



NewsLetter

Theo of Golden

By Carol Hagadorn

It's been six months since I finished the book *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. The characters, the setting, and the stories of the people in the town of Golden were favorites of our book group, the Mountain Mavens, and surprisingly a favorite book of my husband, who would choose a Daniel Silva thriller or spy novel over any other. If you are looking for a touching, compassionate fiction story based on the author's real-life experiences in Columbus, GA, this is an option for you. To pass the time for those of us who are waiting for the movie or the second installment, reportedly about Ellen, a character in the first book, we can:

- Reread the first book.
- Watch Walkabout Jim's ten minute You Tube video called "Theo of Golden's' Town...a walk through Columbus, Georgia in Theo's footsteps."
- Take a road trip to Columbus ourselves, to walk the Broadway and the downtown streets, the Riverwalk, or explore the quiet streets of the Boughery.
- Watch an interview by Russell Moore of *The Russell Moore Show* where he interviews Allen Levi about the book, *Theo of Golden* thankfully, without spoilers.

This book has now sold over one million copies, and is on a long wait list at our library. I'd recommend that you get in line, borrow the book, and then take the time to read it. And then we all need to wait patiently for his next book.



A Message from Sandy Tatum

President, Friends of the Pickens Library

Dear Fellow Book Lovers,

Check Out Your Local Library!

There's so much going on this Spring and Summer at Pickens County Library! It's my pleasure to serve as President of Friends of the Pickens County Library. I began to appreciate and love our local library when I moved here in the late 70s. I will forever be grateful to Mrs. Julia Wheeler, the librarian at that time, who introduced me to the library and many other book lovers like me.

Pickens County Friends of the Library exists, in part, to "promote awareness of the library's service to the community." Listed below are some of the library's services and events you and your family can check out and enjoy this summer.

At the library, you can check out puzzles, games, sewing machines, and tool kits. You can ask about **Experience Passes** to local attractions. Check out **Libby**, the online eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines website.

Summer Discovery Kick-Off is at 10:30 on Tuesday, June 2nd, featuring entertainment from Wildlife Wonders. This Summer Discovery program offers summer reading programs and incentives for children, youth, and adults. Pick up a brochure at the library for the times and dates for each event.

Celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary with the **Georgia Reads for America250 Reading Challenge**. Register on the Beanstack App before July 4 to participate in the challenge, read at least one book from the curated reading list on the app, and do at least one activity from each of the historical categories to complete the challenge.

J. Hollander will present, "Deerskins & Steel: Trade Between Native Americans & British Colonists," on Saturday, June 6, at 10:30. It is an immersive presentation of early American history in celebration of America250. Honor the Past. Read for the Future.

Ask the Library Staff. Get to know our friendly and ever helpful library staff for more information or help in participating in any of these events. They are very knowledgeable and happy to help.

Thank you to those who continue to support Friends of the Pickens Library. Your fees and donations made at the black collection box at our **Book Sale Shelves** return directly to the library to purchase more books and materials. You never know what exciting read (or reread) you may find for adults, youth, or children. Also, keep the library in mind when you've got a stack of lightly used books to donate.

Summer is a wonderful time to get out and explore your local library. You will be glad you did.

Kindest Regards,
Sandy Tatum

Thank you to Our Business Partners



(L. to R.) Katie Dobson, head librarian, Carol Hagadorn and Sandy Tatum, Friends of Pickens Library. PHOTO TAKEN BY SARAH

By Carol Hagadorn

The Pickens County Library is a Jasper jewel. It not only lends books, tools, and meeting spaces, it has an expert and friendly staff to help patrons with book and technology questions. We are very fortunate to have business patrons who feel that an attractive, well-stocked, and well-used library is an asset to our community. Please accept our heartfelt and sincere **thank you** to our kind and generous business patrons: **Community Bank of Pickens County, Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation and Pickens County Community Resource Association (PCCRA) – locally known as The Jasper Thrift Store.** All of the donated services and funds from these organizations are used for the betterment of our library community.

Library patrons, you can help by making **Community Bank of Pickens County** your bank. You can participate in **Amicalola EMC's Operation Round Up**, where you round up your monthly payment to the nearest dollar. And you can shop for bargains at the **Jasper Thrift Store.**

If you would like to become a part of the business patron community, please check out Friends of the Pickens Library website for more information: <http://friendsofpickenslibrary.org>. Everyone will be glad that you did!

Reading Rockets and Other Resources

By Carol Hagadorn

The Pickens County Library provides for parents and caregivers many resources for helping children with beginning reading activities. Just walk through the doors and head to the children's area, you will see plenty!

Another resource, *Reading Rockets* (www.pbs.org), is a national literacy initiative that gives parents and teachers the resources they need to help your children become strong readers and writers. Their website offers lots of videos, hundreds of articles about helping young readers, parent tips in eleven languages, a bilingual parent "e-newsletter, video interviews with well-known children's authors, a big library of themed booklists – and much more! (From Reading Rockets website)

If you are the parent, grandparent, babysitter, or in any way providing childcare for a young child, summer is a very important time to carve out time to spend reading to, listening to, or encouraging a child to work with words. Any method that speaks to your child or you is so much better than nothing at all. Our teachers and legislators recognize the need to bring up test scores and those of us who love the children for whom we come in contact, need to offer

opportunities to make reading high on the list of summer fun activities. Let's encourage our kids to READ!



friendsofpickenslibrary.org



You are invited to visit the Friends' website. On it, you can become a member online, read past newsletters, and check out the latest news from the library. It also has a link to our Facebook page and our mission statement.

Come join us, and become a member today!

Friends of the Pickens Library • 100 Library Lane • Jasper, Ga 30143

Become a Member

Today



Children's Games

By Barbara Brescia

It is summertime, which means children enjoy their freedom from school. Today, this freedom probably means more screentime. The American College of Pediatricians (AC-Peds) research indicates teens spend more than forty hours per week on a mobile device. *Snake*, developed in 1997, was the first mobile device game, and the beginning of the fast-growing market providing children with thousands of choices of screen games and activities. But what did children do to fill all those summertime hours before *Snake* and the screen time boom?

An informal survey of the Friends of Pickens County Library Board Members revealed that the before-screen-time-boom generation spent summertime playing outside games such as *baseball*, *marbles*, *tug-of-war*, *hopscotch*, *jump rope*, *kick-the-can*, and *Blind Man's Buff*. (Originally, it was called *Blind Man's Buff*, indicating a small strike or push.) The exact origin of some of these games is hard to determine. However, archaeologists discovered evidence that the Pharaohs and Aztec civilizations played *marbles* and *tug-of-war*. Ancient Romans added hoop rolling and hopscotch to the list of games. Roman military leaders extended the *hopscotch* field to 100 feet and instructed their soldiers in full armor to hop through the rectangles to build their agility. The ancient Greeks added *Blind Man's Buff* and *knucklebones* to the list of popular games. *Knucklebones* was played with goat's ankle bones, hence the name. Today it is played using metal jacks.



Children's Games, a 1560 painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

The 16th century brought a better understanding of the importance of children's play and new games. Board member, Paige Reynolds pointed out *Children's Games*, a 1560 painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, that illustrated over ninety children's games. *Blind Man's Buff*, *knucklebones*, *rock-paper-scissors*, *leap frog*, *marbles*, *hide and seek*, and *bowling* are just a few of the games depicted in the 1560 painting. Many of these games remained popular for several centuries.

During the 17th century, in Europe and America, additional games were added to the list. The nursery rhyme and game *London Bridge is Falling Down* was based on the fact that during its history, the bridge had been destroyed, collapsed, and rebuilt at least ten times. The game became popular in America along with *Blind Man's Buff*, which was a childhood

favorite of King Henry VIII. In Colonial America, jumping rope gained popularity. Originally, a boy's game, it quickly became a favorite of girls as they added rhymes and multiple ropes.

These games continued to be popular throughout the mid-20th century until *Snake* was developed which changed the nature of children's games. According to ACPeds, the change from traditional games to screen time hours has had a negative impact on language development, communication skills, academic performance, social skills, anger management, judgement, sleep, and overall health of children. The ACPeds recommendation – limit screen time and instead encourage children to read a print book and play outside. This summer, how about a visit to the library or a game of *hopscotch*, *jump rope*, or good old-fashioned *baseball*?





Bed in Summer

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candlelight.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

By Robert Louis Stevenson



Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) R.L. Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and died in Vailima, Apia, Samoa. He is best known for writing the novels Treasure Island (1883), Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1886), and Kidnapped (1886). He also wrote a popular collection of poems in 1885 – A Child's Garden of Verses. He traveled widely during his short life, wrote about his travels and other topics, and looked for relief from chronic bronchial problems. He finally found some relief in Samoa in the South Seas. His wife, Fanny, an independent American woman, and her children from a previous marriage, lived there with him until his death of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 44.

Some famous quotes attributed to him include: "Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others," and "I travel not to go anywhere, but to go." "I travel for travel's sake." "The great affair is to move..."

House Bill 1193 – Georgia's Literacy Bill

Information from Ross Williams – Georgia Recorder – May 6, 2026

On Tuesday, May 5, 2026, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed into law a bill designed to help raise reading scores. House Speaker Jon Burns made this bill his main priority during this year's legislative session. He saw the need to raise elementary school's reading scores after noting that more than 60% of Georgia third graders were reading below grade level.

If you have a student in public elementary school, you may see a new person on the staff with the title "Literacy Coach" or something

similar in August. These educators are specially trained and will work with classroom teachers to help children from kindergarten to third grade become skilled readers.

"Literacy is certainly the foundation of our success, not only as individuals, but for our state," House Speaker Jon Burns said after the bill passed on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Also, the bill's other features are a Georgia Literacy Task Force and a state literacy director. School systems will be required to form their

own literacy plans. This initiative to raise test scores and encourage students to become better readers is going to be expensive, as all statewide plans inevitably are. My hope is that the library in each town is used as a resource to encourage young readers to choose materials from which to practice reading. Parents, librarians, educators, and politicians working together will hopefully make a major difference in encouraging children to become better readers.

