



# Friends of the Pickens Library



## President's Message

When the last newsletter was written, I was writing as the Vice President. I am now the President of the Friends of Pickens Library and Nancy Hammer has been elected as Vice President.

Several weeks ago I sent an Email to all members of the

Friends of Pickens Library asking for each one to contact their Representative and Senators in support of the state funding for the expansion/addition to the Pickens County Public Library. We were hopeful that with verbal and written support from the Friends that the two million dollars needed to begin construction for the library would be placed in the budget during this legislative session. The House budget only contained one library capital project. When the Senate received the House budget, they added two more library projects to their budget. None of these three is Pickens County. You would not believe the worth of non-library employees contacting their legislators to ask for their assistance in funding. To those that did contact Representative Rick Jasperse, Senator Charlie Bethel, and Senator Steve Gooch, I thank you so much. For those that did not, I ask that in preparation for next year's legislative session, that you talk and write to these three asking for their support for 2017. The more that can be accomplished before January 2017, the better the chances of being placed in the budget for next year. Thanks so much for your help!

Have you thanked your library staff member lately? Those men and women work hard to help all who use the library to experience a great and successful visit. Most of the time, employees hear all the negative and never the positive. Be different and accentuate the positive next time you visit the library.

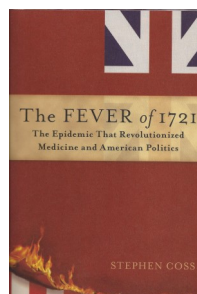
## Freonds of the Liber

The etymology of the word friend is interesting and apropos. The first recorded usage of the word in the English language appears circa 725 in Beowulf, which is considered the seminal piece of Old English literature. In this great epic Beowulf's most loyal friend or "freond" is Wiglaf, who stands by Beowulf when others desert the battle. A friend is one who has strong feelings of regard or affection for another person or group; a person who supports or promotes another person or group.

"Liber" is from Latin, meaning "to peel," a reference to the peeling of the inner bark of trees to produce parchment, paper, and books. The Latin liber was extended to "librarium," to denote a chest for books. A chest soon became a collection. The collections of those ancient libraries dating as far back as 2500 BC were comprised of tablets written in script.

Today's library houses far more than books. It is an information industry with film, audio, video, art, and the latest digital offerings. That is why Friends of the Library are to be applauded for their priceless service to and for Pickens County and beyond.

Submitted by Fran Holman



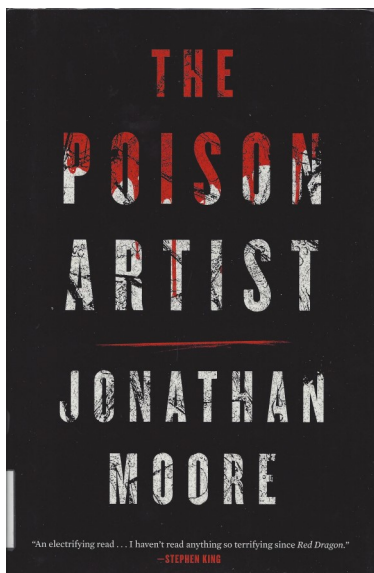
## New in Non-Fiction

The library's non-fiction shelves now include a fascinating history of Colonial America and the smallpox epidemic. *The Fever of 1721: The Epidemic that Revolutionized Medicine and American Politics* by Steven Coss deserves attention.

## A Little Wisdom Never Hurts

"The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently."

Friedrich Nietzsche



## The Poison Artist

by Jonathan Moore  
Reviewed by Ken  
Reynolds

I found "The Poison Artist" in the new fiction section of the Pickens Library. Reading a quick sample indicated mystery and intrigue. All I wanted

was an enjoyable mystery.

Moore went beyond surprising me. He has written a keep-on-reading story.

Dr. Caleb Maddox is a San Francisco toxicologist studying the effects of pain on human body chemistry. After a breakup with his girlfriend —she threw a glass at him and cut his forehead, Caleb is drinking at a bar when a hauntingly seductive woman appears. She whispers to Caleb over absinthe, touches her finger to his blood and then brushes his ear with her lips as she says goodbye. No names given.

Thus begins a terrible obsession. Caleb must find the woman. Instead he finds himself a person of interest in a series of mysterious deaths. A man disappears. Days later, a body is found in the bay, apparently dead from drowning. Toxicological analysis points toward something more mysterious as the cause of death.

Sometimes, protagonists must have a weakness. Caleb Maddox's is the other-worldly woman he learns calls herself Emmeline. He can think of nothing else; certainly not the behind-schedule data he needs to obtain a necessary multi-million dollar CDC grant. Not his recent break-up with his long-time lover.

Samples intended for his research mysteriously appear in his laboratory. Software the medical examiner uses to determine cause of death develops a virus that deletes specific information from test results. The Examiner is Caleb's best friend. He knows what happened to Caleb's family, and he is worried.

Who is Emmeline? Why and how does she wield such influence over Caleb? What happened in past, and how does it influence Caleb's present?

A good, well-written psychological mystery with shades of horror.

## Royal Library of Alexandria

The Royal Library of Alexandria was one of the largest and most significant libraries of the ancient world. It was dedicated to the Muses, the nine goddesses of the arts. It flourished under the patronage of the Ptolemaic dynasty and functioned as a major center of scholarship from its construction in the 3rd century BCE until the Roman conquest of Egypt in 30 BCE, with collections of works, lecture halls, meeting rooms, and gardens. The library was part of a larger research institution called the Musaeum of Alexandria, where many of the most famous thinkers of the ancient world studied.



The library was created by Ptolemy I Soter, who was a Macedonian general and the successor of Alexander the Great. Most of the books were kept as papyrus scrolls. It is unknown how many such scrolls were housed at any given time.

The library is famous for having been burned down, resulting in the loss of many scrolls and books; its destruction has become a symbol for the loss of cultural knowledge. A few sources differ on who is responsible for the destruction and when it occurred. There is mythology regarding this main burning but the library may in truth have suffered several fires or other acts of destruction over many years. Possible occasions for the partial or complete destruction of the Library of Alexandria include a fire set by Julius Caesar in 48 BCE and an attack by Aurelian in the CE 270s.



## Profile of a Member

Maria Boling



There is a church-like dignity in a library. As you enter no one yells "Welcome to the Library!" A broken mind can get healed there; maybe it is the sacred hush.

I am a prior board member of the Friends of the Library where I served as

Hospitality Chair for a number of years. Privileged since they allowed me creative reign to decorate the Christmas tree and arrange the table settings for public meetings.

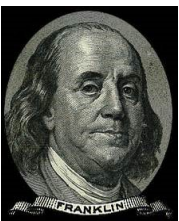
My dry brain is oiled by printed words and chapters and pages. I love to write. To benefit from my writing passion I read. I salivate over John Grisham's collection of words and favor other books containing emotional courtroom drama and clever characters that either break the law or uphold the same.

I suffered through a couple of Faulkner's novels, yet believe additional Southern writers transmit a rather homey ecstasy. I made myself finish War and Peace. I am a shallow reader and prefer entertainment over education.

Libraries are captivating. I have been a member of a library since age five and read my first novel, "Forty Acres and No Mule", at age nine. In high school I wrote for the newspaper and composed a fairly serious gossip column-a rather significant claim to teenage notoriety.

Along with libraries homes are another fascination-therefore, at the top of my Bucket List is a visit to as many authors' residences as possible. So far Hemingway's cat, Marilyn Monroe, has snoozed in my lap; I have placed my eyes on Margaret Mitchell's typewriter keys and sat in a rocking chair on Joel Chandler Harris' front porch.

And I only silently yell "Welcome to the Library!"



An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

## Spring In The South

By Henry Van Dyke

Now in the oak the sap of life is welling,  
Tho' to the bough the rusty leafage clings;  
Now on the elm the misty buds are swelling,  
See how the pine-wood grows alive with wings;  
Blue-jays fluttering, yodeling and crying,  
Meadow-larks sailing low above the faded grass,  
Red-birds whistling clear, silent robins flying,--  
Who has waked the birds up? What has come to pass?

Last year's cotton-plants, desolately bowing,  
Tremble in the March-wind, ragged and forlorn;  
Red are the hill-sides of the early ploughing,  
Gray are the lowlands, waiting for the corn.  
Earth seems asleep still, but she's only feigning;  
Deep in her bosom thrills a sweet unrest.  
Look where the jasmine lavishly is raining  
Jove's golden shower into Danae's breast!

Now on the plum the snowy bloom is sifted,  
Now on the peach the glory of the rose,  
Over the hills a tender haze is drifted,  
Full to the brim the yellow river flows.  
Dark cypress boughs with vivid jewels glisten,  
Greener than emeralds shining in the sun.  
Who has wrought the magic? Listen, sweetheart,  
The mocking-bird is singing Spring has begun.

Hark, in his song no tremor of misgiving!  
All of his heart he pours into his lay,--  
"Love, love, love, and pure delight of living:  
Winter is forgotten: here's a happy day!"  
Fair in your face I read the flowery presage,  
Snowy on your brow and rosy on your mouth:  
Sweet in your voice I hear the season's message,--  
Love, love, love, and Spring in the South!



*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](http://friendsofpickenslibrary.org)

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