



# Off the Shelf

Volume 9, Issue 3

Fall 2011

## Greetings From Our President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the fall issue of *Off the Shelf*, a special edition dedicated to Bluffton's Friends of the Library. As you are aware, Friends of the Library groups exist nationally to support and promote the work of local libraries. Each year, one week is set aside to honor these special Friends, and this year's celebration of Friends of the Libraries is October 16-22, 2011. I not only invite you to join us at the Library during our week of celebration, but also to join us as a regular member of our Friends of the Bluffton Library. See and complete the membership form on the back page of this Newsletter or contact one of our Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Ann Walli 705-5208 or Margaret Collins 757-2932. Often referred to as the "caring core" of the Bluffton community, our Friends group identifies special citizens who recognize that a good library is essential to a vibrant community because it provides resources and services that many citizens cannot afford. Think about some of these services for a moment:

- \* Free access to computers, the internet, information databases, movies, and books/materials from a network of libraries;
- \* Professional librarians who act as personal consultants to guide you in finding the information you want or need;
- \* Literacy support for all ages to build families who love reading as well as develop school and career success;
- \* Mentoring support to help create a resume, complete job applications, and develop interview skills.

OUR HISTORY. The Friends of the Bluffton Library evolved from an original group of dedicated supporters who played a key role during the late 1980's in establishing the first Bluffton Library on Boundary Street in old Bluffton Village. Subsequently, in the 1990's, these early volunteers facilitated support for the building of our current 25,000 square foot library facility which opened in 2002 on Palmetto Way, its present location.

During the past two decades, the Bluffton Friends of the Library raised more than \$865,000 to supplement our Library's operating budgets by providing materials and programs which enhance services. Individually and collectively, the Friends also support our Library through advocacy efforts, a range of volunteer roles, and active collaborations with both county and state organizations. Recently, the three Beaufort County Friends groups collaborated to host a successful meeting of FOSCL (Friends of the South Carolina Libraries), our statewide organization of Friends groups. (See related story and photos of this FOSCL meeting on page 2.) I am proud to represent our County by serving as a member of the state FOSCL Board. Likewise, the three Presidents of our Beaufort County Friends groups successfully collaborated this summer with members of the County Council Finance Committee and our County Administrator, Gary Kubic, to advocate for the restoration of some library positions. This latter collaboration also resulted in the allocation of impact fees to upgrade the Bluffton Library conference rooms in order to improve them acoustically and to equip them as full service broadcast facilities.

√ **Friends of the Bluffton Library Annual Meeting is Sunday, November 6th (see page 7 for details)**

*Greetings From Our President continued...*

MOVING FORWARD. Like families, schools, and communities, public libraries are consistently being asked to do more with less. Our own Bluffton Library has faced its most severe cutbacks in decades as budget shortfalls at all levels continue to decrease materials and supplies. Contrary to what some reports predicted, however, the digital age has not rendered libraries obsolete. Instead, it has brought new energy as patrons rely on their libraries for internet access and other support resources, print and non-print. Government statistics reported in a recent *Parade Magazine* article state that Americans visit their libraries 25% more often today than they did just two years ago; our local statistics mirror these increases.

Each year the Friends of the Bluffton Library host an Annual Meeting. This public meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2011, and will include an exciting guest speaker, wonderful refreshments, and an opportunity to meet Friends Board members, some of our County Library trustees, administrators of the Library system and citizens who are currently Friends as well as those new to our Friends group. I invite and welcome you to join us at the Library for this Annual Meeting. (See announcement on page 7 of this Newsletter.)

Personally, public libraries have always played an important role in my life. I truly enjoy serving as a member of the Bluffton Friends and collaborating with others to give back to our library and its patrons. I'm convinced that Bluffton Library is richer because of the enthusiasm and expertise that our Friends provide. I strongly encourage you to renew your current membership or to join our Friends organization to ensure that all our services not only continue, but also expand during the coming year.

~*Maryellen Ham*  
President

## **Annual FOSCL Meeting A HUGE Success!**

The Friends of the South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) held their regional meeting at the Hilton Head Branch Library on September 17, 2011. Friends' Presidents from the Beaufort, Bluffton, and Hilton Head branches collaborated as hosts and welcomed regional Friends members. John Bradley, FOSCL President, Wlodek Zaryczny, Director of County Library Services, and Sandra Saad, Director of Development and Marketing, BCL System addressed the attendees. Friends had the opportunity to meet, ask questions, and network. Many Friends walked away refreshed, excited, and ready to implement ideas to spread the good news about public libraries.



## Volunteers Needed for Traveling Smithsonian Exhibit (at the Beaufort Public Library)

Volunteers are needed to help with *New Harmonies*, a traveling Smithsonian exhibit coming to the **Beaufort Branch Library** this December! The exhibit will be on display from December 17, 2011- February 4, 2012. Volunteers will get behind-the-scenes access to this Smithsonian Institution exhibit and the opportunity to be part of a one-of-a-kind musical experience in Beaufort.

### What we need:

*Tour guides:* Do you like speaking in front of a group? As a docent you will guide visitors through the exhibit. You will be given an exhibit booklet with information about each exhibit. A training session will be provided. Must be available December 17, 2011- February 4, 2012.

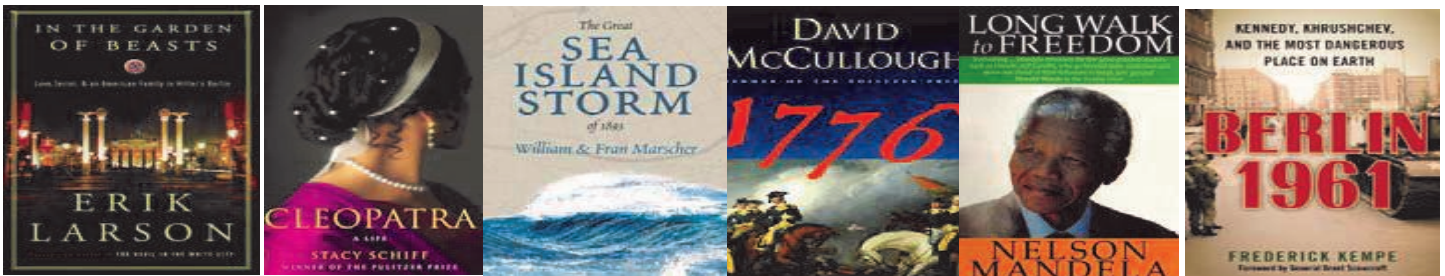
*Exhibit Volunteers:* Serve as monitors during exhibit hours greeting visitors and watching over the exhibit as visitors walk through. Must be available December 17, 2011- February 4, 2012. Exhibit volunteers must be age 18 or older.

*Musicians and Sound technicians:* Are you a local musician that performs folk, bluegrass, gospel, zydeco, blues, or jazz music? If you would be interested in performing in our Lunch and Learn series, we would like to showcase your talent!

*Event staff:* Assist in set up/clean up, decorating, moving chairs, greeting guests for special events (concerts, lectures, receptions). Must be available December 17, 2011- February 4, 2012.

~Amanda Brewer  
Reference Librarian  
Beaufort Public Library

To sign up to volunteer for *New Harmonies* contact Amanda Brewer, at [abrewer@bcgov.net](mailto:abrewer@bcgov.net) or by phone at (843) 255-6439.



### History Book Club @ the Bluffton Library—2011-2012 Schedule

No need to register, everyone is welcome! Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you would like more information, please contact Bratton at 843/255-6503.

**Tuesday, November 1st at 2:00 pm** (Meets the first Tuesday of the month)

*The Great Sea Island Storm of 1893* by Bill & Fran Marscher

**Tuesday, December 13th at 2:00 pm**

SNACK & SHARE (Come and tell others about one of your favorites!)

**Tuesday, January 10th at 2:00 pm**

*1776* by David McCullough

**Tuesday, February 14th at 2:00 p.m.**

*Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela (to be continued...)

## From the Desk of Ann Rosen

While it is still relatively balmy outside and we are keeping a watchful eye out over the Atlantic Ocean for potential hurricanes, the Bluffton Library is definitely celebrating the fall season and is in back to school mode. We are delighted to announce that we will be hiring a Children's Programmer soon. This is very good news since the position has been vacant for several months and was one of 5 Beaufort County Library vacancies that Library Administration had designated as "critical." In the meantime, we are very fortunate to have the Children's Programmer from the Hilton Head Branch here twice a week to present programs for children. Read elsewhere in this Newsletter for details on children's and teen programs which are being offered this Fall. Also, note the article on adult programs for the fall! For any of these programs, we would love to see you here at **your** library! Mark your calendars!

September was Library Card Sign-Up Month. Don't forget to remind any family members and friends and neighbors who do not have one about the great benefits of a library card. And it is FREE! Now that the Beaufort County Library system is part of a 14 SC public library consortium, we all have access to so many more books and other material that can be easily requested from any of the libraries. The free library card just became more valuable! There were tote bags for the first 50 people to register for a new library card, and there was a special prize drawing for teens who signed up during this month! Children who signed up for a new card received an Outback coupon.

We all have "library" stories to share, and we want to hear your story about why you love libraries! Stories are being collected through December 2011 – pick up a form at any Branch and return it at any time before the deadline. Forms at the Bluffton Branch are available on the large table just inside the main area of the Library. All winners will receive a Publix Gift Card and their very own READ poster! There are articles in this Newsletter about the Friends' annual meeting to be held in November and their on-going book sale here at the Library. I cannot reiterate enough how important the Friends are to the Library and how much time and effort the Friends Board puts into supporting it. The staff is extremely grateful for what they do. For that reason I strongly encourage everyone to mark November 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and plan to attend the Annual Meeting. Also, do browse the Friends Book Corner located to the right as you come into the main area of the Library. As always, you will find bargains galore!

As you can see, even though the Bluffton staff has been considerably reduced in size, as are most of the BCL Branches, we are endeavoring to present as much programming for children, teens, and adults as our staffing level permits. We hope you make note of all the wonderful events happening and plan to attend those that are of particular interest to you. See you at the Library!

~~AnnRosen

Branch Manager

## Library offers computer classes

**"Resume & Computer Help for Job Seekers"** from 2-3 p.m. every Tuesday. The Bluffton Branch Library offers free computer help to job seekers who need to create or update resumes, create an email address, apply for jobs online and more. Volunteers are standing by, no appointment necessary. Free and open to the public. Please report to the computer lab behind the Reference Desk.

Windows Basic, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and beginner computer classes for Spanish speakers are also offered at various times.

Please check out the flyer of computer classes that are planned each month at the Library or CALL 843-255-6503 for more information.

~~Traci Cox  
Reference Librarian



# Thank

670 Children registered and  
340 completed the program.  
148 Teens registered and 64  
completed the program.



Please thank our local businesses for their donations during Summer Reading and supporting early literacy!

## New Programs in Youth Services Department

The youth services department is beginning a new season of programs! Our most exciting recent news is that we recently received approval to hire a new children's programmer. In the meantime, we are fortunate that Greg Crispell of Hilton Head youth services department is working at the Bluffton branch a couple of days a week to provide children's programs for us. Greg is providing several storytime sessions for preschoolers in addition to a series of Thursday afternoon events for school-age children. These programs will feature a variety of activities including Legos, crafts, science projects, and games. Aimee Curry, who has been helping in the children's department, is presenting a series of programs for "tweens" on Saturdays.

In September Aimee and I hosted a "Let Your Inner Child Come Play" teen party as an after-hours library program and 18 students attended. We are also partnering with Hilton Head youth services staff to alternate monthly teen events at both branches.

September was National Library Card Sign-Up Month and we offered several incentives for children and teens. Children could receive a book bag and teens had the opportunity to sign up for a library card to be entered in a drawing for a Starbucks gift card donated by the Friends. In October we'll host a bedtime storytime, a Halloween games & craft program, and an afternoon of trick-or-treating.

We are so thankful to the Friends for sponsoring our programs which help to encourage even the youngest library customers to visit the library!

~Melinda Vest  
Youth Services Manager

## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has been discussed in the newsletter on several previous occasions, but its importance to the Library is worth repeating. This artful tree was created by the Andy Brinkley Studio in Hickory, NC and was originally intended to honor individual and corporate donors who made major contributions to the library's building fund prior to its opening in November, 2002.

Since the tree was put in place in 2007, many patrons and Friends members have purchased leaves for themselves or in memory of a loved one who was an enthusiast of the Bluffton Library. Brass and copper leaves are inscribed with wording

requested by the donor as space permits.

The newest leaf was purchased in memory of Hy Leder by Mrs. Malvina Leder and her family and is inscribed "Beloved and Treasured Hy Leder". This copper leaf honors Hy who was a book aficionado and a long-standing lover of libraries. He especially enjoyed our Bluffton Branch after moving to Sun City from their home in New York State.

The Giving Tree is a wonderful way to show your support of both the Friends and the library. Perhaps you have someone you would like to have remembered on the Giving Tree. Forms with further details are available in the library.

## Other Donations

The Friends of the Library also readily accepts monetary donations for general fund purposes. These generous donations help us provide for services and materials that are not provided for in the library's budget which has been deeply reduced in recent years due to the economic situation. General fund donations can also be made in memory of, in honor of or as a gift from an individual, individuals or a family.

For example, In Memoriam donations continue to be received for Dorothy Fawcett Smith. Dorothy's family requested that donations in her memory be made to the Friends of the Bluffton Library. Many relatives and friends made substantial donations for which Dorothy's family and the Friends are very grateful.

This was a wonderful way to honor a dedicated and long-standing member of the Friends. The next issue of *Off the Shelf* will include information about Tributes wherein donors request the purchase of specific materials (e.g., books/books on tape). Such donations can be made in memory of, in honor of or as a gift from a named individual. A summary of donors who made contributions during 2011 will also be provided as we like to acknowledge our generous donors and show our appreciation. Currently, the Friends are working on a new form for the various types of donations to make the process as easy as possible for all concerned.

*Gail Eskra/Giving Tree*

**Annual Meeting  
Bluffton Public Library  
Sunday November 6, 2011  
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.**

Maureen Richards will be our guest speaker at the Annual meeting. Maureen moved to the area in 2002 and received a Master of Arts degree in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She started as an intern in 2003, became the Heyward House Historic Center Director in 2005 and Bluffton Historical Preservation Society Executive Director in 2008. Maureen's topic will be "Bluffton 101" which will take us on a virtual tour of historic Bluffton.

The general public is invited to become a Friends of the Library Member at this meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, just become a member or renew your membership by completing the form on the back page and send it to the Library. Also, if anyone is interested in becoming a Friends of the Bluffton Library Board Member, please contact Maryellen Ham, President at 843-705-2401 or cmham@hargray.com. Thank you.

**NEW Members as of October, 2011**

Annette & Paul Hagen  
Robert & Jane Hester  
Maria Kramer  
Gayle & David Kunkel  
Les & Millie Willner

**RENEWING Members as of October, 2011**

Diana Ameer  
David & Carol Applegate  
Rebecca Baker  
Bill & Jan Bodoh  
Linda Boeke  
Lynn Bunn  
Ms. Ethel Davis  
Janet Dow  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ferguson  
Bob & Wanda Gieringer  
Fred & Joyce Greene  
Cathy & Jeff Harding  
Carol & Bill Harrell  
Karen and George Heitman  
Dr. Robert J. & Betsy M. Herm  
Ms. Shirley Johnson  
Ralph and Patricia Keck  
Paula & Lloyd Lamb  
Louise Lott  
Margaret Mulvey  
Joan Nations  
James and Joyce Pervier  
Marv & Diana Pilgrim  
Sandra Reiter  
George & Betty Schuster  
Ms. Edith Vestal  
Doris & Earl Whittle  
Don & Julianne Yale



**Friends of the Bluffton Library  
2011 Board of Directors**

**Maryellen Ham, President  
Loretta Wells, Vice President  
Linda Gillet, Treasurer  
Gail Eskra, Past President**

<b>Adult Programs</b>	<b>Harold Gortner</b>
	<b>Tricia Clinton</b>
<b>Book Sales</b>	<b>Loretta Wells</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Nancy Pritchard</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Ann Walli</b>
	<b>Margaret Collins</b>
<b>Newsletter/Website</b>	<b>George Pinkerton</b>
	<b>Sandy Bedosky</b>
<b>Public Relations/Publicity</b>	<b>Charlene Gardner</b>
<b>Children/Teen Programs</b>	<b>Vera Rogers</b>
<b>Tributes/Donations/ Giving Tree</b>	<b>Gail Eskra</b>

**County Trustees**

**Mike Morse  
Norma Stewart  
Branch Manager  
Ann Rosen**

**Library Services Director**

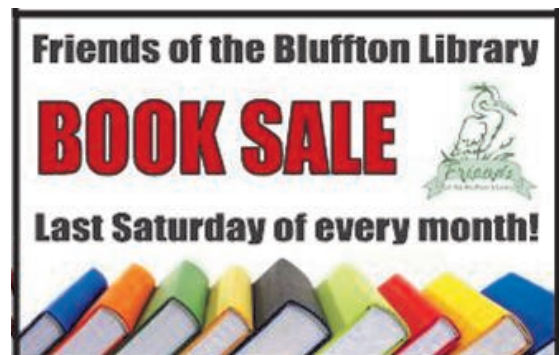
**Wlodek Zaryczyny**

**Library Services Assistant Director**

**Jan O'Rourke**

**Bluffton High School students assisting with layout  
and design for Community Service**

**Anne Blackman  
Calvin Harrell**





Bluffton Community  
Library Association  
PO Box 513  
Bluffton, SC 29910

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## Membership Application and Donation Form

Please print your information below and mail with an appropriate check or money order for a one-year membership to: **Friends of the Bluffton Library, PO Box 513, Bluffton, SC 29910**, or drop off your completed form and payment at the circulation desk.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*I/We would like to volunteer to help with (circle all of interest):*

*Adult Programs*

*Membership*

*Newsletter*

*Saturday Book Sale*

*Sorting Books*

Membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type (please check one):

Single, \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Family, \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate, \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron, \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime, \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Your contribution is tax deductible. Membership is for the calendar year.**