days a week

selecting and moving books from storage to the ongoing book sale.

At the September meeting the Board approved a request from Mary Saxon of the Library staff for \$2500 to buy county histories, records of births, deaths, and marriages. Ray Shipman, treasurer, reaffirmed that if a request goes up to 10% over the estimate, he will go ahead and pay it. If it goes up by more than 10%, the Board would have to consider it. This policy had been approved in June 1996. Louise Schaper asked members to come up with a list of what the Friends need and want in the new building's bookstore.

An announcement of the 1999 annual meeting said that Director Louise Schaper would talk about plans for the new library building. The meeting was open to the public, but only members could vote. Membership in Friends is a way of helping the new library, as Friends were always especially invited to participate in planning meetings.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 2000: president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Betty Solis; treasurer, Ray Shipman.

## 2000

The spring 2000 membership appeal stated that the Friends spent \$27,412 to support the Library and only \$836 for operating expenses in 1999.

In February 2000 members were invited to a lunch honoring Jim and Diane Thompson and Charles Reynolds, who helped start the bookstore and had worked continually for its success. It had made \$6,275 in 1999. The bookstore in the new library was beginning to seem like a reality. The plans include an easily seen area for the store and storage and work space in an enclosed space.

Two requests were submitted by Library staffers - one for \$6,000 for recorded books. The other is \$2,500 for the summer reading program, which goes to pay performers. The goal for the year was to reach 1,000 children. Both projects were approved. In April the staff requested and the Board approved \$1,000 more for books on tape and \$1,000 for travel materials. The library is spending the Clarence Storla memorial gifts primarily on books on organic gardening.

At the May meeting Ray Shipman, treasurer, announced that membership in the Friends had doubled since the previous year.

After discussing the possibility of filing a 501H form with the IRS, which would allow the Friends to lobby for funding of the new library, those present decided to have Ray file the form.

Bob Ford, reference librarian, spoke at the June meeting on the possibility of starting a film series. He said he might want to use the Friends' mailing list and their support.

Members were reminded of the August 22 date for a vote on a one-cent city sales tax for 18 months for construction of the proposed library.

The staff reported that circulation was growing rapidly and they hope to have 400,000 subscribers by the end of the year. They requested and received approval for \$3,000 for adult fiction.

An email message from Louise Schaper dated August 24, 2000 to Lois Alward, president of the Board, asking for a formal letter of commitment from the Friends for a grant application for \$6 million for the new building, including the Friends' mission statement, its length of existence, its role in the new building and commitment to operating the bookstore. This letter required signatures of all Board members. This must have been a challenge for the officers given that the due date for the application was September 8, weeks ahead of the Friends' next meeting and a time when many Board members, including Lois, were out of town.

At the October meeting the Board learned that the people who manage the bookstore were scheduled to meet with the architect in November to talk over plans for the bookstore and office in the new library.

The nominating committee met and the slate of officers for 2001 remained unchanged: president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Betty Solis; treasurer, Ray Shipman. The October newsletter spoke of the overwhelming vote in favor of the tax to fund the new Library building. It thanked the many Friends worked tirelessly to get out the vote.

In December the treasurer reported a sizable increase in membership. The bookstore made \$234 in November and the silent auction around \$900.

Louise Schaper gave an update on the Library building project. Construction was scheduled to start in February 2002.

The Board voted to incorporate the Friends' newsletter as a page in the four-page Library newsletter. The Friends would continue to do a separate membership mailing of the newsletter..

## 2001

At the first meeting of 2001 Louise Schaper asked that \$7,000 of previously designated funds be returned to the Friends treasury because current Library funds will be adequate to meet the requested needs.

Georgia Kunze, who will replace Bill Reddig as publicity chair, was introduced and appointed to the Board. Also appointed were David Luhn and Donnie Porter.

Someone reported that when the library has volunteer recognition events, the Friends volunteers will be included.

At the February meeting Louise said that the Library staff is trying to ask for as little money as possible from the Friends. She did request \$3,500 for the summer reading program, \$300 for the Festivals of the World series - a popular program, \$100 for the library lock-in, \$200 for three workshops, and Halloween story time.

Bob Caulk, a new volunteer at the bookstore, had suggested that hardback fiction be sold two or three for a quarter. Signs were to go up on April 1 advertising the sale.



Georgia gave a summary of the film series to be offered in cooperation with the Walton Arts Center in the summer. The Friends share of expenses would be about \$500. Bob Ford, Steven Thomas, and Laura Goodwin were to select the films.

Bargains were available on three days in April when the bookstore ran a special sale of fiction. Prices were 5 cents for romances and three hardbacks for a quarter. Also in the bookstore report: the U of A had donated eight boxes of books and the store had made \$673 in March.

Georgia Kunze reported in May that a series of five films was scheduled for the summer through a partnership among the Walton Arts Center, the Library, and the Ozark Film Society. Staff member Steven Thomas's request for \$3000 for audio-books was approved.

Members present discussed internet filter in the Library. The staff was looking at the laws to ascertain just what is the effect of the laws. The Library was already doing some filtering and had policies in place.

The bookstore made \$773 in July. Louise Schaper requested funds for refreshments at the August 13 meeting at the Town Center where those attending will view the final details of the Library plan.

Steven Thomas reported on the summer film series. About 100 to 140 people attended, with "Croupier" being the most popular.

A pool party for Library staff was planned for August at Cathy Boyd's home.

Technology moves on. At the August 21 meeting, Louise Schaper asked for a change in the fund category from audiobooks to videos and DVDs. The number of Life Members had grown, making it necessary to order another plaque for their names. The following month Betty Solis reported for the nominating committee that all officers had agreed to serve another term: president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Betty Solis; treasurer, Ray Shipman. Nominations from the floor would be accepted at the annual meeting.

Those present at the September meeting learned that Bob Ford was to be the new volunteer coordinator for the Library.

The 2001 annual meeting took place on December 3. Lynette Terrell announced that the silent auction was a success, with \$1,200 collected and many items yet to be picked up.

The bookstore made \$534 in November and was in need of books in many categories.

Louise Schaper reported that the new library would be certified as a green building, perhaps the first one in Arkansas.

## 2002

On January 28, 2002 the Board heard that the supply of books in the store was still low and decided to send out a press release asking for donations of books.

Ray Shipman suggested making Greg Jones a Life Member in recognition of his many years looking after the Friends finances. This was approved.

The staff requested funds for the children's programs, adult AV, and \$1,000 for the new building groundbreaking.

In March the groundbreaking committee had met to work on details of the groundbreaking April 27 at the site. Plans included a choral performance, short speeches, refreshments, free T-shirts for children and for sale to adults for \$5.00, as well as keepsake bookmarks for all. The Friends sponsored the children's activities.

By April the plea for donations of books brought in a good supply and the store made \$821 in March and in May, \$1,096. The Board discussed the practice of selling books to dealers and decided to continue doing so.

Louise Schaper said that Walmart had given a \$1,000 grant to the Library for literacy. The Friends could apply for a grant from them, perhaps to match the proceeds from the silent auction.

Georgia Kunze reported on damage in the art book section of the Library. Pages of art prints had been cut from more than 100 books. Friends were asked to help search the shelves for any damaged books not yet discovered so that a dollar value can be determined when the damage is reported to the authorities. The Friends agreed to offer a reward of \$500 for information leading to an arrest if it is decided that would be helpful to the Library. Insty Prints gave \$500 to add to the reward and money was going into a donation jar to increase the reward.

At the July meeting Louise Schaper talked about the possibility that Fayetteville citizens could choose to receive the 1 mill library levy instead of the 1 mill going to Washington County. This would be decided by a vote of the people according to Arkansas statutes. The millage would provide a more stable income stream for the Fayetteville Library. By August Louise had submitted signatures on a petition to the mayor. To encourage more support for the initiative, she requested \$2,000 from the Friends for newspaper ads and mailings. A motion in favor was passed. In September she informed the Friends that there was no organized opposition and that the ads and mailings cost well under \$2,000. The initiative passed.

Staff member Steven Thomas submitted two requests for funds at the December meeting: \$10,000 for audiobooks and books on CDs and \$5,500 for children's programming, including the summer program. Both requests were approved.

Officers selected for 2003 were: president, Lois Alward; treasurer, Ray Shipman; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Betty Solis.

## 2003

Treasurer Ray Shipman reported at the first meeting in 2003 that proceeds from the silent auction were \$1,701 and that the bookstore made \$743 in December. Beginning in February the bookstore was to be open from 1:30 to 3:30 if there is heat available.

Lois Alward reported that she had explained our function to the Foundation. The Friends will remain a separate entity.

Bookstore sales continued to be strong, necessitating a plea in March for donations of LPs, videos, and CDs, as well as books. Four Board members toured the site of the new library building and reported they were able to see the sorting area for the Friends bookstore. Walt Danforth purged the mailing list of persons who had not paid since 1998, leaving 708 names on the list.

It's feast or famine. In May 2003 Board members discussed ways to get rid of surplus books, going so far as filling boxes to go to recycling and removing hard covers from books to go in the dumpster. Some romances went to the magazine give-away rack. The goal is to make room on the shelves for better books than in the store room.

At the July meeting the Board voted to give \$1,000 to help finance the topping out ceremony for the new library building. They learned that Lois Alward was going to Lincoln, Arkansas to talk to their library staff about starting a Friends of the Library program and that Betty Solis and Georgia Kunze might go along. The Library planned a book signing for Bob Ford in September and the Friends voted to spend \$200 for this event. The title of the book is "The Student Conductor." At a Thank You to Members Week, also in September, members of the Friends were offered one free book with the purchase of two.

In October Louise Schaper asked for \$5500 for the children's summer program. This was approved.

A combined Board meeting and annual meeting was held in December. Louise Schaper announced that the new library was 65% complete and that the opening celebration was scheduled for October 9, 2004.

Sally Stone agreed to work in the bookstore on Sundays, assuring that it will be open. Peggy Hoffman was sorting and culling the romances. George Weiss was taking things to recycling. Lynette Terrell was thanked for doing the silent auction. It brought in about \$2,200. The Board was grateful to these members for their help.

The current officers were elected to serve sixth terms in 2004: president, Lois Alward; treasurer, Ray Shipman; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Betty Solis.

## 2004

The Board opened the year 2004 by voting to name the bookstore in the new library Friends' Bookstore. It was announced that all volunteers in the Library will be required to sign an agreement about Library policies and the Friends will need to add a by-law on this topic.

Ray Shipman said there were five new Life memberships. Purchase of plaques were approved for these new life members.

Tim Walker from Walker Creative brought the new Library logo. The Board approved a motion to accept the logo as presented.

Steven informed the Board in March that the Library would probably close in August. Plans were soon underway for packing the books in the store.

He also reported that the reference librarians were in the process of selecting books to buy with the Grace Vawter bequest. (Note: Grace Vawter was the original owner of the Town and Country Shop on the Fayetteville Square.) They had decided that half would be spent on reference books and half on circulated books of lasting value, all dealing with the social sciences and the humanities.

Lois Alward announced at the May 25th meeting that she was appointing Jake Lamkins to the Board. The appointment was unanimously approved. Jake started volunteering in the bookstore last November.

A moving sale was held on August 22, after which the bookstore was closed until the new library opened. The official moving date was September 14.

In September the staff requested that the Friends Life membership be raised from \$500 to \$1,000 to be compatible with the Foundation's donor list. The Board approved this request and also one for \$2,500 for the opening celebration.

The Friends applied for a sales tax number. The tax will be included in the price for books and the Library accountant will take out the sales tax. It was later found to be unnecessary and no sales taxes applied to bookstore sales.

At the annual meeting in December the following officers were nominated and accepted by the members present: president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Betty Solis; treasurer, Rhoda Woods. Also at the meeting Lois read a note from Louise Schaper explaining that the magazine exchange had been eliminated because people were leaving bags full of trash that had to be thrown out.

## 2005

In the spring of 2005 the Friends were busy getting settled in the new Library. Bob Kohler, who had done signs for the Library, said he would work on the Lifetime Members signs that were to go on a wall in the bookstore. Because the signs would be in the bookstore rather than on the donor wall, the Board decided to go back to \$500 for lifetime memberships in the Friends. They also passed a motion to omit any reference to specific amounts of membership dues in the constitution. The Board could then change amounts without a vote of the membership. It was confirmed that membership dues were due in March no matter when a person first joined.

Louise Schaper presented the 2005 request for funds: \$6,000 for the children's summer reading program; \$3,000 for the teen summer reading program; center for writers grant application (to show support of the community), \$1,000; book club books; books and mat, \$10,000 and media. The Board decided to spend \$100 on a book for the Library in memory of Bill Reddig

Lois Alward and Georgia Kunze were appointed to the Public Art Committee for the Library.

Big news! The Friends voted by email to sponsor a concert by Lucinda Williams on October 11. Michael Thomas made the

arrangements and did most of the publicity. He got free advertising from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, a donation of four hotel rooms from the Radisson, and announcements on KUAF. The Walton Arts Center was to handle the ticketing for a charge of \$1,485. Jim Blair underwrote the concert up to \$25,000.

In July Georgia Kunze brought a report from the Library Board requesting that the Friends' agenda and minutes be kept in a record book at the Library. The Library Board sent along an expression of gratitude for the work of the Friends.

There was a discussion on Friends' sponsorship of Library events. Some objected to sponsoring parties, while others felt literary events which constitute adult programming should be funded at some level. They decided that each request of this type should be evaluated by the Friends' Board.

At the September 2005 meeting Lois Alward read a note from Corinne Shipman about memorials to Ray Shipman, longtime treasurer for the Friends. Norma Reed donated a hand-made quilt for a raffle. Tickets were \$1.00 at Norma's request. She wanted everyone to have a chance at winning. It was displayed behind the information desk and 1,576 tickets were sold.

A Katrina fund was started at the Library. Fines could be designated for damaged libraries. Katrina was a deadly hurricane that wrought major disasters on New Orleans on August 29 that year.

The profit from the the Lucinda Williams concert amounted to \$35,826 after expenses were deducted from ticket sales of \$46,000. Michael commented on the excellent press coverage and the diversity of the audience. The Friends presented him with a Life membership for him and his wife as well as a gift certificate to Sam's Club from the Library and the Friends.

At the November meeting members voted to fund the following: children's books and materials, \$7,000; teen program, \$4,000; teen books, audio books, and audiovisual materials, \$5,000; bestsellers, \$15,000, book clubs, \$3,000; DVDs, \$7,500 for a total of \$41,500.

At the annual meeting in December members were told that the bookstore made over \$2,500 in November. Improvements to the bookstore included adding the plaques listing Life Members to the wall and changes in operating procedures. Donations were plentiful. The silent auction brought in \$1,000, less than in previous years. The quilt raffle brought in \$1,915. There were 307 paid members. The Friends received \$1,000 in memory of Bill Reddig.

Officers elected for 2006 were president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Rhoda Woods; secretary, Betty Solis.

## 2006

Planning for the Summer Reading Program began in February 2006. Wal-Mart joined the Friends in sponsoring this program, one of the Friends major activities. The Democrat-Gazette and Clear Channel were the media sponsors.

Norma and Roy Reed were made Life members in recognition of the donation of the quilt.

The Board voted to contribute to the millage campaign committee.

Ray Mosely spoke to about forty people on April 23, an event sponsored by the Friends. Shitra Bannerjee Divakaruni was to read from her books on May 6.

The Friends helped the Library keep up with technology by contributing \$10,000 for books that could be downloaded to patrons' computers or MP3 players. At the same time they voted to fund the business collection's check-out materials at \$6,000 over two years.

In June the Friends voted to sponsor a presentation and book signing by Randall Woods. His book was a biography of Lyndon Baines Johnson.

They expressed their gratitude to David Sloan and Steve Bowles for their donation of many fine books to the Library and the book store.

Louise Schaper asked the Friends to buy one of the book drops planned for different parts of the city at a cost of \$4,000 to \$5,000 each. In July the Board expressed its support to do so in the future. Staff member Georgia Kunze said that some staff members who had relatives serving in the Iraq War had started sending boxes of paperbacks to the troops overseas. The Board voted to help with this project.

Sara Terry joined the Library staff in June as communications and marketing director. She presented a proposal to let children buy membership in the Friends. Some years earlier the Board explored a similar proposal but declined to act on it.

The Friends received a Proclamation from the Mayor in October 2006 recognizing the group's 25th anniversary. Sara Terry requested \$500 to fund five coffees for city leaders. The motion to accept this request was withdrawn due to concern that such an event might be considered lobbying, which is not allowed by the Friends' tax status.

The founding members of the Friends, Dottie Wood, Harriet Jansma, Mary Alice Pearson, Martha Brewer, and Mary Jane Haley, were invited to the annual meeting in December, where they were to be given certificates in honor of their efforts for the Fayetteville Public Library.

Also at the annual meeting officers for 2007 were elected. They were the same as the previous year: president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Rhoda Woods; secretary, Betty Solis.

Proposed changes in the bylaws were approved by a vote of 20 to 4. These changes deleted sections pertaining to classes of membership and added that all dues were to be set by the Board and changed as needed in regular meetings. A request from the Library staff for \$3,000 for the World Language Collection, \$4,000 for reference materials, and \$5,000 for Playaway was approved. Genie Donovan gave the membership report as follows: 78 Lifetime members, 87 Family members, 91 individual members, 59 Supporting members, and 43 Sustaining members for a total of 368 members.

**2007**

At the first meeting of 2007 the Board discussed membership renewal dates, the Youth level of membership, and methods of labeling and inventory control in the book store. They decided to try labeling books with masking tape and a Sharpie pen to label the books. Georgia Kunze and Lois Alward reported on Reading Roadshow in which volunteers read to children at Headstart and give each child a book as often as possible.

Daniel Ferritor, president of the Library Board of Trustees, and Louise Schaper, director of the Library, attended the Friends meeting in March. Ferritor spoke about the part of the strategic plan which involves bringing together all groups supporting the Library: the Friends, The Library Board and the Foundation. All are dedicated to the improvement and support of the Library. He said their focus needed to be on getting more supporters for the Library. Lois Alward and Georgia Kunze represent the Friends as these groups met to plan strategy. The Ferritors were to host a Gathering of the Boards at their home on April 12.

Lois Alward reported on the working group which she and Georgia Kunze attended. A bylaws comparison revealed needed changes for the Friends, including term limits for Board and officers and an auditing committee. Advocacy training might be brought here for all board members.

Members voted to give a ten percent discount on Library merchandise in the bookstore to members of the Friends.

The youth membership was tabled once again.

New Life Members were to receive laminated membership cards with their thank-you notes. Current members would also receive these cards in a letter.

Harriet Jansma, Genie Donovan, and Walt Danforth were appointed to the bylaws committee, with Lois Alward and Georgia Kunze sitting in.

Louise Schaper reported that the new book drops were paid for by the Bank of Fayetteville and that the books are brought back to the Library by courier.

The recommendations submitted by the working group were the focus of the June 2007 meeting. The Friends Board approved the following: annual gathering of the boards, bylaws to be reviewed by all boards, acknowledgement of Friends at events, card and letter to acknowledge all gifts, annual giving benefit of 10% off on bookstore items, one-year membership in Friends for new cardholders, youth membership, advocacy plans, annual signature event for all three boards, working group with members from all three boards to continue oversight.

In July the Board approved a motion to present one-year complimentary Friends' membership for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute members. Cathy Boyd moved that the Board donate a book to the Library in memory of Pat Donat.

The bylaws committee presented their report in August. All their recommendations passed unanimously. The bylaws were revised several more times by the time of this writing in 2013.

The theme of Signature Event was the crisis at Little Rock's Central High School in 1957. It was successful and well attended.

At their annual meeting in December the Friends were proud to announce that they had contributed \$63,350 during the year. Assets were \$40,911, of which \$34,000 had been designated. Joe Copeland was given a Life membership in recognition of his many hours volunteering in the bookstore. Leaving the Board were Genie Donovan, who served 14 years as membership chair; Cathy Boyd who had been on the Board for 20 years and had been president for 5 terms; and Lois Alward, president for the past 9 years after serving as secretary for two years.

**2008**

Officers chosen by the Board in January 2008 were: president, Jake Lamkins; vice president, Walt Danforth; secretary, Nan Lawler; treasurer, Rhoda Woods. Jake noted that the book sale in November had made only \$855 after five days work. He said that end-of-month sales would reduce the work and might make more money. Staff member Kara Rago was to check on that and let Jake know. Jake noted that the logo merchandise does not sell well in the bookstore and would probably be more successful at the circulation desk. It was uncertain whether a new order would be paid for by the Friends or the Library.

A motion presented in February to donate books from the bookstore to the Reading Roadshow passed unanimously.

Kim Ratliff and others asked that minutes be mailed to Board members in advance of each meeting. This request was to be honored. Nan Lawler moved that a committee originally appointed to set policy be reactivated to take care of details of bookstore operation rather than bringing such details to Board meetings. The group decided to wait until Jake Lamkins was back to vote on this. The following month they decided a committee was unnecessary—that Jake would be the bookstore chair.

Because there was nothing in the bylaws about a membership chair, no one had had this responsibility since Genie Donovan retired from the Board. Kim Ratliff volunteered to draft a membership letter and Connie Clark offered to help her. Jake Lamkins appointed them to work with staff members Kara Rago and Margaret Burdette right away.

Jake Lamkins thanked the staff member who made the sign for the bookstore showing that money from the bookstore (\$63,000) goes to the Library. He said that patrons noticed it and were impressed. Louise Schaper said she especially appreciated the Friends in view of the budget cuts in the city.

The board learned in April from staff member Michele Raine that Cover to Cover, a program designed to encourage reading among adults and teens sponsored by the Friends, had been an enormous success. She thanked the Friends for their sponsorship.

Jake Lamkins reported in June about an offer from Lacy Waechter of Lincoln, Arkansas to buy from the bookstore for \$2.00 a box

the books that had been going to the Salvation Army. Jake was going to arrange with him to come once a week to buy books. This arrangement was soon bringing in \$40 a week and was getting rid of inappropriate material. End-of-month sales have resulted in a two-month turnover, so patrons might see new material almost every time they came in.

The bylaws committee brought the question of email voting to the Board. Following a discussion on the matter, it was decided that a decision could be made by a 2/3 vote of the respondents.

Failure by winning bidders to pick up their items—and pay for the items—had been a problem for the silent auction, so rules were drawn to hold the bidding, payment, and pickup to one day.

Kara Rago passed on to the Friends' Board the staff's suggestion to make Donald Harington a Life Member. The vote to do so was unanimous. She reported that the Library had received two grants, a Community Block Development Grant for lending libraries and a Bank of America grant of \$1,000 for Reading Roadshow.

Margaret Burdette told of a Children's House request and four Head Start facilities for books to be used for the Reading Roadshow program. She suggested that the Friends cull gently used children's books to set aside for this purpose. A motion to honor this request met with approval.

Jake Lamkins reported that the Altrusa program to provide books to women inmates had not been cleared by the Altrusa Board—they approve the concept but want more details. Thus the Friends will not provide any more books for this program until it has been approved and then will consider it again.

An apparent drop in membership was due to new software that reports households rather than individuals. Letters were going every month on the anniversary of the previous donation.

At the meeting on October 27, 2008, staff member Margaret Burdette noted that it was National Friends of the Library Week and presented a cake to celebrate.

Proceeds from the Silent Auction of about \$4,000 were reported at the annual meeting. The requirement that items be picked up the day of the auction unless prepaid reduced labor. Only three items were unclaimed.

## 2009

Following the annual meeting the Friends Board met to elect the following as officers for 2009: president, Jake Lamkins; vice president, Nan Lawler; treasurer, Kim Ratliff; secretary, Connie Clark.

Longtime Board member Walt Danforth passed away in early 2009. His fellow members made him a posthumous Life Member of the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library. Walt served eleven years as FFPL vice president.

Jake Lamkins reported for the bookstore in March that it was time to send leftover books to the Salvation Army, but that anyone who asked for books for a worthy cause was welcome to a box.

The nominating committee recommended appointing Sylvia Danforth to the Board to replace her husband, Walt. This was approved unanimously. Margaret Burdette noted that all new Board members are required to undergo a background check, in accordance with Library policy.

Louise Schaper suggested that the Cover to Cover Community Read program for the next year be funded by the Friends in memory of Walt Danforth, with appropriate book plating in the books. This was approved.

On May 12 Jake Lamkins, Mort Gitelman, and Pat Jahoda attended a space study meeting with the Library's architect to discuss the bookstore's space in the new building.

The Friends Board members had a potluck lunch for the Library staff in June. Holding this event in the Library, rather than at someone's home, made it possible for many more staff members to attend. The main dish was from Penguin Ed's and supplemented by dishes brought in by Board members.

Susan Foley, development director for the Library, spoke to the Friends about the match for the National Endowment for the Humanities grant. The Library was required to raise \$435,000 by 1-31-10 toward the goal of \$1.6 million by 1-31-12. Whatever money the Friends give the Library counts toward the match. At the September meeting the Board voted to contribute \$125,000 over a four-year period toward the NEH challenge grant.

A backlog garage sale in August cleared the bookstore of excess books at 25 and 50 cents. The sale had been advertised on Facebook, Twitter, Craigslist, and KUAF, as well as in a newspaper ad. The sale made \$996.

Tim Schatzman, who coordinated Reading Roadshow, suggested placing children's books at Cooperative Emergency Outreach for children to read while waiting or take home. This project was approved.

Local author G. F. Hutchinson offered to donate 3200 trade paperbacks (65 different titles he had written). Tim Nutt of the U of A Library's Special Collections later purchased \$95 worth of these books.

Shawna Thorup attended the September 2009 meeting. Already on the staff, she had been appointed executive director replacing Louise Schaper, who retired. The Board agree to contribute \$1,500 toward the reception for Louise.

The 2009 silent auction made about \$5,216. The quilt donated by Norma Reed brought in \$1,083. This was the second time it was raffled, as the first winner donated it back to the Friends.

October's leftover books had been donated to the Bella Vista Library and paperbacks continued to be sent to the women's jail, an Altrusa project approved in late 2008.

After learning from Susan Foley that donations through the internet are higher than by other means, the Board approved setting up a PayPal account for donations and memberships. Sarah Terry gave a presentation on changes to the Friends portion of the Library's

website, improving content, more colorful, and easier to read and navigate.

## 2010

The annual meeting, held January 25, 2010, began with a 30-minute social hour followed by a video showing the highlights of 2009. Winnie MacDonald, chair of the audit committee, reported that the books were in order and all funds accounted for. Kim Ratliff said that Friends had 174 members. Donnie Porter and Mort Gitelman were re-elected to the Board. Holli Green and Tim Schatzman were nominated and elected as new members. Officers elected were: president, Jake Lamkins; vice president, Donnie Porter; secretary, Connie Clark; treasurer, Kim Ratliff.

After answering the call to order at 5 p.m., the Board changed the meeting time to 4:30 p.m. to shorten the day for staff and yet not unduly inconvenience its members.

A bequest from Dorothy Metcalfe, a Life member of the Friends along with her husband, left a bequest of \$6,678 to the Friends. Kim Ratliff moved that the Friends fund the entire 2011 Cover to Cover project in honor of Mrs. Metcalfe. Shawna Thorup noted that Dorothy was particularly loved by the staff. The motion passed.

Jake Lamkins had received complaints that some customers had been allowed to look at the downstairs backlog or at unpriced items before they were shelved. Henceforth he intended to strictly enforce a policy selling through the bookstore during regular Library hours only.

Janet Gorman recommended that at the upcoming used book sale, the prices be the same as on the previous year to allow use of the same signs. This was approved. She also moved that a "Grab and Go" table (priced at \$5 a book) be set up in the Library lobby on the day of the sale so that people can be directed to the garage sale. Also, at that May meeting the Board decided not to hold a silent auction but to come up with a new fall fundraiser.

Jake Lamkins introduced Maylon Rice at the May meeting. The Board of Trustees had selected him to serve as an ex-officio member of the Friends, in accordance with the bylaws. Jake passed around a notebook about the early days of the Friends discovered by Lois Alward. He then suggested it might be a worthwhile project to assemble a history of the Friends.

The summer garage book sale made \$1,020, about half coming from the Grab and Go tables. The Board voted to hold another book clearance sale in the fall as its second fundraiser. Additional shelving had been added to the bookstore. Other improvements to the store costing about \$750 were authorized.

As recommended by Kim Ratliff, members voted to join ALTF, a resource for library friends organization.

Shawna Thorup asked if Friends would like to receive the minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings and Jake Lamkins said that they would.

At the July meeting the membership chair noted that membership was dwindling. She moved that they spend \$260 a year for the Wild Apricot membership software program which has many capabilities, including email blasts. This purchase was approved.

Margaret Burdette passed out packets with minutes and other reports from the other Library Boards. These are being provided in order to improve communication among the boards.

By October membership was up to 278. Twenty-seven new members signed up at the membership table in the lobby during membership week in October.

Shawna Thorup reported that the VHS collection had been eliminated and that \$850 in VHS tapes had been sold, with the money going to the Friends and some tapes donated to schools and other libraries.

Jake Lamkins met with Shane Smith, who is interested in purchasing books that would normally be offered in a clearance sale. Janet Gorman suggested selling him the books left over after a sale. Shawna Thorup said that the public must have the first opportunity to buy the books, as they have been purchased with public monies. There is no problem in selling the remnants to the highest bidder.

Susan Foley asked for the Friends help with \$1,000 for the two 2011 newsletters. Approval was unanimous.

## 2011

The annual meeting on January 31, 2011 opened with a 30-minute social hour. In addition to Board members about 8 other members of Friends were present.

Jake Lamkins gave his final President's report, as he did not seek re-election. His proudest moment came when the Friends publicly announced its pledge of \$125,000 toward the NEH grant, of which \$101,000 had already been paid. Also, during his three years in office improvements were made to the bookstore.

Treasurer Kim Ratliff reported that bookstore receipts totaled \$31,657 and membership dues of \$7,955.

At the monthly Board meeting following the annual meeting, officers were elected for 2011: president, Kim Ratliff; vice president, Donnie Porter; secretary, Tim Schatzman; treasurer, Janet Gorman.

Kim Ratliff announced at the February meeting that her goal is to increase membership in the Friends of the Library.

At the March meeting Janet Gorman, chair of the events committee said the book sale would be on May 7 and that during the week of April 25 Board volunteers would sort the books into the following categories: fiction, nonfiction, medical and children. Maylon Rice said he would take care that the books remaining after the sale were removed to recycling.

Tim Schatzman spoke for the outreach committee, saying that Mimi Blackwood collected children's books from St. Joseph's School families for CEO. The Salvation Army was removed as an Outreach recipient.

Kim Ratliff opened the May meeting by complimenting the Library staff for the superb reception for author Alexander McCall Smith on April 8.

Membership numbers inched up to 297 from 293 in March.

At Shawna Thorup's urging the Board agreed to collect new or gently used children's books for a Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce drive in June and July. Susan Foley asked the Board to consider a \$500 donation to assist in paying for the April 8 reception. They agreed to do so.

The May book sale netted \$848. The Board discussed ways to improve results of future sales.

The minutes for June 2011 show membership numbers at 305 and reporting that number as the first time membership exceeded 300. However, at the annual meeting for 2006, membership numbers of 386 were reported. This may be inaccurate, depending on how family memberships were counted.

At the July meeting, Jake Lamkins moved that the Friends increase the contribution to the Fayetteville Public Library NEH challenge grant by \$75,000. The total contribution would then be \$205,500, the largest donation to date in the drive. It would assist the Library in a challenging economy. A vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Donnie Porter, bookstore chair, reported that some customers left without paying for their books. Staff member Cathy Rew said Library policy on theft was not to confront the individual but to call the police. Donnie also said that CDs were selling well at \$1 each and that donations of books continued to be excellent.

A Scholastic Book Fair was scheduled for December 2, 3, and 4 in the Walker Room of the Library. Kim asked if the Friends wanted to sponsor this event. They approved a motion to do so.

At the request of the Library staff, the Friends voted to give \$1,000 to assist with a reception for author Geraldine Brooks on November 13. Brooks will discuss "March," her novel based on the character of the father in Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women." The event will open the Library's Beyond Battlefields: Making Sense of the American Civil War.

In her report at the October meeting, President Kim Ratliff thanked Maylon Rice for his excellent article in the morning paper about both the Friends and the Library's role in the community. Lolly Greenwood reported on the 2011 Gathering of the Groups event. Colin Beavan was scheduled to speak on his book, "No Impact Man," the book being read throughout Northwest Arkansas as part of the "One Book, One Community" Project. Kyle Kellams of KUAF was to moderate a discussion of the book.

## 2012

At the annual meeting on January 23, 2012 Kim noted the Friends' \$200,000 plus donations and pledges to the NEH grant match. Treasurer Janet Gorman said the total income for 2011 was \$43,241, of which \$30,749 was from the bookstore. Acting Director Lolly Greenwood introduced the new library director, David Johnson.

Immediately following the annual meeting the Board held its January meeting, at which Mimi Blackwood, chair of the nominations committee, submitted the following nominees for the four open positions on the Board: Mimi Blackwood, Georgena Duncan, Jake Lamkins, and Kim Ratliff. They were elected unanimously for three-year terms. At the January meeting of the Board which followed, officers were elected for 2012: president, Kim Ratliff; vice president, Donnie Porter; secretary, Sue Graham; treasurer, Janet Gorman.

Members attending the February meeting discussed ways to publicize the bookstore. Suggestions included increasing the red light sign in the bookstore, posting a sign in the bookstore telling patrons that all income goes to the Library, inserting a notice in the Bookmark Library newsletter, and including something about the Friends in the video displays throughout the Library.

Director David Johnson reported on the event planned for the fall, the Film by Foley debut. Tickets were \$75, with the usual discount for the Friends' Board.

Susan Foley reminded everyone of the March 27 reception at KUAF to welcome David Johnson as the Library director and of the Tracy Kidder author reception on March 30.

In March Kim Ratliff informed the Board that Sue Graham, secretary, had resigned from the Friends' Board to take a position on the Library's Board of Trustees.

The Library was making plans for a gala in October. All Friends board members were to be responsible for contacting local business to solicit five donations for the silent auction at this event. Janet Gorman and Susan Foley were to meet to begin planning the auction. Kim Ratliff gave the welcome news that membership had increased to 318. Tim Schatzman reported for the outreach committee that donations to CEO were made as usual but Altrusa was not picking up jail donations. Mort Gitelman moved that jail donations be donated directly to the jail. The motion passed. Jake Lamkins was unsuccessful in finding anyone there to take the 8 boxes. Maylon Rice offered to take care of that problem.

The bookstore committee presented its needs at the April meeting: four 4-shelf book carts, two for end-of-month sales and two for the bookstore. A motion to spend \$2,500 for these carts. Jake Lamkins said that three long 3-shelf carts had been missing for several years. David Johnson promised to have the pages look for them. More bookstore news - Donnie Porter said that the science fiction and classic shelves were being re-instated.

Georgena Duncan offered to serve as secretary for the term left vacant by Sue Graham's resignation. Her election was unanimously approved.

Because the Scholastic Book Fair made \$500 in 2011 and was appreciated by the community, the Board decided to do it again a few weeks before Christmas.

Plans were made at the May meeting to present a check for \$75,000 on June 25, 2012 to the Library Foundation to honor the the



Friends' Board commitment toward the NEH grant. Jake Lamkins requested that a large copy of the check be made for mounting in the bookstore.

Kim Ratliff said that the date for the gala, Light Up the Night, for the documentary, "Up among the Hills," was October 19, 2012. Bill Clinton narrated the film and would be present for the gala if possible. The Friends' Board was committed to asking area businesses for donations to a silent auction. Each Board member was expected to secure at least five donations. Mort Gitelman asked if cash donations were acceptable. David Johnson confirmed that cash or gift certificates were welcome.

Tim Schatzman reported for the outreach committee that CEO books continued to go quickly. Jake Lamkins said that book donations to the Washington County Jail were going smoothly since Maylon Rice began picking up the book boxes and delivering them. Maylon pointed out that Altrusa was still very interested in the project, although they were not at that time picking up any books. Altrusa was kept on the Outreach Committee minutes and the Jail added.

Treasurer Janet Gorman reported that the June book sale gross was \$1,103 including \$226 for recycling the unsold books.

The bookstore committee discussed the Library policy that established Campus Bookstore as the sole textbook buyer for the Friends' Bookstore. Other such buyers occasionally approached members of the committee for access to the donated textbooks.

Kim reported that the Friends had 320 members, of which 103 are Life members.

Library Director David Johnson asked if the Friends of the Library Board would be willing to increase their pledged donation of \$75,000 by \$45,000, to a total of \$120,000. It was determined that this could be done and a motion to do so passed. This brings the total donation of the Friends of the Library to the NEH grant to \$250,000.

President Kim Ratliff reported in July that the Friends had received \$40,000 from the Rita Davis estate. She planned to add it to the Certificate of Deposit. This was approved by those present.

Because of the large size of the book sale scheduled for November, Jake Lamkins asked Board members to bring folding tables to add to the 15 to be furnished by the Library and the 9 he was bringing. Fifty tables were needed for the 10,500 books in the 537 boxes. Advertising for the sale included three days of newspaper ads at a cost of \$79, a free ad in the Star Shopper, an entry on Craig's List, a banner on the Library website, digital signs in the Library, and paper handouts.

At the November meeting treasurer Janet Gorman reported that the net profit from the November book sale was over twice as usual at \$1,939. The various advertising methods apparently paid off. The Friends Book Store also received a \$600 donation from Jessie Broadfoot.

Also at that meeting Kim Ratliff said that staff member Margaret Burdette suggested that announcement of the Friends annual meetings be posted on the Library website and on the digital banners inside the Library rather than by mailings to all members. This required a change in the bylaws, which was done by an email meeting.

Director David Johnson asked the Friends to support Freegal, a new music downloading service, by paying the \$11,548 fee for 2013 only, after which the fee would become a part of the Library budget. A motion to do so passed after some discussion.

## 2013

The annual meeting was held on January 28, 2013. Kim Ratliff presented a general yearly report on the operations on the Friends' finances. The bookstore (\$34,844), memberships (\$5,059), two clearance sales (\$3,313), donations (\$40,600) and interest generated \$83,842 in 2012. The Friends contributed an additional \$120,000 toward the NEH grant and \$1,500 for the Tracy Kidder reception. Membership was down slightly.

David Johnson present a report on the Fayetteville Public Library and its plans for expansion.

Mort Gitelman, chair of the audit committee, said the Friends financial statements were in good order.

Steven Neuse reported for the nominations committee that Leeann Collins, Tim Schatzman, and Donnie Porter would remain on the Executive Board. Susie Jenkins was nominated to replace Mort Gitelman. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was accepted.

Jake Lamkins introduced Gretchen Gearhart, who had agreed to write a history of the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library. Ms. Gearhart spoke briefly. On a motion by Jake Lamkins, the history writing project by Gretchen was endorsed.

At the January meeting of the Board which followed, officers were elected for 2013: president, Kim Ratliff; vice president, Georgena Duncan; secretary, Suzie Jenkins; treasurer, Janet Gorman.

This brings to a close this history of the first 32 years of the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library.

## **THE FRIENDS GIVE THE LIBRARY \$250,000**

In 2006, the Fayetteville Public Library was one of seven institutions in the United States to be awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. The NEH challenged the library to raise \$1.8 million and receive \$600,000 to establish an endowment to help fund the library's Humanities collections and programming. The deadline for matching the grant was July 31, 2012.

Beginning the following year in 2007 the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library started donating money to the library each year to meet the goal of matching the NEH grant. They pledged \$75,000 in 2011 for the following year to bring their total donations for the grant to \$205,000.

FPL Executive Director David Johnson reported at the June 25, 2012 FFPL board of directors meeting that the Library still needed to collect \$183,000 for the NEH grant by July 31, 2012. He asked if the Friends of the Library Board would be willing to increase their current pledged donation of \$75,000 by \$45,000, to a total of \$120,000. After some discussion Jake Lamkins motioned that the Board increase its donation by \$45,000, seconded by Donnie Porter. Motion passed. This donation brought the total donation of Friends of the Library to the NEH grant to \$250,000.

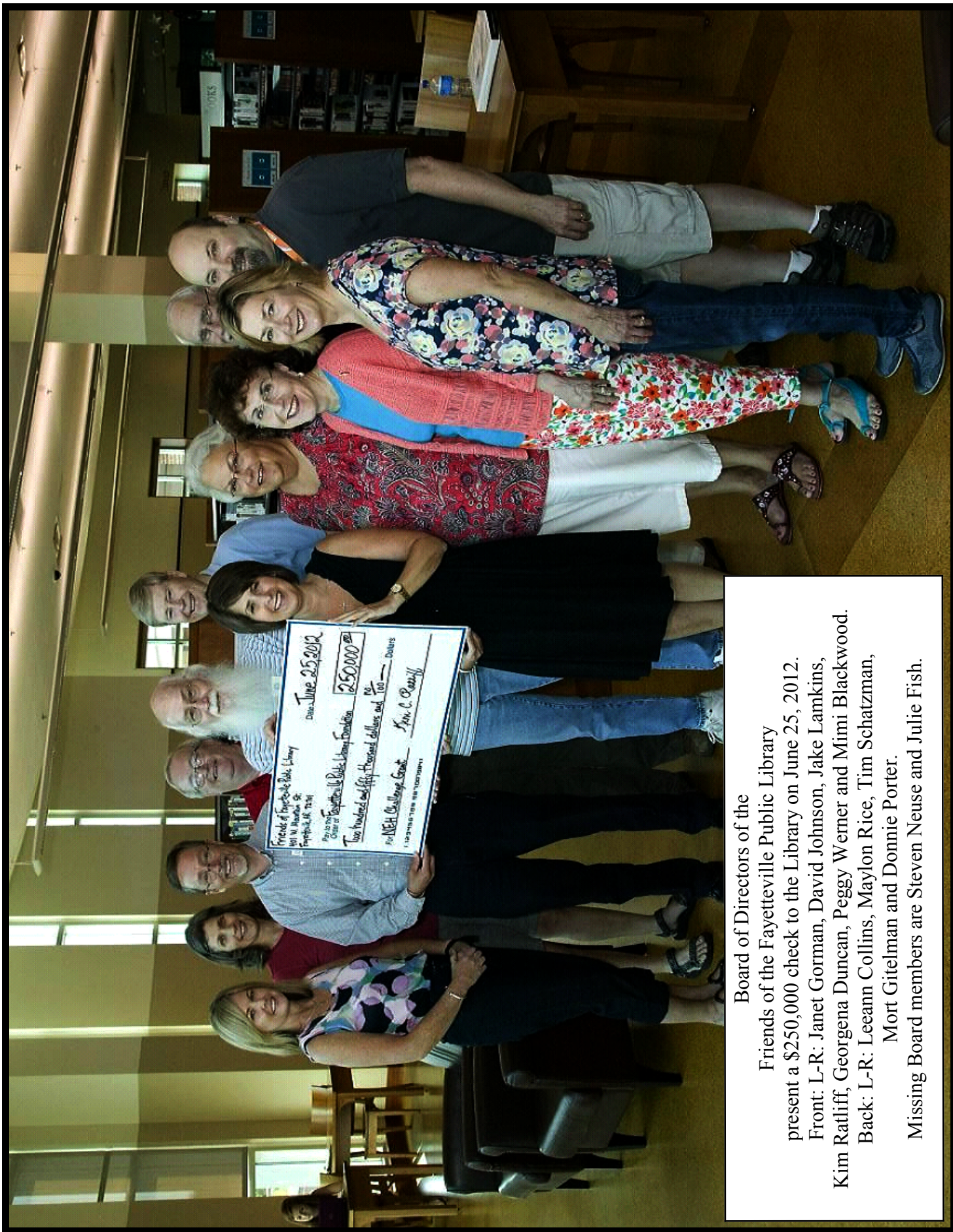
“With the Friends donation, the library must still raise \$138,000 before the July deadline. The library and the community are so lucky to have such a supportive group of Friends. This grant will help us add to our collections and continue to offer quality programs,” commented David Johnson, Executive Director of the Fayetteville Public Library.

Board Members were asked to remain after adjournment so that Brandi Holt, Manager of Marketing & Communications, could take a photograph of the Board members holding an oversize replica check for \$250,000.

The Library was able to raising the remaining funds needed by the deadline and was awarded the full \$600,000. Susan Foley, Director of Development, said she used the Friends as an example many times in her efforts to get donations for the NEH grant, especially the last month..

The Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library raise money and support the library in a variety of ways. Their main revenue source is the Friends Bookstore which they maintain and operate inside the library. Other sources of income are membership fees, semi-annual garage book sales and donations.





### Board of Directors of the

Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library

present a \$250,000 check to the Library on June 25, 2012.

Front: L-R: Janet Gorman, David Johnson, Jake Lamkins,

Kim Ratliff, Georgena Duncan, Peggy Werner and Mimi Blackwood.

Back: L-R: Leeann Collins, Maylon Rice, Tim Schatzman,

Mort Gitelman and Donnie Porter.

Missing Board members are Steven Neuse and Julie Fish.

## FFPL OFFICERS 1981 - 2013

**1981 - 1982:**

president, Dottie Wood; vice president, Harriet Jansma; treasurer, Foster Park; secretary, Mary Jane Haley.

**1982 - 1983:**

president, Dottie Wood; vice president, Harriet Jansma; treasurer, Foster Park; secretary, Mary Jane Haley.

**1983 - 1984:**

president, Foster Park; vice president, Dorothy Metcalfe, treasurer, Melanie Stockdell; secretary, Frances Fleming.

**1984 - 1985:**

president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Jerome Jansma; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe; secretary, Frances Fleming.

**1985 - 1986:**

president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Cathy Boyd; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe; secretary, Kim Harington.

**1986 - 1987:**

president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Jerome Jansma; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe; secretary, Kim Harington.

**1987 - 1988:**

president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Jerome Jansma; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe; secretary, Elizabeth Walker.

**1988 - 1989:**

president, Leighton Rudolf; vice president, Jerome Jansma; treasurer, Dorothy Metcalfe; secretary, Cathy Boyd.

**1989 - 1990:**

president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Jerome Jansma; treasurer, Helene Furst; secretary, Mary John Jones.

**1990 - 1991:**

president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Sandra Hopkins; treasurer, Helene Furst; secretary, Mary John Jones.

**1991 - 1992:**

president, Carolyn DeLille; vice president, Mary John Jones; treasurer, Helene Furst; secretary, Martha Middleton.

**1992 - 1993:**

president, Mary John Jones; vice president, Jerry Jansma; treasurer, Helene Furst; secretary, Martha Middleton.

**1993 - 1994:**

president, Mary John Jones; vice president, Nona Vinzant; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Martha Middleton.

**1994 - 1995:**

president, Nona Vinzant; vice president, Sandra Parker; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Cathy Boyd.

**1995 - 1996:**

president, Anne Prichard; vice president, Pat Donat; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Cathy Boyd.

**1996 - 1997:**

president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Pat Donat; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Lois Alward.

**1997 - 1998:**

president, Cathy Boyd; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Lois Alward.

**1998 - 1999:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Betty Solis.

**1999 - 2000:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Betty Solis.

**2000 - 2001:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Betty Solis.

**2001 - 2002:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Betty Solis.

**2002 - 2003:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Betty Solis.

**2003 - 2004:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Ray Shipman; secretary, Betty Solis.

**2004 - 2005:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Rhoda Woods; secretary, Betty Solis.

**2005 - 2006:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Rhoda Woods; secretary, Betty Solis.



**2006 - 2007:**

president, Lois Alward; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Rhoda Woods; secretary, Betty Solis.

**2008 - 2009:**

president, Jake Lamkins; vice president, Walt Danforth; treasurer, Rhoda Woods; secretary, Nan Lawler.

**2009 - 2010:**

president, Jake Lamkins; vice president, Nan Lawler; treasurer, Kim Ratliff; secretary, Connie Clark.

**2010 - 2011:**

president, Jake Lamkins; vice president, Donnie Porter; treasurer, Kim Ratliff; secretary, Connie Clark.

**2011 - 2012:**

president, Kim Ratliff; vice president, Donnie Porter; treasurer, Janet Gorman; secretary, Tim Schatzman.

**2012 - 2013:**

president, Kim Ratliff; vice president, Donnie Porter; treasurer, Janet Gorman; secretary, Georgena Duncan.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gretchen Baerg Gearhart is a native of Fayetteville and a graduate with a degree in history (1983) from the University of Arkansas. Earlier she and her husband, (John) lived in Stamford, Connecticut for 18 years, where she stayed home raising her five children.

Then she spent 4 years in Cleveland, Ohio. There she took courses at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Next, for 8 years in Tulsa, Oklahoma she worked in development for the Tulsa Philharmonic.

After returning to Fayetteville, the Arkansas Historical Association hired her in 1992 to serve as assistant editor of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly and business manager for the Association (1992-1999). She served on the board of the Washington County Historical Society and as editor of the Society's Journal, Flashback (2002-2006).

She has written histories of St. Joseph Church, Fayetteville, and Cooperative Emergency Outreach.

Now she is enjoying life at Butterfield Trail Village Retirement Community in Fayetteville and pursuing her interests in books and music.

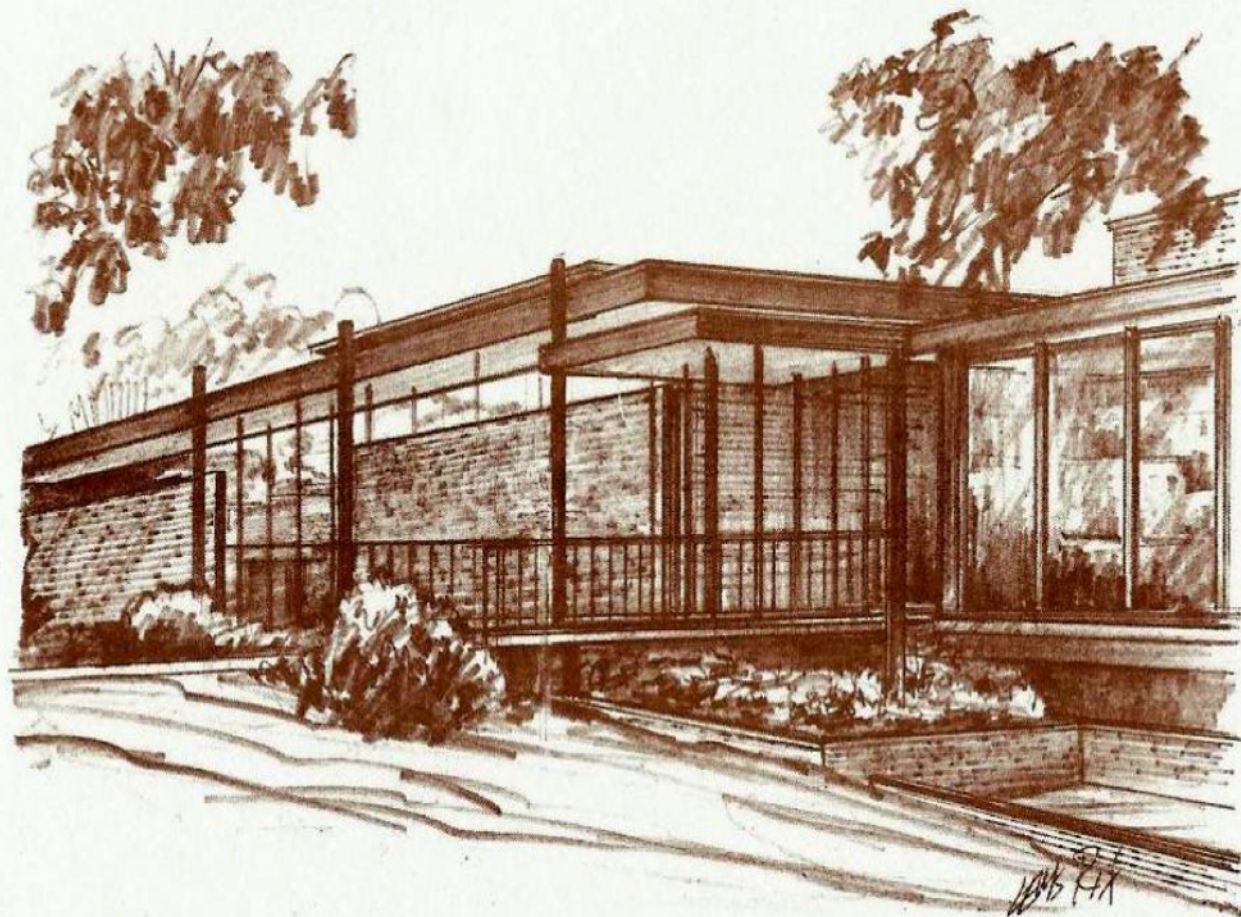
## PLEASE JOIN

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**FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72701**

**YOU MAY ALSO JOIN ONLINE AT**

*<http://faylib.org/content/friends-fayetteville-public-library>*

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<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>SUPPORTING</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>SUSTAINING</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>LIFETIME</b>	<b>\$500</b>



Fayetteville Public Library  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

The Fayetteville Public Library, designed by Warren Segraves in 1962, was built on land donated in memory of Roberta Fulbright by her family. Expanded by Segraves in 1968 and 1978 and most recently in 1990-1992 by Hailey/Associates Architects, P.A., the building is now linked to another building by Segraves next door.

In addition to the usual reference, fiction, non-fiction, young adult and children's collections there is a collection of materials on Arkansas, the Grace Keith Genealogical Collection, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the offices of the Ozarks Regional Library System.

The Fayetteville Public Library was at 217 East Dickson Street from 1962 until 2004. The above sketch and text are from note cards sold by the FFPL in the 1990s and courtesy of the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library.