This year the Friends of the Library annual benefit event, continuing a series which began in 2002, will have a Southern accent. Featured speaker/entertainer/author/etiquette expert Cecilia Budd Grimes will enlighten the audience on “What It Means To Be Southern,” speaking from a series of books on that topic she has written. She will refresh the Southern cultural literacy level of the audience on such things as names (think double) and food (consider deviled egg plates and soft drink rituals). Furthermore, she will provide information on the difference between hissie fits and conniptions and the three adjectives that are a part of every Southern lady’s vocabulary.

North Carolina native Cecilia Budd Grimes is a graduate of Wake Forest and Duke universities and is a certified etiquette and protocol consultant with credentials from the Protocol School of Washington.

Other featured entertainers will be the UNC Pembroke Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Singers, directed by UNCP Associate Professor of Music Dr. Larry Arnold, and veteran auctioneer and educator Raz Autry of Raeford.

Mr. Autry will conduct the live auction for items such as Southwest Airlines tickets, quilts, a cruise, dining and vacation opportunities, and surprises. The live auction will be preceded by a silent auction during the dinner hour. Silent auction items include Seagrove pottery, golf packages, handmade crafts, gift certificates, artwork, and a certificate for a semester’s housing at UNC Pembroke along with other interesting selections. Food stations staffed by Sodexho will feature roast beef, pasta, salads, desserts, and beverages.

The purpose of the Friends of the Library benefit event is to raise funds for Friends’ projects, including scholarships, the McNaughton lease program which provides supplemental books and media for library users, and sponsorship of programs featuring visiting authors and the winners of the annual Poetry/Short Prose Contest.

The schedule for the events of the April 13 benefit evening is:

• 5:30 – 7:30, silent auction and dinner
• 7:30 – 8:00, live auction
• 8:00 – 9:00, program, featuring introduction of the 2007 Friends of the Library scholarship winners, the UNC Pembroke Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Singers, and Cecilia Budd Grimes
• 9:00 – 9:30, checkout and collection of auction items

You’ll enjoy the evening and possibly increase your level of Southern cultural literacy during “Southern Accent @ the Library,” April 13, 2007. Tickets are $50 each or $400 for a table of eight with naming rights. Please contact the Sampson-Livermore Library at 910.521.6516 for tickets and/or other information.