



# Friends of Libraries U.S.A.

## 2006 Annual Report

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. got a brand new look this year! Working with a select committee of Board members, our public relations and marketing coordinator, Beth Nawalinski, completely revamped and updated our website. We encourage everyone to visit [www.folusa.org](http://www.folusa.org) to see how attractive and easy to use our site has become. And . . . cuing off the web site's "look," we also designed a new backdrop for our exhibit booth which we display at conferences of the American Library Association.

Celebrating Friends and their tremendous contribution to libraries was the impetus behind FOLUSA's launch of a national "Friends of Libraries Week" in 2006! The first week honoring Friends was held October 22 - 28. FOLUSA developed and provided materials to help Friends groups and their libraries publicize the various contributions they make each year. These materials included a sample resolution that could be signed by the mayor or Dean of Libraries, sample letters to the editor, and sample press releases. In addition, FOLUSA partnered with JanWay, Inc. to provide groups and libraries with gift items appropriate to the event. The week was so successful that it will become an annual occasion and FOLUSA will continue to promote the week and provide promotional materials to be used at the local level.

Because we know that bringing Friends together with Trustees, Foundations, and the library is critical for advocacy and promotion, FOLUSA worked with Board members in 2006 to design a new category called All-In-One (AIO). This category allows the library and all of its formal citizen support groups to join our organization for one price and provides them with unlimited access to current and archived issues of *News Update* in electronic format, special toolkits on the roles of each type of support group, and copies of *Making Our Voices Heard: Citizens Speak Out for Libraries*. The Nebraska Library Commission was so impressed with this opportunity that they paid for all the libraries in their state to become new (and our first!) AIO members. In conjunction with this new membership and expanded role, FOLUSA also now sports a new (slightly modified) logo!

Back by popular demand, FOLUSA is now offering its members Director's & Officers insurance along with liability insurance through a partnership with eRisk, AMWINS, and Herder, Terricone and Associates. This specially designed insurance package developed especially for Friends groups was offered in the past but resulted in insufficient subscribers to make the policy feasible. Many Friends groups missed having this opportunity so it has been reintroduced with the hopes that it will meet member needs.

Finally, Friends of Libraries U.S.A. had a unique chance to support libraries in need in 2006. In response to the devastating effect on the Gulf Coast caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FOLUSA worked with its publishing partners and *ReferenceUSA* to develop a fundraising program called "Reading For Relief." The program was held during the Public Library Association's conference in Boston on March 23 and featured eleven authors who read from their works during a wine and dessert event. The ticketed program raised over \$4,000 for libraries damaged by the storms and was contributed to the American Library Association's relief effort. FOLUSA was grateful to have had the opportunity to do what its member groups do all the time - raise money for libraries!

Sally G. Reed, Executive Director

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## Membership Services and Activities

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

With the addition of the new All-in-One membership category (see Director's Letter on page 1), the number of people receiving newsletters increased by approximately 33%. Each All-in-One membership includes three additional subscriptions, which are reflected in the subscription subtotal below.

Personal (all categories)	168
Small Friends Group	532
Medium Friends Group	517
Large Friends Group	128
Friends Group Associate Member	84
Small Public Library	60
Large Public Library	48
Small Academic Library	13
Large Academic Library	17
Library Associate Member	31
State Library	3
State Library Association	1
Small Library Subscription Service	49
Large Library Subscription Service	12
All-in-One Small	31
All-in-One Medium	11
All-in-One Large	6
All-in-One Nebraska	277
Northeast Texas Library System	108
Subtotal Memberships	2086
All-in-One Subscriptions	144
Nebraska All-in-One Subscriptions	801
Subscriptions	112
Subtotal Subscriptions	1057
Total	3143

### RESOURCES

Three new toolkits were released in 2006 including *Toolkit 4: Incorporating and Tax Exempting Procedures for Friends* to help new Friends groups apply for their 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. In addition, *Toolkit 5: Expanded Model Friends Cooperative*

*Network and Toolkit 6: Effective Meetings for Library Boards of Trustees* were released for All-in-One members. FOLUSA's bi-monthly newsletter, *News Update*, was expanded from 12 to 16 pages with the introduction of new regular feature articles for libraries, Trustees, and Foundations. The reorganization of the FOLUSA website provided additional opportunities for member resources including a searchable database of quotes about libraries, reading, and books, as well as numerous other organizational tools and sample documents.

### BOOKS FOR BABIES

In 2006, FOLUSA had sold a total of 15,756 Books for Babies kits, an increase of 50% over 2005 sales. In addition, a total of 1,360 bibs were sold to a single group for inclusion in their community program. We are very grateful to Brodart for donating the library cards and bookmarks, and to JanWay for contributing kit bags. FOLUSA now prints the popular *Babies Love Books* pamphlet locally rather than ordering from England which previously took upwards of six months to receive.

### FOLUSA Outreach

During 2006, staff and Board members of Friends of Libraries U.S.A. traveled across the country and abroad to provide workshops and programs helping Friends, Trustees, Foundations and librarians to work effectively together on behalf of their libraries. The following is a list of cities and countries we visited:

- ♦ Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- ♦ Mars, PA
- ♦ Grantville, PA
- ♦ Chicago, IL
- ♦ Amarillo, TX
- ♦ Bucks County, PA
- ♦ Huntington, WV
- ♦ Moscow, ID
- ♦ Belgrade and Novi Sad, Serbia
- ♦ Quitman, TX
- ♦ Ennis, TX
- ♦ Decatur, GA
- ♦ Fargo, ND
- ♦ Lexington, KY
- ♦ San Antonio, TX
- ♦ Boston, MA
- ♦ New Orleans, LA

## Literary Landmarks™

**Des Moines Public Library** Forrest Spaulding, Director of the Des Moines Public Library from 1917-1919 and again from 1927-1952, wrote the Library Bill of Rights adopted by the Des Moines Public Library Board November 21, 1938 and adopted by the America Library Association June 18, 1948. Des Moines, IA.

**Handy Writes' Colony** *From Here to Eternity* author James Jones co-founded the Handy Writers' Colony (1949-1964) at the west edge of Marshall with his mentor Lowney Turner Handy and her husband, Harry. Jones wrote *Some Came Running* here before moving to New York and later to Paris and writing other books. Several other Colony writers completed and published novels during those years.

**Curwood Castle** The writing studio of James Oliver Curwood in honor of his many books, stories, magazine articles, films, and his work with conservation.

**Tennessee Williams House** Tennessee Williams owned this 19th-century townhouse from 1962 until his death in 1983. Here he worked on his autobiography, *Memoirs*, in which he wrote, "I hope to die in my sleep... in this beautiful big brass bed in my New Orleans apartment, the bed that is associated with so much love..." He always considered New Orleans his spiritual home. New Orleans, LA.

**Charles C. Wise, Jr. Library, West Virginia University** The writings and personal papers of Louise McNeill, poet laureate of West Virginia from 1977 to 1993, are housed in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. McNeill is beloved for her depiction of West Virginia's life and lore.

**Sequoyah's Cabin** This historic log cabin, built by Sequoyah's own hands, was the home of Sequoyah, the Cherokee genius who developed the syllabary that brought literacy to his people.

**B. S. Ricks Memorial Library** This library was dedicated a Literary Landmark in recognition of Willie Morris (1934-1999), a journalist, editor, author, and Mississippian.

**University of North Alabama** T.S. Stripling (1881-1965), was a graduate of State Normal College at Florence (1903) and Pulitzer Prize winner (1933) for *The Store*. His writings, research materials, and memorabilia are located in the Collier Library Archives and Special Collections.



At the Literary Landmark dedication of the home Tennessee Williams owned in New Orleans at the time of his death are (from left) Williams scholar Dr. Kenneth Holditch, Friends of Libraries U.S.A. Executive Director Sally Reed, and current owner Dr. Brobson Lutz.

## Award Winners, 2006

### Public Service Award

Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) and Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)

### Best Friends Awards

Introduced in 2006, The Best Friends Awards recognize Friends around the country for their print and electronic materials that promote the group and its special programs and projects. The awards do not evaluate the type or scope of Friends programs, rather the printed materials that promote programs and special projects coordinated by the Friends. A list of winners is posted at [www.folusa.org](http://www.folusa.org).

### HarperCollins Award given in honor of Barbara Kingsolver, \$10,000

Friends of the Fernandina (FL) Public Library

### FOLUSA/Baker & Taylor Awards, \$2,000 each

Large Library Friends

Friends of Irving School Libraries (FISL)

Small Library Friends

Friends of the Kirkwood (MO) Public Library

@ your library™

Friends of the Richard Bland College Library

## Friends of Libraries U.S.A. 2006 Board of Directors

The Friends of Libraries U.S.A. Board of Directors shows the best qualities of a volunteer organization, providing insight and leadership to the organization, and traveling at their own expense to our meetings. Its unique make-up of Friends, business people, and librarians of different backgrounds gives it the perspective needed to reflect our national scope.

### Officers

#### President

- Mary Dodge  
Assistant to the Dean/Liaison to the Friends, Auraria Library, Denver, CO

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- John Carson  
National Account Manager, Brodart Company

#### Secretary

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- Amy Dougherty  
Executive Director, Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia, PA

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- Douglas Roesemann

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- Joe K. Weed  
Vice President, Information Services, EBSCO, Birmingham, AL

### Liaisons

- Anne Boni, Center for the Book, Library of Congress
- Barbara Prentice, ALTA
- Roger Rosen, International Relations
- Emily Sheketoff, ALA Washington Office
- Rocco Staino, Literary Landmarks
- Kerry Ward, ALTA Staff, ALA

### Past Presidents

- Daniel Arbour - Ann Arbor, MI
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- Stanley Walker - Basking Ridge, NJ

### Executive Director

Sally G. Reed

### Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator

- Beth Nawalinski



## 2006 Corporate Friends of FOLUSA

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. is deeply indebted to its Corporate Donors, who provide much of the revenue needed for us to fulfill our mission. They are also the source of major in-kind gifts, including the creative energy of their executives. We are deeply grateful for their generosity.

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## FOLUSA Mission Statement

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. provides leadership, motivation, and support to all Friends groups and library support groups in their effort to preserve and strengthen libraries and create awareness and appreciation of library service.

