



Friends of the Pickens Library

July 2013



**A Message from
Randy Stepp,
Chairperson,
Board of the
Trustees,
Friends of the
Pickens Library**

This is the time of the year when we find ourselves in the heat of the summer months busy with many activities. Many of you may go on family vacations, attend reunions and enjoy other summer time fun events. This is also the time of year when several of the Friends board members begin working on preparing for the annual book sale held in September.

Our book sale chairman, Ken Reynolds, has been very busy enlisting the help of several folks for this event. Many boxes of books have been moved to the storage facility donated by R&R storage.

Following the sale last September donations of books started pouring in for this year's event. Many boxes were donated a few weeks ago from those that did not sell at the Big Canoe Tour of Homes show.

I hope that you will mark the annual book sale on your calendar. Each year the sale has grown in size as more customers come to shop. The presale event for **members only** will be Thursday afternoon, September 5th. The sale for the general public is Friday and Saturday. Again this year the sale will be held at Chattahoochee Technical College in Jasper.

As always, I encourage you to view our website at friendsofpickenslibrary.org.

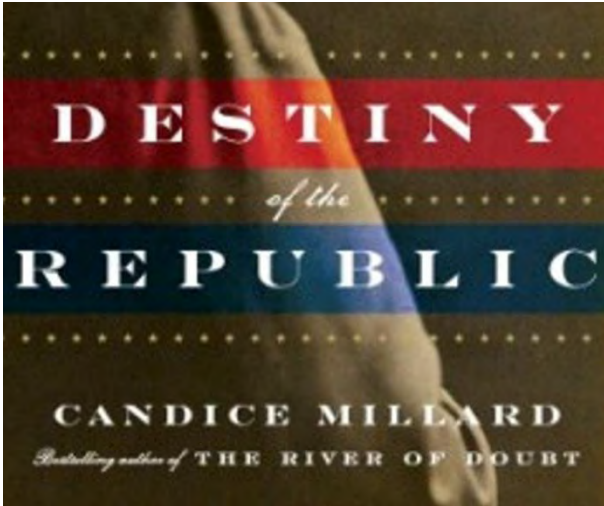
A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it starts raining. Mark Twain

Tater Patch Players Opens August 2

The Tater Patch Players are busy rehearsing *The Fantasticks*, by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt. This show, a modern twist on Romeo and Juliet, celebrated its 54th anniversary this year, making it the longest running musical in history. Luisa and Matt, the young lovers, have two strange fathers, Bellomy and Hucklebee, who believe that by building a wall between their houses and separating their children, they have encouraged them to fall in love. They hire a "professional abductor" to stage the kidnap of Luisa, followed by her rescue by Matt, to speed the children into marriage. Their abductor is El Gallo, a charming con man, who uses two very funny and ineffective actors, produced from the unlikeliest place, to assist him in staging the "kidnapping". It goes off as planned and the couple finds their "happy ever after". Cynically, as Act Two begins, they quickly grow apart as they realize they are becoming bored and want to experience the larger world. Matt leaves to see what lies beyond the road in front of their houses. Luisa turns to El Gallo to help her find her imaginary world of swirling music and dance. Needless to say, they both face a rude awakening.

The play is a hilarious and heartwarming story appropriate for all ages. The score, which includes the hit songs "Try To Remember", "Soon It's Gonna Rain" and "They Were You", is as timeless as the story itself.

The performances will be Aug 2,3,9,10,16, 17 at 7:30 PM and August 5 and 11 at 2PM. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$14 for students and seniors. Tickets can be bought on the website at www.taterpatchplayers.org. Opening weekend, Tater Patch offers a "concession cash" bonus coupon at the box office. For details contact taterpatchplayers@gmail.com or 706-253-2800.



From the Stacks

A Book Review by Ken Reynolds

Candice Millard's, *Destiny of the Republic*, is her second book about American presidents in extraordinary circumstances. It won both the Edgar Award for Best Crime Fact Book and the Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence. Her subject, James A. Garfield, had been in office only four months when an assassin shot him the back. He has been little more than a footnote in history.

Millard was inspired to get to know more about Garfield when she learned that Alexander Graham Bell, who had invented the telephone only five years earlier, devoted himself almost completely to developing a device to help locate the bullet.

Garfield survived the attempt on his life, but not his physicians' attempts to extract the bullet. Although antiseptics were widely used in Europe they were not yet generally accepted in America. The nation mourned as Garfield lay dying. The details of his suffering are not for the faint of heart.

Garfield was among the most extraordinary men ever elected president. He was a classical scholar who taught Greek and Latin, and became a college president at age 26. Later, while serving in Congress, he wrote an original proof of the Pythagorean Theorem. He was a major general during the Civil War and later became a reluctant presidential candidate.

Readers who enjoyed Erik Larsen's *Devil in the White City*, *Thunderstruck* and *In the Garden of Beasts* will like Millard's approach to her subject. Although we know how the story ends, she interweaves the strengths and foibles of the victim, the assassin, the physician and the inventor into an intriguing and highly readable book.

Profile of a Member Frani Divietro

It's summer. The kids are out of school. You're wondering how to entertain them for the day. Although you have many choices today, I would venture to say that nothing could be more beneficial for them, or you, than a trip to the library.



As a child, when I discovered the library, it became an exciting resource. I could travel to different lands, experience other cultures, and just entertain myself for hours with new ideas. The summer activities that were offered were just plain fun. The rewards given for number of books read spurred me on to read more. As I got older, it became a group activity for me and my friends.

Becoming a member of the Friends of the Pickens County Library is a natural fit for me. Our community needs to encourage children as well as adults to be more active in reading. It benefits all of us in so many ways. And by all means come to the library this summer. Bring your family and friends. Learn the power of words, and just enjoy yourselves. You might just find it to be a new best friend.

Comments, Ideas or Suggestions?

If interested in any of the above, please contact Jack Fay at 706 268 2221 or send him an email at admin@learningshpusa.com.



The Beginnings of Libraries

The first libraries consisted of archives of the earliest form of writing - the clay tablets in cuneiform script discovered in Sumer, some dating back to 2600 BC. These written archives mark the end of prehistory and the start of history. The earliest discovered private archives were kept at Ugarit. There is also evidence of libraries at Nippur about 1900 BC and at Nineveh about 700 BC showing a library classification system. Private or personal libraries made up of written books (as opposed to the state or institutional records kept in archives) appeared in classical Greece in the 5th century BC. In the 6th century, at the very close of the Classical period, the great libraries of the Mediterranean world remained those of Constantinople and Alexandria. From the 15th century in central and northern Italy, libraries of humanists and their enlightened patrons provided a nucleus around which an "academy" of scholars congregated in each Italian city of consequence. Tianyi Chamber, founded in 1561 by Fan Qin during the Ming Dynasty, is the oldest existing library in China. In its heyday it boasted a collection of 70,000 volumes of antique books. The first library classification system was set up during the Han Dynasty. In North America, it is believed that personal collections of books were brought over to the continent by French settlers in the 16th century. The oldest non-personal library on the North American continent was founded at The Jesuit College in Quebec City in 1635.



The Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, the *de facto* national library, promotes literacy and American literature throughout our nation.



Arriving at a "New World" A Memory by Doug Brooks

"Just married" in 1950, my wife Betty and I lived in Decatur, Georgia until 1974 when we moved to Gaithersburg, Maryland and that became our residence until 1988. Then we returned to this area and became happy members of Bent Tree, having built on a lot we purchased in 1972 when the area was mainly for weekend and vacation residents.

Settling in, we quickly fell in love with Jasper and became active in church, the Lions Club, Piedmont Mountanside Hospital Auxiliary (Betty), Pickens County Library and Friends of the Pickens County Library when it was formed in July 1990. That group started with 16 members and now has a membership of more than 150. The many speakers who have taken part in monthly meetings have been inspiring to us all.

My interest in our library also included serving on the Library Board that was very active in developing the new library building, occupied in January 1996. Serving with the members of that Board and the "Friends" has been a highlight of our 25 years in Pickens County as it has grown in a most positive way for all of us.

Renew or Join

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership. Or become a new member.

The size of our membership determines the amount of help we can give to aspiring readers in the Pickens County community.

Please fill out the form on the following page and mail it with a check to Friends of the Pickens Library, 100 Library Lane, Jasper, GA 30143.

Friends of the Pickens Library
100 Library Lane
Jasper, GA 30143

Membership Application
Friends of the Pickens Library

I am a new member _____ I am a renewing member _____

Name _____ Street or PO Box Number _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

If a family membership, please provide one additional name. _____

Please send newsletter by email ____ Please send newsletter to above address OR to:

Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Membership categories: Student: \$5 Individual: \$15 Family: \$30

Contributor: \$50 to \$99 Sponsor: \$100 to \$199 Benefactor: \$200 or higher

Please make your check payable to Friends of the Pickens Library and mail or deliver it to 100 Library Lane, Jasper, GA 30143. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

You are invited to visit the Friends of the Pickens Library website at: friendsofpickenslibrary.org

I would like to volunteer for: Annual Book Sale Hospitality Membership Newsletter