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[www.state.sc.us/scsl](http://www.state.sc.us/scsl)

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# News

For South  
 Carolina Libraries

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## South Carolina's Children Grow With Books

The State Library is pleased to announce that a new edition of the *Grow with Books* chart is now available. The chart has been totally redesigned with beautiful art, featuring wild animals reading to their animal babies and recommended books for sharing with children from birth to age 3.

The *Grow with Books* chart is a popular publication, used by libraries and other groups for distribution to families with new babies. Public libraries across the state submitted requests for over 75,000 charts prior to publication, reflecting the active role public libraries in South Carolina take in working with early literacy programs in their counties. This publication, along with the booklist *Born to Read*, which suggests books for the very young child, reflects the commitment of South Carolina public libraries to early literacy.

The first edition of the *Grow with Books* chart was published in 1992 and has been reprinted several times. In 1992, the emphasis on the importance of reading to children beginning at birth was in its early days. Cooperative efforts between



(cont'd on page 3)

# ***FROM THE DIRECTOR.....***

**James B. Johnson, Jr.**



My director's columns are usually about budget concerns and other legislative issues, public library programs, DISCUS—South Carolina's Virtual Library, and matters of statewide importance. I would like to depart from this pattern and use this column, as legislators are fond of saying, for a point of personal privilege.

The State Library this month is bidding deputy director John Landrum farewell. John has been a loyal member of the State Library's staff for over 35 years and a colleague and friend of mine for over 30 years. We have witnessed many changes during this period. For the past twelve years, we have served as a team to lead the State Library into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. His enthusiasm and vision for the role libraries can play in the lives of our citizens has not diminished with time.



John has been a mainstay of South Carolina's library community. He served a term as president of the South Carolina Library Association and has retained a tremendous interest in that organization. They honored him by naming him Librarian of the Year. Many librarians, trustees, and friends call upon him for advice, and often a shoulder to cry on. John is never too busy to help others.

There is not enough space here to begin to list John's many accomplishments. South Carolina's libraries benefited from his presence; South Carolina's libraries will miss him. I know all of you join me in wishing John a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

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## **Reorganization Changes the Line-Up at SCSL**

The State Library is making big changes in the New Year, beginning with a reorganization plan. Effective January 1, 2003, many State Library staff members will find themselves with new titles and duties. Guynell Williams will be the Director of Planning, Networking and Grant Management; Margie Herron will be Special Projects Consultant; and Chris Yates will be the Director of Talking Book Services.

Library Development is getting a name change to Library Development Services, reflecting an expansion of service to all types of libraries in the state, with Dr. Curtis Rogers as department head. Two members of Information Services will be moving into the department as new consultants: Deborah Hotchkiss as the Continuing Education Coordinator, and Felicia Vereen as Automation Consultant.

Information Services' Mary Morgan will be taking on the task of coordinating the state and federal documents programs.



# *Pee Dee Storytelling Festival Draws over 2,000 Children*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pee Dee Storytelling Festival, held December 11-12, drew over 2000 third-graders from Florence County and Marion County schools for its Wednesday morning performances and 160 for the Wednesday evening performance from Emmy-winner Bobby Norfolk. Audience members enjoyed stories, songs, and magic from Sean Driscoll and Barbara Cheeseboro, and some attendees participated in the activities, providing sound effects and playing instruments. The free performances are sponsored by local businesses, but organized and planned by Paula Childers, Children's Librarian at Florence County Library, who wanted to bring the festival to her area after attending a national storytelling festival in Tennessee nearly five years ago. "We are trying to introduce the art of storytelling to third grade students in the Florence area," Childers told the *Florence Morning News*. "Most children have had stories read to them, but have not experienced the art of

storytelling." The festival is made successful by the hard work and cooperation of the Florence County Library, Marion County Library, Francis Marion University, and the Florence and Marion County school districts.



*School children get a chance to participate in the festivities at the Pee Dee Storytelling Festival*



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## ***South Carolina's Children.....(cont'd from page 1)***

community groups to promote early literacy, such as *Born to Read* were just starting to develop across the state. The requests for the grow charts came not only from public libraries but from organizations and agencies across South Carolina that were working to encourage parents to read to their very young children in order to develop strong pre-literacy skills. Idaho, Delaware, and Ohio followed South Carolina's lead and reprinted the first edition for use in their states.

The *Grow with Books* chart is one of our most important publications, reaching out across the state to new parents with a powerful message that reading to babies from birth can help them learn to love books and be ready to learn to read by the time they begin school. "We are pleased to be able to make this new edition available to new parents in South Carolina," says James B. Johnson, Jr., Director of the South Carolina State Library.

Organizations and individuals may request copies through their public library.





South Carolina's Virtual Library

Pat Fratangelo is determined to spread the word about "DISCUS - South Carolina's Virtual Library." But not single handedly.

Fratangelo, the new DISCUS Training & Support Librarian at SCSL, is planning an invigorated and restructured training program aimed at preparing the state's librarians and school media specialists to use DISCUS databases and then teach their own patrons and staff, a "train the trainer" approach.



"DISCUS is exciting - it provides South Carolinians with access to vast amounts of high quality information, supports education, furthers lifelong learning, and enables an informed citizenry, all of which promote the future of freedom and democracy," said Fratangelo.

As a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan, she knows whereof she speaks. "The existence of information and the right to access it are the foundation of democracy!" she said. "I learned that while living in an information-deprived former Soviet republic. In a lifetime, most people in the world will never have access to the wealth of information available to us daily through DISCUS."

The revamped DISCUS training program at SCSL includes: a wider variety of training, beginner and advanced-level sessions, new offerings such as "Introduction to DISCUS" and "DISCUS is for Kids, Too," and a certificate program for those who attend workshops on all DISCUS databases and then train others.

## DISCUS Did You Know?

Longing to be well read? Haven't yet fit reading works such as Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, Kawabata Yasunari's Beauty and Sadness, or the ancient The Epic of Gilgamesh into your schedule? You are behind on your lifetime reading! Those works and 130 others are listed in the "New Lifetime Reading Plan" compiled by Clifton Fadiman and John S. Major and can guide you through the maze of literature classics.

Brought to you by DISCUS, through SIRS Knowledge Source, the Plan is based on the assumption that an important aspect of one's lifetime is the reading of books of such high quality that they can be savored and become an integral part of your life. Reading all 133 recommended books could take fifty years, so there is no time to lose!

Log on to DISCUS ([www.scdiscus.org](http://www.scdiscus.org)) and select SIRS Knowledge Source. Click on the "Database Features" tab near the top of the page. In the third column, under "SIRS Renaissance," select "Literary Corner" and then "The New Lifetime Reading Plan." Choose the Book Annotations link for the list or Going Further for a guide to an additional 100 20th-century writers. Put on those reading glasses! You're in for a lifetime of wonderful reading.

For more information about DISCUS, visit the DISCUS web site: <http://www.scdiscus.org> or contact: Mary Bull, DISCUS Project Director, (803) 737-7736 or email: [mary@leo.scsl.state.sc.us](mailto:mary@leo.scsl.state.sc.us)







## “Miss” Effie and talking books...

93-year-old author Effie Leland Wilder has been a talking books reader since 1999. A charming and witty lady, she is the renowned author of several fictionalized books set at the nursing home where she lives in Summerville, South Carolina. Featuring the alter ego Hattie McNair, these stories recount the events at the Southern nursing home and the humorous memories of the aged residents who live there. Not only is “Miss” Effie popular among print readers, but talking books readers never tire of reading about the residents of the FairAcres retirement community. Wilder has lived in Summerville for over fifty years, and her five FairAcres books have sold more than 750,000 regular and large-print copies.

The Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), has recorded two of Wilder's books. NLS recordings are available to eligible talking books readers all over the country and internationally through the NLS interlibrary loan service.

During an impromptu telephone interview, Wilder recounted that she was surprised and delighted when one day a talking book arrived by mail and she later discovered that it was her own work. “Well, I’m 93 years old you know, and I can’t see ... anyway, I never know what a book is until I put it in my cassette player. I was just delighted when the narrator said ‘Out to Pasture, But Not over the Hill, by Effie Leland Wilder’. But a Yankee was reading my book, and she mispronounced kudzu!” said Wilder with an endearing chuckle and her usual Southern charm and grace.

Wilder, a 1994 recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest award, for her philanthropic work, has authored:

- Oh, My Goodness! : More Surprises from FairAcres. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2001.
- One More Time—Just for the Fun of It!: Notes from FairAcres. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1999
- Older but Wilder: More Notes from the Pasture. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1998.
- Over What Hill? : Notes from the Pasture. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1996. [*Talking Book # RC 45171*]
- Out to Pasture, But not over the Hill. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1995. [*Talking Book # RC 41599*]
- Terse Verse (Risible Rhymes), privately printed, 1988.
- Tales and Taradiddles, privately printed, 1976.
- (Co-author) Pawley's Island: A Living Legend. Columbia: State Printing Co. , 1972. [*Talking Book # CBC 177*]
- Henry Woodward: Forgotten Man of American History. Columbia: Sandlapper Press, 1970.

“I just enjoy talking books so much,” said Wilder, “but sometimes I don’t always get the books I like. Even so, I don’t know what I’d do without these marvelous talking books.” When asked if the library may include a feature article on her in its next newsletter issue, “Miss” Effie responded, “I’ll be so pleased and delighted if you do a story on me and don’t forget to mention my books! Of course, they’re not really literature, but they are good when you just need to laugh, and we all need to laugh.”

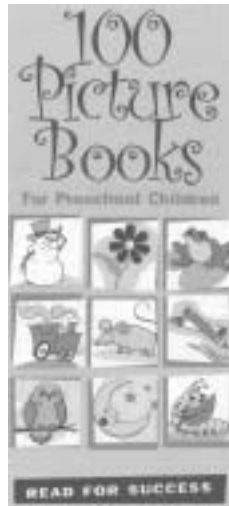
The South Carolina State Library is more than pleased that this distinguished and inspiring author is one of its most avid users and promoters of talking books. The Talking Books Services program is available to all South Carolinians unable to use regular print due to a visual or physical disability. All of Effie Leland Wilder's books are available in the print collection of the South Carolina State Library and three are available through the Talking Book Services program. “Miss” Effie has suggested, in her usual genteel manner, that NLS should record all of her books, and she is, of course, correct. Stay tuned...

Guynell Williams, Director, Planning, Networking & Grants Management, South Carolina State Library, Email: [guynell@leo.scsli.state.sc.us](mailto:guynell@leo.scsli.state.sc.us); Phone: 803-734-4619.



## State Library Releases New Publication to Promote Books and Reading

A booklist, *100 Picture Books for Preschool Children* has been released by the State Library. Books for the booklist were chosen by a committee of children's librarians from across the state. Every public library in South Carolina has these books thanks to an LSTA grant awarded to each public library system in the state by the State Library, which allowed libraries to purchase copies of the books for all locations.



The booklist committee tried to select not only some of the great picture books of the past but also more recent titles that they believed will stand the test of time. The booklist is part of the Read for Success series of booklists.

### Chapin Memorial Library Cranes travel to Colombia, South America

Origami paper cranes created by children at the Chapin Memorial Library in Myrtle Beach traveled all the way to Columbia, South America after a stop in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The journey began when fifty children in grades 4-9 participated in a cooperative program between the Library and the Franklin Burroughs-Simeon Chapin Art Museum. During the four week program, the children learned to write haiku, make sushi, Taiko drumming and sumi-e brush painting, and collectively folded over 1300 cranes, some of which had haiku about peace and health penned on the inner side of the paper. Teen volunteers helped to string the cranes in groups of fifty to make a colorful sculpture. The children voted to send the cranes to the Children's Peace Statue in Santa Fe for Peace Day, knowing

that the cranes would be hung on a sculpture outside and would not be preserved. In Santa Fe, the cranes were selected as a gift to Colombia to show that American Children also wish for peace in the world.

### Triple Traditions Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa

For several years a number of public libraries have been assisting child care center staff in meeting their training requirements by offering workshops particularly in the area of reading to children. This fall the Darlington County Library ventured into a different topic, cooperating with the Darlington County School District to offer two free approved workshops for Day Care Providers and Head Start caregivers on how teachers of young children can celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. The presenters offered ideas for crafts, songs, finger-plays, and recipes. The library had a display of books on the topic which those attending were encouraged to check out.



*Preschool teacher Casey McPherson highlights the African-American holiday called Kwanzaa.*

For more information, please contact Jane Connor, Youth Services Consultant, (803) 734-8658 or email: [janec@leo.scsl.state.sc.us](mailto:janec@leo.scsl.state.sc.us)



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# NEWSWORTHY

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As part of its tenth anniversary celebration of its Main Library, the **Richland County Public Library** is hosting a special exhibit on Maurice Sendak on the first level of the Main Library from February through mid-May. An interactive adventure for children of all ages, the exhibit-"Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures"-invites guests to view the life work of illustrator and writer Maurice Sendak through photographs, illustrations and hands-on activities. Children will be able to slide into a giant bowl of soup (from Chicken Soup with Rice), steer a miniature version of Max's ship (from Where the Wild Things Are) and much more. The exhibit, originally opened in Atlanta and makes its only other appearance in the Southeast at RCPL, will be open to the public during regular library hours at no charge from February 3 to May 18.

The **Furman University library** staff is using humor to cope with the inconveniences encountered during the \$25 million renovation and expansion of their library. The staff have adopted a hospital theme for the overall project – ICU (intensive construction unit). Some of the activities include staff wearing surgical garb every Friday, handing out syringe-like pins and administering shock therapy (free coffee during exam week). For further details, check out the library's construction web site: <http://library.furman.edu/icu>

The **Laurens County Library**, along with the United Way of Laurens County and the two Laurens County School Districts, is sponsoring the Imagination Library in Laurens County. Initiated and supported by the Dollywood Foundation, the Imagination Library is designed to promote literacy among young children. Children ages five and under sign up and receive a free, age-appropriate hardcover book every month through the mail. Through early December, nearly one thousand children have enrolled in the program. Each year, the Library plans to have a party for five-year-olds to encourage them and their parents to sign up for library cards and to use the Library as their source for books once they pass the age to receive them through the Imagination Library.

Marilyn Tsirigotis, Director of the **Clarendon County Library**, has been named as Vice President/President Elect of the South Carolina Library Association. "I am excited to be part of such an active and growing association," she said.

**Cherokee County Library** is celebrating its centennial! The library started with 200 books from the Literacy Club, \$500 from City Council, and free use of a room in the City Hall in November 1902, with its grand opening coming on April 2, 1903. Today, the library's collection is over 100,000 books as well as CDs, videos, etc. Congratulations Cherokee County Library!

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## *In Memoriam.....*

Justine "Judy" Carroll Geckle, Northeast Branch Manager for the Richland County Public Library, died on November 26 at the age of 63.





## Make This Your Favorite Bookmark

The South Carolina Reference Room  
<http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/refdesk.html>

The South Carolina Reference Room, a service of the South Carolina State Library, is a web directory of information about South Carolina. Here you'll find links to information about education, science and technology, and health information. There are sites for South Carolina jobs, business and economic development, consumer information, and recreation and tourism. You'll also find state and county history sites, and links to governmental, statistical or historical information on South Carolina's cities and towns. For South Carolina information available on the web, make the South Carolina Reference Room your first stop!

### We want to hear from you!

If you have news you would like to share with South Carolina's libraries, please contact Felicia Vereen at [feliciav@leo.scsl.state.sc.us](mailto:feliciav@leo.scsl.state.sc.us).

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**Talking Book Services:** [www.state.sc.us/scsl/bph](http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/bph)

**DISCUS:** [www.scdiscus.org](http://www.scdiscus.org)

**Palmetto Book Alliance:** [www.palmettobookalliance.org](http://www.palmettobookalliance.org)

**SC Reference Room:** [www.state.sc.us/scsl/refdesk](http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/refdesk)

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