

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



MORE THAN EXPECTED

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

As one of only sixteen remaining subscription libraries in the country, 2024 marked the Lanier Library's one hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary. Since its founding in 1890 by three sisters and two of their friends, the library has been a true community resource offering information, education and entertainment to our members and to the public at large. And this past year, the library continued to do just that.

One of the most significant events that impacted our area in 2024 was Hurricane Helene. While many in our community were affected by the ravages of this storm, other than a week-long power outage, the Lanier Library was fortunate and did not sustain any damage. And once power and network were restored, our library served as a refuge and a haven for many who were still without electricity or internet.

Throughout 2024, we enjoyed a full schedule of monthly programs. These programs offered a wide and diverse range of topics spanning the issues of partisan politics to historic polar exploration. Nature buffs enjoyed programs on gardening for pollinators, finding local rocks and minerals, and appreciating native wildlife. Thanks to the Kirby Endowment Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation (PCCF), for the third year we were able to offer two sessions of the popular Holiday Greenery workshop. In coordination with TFAC, the Kirby Fund mentioned above also allowed us to co-sponsor a popular poetry event and related workshop. These workshops were well-attended, fun and, like our other programs, free to the community.

We increased the number of opportunities for our members to gather and socialize, as a way to show our appreciation for members' support. In addition to the annual Holiday Party in January and the March reception following our Distinguished Speaker, John Cribb's presentation, we offered a Summer Tracks pre-party in June and in November we hosted a reception following Dawn Tripp's talk on writing her latest novel, "Jackie."

Behind the scenes, staff and board worked on an upgrade to the library's web site and implemented a pilot "web sleuth" activity to monitor and increase website traffic. We continued to address deferred maintenance issues on our building with plumbing and electrical repairs. We replaced worn-out blinds in several rooms and thanks to a donation from one of our members, the periodical room now has two leather wing chairs flanking the fireplace. Plans are in progress to remodel the downstairs kitchen with an eye

to increased safety, storage and efficiency. Another major maintenance issue on the horizon is the need to replace the library roof.

Our financials are in good shape as you will see from the Treasurer's Report. Our current financial health is a far cry from just a few years ago when we had to dip into our endowment in order to balance the budget. What changed? There are multiple reasons. Our membership dues combined with members' donations to the once-a-year Annual Giving request only partially cover our annual expenses. We keep a sharp eye on keeping our expenses under budget. But, most significantly, our bottom line has been helped by the revenue generated by the Legacy Fund bequests we have received since 2020. These bequests continue to help us to catch up on many much needed repairs and upgrades and are examples of how important planned giving can be to the success of the library. Another big part of our fiscal health can be attributed to the ongoing support from our foundation partners: the Polk County Community Foundation, and the Felburn and the Forbes Foundations. All of these sources of support play an important role in our ability to balance the budget and continue to improve the library.

What is it that sets the Lanier Library apart and makes it such a special place? It is not just our long history, or our charming building, or our knowledgeable and caring staff, or our engaged board, or our loyal core of volunteers, or our generous members, or the ongoing support from our foundation partners. It is the fact that we are a true community. A community that fosters friendship, neighborliness, and intellectual stimulation underscored by a love of reading and books.

So, hats off to those five ladies who, back in 1890, planted the seeds of what has blossomed into the Lanier Library.

Looking forward to 2025, we aim to continue to be a safe and welcoming center for our community and to offer intellectual stimulation through a wide range of programs and fun activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Jackson
President



Treasurer's Report

Lanier Library's finances were very solid for calendar 2024. Before extraordinary items the Library broke even on a cash basis, due to the generosity of our members during the Annual Fund drive, and continued support from the Polk County Community Foundation, the Felburn Foundation, and various other ongoing income sources as described in more detail on our donor list.

Moreover, generous bequests received in 2024 from the Rachael and George Gould and Elizabeth Boone estates allowed us to add further to our endowment, which increased by 14%.

Many thanks to our individual and institutional supporters who contribute their time, talents, and financial resources this past year. The Lanier Library could not continue to be the cultural gem it has been for these past 135 years without your unwavering support.

Financial statements and the Library's most recent tax return are available upon request at the Library.

Timothy J. Boyce, Treasurer

Revenues	2022	2023	2024
Membership driven	\$82,492	\$76,069	\$82,139
Bequests	\$99,030	\$51,900	\$218,506
Grants	\$153,777	\$90,813	\$131,889
Other	\$6,670	\$2,881	\$5,825
Total	\$341,969	\$221,663	\$438,359
Expenses	2022	2023	2024
Personnel	\$108,949	\$112,306	\$122,109
Books/other media	\$17,123	\$18,412	\$20,541
Facilities	\$16,451	\$18,292	\$21,379
Capital Items	\$37,988	\$50,364	0
Professional	\$11,625	\$4,783	\$5,670
General/Admin	\$34,363	\$29,520	\$49,210
Total	\$226,499	\$233,677	\$218,909
Net Gain (Loss)	\$115,470	(\$12,014)	\$219,450

Legacy Fund

Established by the Board in 2020, the Legacy Fund honors members who included Lanier Library in their estate plans with a gift of \$25,000 or more. In 2024, we recognize and thank Elizabeth Boone and Rachael and George Gould for their generosity. Their plaques are displayed in the great room, joining those of previous recipients: Earl and Lilian Bettinger, Jim and Hertha "Tah" Flack, Harry Goodheart, and Margaret Howe.



Solar Savings



Annual Fund Drive Annual dues cover less than 24% of the cost of running your library. The Annual Fund helps continue a tradition started 135 years ago.



Thanks to Donors

List from 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024

FOUNDATION and CORPORATE SUPPORT

American Online Giving Foundation
 Bernard G. Drummond Charitable Fund at the Polk County
 Community Foundation
 Lilian and Earl Bettinger Charitable Trust
 Dixie and Harry Evans Charitable Endowment Fund at the Polk
 County Community Foundation
 The Felburn Foundation
 The Stuart and Margaret L. Forbes Foundation, Inc.
 Margaret Howe Trust
 Lanier Library Designated Endowment Fund at the Polk County
 Community Foundation
 Peggy Pearlstone Foundation
 Polk County Community Foundation
 Rogers-Haynes Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation
 steinhilber-Weiser Foundation

LANIER \$2,500 and up

Tom Ervin and Kathryn Williams
 Ken and Cindy Kay Rhye

AUSTEN \$1,000 to \$2,499

Anonymous (4)
 Tim and Tara Boyce
 Nancy Holmes
 Tom and Vicky Jackson
 R. Michael and Paula Jordan
 Rita Landrum
 Bill Latham and Martha Strawn
 Louise Little
 Richard McHenry
 and Cindy Caldwell

SHAKESPEARE \$750 to \$999

Marilyn LeFeber

Wayne and Clara Rogers
 Sarah Schroth
 Sandra Whatley



DICKENS \$500 to \$749

Grant and Julie Burns
 Jack Carlock and Jane Darby
 Ellis and Linda Fincher
 Derek Harrison
 Fred and Pam Herres

Beth Kinstler
 Bill and Becky McCall
 Betsy McCrodden
 Bob and Susan Penfold
 Dave and Izzie Rice

Olin Sansbury and
 Mary Ann Claud
 Mary Sasser
 Larry Siler and Vicky Grant
 Loti Woods and Dale Weiler

TWAIN \$250 to \$499

Anonymous
 Patsy Baker
 Robert and Judy Bolton
 John and Cindy Boyle
 Susan Brady
 Erik and Eleanor Bundy
 Jackie Burke
 Philip and Ann Cotton
 David and Lee Cudlip
 Peter Franklin and Greg Wright
 Pat Gass
 Bob and Dottie George
 Janet Glancy and Hugh Snively
 Wendell Hawken
 Andy and Linda Haynes
 David and Joanie Hosick
 Wanda May
 Jim McDermott
 Rick and Eileen Mehta
 Sandy Miller
 Delia Owens
 Jen Owens
 Allan and Diana Ramsay
 Lois Tirre
 Vince and Gloria Verrecchio
 Sherril Wingo



Thanks to Donors

List from 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024

DICKINSON \$100 to \$249

Anonymous (2)
 Randy and Freida Allen
 Chris and Carole Bartol
 Alan and Norma Batchelder
 Dick Belthoff
 Richard Bielec-Evers and
 Christopher Evers
 Judith Blackman
 Tim and Lucy Brannon
 Dorothea Brown
 Tom and Donna Brown
 Phil and Marcia Burrus
 Dick and Fran Callaway
 Donnie Carruth
 Jeff and Sherry Carter
 Emily Clark
 Rebecca Collins
 Eleanor Cox

Skip and Denny Crowe
 John and Mary Lou Diekmann
 Marie DuLong
 Biz Eischen
 Kelly Eppic
 Nick and Cathy Fischer
 Shields and Frances Flynn
 Shelvie Foust
 Henry and Margaret Freeman
 Tom and Angie French
 Stan Gibson and Cam Lawrence
 Chris and Pagan Gilman
 Susan Grimley
 Ted and Nancy Hiley
 Bill and Frances Hillhouse
 Mike and Linda Hovis
 Hugh and Sally Hursey
 Maryneal Jones
 Bill and Elizabeth Joyce

Kam Kammerer and Bill Dill
 Liz Mossina
 Barb Oklesen
 Amber Keeran
 Carl and Beth Kelley
 Karen Killough
 Steve and Marie King
 Joyce Lamb
 Siri Larson
 Dottie Lasco
 Bill and Kimberly Lee
 Langdon and Jessie Long
 Martha Lott
 Paul and Virginia Maclure
 Donna Macy
 Greg and Lynda Malcolm
 Gordon and Julie McClung
 Carol Meeske
 Suzanne Monroe

Bob and Lynn Montgomery
 Beverly Ozmon
 William Peavey
 Bertie Phayer
 Allan and Jenny Purtill
 Bets Radley and
 Lawrence Orłowski
 Charlie and Gay Redfern
 Ellen Reichenbach
 Jack and Doris Saunders
 Jerry and Joy Soderquist
 Keith Spring
 Jim and Christine Tapley
 David and Lea-Evelyn Tatich
 Tom and Patti Trobaugh
 Gloria Underwood
 Faith Weathington
 Joel and Cindy Welsh
 David and Gail Wesson
 Ray Young and Libby Morris

OTHER GIFTS

Kim Adams
 Beth Child
 Anne Fitz
 John and Ann Gargiulo
 Lee Griffin
 Russell and Jan Harper
 Joe and Betty Jackan
 Stephanie Kaneps
 Diane Kinoshita
 Donna Macy
 Charles Magee
 Art Marquis
 Ann McAndrews
 Nancy Pemberton
 Meg Rogers
 Don Shanks
 Jean Shumway
 Keith Spencer and Allyn Talbot
 Bill and Patra Sullivan
 Judy Thompson
 Jeannie Troast
 Mollie Turner
 Bradford Whitney
 Mary Ann Vassar
 Jean Wright

HONORARY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

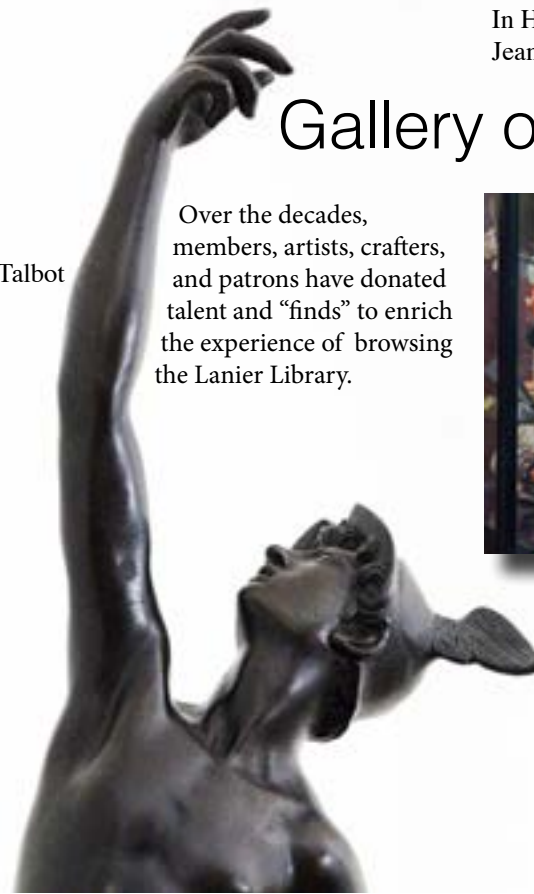
In Memory of Linda Fatland
 Capital Management of the
 Carolinas
 Brian and Wendy Carey
 Brett Furchner
 John and Ann Gargiulo
 Dale Henderson
 Gabriel Martinez
 Sherrie Hyatt Steckel

Women of the Farm Book Club
 In Memory of Mary Ann O'Brien
 Barb Oklesen
 In Memory of Elizabeth Boone
 Pat Gass
 Andy and Linda Haynes
 In Memory of Jeff Jenkins
 Bill and Becky McCall
 In Honor of David Maxwell
 Jeannie Evans



Gallery of Art, Artifacts, & Curios

Over the decades, members, artists, crafters, and patrons have donated talent and "finds" to enrich the experience of browsing the Lanier Library.



GIFTS IN KIND

Brady-Trakas Architects
 Grace Lertora
 Julie McIntyre
 Karl Schwartz
 Vincent Verrecchio
 Donna Wise



Authors, Adventurers, Pollinators...



Minerals and More

Acquisitions and Members' Top 10



722 total print media acquisitions: 373 fiction, 24 large print, 71 mystery, 152 non-fiction, 46 biography, 2 Felburn Nature/Wildlife, 8 young adult, and 39 juvenile. 87 DVDs and 24 CDs.

Featured here are the top ten books checked out in 2024. Perhaps you are one of the members who helped propel these to the top of the list. Or, maybe you want to check out what you haven't read yet.



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