



## Letter to the Editor: National Friends of the Library Week spotlights benefits of library volunteerism

By Sherry Leslie, Tulsa Oct 21, 2018



Central Library, Fourth Street and Denver Avenue, is among Tulsa's most peaceful places. Taken on Wednesday, Aug. 23 2017. CORY YOUNG/Tulsa World [Buy Now](#)

Recently 800 people gathered at Central Library to hear a noted author answer questions about his book on the 1920s Osage Nation. It was the largest audience for such an event, and librarians were helped by library volunteers to organize seating and a book-signing line.

Later that month, volunteers helped raise funds for adult literacy. Others volunteered to be trained as tutors.

Volunteers worked to find local experts to present excellent book reviews for the Books Sandwiched In series. They helped in the summer reading program, funded college scholarships to library staff and assembled packages of free books for preschoolers.

This is happening not just here, but in libraries all over the country.

The American Library Association has set October 21-28 as National Friends of the Library Week to recognize the work and generosity of volunteers.

Tulsa County is proud to have a Friends group; in fact, we have five. We began 61 years ago, growing over the years in membership and programming as the county has grown in population and need for services.

I send out a heartfelt salute to our Friends for all they do to aid librarians and library patrons to promote reading, writing, computers, genealogy – the list is long.

We welcome you to consider joining the Friends. Tell your local librarian you want to volunteer.

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The author's name and city of residence will be used if the letter is used in print or online.

Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters have a 250-word limit.

Letters may be edited for length, style and grammar. Send to [letters@tulsaworld.com](mailto:letters@tulsaworld.com).

Mall to Tulsa World, Letters to the Editor, Box 1770, Tulsa, OK 74102.

For more information, call 918-581-8330 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Your community will benefit and so will you. Every voice and hand helps.

*Editor's Note: Sherry Leslie is the president of the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries*

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Send letters to [letters@tulsaworld.com](mailto:letters@tulsaworld.com).

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Op/ed space in the Tulsa World is limited. To preserve the space for the pieces we think our readers will most appreciate, we have these guidelines for submissions:

1. Op/eds should be about public policy issues not personalities.
2. They should be debatable in nature. They should take a stance that some but not all of our readers would agree with.
3. They should not be in direct response to previous op/ed columns, syndicated columns, letters to the editor or Tulsa World editorials. The proper forum for such responses is our letter to the editor space.
4. They should come from authors who are authoritative on the topic or offer some unique identifiable perspective.
5. They should be about 600 words long.
6. They cannot be election endorsements or un-endorsements, although at times the editorial department will solicit op/ed columns on both sides of an election for publication.
7. They cannot be product endorsement.
8. They should come from an author who lives within our circulation area.
9. They should not have been published elsewhere or submitted for publication elsewhere.
10. They cannot be libelous, incendiary or offensive to broad portions of our readership.
11. They should be accompanied with an electronic photo of the author for publication.

These are not hard-and-fast rules. Sometimes, typically because of relative light demand for op/ed space, the editorial editor may waive one or more of the guidelines. At times of high demand, he may not be able to do so.

Columns should be submitted to:  
[wayne.greene@tulsaworld.com](mailto:wayne.greene@tulsaworld.com)

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- Classifieds
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- Homes
- Jobs
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- Browse job subcategories
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