



# NewsLetter

## Little Free Library Now at County Government Building

By Sue Appleton

The Friends of Pickens Library decided to sponsor and fund a Little Free Library ([www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org)) at the County Government Building. "Thank you" for a successful completion to the project go to Commission Chair, Rob Jones, who saw to it that the box has a prominent location in the building. "Thank you" also goes to Dan Pool from the Pickens Progress, who donated an old newspaper vending box for the Little Free Library and last, but certainly not least, "Thank you" to John Crowe who picked up the vending box, transformed it with paint and new signage, and delivered it to its new location at the Government Building. Thank you, all!

Since the middle of December, the Little Free Library has been in operation. Members of FOPL will continually check the box to ensure that there are adequate adult and children's books from which to choose and read for FREE!

Please look for and make use of our new box at the Government Building. Other locations in Pickens County to find Little Free Libraries are at Hill City Elementary School, sponsored by the Jasper Rotary Club and outside the IGA Market at Foothills Shopping Center, sponsored by the store. We will be looking into setting up more Little Free Libraries around the county in the future.



John Crowe and the refurbished vending box.



## A Message from Susan White

President, Friends of the Pickens Library

Another year has begun, not only on the calendar, but for the Friends of the Pickens Library organization. The board members and officers will remain the same as in 2018. The officers are: President—Susan White, Vice President—Nancy Hammer, Secretary—Ann Dobson, and Treasurer—Kathy Westbrook. All members of the board strive to make this organization the best that it can be in order to help the public library to also become the best that it can be.

The "Friends" board is now sponsoring a "Free Little Library" in the county. It is located in front of the county Administration Building. There is an article in this newsletter telling all about this newest project of this organization. Be sure to visit often.

Wintertime is a wonderful time of year to take advantage of what your local library has to offer. Whether it be checking out a book, audiobook, or participating in one of their many programs for both adults and children, there is much to do at the library. Also, check out the wonderful programs on the computer that can help you with repairing a vehicle, learning a new language, and many more areas of interest. Visit often!

Whenever you are asked to renew your membership to the Friends, please help this organization out by submitting your dues. They are only \$15 per person and this allows you to support this wonderful organization. And what easier way than to renew sitting at home in front of your computer since your membership is now renewable on the website. There is no better way to help your local community!

— Susan

## It's Happening at the Library!

February 12 at 3:00 – Jane Austen Book Club – Teens and adults are invited to discuss *Sense and Sensibility*.

February 19 at 6:00 – Deany Brady, author of *An Appalachian Childhood*, *Higher Than Yonder Mountain*, and *Appalachia in My Heart* will discuss growing up in the mountains of Georgia in the 1930s.

April 9 at 3:00 – Jane Austen Book Club – Teens and adults will discuss *Pride and Prejudice*.

Storytime for youngsters is held on Thursday at 10:30 and 4:30.

# Who Knew?

## Georgia Writers' Hall of Fame

The web is a brilliant source of information about almost anything. Recently, while browsing, I found a website that piqued my interest: georgiaencyclopedia.org. Within that very comprehensive website, I found nine categories listed, including Arts and Culture. In that subheading was the Literature section where I typed "Georgia Writers" in the search box.

The second article that appeared was about authors who have been recognized as Georgia's best. The award was started by the University Libraries in the year 2000 as a "public awards program and a permanent Internet exhibit honoring Georgia's most influential writers."

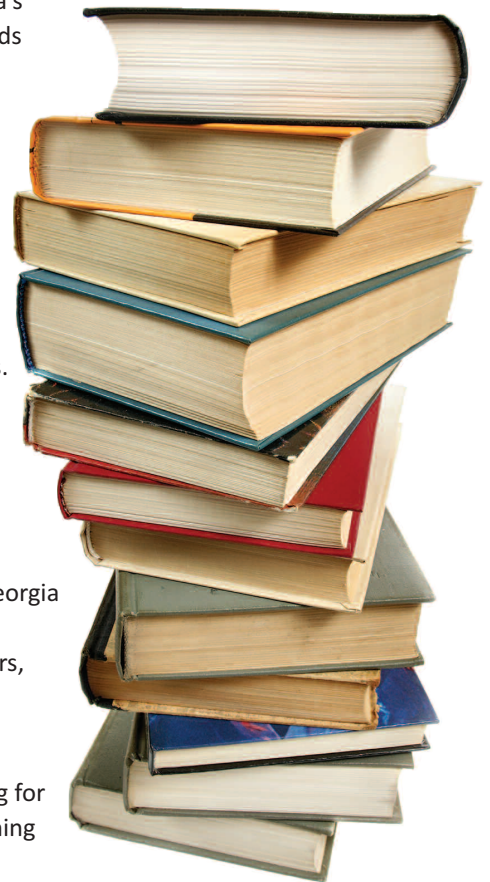
"The mission of the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame is to "recognize Georgia writers, past and present, whose work reflects the character of the state – its land and its people. Although there are a few award programs in the state that recognize specific books, the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame is the first to honor Georgia writes for their overall contribution to our culture."

The first year's judges selected a charter membership group of twelve authors from Georgia's history. Every year after, the volunteer judges meet to choose the new members.

The following is a list of 2018 inductees: Furman Bisher, Michael Bishop, Tayari Jones, Frances Newman, and Cynthia Shearer. While I am not familiar with these authors, their works have been recognized as notable and I will look for their books when looking for new books to read.

Some of the authors inducted with the first group in the year 2000 are more familiar to Georgia readers: Erskine Caldwell, James Dickey, W. E. B. Du Bois, Joel Chandler Harris, John Oliver Killens, Martin Luther King Jr. Sidney Lanier, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, Carson McCullers, Margaret Mitchell, Flannery O'Connor and Lillian Smith.

Authors judged to be important to Georgia by academics, librarians, civic leaders and publishers certainly deserve to be recognized, read and enjoyed. So, when you are looking for a new book to read in the new year, check out the website, and try one of the award-winning authors from Georgia!



## Annual Membership Form

Friends of the Pickens Library

Yes, I want to help my library purchase books, material, and equipment.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of contribution: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Members have access to the PRE-SALE at our Used book Sale.

Please make check payable to:

**Friends of the Pickens Library**

100 Library Lane

Jasper, Ga 30143

*A 501(c)3 all volunteer organization dedicated to helping the library serve Pickens County, GA.*

### Membership categories:

Please check one.

Student:  \$5

Individual:  \$15

Family:  \$30

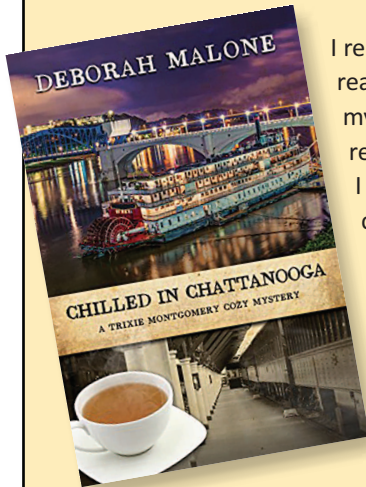
Contributor:  \$50 to \$99

Sponsor:  \$100 to \$199

Benefactor:  \$200 or more

## What Books Are Our Board Members Reading?

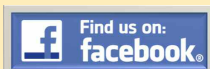
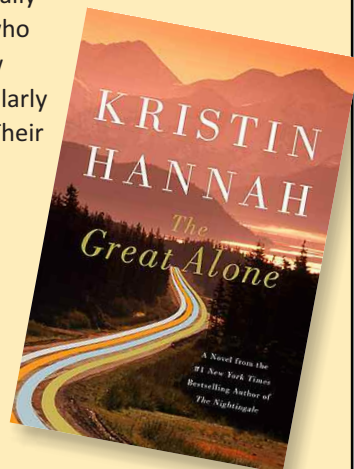
From time-to-time, we will include reviews of books that our board members are reading. Here is what Susan White is reading.



I really love to read mysteries and really enjoy reading series. So, I try my best to find a mystery series and read the first to the last in the series. I enjoy getting to know the characters, as the author builds their personalities in each book. Currently, I am reading a series written by a Georgia author and set in and around Georgia locales. I have read the first three and am now starting on the fourth in the series, *Chilled*

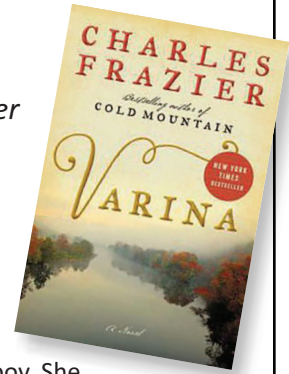
*in Chattanooga* by Deborah Malone. The first three books were set in Dahlonega, Marietta, and Tybee Island. I really enjoy reading about places where I have been in a novel that contains a mystery. These are called “cozy mysteries,” and this particular series is Christian-based. There are three main characters: Trixie Montgomery, her friend, Dee Dee, and her aunt, Nana, who is a real lively character. Together, they always find a murdered body and, of course, solve the mystery in the end. This author attended the Holiday Marketplace in November at the Technical College, and that is where I purchased this series of books.

**Nancy Hammer** is reading a book reviewed here in October called *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. She is not too far along in it, but reports that she really likes it. It is the story of a family who moves to Alaska looking for a new start. Everyone has issues, particularly the dad, who suffers from PTSD. Their survival seems questionable, but someone will survive.... “I have many more pages to turn before I sleep!”



## Seeking New Reads

A review of *Varina* by Charles Frazier



Varina Howell was a smart, opinionated, home-schooled 17-year-old in 1842, living outside Nachez, MS. Because her father’s fortune was wasted on errant speculation and unsuccessful business schemes, the family was out of money. Varina had no dowry and little chance attracting a local boy. She was sent to Davis’ Mississippi plantation, met and married Jefferson Davis, 20 years her senior. His heroic actions during the Mexican-American War gave rise to a political career. This was the beginning of Varina’s life as a lively hostess in Washington, DC during the pre-Civil War days.

In order to tell about Varina’s time as First Lady of the Confederacy, Charles Frazier used a character, James Brooks, to repeatedly visit her. There was an actual picture taken of him in hand-me-down clothes from the Davis’ other children, and he seemed be connected to the Davis family during the early years of his life. During James’ visits to Varina as an adult, she was able to fill in the blanks of his young life. According to this story, he was a young boy who was rescued from a beating by Varina. He lived with her family, and was raised with her children. He contacted Varina as an adult after he read about himself in a memoir about the final days of the Civil War called *First Days among the Contrabands*. The book told about Varina and her children slogging through Georgia on their way to freedom. They never made it, and as they were captured, little “Jimmy Limber” or James Brooks was separated from her. Luckily, Jimmy ended up in good hands, as Varina wished. The book continues with the rest of her amazing story until her death in New York City in 1906.

Frazier employed some methods in the writing of this book that I’ve never seen before. He mostly referred to Varina as “V”. He also never used quotation marks or noted who was speaking, so I had to get used to seeing dashes and I paid special attention to context clues to know who spoke. His chapters jumped around, but as long as the chapter heading was noted, I was able to follow easily. Frazier wrote with such lyrical prose that I often stopped to reread paragraphs. In fact, I look forward to reading the book again to concentrate more on his writing style.

Very little has been written about Varina Davis. No doubt, Charles Frazier made up some of her story, but I found it fascinating to read his interpretation how this strong, independent woman dealt with the hardships and adversities that were heaped upon her.

This book was purchased at the used book sale in Sept. and is also available through the library in Jasper.

By Carol Hagadorn



## Silver

by Walter de la Mare

Slowly, silently, now the moon  
Walks the night in her silver shoon;  
This way, and that, she peers, and sees  
Silver fruit upon silver trees;  
One by one the casements catch  
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;  
Couched in his kennel, like a log,  
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;  
From their shadowy cote the white breasts peep  
Of doves in a silver-feathered sleep;  
A harvest mouse goes scampering by,  
With silver claws, and silver eye;  
And moveless fish in the water gleam,  
By silver reeds in a silver stream.



*Sir Walter John Delamare was born in Kent, England on April 25, 1873. He liked to be called "Jack" and changed his last name to the original French spelling "de la Mare" because he thought it was more poetic. He worked as an accountant for the Standard Oil Company until 1908. His government pension enabled him to pursue his love of creative writing. This popular writer published short stories, novels, essays and poems every year until his death in 1956.*



**Friends of the Pickens Library**

100 Library Lane  
Jasper, Ga 30143