

A Letter from the Friends' President

Thank you to all of the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library who have made our spring programs such a success. We have had larger crowds this year than in the past couple of years, and I am anxious to hear from any of you how you found out about our programs so we can continue to deliver the announcements of the programs to you in a timely fashion. My email is vhoo1@aol.com. If you haven't received 3 or 4 emails from the Friends about programming in the last 2 months, then we don't have your current email address. Please send it to wilsonlibraryfriends@gmail.com to get reminders about upcoming Friends' or library events. Your address will never be shared or forwarded to anyone.

Thanks to Susan Nealen and her many hours of work, the Friends are excited to announce their new website, www.wilsonlibraryfriends.org. Our goal is to provide timely information regarding programs and events sponsored by the Friends, as well as maintain an online historical record of the Friends. We hope to post many pictures enjoying Friends' activities, especially the popular author programs. Check it out today and bookmark the address to keep up to date with your Friends.

You will also find information in this newsletter about the children's Summer Reading program. After May 21st our adult programs will take a break until the fall, but we will begin our annual membership drive in August. Look for those annual cards from our Membership Chairperson, Sue Dail, and respond as quickly as possible!

Mark Your Calendars Now; our Annual Banquet is set for Thursday, October 22nd at the Wilson Country Club.

Hope to see everyone on May 21st.

Vicki Hooper

For Your Information

New Web Address

Tired of having to get out your library card every time you need to visit the library's website – just because you can't remember that loooong address?

Try going to www.wcplib.com instead! It's short, sweet, easy-to-remember new address.

Library Elf

Sometimes, keeping track of your library checkouts can be a little difficult. Not anymore! If you have access to email, you have access to Library Elf, the library's great new reminder service. Sign up and you'll receive email notifications of potentially overdue items – *before* your books are late. Overdue notices could become a thing of the past. Elf also lets you keep track of your holds and see where you are on the hold list. If you have a multi-card family, Elf lets you tack all your cards from one account – even cards from Elf –subscribing library systems.

Renewals

Some changes have been made to the renewal process to better serve you. Books can now be renewed two times, and audiobooks can be renewed one time, unless they are on hold. (New Adult Fiction over 550 pages long can be renewed once even if on hold.) Items can be renewed in person, online, or via the telephone. Overdue items no longer have to be present to be renewed – you can even renew them over the phone and just take care of any fines the next time you come in.

Checkout History

You asked for it, and we listened! Now, your library account will keep a record of all the items you have checked out and returned from this point forward (not retroactive). No more trying to remember if you've read that book before – the library will be able to tell you. If you don't want to have your history kept, simply contact the library to opt out.

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of the Wilson County Public Library
FRIENDS

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NEWSLETTER - MAY, 2009



Have you tried audio books and ebooks available online through NCLIVE? Heritagequest is now available through NCLIVE. Also available are articles from hundreds of newspapers and magazines, and much more. Call the reference desk for details, and visit www.NCLIVE.org. www.wcplib.com

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WILSON READS FITZGERALD



May 21st • 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a Southern Tea
Library Lawn • 4:00 pm
Hats a must! Gloves are optional!
(Dresses are not required.)

Library Assembly Room
4:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Zelda's Presence in
Tender Is The Night

Presenter:

Jackson Bryer, University Of Maryland

For more information contact: *Deborah Webb, 237-5355*

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A Tribute to Flora Plyler

Flora Plyler served some thirty-three years on the Wilson County Public Library Board of Trustees, the first nineteen as Vice-Chair (1970-1989) and then as Chair (1989-1996). She also served on the State Library Commission for twenty-four years and was recognized for this service with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. In 2003 she received the Breaking New Ground Service Award from the Friends of the Library. She was a supportive, knowledgeable trustee and library user concerned for good libraries for all people.

I remember our first meeting in 1985 when I interviewed for the position of Library Director. She, Jean Edmundson, Jimmy Lamm and Lem Gibbons conducted the interview. Jimmy and Lem were longtime library trustees too, while Jean was a County Commissioner. All the trustees were deeply interested in improving library access and broadening services, but they were not micromanagers. They understood that trustees were policy makers and listening posts, counselors, if you will. They brought knowledge of the community and an overall direction and purpose as to where the library needed to go while they worked to build library support among the people and local leaders.

Flora also brought a knowledge of statewide trends and politics that greatly influenced her advice and wisdom. A quiet, small woman, but determined and thoughtful, she knew that institutional change could not be done overnight but also could not be neglected, that libraries have a long history but also will enjoy a long future. Day to day good service is more important than grandiose plans, yet planning is still necessary in order to meet new challenges and possibilities. Fair, equitable, effective service in good times and bad was always her goal. I always felt comfortable in talking with her and she always took an interest in me and my family as persons.

She twice oversaw the expansion of the main library, the growth of the branch system, the automation of the library, and its incorporation as part of county government. She knew staff by name and cheerfully supported them. She combined a small-town warmth and concern for her neighbors with an openness to new times and to new literature, technology and customs. When we switched to online computer catalogs, she admitted she had never learned how to type, but she also knew that computers were the wave of the future. An avid reader, she was a member of The Book Club that had originally founded our library over a hundred years ago.

Flora has always seen libraries as an extension of education, information access, and good reading throughout life. She has been happy to share with others her vision that libraries have a role to play with all children, teenagers, adults and seniors without regard to race or class. (Flora and husband B.B. have recently moved from Wilson to be near their children in Raleigh; they will be truly missed.)

Patrick Valentine
Retired Library Director

Library Hires Rains As Local Historian

Rusty Rains, the newest addition to the WCPL staff, is off to a "terrific start and has quickly established himself as an asset to our library," stated Greg Needham, library director. He is a member of the Reference Department and in that role assists people in the use of all of the many resources the department has to offer. In addition, Rusty has special responsibility to help patrons in using the local history and genealogy room and its varied resources. He will also maintain, build, and develop resources over time and come up with new ways for people to access and use them. Already he has been responsible for the "Scan Days" and work to make "Coming of Age in the Great Depression" materials available online.

A native of Wayne County with family roots in Johnston and Wilson Counties, Rusty received a Master of Library Science degree from NCCU and a Bachelor of Science degree from ECU. He is a published writer and researcher of NC history and genealogy. His interests include music, United Methodist Church lay ministries, reading, history, cooking, health/fitness. He is an avid runner, who occasionally competes in road races for charity.

Rusty lives in Clayton with wife Renee, two teenage daughters, and two cats. Renee is a clinical pharmacist, daughter Ariel is a rising freshman at Methodist University and daughter Abigail is a rising high school sophomore. According to Rusty, cats Priscilla and Polly are "useless."



Basic Genealogy 101

A course on basic genealogy research skills will be held on Tuesday, May 19 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Genealogy/Local History Room. While this course is designed for beginners, individuals with moderate skill levels might find this course interesting and beneficial. The instructor for the evening is Joan Howell Waddell. Reservations are not required, but space is limited, so call ahead or arrive early. Contact Rusty Rains, Genealogy/Local History Librarian at 237-5355 ex. 5029 for more information.

Welcome New/Renewed FOL

Merry Simmons • Eleanor Blake • Kathryn Barnhill • Ruby S. Coleman

Wilson County Public Library - Be Creative at Your Library

The Wilson County Public Library system is gearing up for its annual Summer Reading Program, beginning June 15th through July 27th. This year's theme "Be Creative @ Your Library" will offer amazing guest performers, stories, and activities including contests and hands on instruction and participation.

Programs will have broad appeal for a wide range of ages. Children who participate can receive weekly incentives and prizes to encourage them to read and to be read to this summer.

This program is completely free to all children who sign up at their local library. Its purpose is to encourage reading as a leisure activity for the school break and library use. Children who read during the summer months are more likely to return to class



Summer Reading Programs

Main • June 18 - July 23rd • Preschool Programs

Thursday mornings • Lap Sit and Story Time

2 and under - 9:30 - 9:50 am • 3 and up - 10:00 - 10:30 am

Branches • June 15 - July 23 • All Ages

Elm and Lucama Tuesdays 3 pm • East Wednesdays 3 pm

Crocker and Black Creek Thursday 3 pm

Main • June 15 - July 27th • School Age Programs •

Monday and Tuesday evenings 7-8 pm

June Programs

Mon 15 – Shake It Up with Music Explorium

<http://www.musicexplorium.com/Community.CFM>

Learn Rhythmic Patterns and Get Experience with Percussion Instruments **

Tues 16 – Parade Prep Party

Guest artists help you find your creative flow! Prepare yourself for a parade with the Paperhand Puppet Intervention. We are the parade!**

Mon 22 –Paperhand Puppet Intervention Parade (Outside)*

<http://www.paperhand.org/parades.htm>

(time to be announced) Shadow Show (Inside) 7 – 8pm **

Tues 23 – Work and Play with Clay

Guest Artist Alison Howard from Herd of Turtles Pottery Watch her throw pots on the wheel and teach you the basic joys of clay.

July Programs

Mon 6 –The Return of the Annual Worm Race Back by Popular Demand

(Bring your racing earthworm contestant.) Please leave the dead worms at home. Thank you.

Tues 7 – Stories from South African with "Ponnie" Wes-sels with additional tales of far away lands and people by Rebecca Tighe and Terry Rollins to feed your head with amazing images from your imagination!

Mon 13 – Characters and Costumes –Special Appearance by

Star Wars Storm Troopers of Vader's First 501st Legion

<http://www.501stlegion.org/members/garrisonroster.php?garrisonId=39>

Join in and wear a costume if you want more fun.

Tues 14 – Imaginative Inventions

Expand your mind. Turn on your imagination. Guess the purposes of wacky inventions of the past & see amazing creativity find new solutions!

Mon 20 – Poetry Alive!

Come enjoy a dramatic presentation that breathes new life into the poetic form;

a lively and energetic entertainment for all ages.*

<http://poetryalive.com> * The Poetry Alive! Performance is brought to the Wilson Public Library as a memorial program in memory of Paul Kushner by his loving parents.

Explore the links to whet your appetite for the best summer ever at the Wilson County Public Library.

Hope to see you soon at your library!

Sign up will begin at the Main Library location on May 26th and continue through the summer.