

# Friends of the Library



Wood County District Public Library

Newsletter December 2014

## 2014 Community Reads

The Friends of the Library contribute funding for the annual Community Reads program. *The Yellow Birds*, by author and Iraq war veteran Kevin Powers, was selected as the 2014 Community Reads book. The novel, which received the 2012 National Book Award, explored the experiences of contemporary combat soldiers and veterans.

Community Reads planners organized three related programs. The first program was “Letters Home” on October 7. Local families shared letters from loved ones who served in the armed forces during the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Vietnam War, and Operation Desert Storm. Barbara Rothrock, shown in the photo, read letters from her brother who served in Vietnam. One member of the audience brought the entire collection of letters she and her husband had exchanged during the Vietnam War.



“Home from the Wars,” the October 14<sup>th</sup> program in the series, featured Mary E. Hanna, Executive Director of the Wood County Veterans Assistance Center and Dr. Brett Holden, a veterans advocate. The discussion focused on the issues and challenges facing veterans as they return to civil life and the resources available to facilitate this transition.



The final program, on October 22, was the visit by the author Kevin Powers (right) who was interviewed by Clif Boutelle (left). When asked about how to support veterans, Mr. Powers responded “You're here tonight, and you are asking that question. That's an important first step.” Mr. Powers also met with BGSU Creative Writing students during his visit.



The Community Reads program was a success with more than 150 people attending the three events. More than 950 copies of the book were checked out from the library. Mary Boone, Community Reads chair, thanked the generous donors who made the program possible. Community Reads has been funded entirely through private donations since the 2003 beginning. To suggest a book for next year, call Mary Boone at the library, or post your suggestions to the Friends' or the Library's Facebook pages.

## Inspirational Author Visits

Mary Curran Hackett (right) presented her book *Proof of Angels* and Shelley Shepard Grey (below left) shared her book *Snowfall* with the November 8<sup>th</sup> WCDPL audience.



Friends sold many books during this author visit. Think about purchasing one of the signed books during future WCDPL author visits. The books make wonderful gifts.



## Friends of the Library Reception

The first-ever Friends of the Library Reception was held on Sunday, October 5, 2014 in the beautiful atrium of the Wood County District Public Library. All members of the Friends were invited to the reception to learn more about current activities and provide feedback to the Friends of the Library Board. Board representatives presented brief comments about the organization and committees. Michael Penrod, WCDPL Director, informed members about recent library activities. Photos of the reception are shown below. For more photos and a video slideshow, check out the Friends of the Library Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/WCDPLFriends](http://www.facebook.com/WCDPLFriends)).



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