

Friends of the Pickens Library Newsletter

October 2015



A message from Randy Stepp, President of Friends of the Pickens Library

The Friends used book sale this year was again a success. While the number of shoppers was down from last year those who did shop bought more books. Many of you volunteered your time to make this sale possible. Without your help it simply could not happen and we thank you for your help.

The Friends board of trustees has sixteen members always trying to find more and better ways to raise funds to continue this support. Just recently we added our name to Amazon Smile. This is a simple way that shoppers of Amazon can help us raise more money. More information is outlined in this newsletter.

We always encourage you to keep your membership active with the Friends and please tell others about our efforts. This is one of the best ways to help us increase our organization's membership. If you don't have one of our brochures I would encourage you to pick one up at the library on your next visit. They are located at the checkout desk.

I would like to say Thank You to all of you who continue to support the Friends. You understand the importance of having a library that can deliver quality services to benefit our local community.

Have a happy holiday season,

Randy Stepp, president

Chalk up another success story

Our 2015 book sale went as expected—lots of books sold. We started with 12,000 and finished with more than half of them in the hands of eager buyers who came to Chattahoochee Tech from far and wide. The word is definitely out that if you like good books our annual sale is the place to find them. After we clear away a few minor expenses we'll be able to donate about \$5000 to the library.

We gave the unsold books to the Salvation Army office in Canton, the Women's Prison Ministry and the resale shop of the Pickens Animal Rescue.

Jim Hughes, the project leader, was assisted by 41 volunteers who collectively worked close to 500 hours sorting, setting up tables and helping buyers carry their purchases to the parking lot.

Special thanks go to the persons and groups that donated the books; to Chattahoochee Technical College for allowing us use of first-class facilities; and to Community Bank of Pickens County, Pickens County Progress, Mark Miller and Associates, Safe Exterminating, Squeaky Clean, and Alan and Tina Boomershine.



A way to raise money A message from Ken Reynolds

We are operational with Amazon Smile. If you shop on Amazon, you can arrange for 0.5% of what you spend to be paid to the Friends of the Pickens Library, Inc. It is not much, but it can amount to a worthwhile sum over time. It does not change your shopping experience, and it does not add cost to your purchase.

Please note: This article is not an endorsement of Amazon. It is to let you know of another way your board is trying to raise money on behalf of our library.

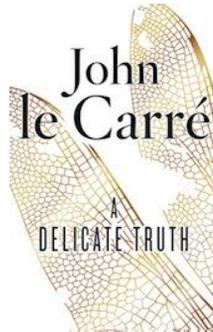
If you already have an Amazon account, all you have to do is change the way you access Amazon. Instead of www.amazon.com, use www.smile.amazon.com. The shopping will be the same as on the regular Amazon page.

If you have Amazon bookmarked on your browser, you will need to edit, or replace, your bookmark.

Once in the Smile.Amazon portal you will need to select our organization. That is easy to do, just type in Friends of the Pickens Library, Inc. You will see our name and Jasper, GA. Select it and you should see your name and a message indicating that you are supporting the Friends.

That is all there is to it.

If you have questions please contact a member of the board of directors or email us at friendsofpickenslibrary@gmail.com.



From a book review by Olen Steinhauer of *A Delicate Truth* by John le Carré.

"I have a theory which I suspect is rather immoral," George Smiley said in John le Carré's 1974 classic, "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

Like most of le Carré's recent novels, *A Delicate Truth* feels like a rebuttal to a theory that asks, "How many stray cats can we allow to be snuffed in order to reach our ends?" Or, as le Carré put it in an essay in last month's issue of Harper's, "How far can we go in the rightful defense of our Western values without abandoning them along the way?"

The enemy in le Carré's universe, both fictional and not, isn't America. It's the virus of shortsightedness, hypocrisy, lies and unfettered greed that plagues the "post-imperial, post-cold-war world" Toby Bell so wants to help shape. And while the few Americans are not to be loved, their British counterparts are even more despicable, particularly the New Labour politicians who have clearly disappointed le Carré the most deeply, having marched willingly with America into Iraq.

Describing a posting to Cairo early in Toby's diplomatic career, le Carré writes: "At weekends, he enjoys jolly camel rides with debonair military officers and secret policemen and lavish parties with the superrich in their guarded desert condominiums. And at dawn, after flirting with their glamorous daughters, drives home with car windows closed to keep out the stench of burning plastic and rotting food as the ragged ghosts of children and their shrouded mothers forage for scraps in filthy acres of unsorted rubbish at the city's edge." Here is le Carré with the gloves off, turning his back entirely on George Smiley's old stray cat theory and aiming his dagger at those who would twist Smiley's words for their own purposes. Is this what we've done with our cold war victory?

The spymaster-as-hero is gone, replaced by the whistle-blower, the outsider who retains enough of his heart to be appalled by the slaughter of strays.



Halloween Spook-tacular Pickens County Library Thursday, October 29 at 5:00 pm

Don't be scared, it's just the Library's 3rd annual Halloween Spook-tacular! Join the crowd for lots of Halloween-themed activities and light refreshments.

All ages are invited. For more information, please contact the Pickens County Library at 706-692-5411.



Down by the River Soque By Travis McDaniel

I rambled one day in the mountains
Down by the river Soque
Caught in the spell of the woodland
And no other soul there but me.

Streams trickle down from the mountains
'Till they gather and form the Soque
Then down through the Habersham valleys
Once home to the proud Cherokee.

There among haunts of wild turkey,
There where the squirrel makes its den,
I heard the drum of a ruffed grouse
As he called up a mate round the bend.

There in the cool mountain forest
There where wildness prevails
I long to wander in wonder
For it's there that other things pale.

There in the realm of wild creatures
There where giant hemlocks grow tall
I'm made to feel small and humble
At the thrill and the awe of it all.

Oh, the streams trickle down from the mountains
'Till they gather and form the Soque
Then down through the Habersham valleys
Once home to the proud Cherokee.

Memoir writing tips

Here are some tips we borrowed from <http://www.memoirsby.me.com>.

Write first, edit later. The first objective in writing anything is to get it on the page first. Then you can go back and edit. Trying to edit as you go interrupts the process of getting it out of your head and onto the page. Thus causing you to lose your thoughts and forget what you were saying.

Write in the first person. You are the author and your memoirs are about you, therefore it is natural to write in the first person, using words such as I, my, me, etc.

Tell the good and the bad. If it's all good, it will be boring. If it's all bad, it will be too depressing and blah. Mixing the bad with the good makes the story much more interesting and believable to the reader.

Be gracious when writing about others. Be truthful yet tasteful. Understand the people you include in your writings are real human beings with thoughts, feelings and their own perspectives, they are not fictional characters solely revolving around the universe of you. Use discretion when writing about them.

Do your best to get it right. You are creating an historical document based on memory...so do your best to keep it accurate. If references are made to historical events or well-known facts that are recorded elsewhere, do your homework to make sure your writing matches up. You don't want to lose credibility in your story because you didn't get your facts straight.

Be yourself. The more true to yourself you are, the more you will shine. Don't try to be someone else, just be yourself. People will relate better to a real person than to someone you might try to portray.

Imagine your audience before you start writing, and then write to them. Choose a person you know rather than something arbitrary like "my future children". If you don't have any children yet and would like to address your stories to them, picture someone specific you would consider to be like your future children.

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