

# BookBytes



## Author Ann Herlong-Bodman To Speak to Friends in November

South Carolina author Ann Herlong-Bodman will be the guest speaker at the Friends of the Library Fall Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 14, 2004.



*Ann Herlong-Bodman*

### Inside this issue:

Director's Desk	2
Just for Kids	2
Election Day	2
From the Friends	3
By The Numbers	3
WebLinks	3
Calendar of Events	4

Ms. Herlong-Bodman is the author of *Voices Over Water*, a stirring novel about a courageous female spy during the Civil War. The setting is Edisto Island where a young white plantation owner's daughter, Sarah Edings, returns home after the Yankees have taken over. In her quest to serve the Cause, Sarah becomes a double-agent and starts a school for freed slaves to help conceal her subterfuge.

A resident of Charleston, Ms. Herlong-Bodman has worked as a reporter and taught writing classes. The highlight of her career was teaching high school English. In 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall, she volunteered to teach English as a Second Language in what was

then Czechoslovakia.

*Voices Over Water* is the recipient of the 2004 Golden Eye Literary Prize from Harbor House Publishers. A *Booklist* reviewer said, "Layered with drama and romance, this tautly constructed period piece features a multidimensional heroine a la the best-selling *Cold Mountain*."

## Johnson Presents "Big Check" at Council Meeting



South Carolina State Library Director Jim Johnson (center) presented a "big check" to the library at the August 23 meeting of the Fairfield County Council. Accepting the check are (from left to right) Council Vice-Chair David Brown, Library Board member Mary Lynn Zeno, Library Director Sarah McMaster, and Council Chair Carnell Murphy.

The check for \$50,000 represents the amount of the Library Services and Technology grant that the library will be receiving during 2004-2005. The grant will be used to upgrade the library's integrated library automation system. Federal LSTA funds are administered by the South Carolina State Library.

The "big check" is on display at the library.

# DIRECTOR'S DESK

SARAH MCMASTER

Some of you may have seen references in the media to a report released this summer by the National Endowment for the Arts entitled *Reading At Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*.

Based on 20 years of polling by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the data is as reliable and objective as any such survey can be. The results are disturbing, especially to someone like me who works with books for a living and also loves to read. The report shows that literary reading in America is not only declining rapidly among all groups, but the rate of decline has accelerated, especially among the young. Less than half of the adult American population now reads literature. The percentage of the U. S. adult population reading *any* books (not just literature) has declined by 7% over the past decade.

The report documents and quantifies a huge cultural

transformation that most Americans have already noted—our society's massive shift toward electronic media for entertainment and information.

NEA Chairman Dana Gioia says, "Reading is not a timeless, universal capability. Advanced literacy is a specific intellectual skill and social habit that depends on a great many educational, cultural, and economic factors. As more Americans lose this capability, our nation becomes less informed, active, and independent-minded. These are not qualities that a free, innovative, or productive society can afford to lose."

Amen.

*(As always feel free to reach me at the library by phone: 635-4971, or by email: sarah@fairfield.lib.sc.us.)*

## Just for Kids

- Come to First Thursday Family Nights on October 7, November 4, and December 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Don't miss the Fall Story Hour Series on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. on October 5, 12, 19, and 26.
- Dress up and join the parade at the annual Halloween Costume



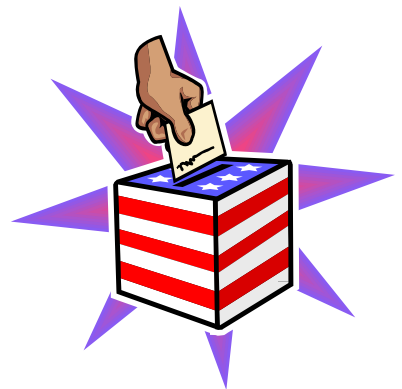
- Contest on Friday, October 29 at 4:00 p.m.
- Drop in to listen to guest readers every afternoon at 4:00 p.m. during Children's Book Week, November 15-19
- Help trim the library's Christmas tree on Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

## Election Day is November 2nd

**Don't forget to vote!**

Your vote really does make a difference. From School Board, to County Council, to South Carolina General Assembly, to U.S. House and Senate, all the way up to the President of the United States: we get to have a say in who holds these offices.

H. G. Wells wrote, "Democracy's ceremonial, its feast, its great function, is the election."



## From the Friends

The Fairfield County Library and the Friends of the Library invite you to **Operetta: The Music of Love and Laughter** a fall program series by everyone's favorite lecturer, Dr. Clyde McCants. Programs are scheduled for Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on October 19 and 26 and November 9 and 16 at the library.

Dr. McCants says this about the series, "Love and laughter come in equal amounts in this light-hearted view of the art of operetta. We'll learn a little about how this musical form developed in Austria and Germany, France, Spain, Great Britain, and the United States, and take a closer look at some of the old favorites—Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of*

*Penzance*, Offenbach's *La Perichole*, Victor Herbert's *Naughty Marietta*, Sigmund Romberg's *The Student Prince*, and Jerome Kern's *Show Boat*. There'll be some talk and a lot of music performed by the greatest singers in the world."



Join Dr. Clyde McCants for Operetta

MacFarland Publishers has recently released Dr. McCants' second book: *American Opera Singers and Their Recordings: Critical Commentaries and Discographies*. Check it out at the library!

## BY THE NUMBERS

- **46.7%**: the percentage of Americans who read literature (novels, short stories, plays or poetry) in their leisure time in 2002
- **14%**: the decline in literary reading from 1992 to 2002
- **28%**: the decline in literary reading between 1992 and 2002 in the 18-24 age group—the

# 46.7

steepest of any age group surveyed

- **43%** of literary readers perform volunteer and charity work versus only 17% of non-literary readers
- **56.6%**: the percentage of Americans who read *any* book in 2002

From *Reading At Risk*, NEA report 2004

## WebLinks

Tired of all the political ads on TV? Don't know which political pundits to trust? Wish you had a source for clear, non-biased information on candidates?

Click on [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org) to find help.

This non-profit, non-partisan website tracks candidates for offices all over the country including state and local races.

Project Vote Smart covers candidates and elected



officials in five basic categories:

- Background and contact information
- Issue positions
- Voting record
- Campaign finances
- Interest group ratings from over 100 groups across the ideological spectrum

# FAIRFIELD COUNTY LIBRARY

## Main Library

300 Washington Street  
Winnsboro, South Carolina 29180  
Phone: 803 635-4971  
Fax: 803 635-7715  
Hours: M,Tu,W,F 9-6 Th 9-9 Sat 9-1

## Ridgeway Branch Library

P.O. Box 160  
Ridgeway, South Carolina 29130  
Phone/Fax: 803 337-2068  
Temporarily Closed

## Bookmobile

Phone Main Library at 803 635-4971

Dial-A-Story 803 635-2020

[www.fairfield.lib.sc.us](http://www.fairfield.lib.sc.us)

NON-PROFIT  
US Postage  
PAID  
PERMIT #12  
Winnsboro, SC  
29180

## Library Events ~~~ October—December, 2004

### Main Library

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| October 2, 10:00 a.m.     | Friends of Libraries SC Annual Meeting in Columbia at RCPL                |
| October 5, 4:00 p.m.      | Fall Story Hour   |
| October 7, 7:00 p.m.      | Family Night: Sports Stories  |
| October 12, 4:00 p.m.     | Fall Story Hour   |
| October 19, 4:00 p.m.     | Fall Story Hour   |
| October 19, 7:00 p.m.     | Operetta: The Music of Love and Laughter with Clyde McCants (see article) |
| October 26, 4:00 p.m.     | Fall Story Hour   |
| October 26, 7:00 p.m.     | Operetta with Clyde McCants   |
| October 29, 4:00 p.m.     | Halloween Costume Contest   |
| November 4, 7:00 p.m.     | Family Night: Thanksgiving Stories  |
| November 9, 7:00 p.m.     | Operetta with Clyde McCants   |
| November 14, 4:00 p.m.    | Friends Fall Meeting (see article)  |
| November 15-19, 4:00 p.m. | Children's Book Week  |
| November 16, 7:00 p.m.    | Story Hours with Guest Readers<br>Operetta with Clyde McCants             |
| December 2, 7:00 p.m.     | Family Night: Trim the Tree Party   |

### Ridgeway Branch

Temporarily Closed  
Bookmobile Service at the Century House  
Every Thursday from 2:00 –5:30 p.m.  
For more information  
call Margot Kuebler at 635-3097



**The Library Will Be Closed**  
Thursday, November 25th  
for Thanksgiving  
and  
December 23rd-27th  
for  
Christmas