



# Friends of the Silver Spring Library News

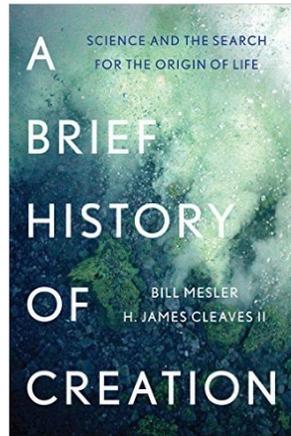
November 2015

Silver Spring Library

900 Wayne Avenue (at Fenton Street) Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

## New Author Speaker Series! Bill Mesler: *History of Creation* December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

Make plans to join us to hear author Bill Mesler discuss his just-released book, *A Brief History of Creation: Science and the Search for the Origin of Life* with Eric Weiner. This ambitious account tackles a big question: How did life begin? The resulting tale, says Kirkus Reviews, is “a lively, highly readable jaunt through the world of science.” The event will take place on **Thursday, December 10th from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**. The discussion will be followed by a book signing as well as refreshments and light snacks.



library offers great potential to engage the community more broadly and in new ways, and that is what is most exciting for me now.”

Harvey Valentine has served in a variety of roles for the Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter over the past decade, including terms as president and vice president. A native of upstate New York, he has lived here since 1999. “The growth of Downtown Silver Spring has been incredible and it will be exciting to see the new library play a strong role in the community’s future,” he said.



Harvey Valentine

Valentine also looks forward to growing the Silver Spring Friends to help meet the library’s future needs. His three young children are already big fans of the new library. A former Capitol Hill staffer, Valentine works as a freelance writer-communications consultant.

## Take Me To Your Leaders! New Board Members Elected

At our annual meeting in October, Kathlin Smith and Harvey Valentine were voted in as co-Presidents of the Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter.

Kathlin Smith has been active with the Friends of the Library, Silver Spring, for two years, having served on the subcommittee to raise funds for the new library’s Early Literacy Center. She has also served on the Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (LAC) since 2000, and was chair for several years. She is thrilled to see the years of advocacy by both the Friends and LAC come to fruition with the opening of our beautiful and well-used new library. Libraries are also central to Kathlin’s professional work as director of communications for the Council on Library and Information Resources. “The new

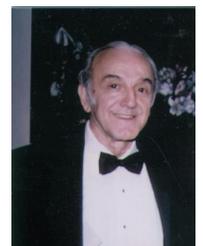


Kathlin Smith

Many thanks to outgoing President Becky Reeve for her three years of service as President, and the many years before that as Membership Chair. Former Treasurer Jim Polk is stepping up as Vice-President. Lysette House continues as our Secretary, and Joe House will serve as Treasurer. We are thrilled with our new slate of officers. Their energy and experience will serve us well as we settle into our new digs!

## Musical Program! Donato Soranno December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm

Donato Soranno, a tenor, a TV producer, a recording artist and an opera teacher will perform at the library at 2 pm on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. His repertoire includes favorite arias and songs from opera, operettas, musical theater, standards, old time favorites, as well as inspirational /religious and international selections. Don’t miss it!



Donato Soranno

## First New Author Speaker Series Event! Nazila Fathi: *The Lonely War: One Woman's Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran*

On October 29<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee, the Friends of the Silver Spring Library launched a new Author Speaker Series. Acclaimed journalist Nazila Fathi, former Tehran correspondent for *The New York Times*, discussed her new book, *The Lonely War: One Woman's Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran*, in conversation with journalist and author Eric Weiner. Formerly with NPR, Weiner is author of *The Geography of Bliss*. More than 60 people attended the lively and timely discussion, which included topics ranging from the role of women in Iran to the nuclear negotiations and political leadership there. The Q&A session saw questions from journalism students at American University and the University of Maryland, as well as from others in our community.



Nazila Fathi and Eric Weiner at the October 29<sup>th</sup> Author Speaker Series event



A large crowd attended the October 29<sup>th</sup> Author Speaker Series event

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## Accepting Donations Again, Too! New Book Sale Carts

Thanks to the efforts of co-President Harvey Valentine, we now have two book sale carts up and running. People are dropping by the cart near the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Wayne Avenue elevators or the cart near the library elevator on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor to browse for bargain books. Payment is by the honor system in the box attached to each cart. All proceeds from the book carts help to fund Friends programming.



We also are now accepting book donations on Saturdays and Sundays only, so look for the yellow bin near the book cart and drop off your used books this weekend.

## We Need Your Donation! Help Us Support Programming in 2016 with a Year-End Gift

We invite you to make a tax-deductible year-end gift to the Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter. Your contribution will help the Friends continue its high-quality programming for a growing audience of adults, teens, and children in our community.

Since opening, our new library has seen more foot traffic than any other library in the county system. Families are coming to use the Early Literacy Center and greatly expanded collections, people of all ages are using the extensive services and software in the Mac and PC labs, groups are using small study rooms, and individuals are coming to read and work in the quiet room overlooking Fenton Street. As library use increases, so do expectations for programming and the need for materials and supplies not covered in the MCPL budget.

With the loss of our book sale space, we have fewer opportunities for generating income to support programs. This, combined with the very real possibility of county budget cuts in 2016, make it more important than ever to ensure that we have adequate program funding.

We hope you will consider joining us in this effort. All gifts will be acknowledged with a letter.

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## Not One, But Two! Welcome New Staff Members

We are thrilled to report that the Silver Spring Library has two new librarians on staff!

Starting in December, Lavertus Ragland is joining the staff as Outreach Librarian. To our knowledge, the outreach librarian position is unique to Montgomery County. There are five outreach librarians in the County system who attend community meetings, visit local events, and interface with community stakeholders in other significant ways to enhance the central position of our library system in the community.

Tom Palmer will be our new Teen Librarian. As his title implies, Tom will work with our collection aimed at teenagers and facilitate their use of the library.

## At the Library! Book Discussions

Join us for discussion of the following books in the third floor meeting room at 2 pm on specified Thursdays:

- December 10<sup>th</sup>: *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson
- January 7<sup>th</sup>: *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel
- February 11<sup>th</sup>: *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel

And don't miss the following evening book discussions:

- The Silver Spring African-American Book Group will discuss *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- There will be an evening book discussion of *Bring Up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Look for other evening book discussions on the first Monday of every month.

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## Too Many to List! Events at the Library

The Silver Spring Library hosts numerous events for all ages. There are too many to list all of them. For an up-to-date listing go to:

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/newsandevents/calendarofevents.asp>

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## Check These Out! New Tech Bar & Mac Lab Opening Soon

The Silver Spring Library's new Mac Lab and Tech Bar are set to open on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Mac Lab will feature seven Mac desktop computers equipped with Adobe Creative Suite, which includes state-of-the-art software for graphic design, video editing, and web development applications, as well as coding software for Raspberry Pi and others. The new Mac Lab will be a place where at no charge community members can create content and work on projects using high quality professional level software.

The Tech Bar will feature the technology the library has available for use in the library, including iPad, Kindles, Chromebooks, etc. Staff will be available to help users navigate this technology to maximize their library experience.

The library's 3D printers available for public use will be located adjacent to the Tech Bar and Mac Lab.

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## Teenagers No More! Friends of the Library, Silver Spring, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Has it been 20 years?! The Silver Spring chapter was formally incorporated under the umbrella of the Montgomery County Friends of the Library in 1995. Thanks to our founding president, Nancy Pond, and all our other officers and members through the years, we have been supporting the Silver Spring Library via fundraising and programming for two decades!

With our support, the Silver Spring Library has been able to offer a variety of programs and classes and purchase needed furniture and materials for the library. Programs and classes include lectures with noted authors, board game nights, and story times for children in Amharic, French, and Spanish, as well as English. Mark your calendar for our big anniversary celebration on February 28<sup>th</sup> with author and Pulitzer prize winning *Washington Post* book critic Michael Dirda.

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## Still Growing! By the Numbers

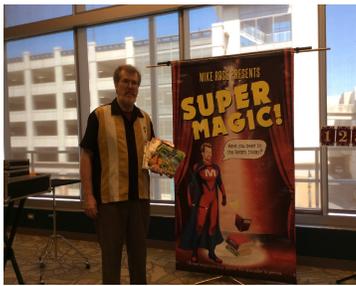
Branch Manager Fran Ware shared some statistics with us about how busy our library is! In September, nearly 52,000 people visited the Silver Spring library, and patrons checked out 36,541 books and other materials, putting us in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the county among the bricks and mortar branches in terms of circulation.

People are finding the new check-out machines fast and user-friendly; 70% of the circulation is self-charged at this point, which is very close to our target goal of 90%.

Computers at the Silver Spring library are in use a whopping 65% of the time, a greater percentage than at any other library in the county. For comparison, the average for all MCPL branches is 32%.

# A Great Summer! Children's Programming Update

Following the well-attended Dinosaurs program in June, the Friends sponsored two Summer Reading Programs for children that were very well attended. More than 100 children and their adults enjoyed the magic of Mike Rose at our event in August, and Blue Sky Puppets entertained an audience of a similar size earlier that month. The room was packed! In fact, future events for children will probably require pre-registration, in consideration of capacity limits of the meeting room. Silver Spring families are making the new library their go-to place for high-quality children's programming, and we are thrilled.



Mike Rose, Super Magic



Blue Sky Puppets

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## New Programs for Children! Gadget Lab Comes to the Library

We are thrilled to have been able to bring the Silver Spring-based Gadget Lab to the library this fall for a series of workshops geared toward children ages 8-10. The Gadget Lab offers hands-on learning through fun projects using scientific inquiry, focused on key questions such as, "How does that work?" and "What's going on in there?" Participants build things, take things apart, and work to create a culture of creating and uploading, instead of just consuming and downloading. The theme of the latest series at the library, "Robots: The Inside Story", demonstrated the three main components that drive robots and most of the gadgets we use today: batteries, motors, and circuit boards.

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## Coming February 6th! Love Your Library Month Kickoff

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. That's when the Silver Spring Library will be the setting for the kickoff event for Montgomery County's month long

Love Your Library celebration. There will be special programs, events, and activities for library lovers of all ages!

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## A Note from the President BECOME A MORE ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE SILVER SPRING FRIENDS

We are sincerely appreciative of all the members who have supported the Silver Spring Chapter of the Friends of the Library through their dues – and who have advocated so vigorously to make the new library building a reality.

Now, as we enter a spacious sparkling new building, we need you to consider becoming more active to support the new and expanded programs and services that can now be offered. Some examples:

- Help on our newsletter – writing articles and coordinating content
- Community outreach
- Program planning
- Alternative fundraising (now that the new library does not have space for quarterly book sales).

**How to become involved:** We have monthly open board meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the library at 7:30 pm. But you don't have to attend a meeting to volunteer, just email: [silverspring@folmc.org](mailto:silverspring@folmc.org) and let us know how you'd like to help!

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### Executive Board Friends of the Silver Spring Library

Kathlin Smith & Harvey Valentine, Co-Presidents  
Jim Polk, Vice-President  
Joe House, Treasurer  
Lysette House, Secretary  
Elena Zaitsev, Appointed Membership Chair  
Nancy Pond, Appointed Programs Chair  
Bob Oshel, Appointed Newsletter Publisher  
Gail Viechnick, Appointed Newsletter Editor



DEAR FRIEND of the SILVER SPRING LIBRARY

Please join/renew for 2015! We need your support and your help more than ever.

*If you are already a FRIEND: THANK YOU!*

*If you have renewed for 2015: THANK YOU!*

In the past years you made possible:



A \$10,000 Grant from Silver Spring Friends to Montgomery County for library book purchases to augment the collection



A variety of programs for both children and adults

Please make checks payable to: ***“Friends of the Library. Silver Spring Chapter”***

Send your check with this form to: **Friends of the Silver Spring Library  
900 Wayne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

Questions? – Contact Elena Zaitsev, Membership, [membership@folss.net](mailto:membership@folss.net) (301) 785-2599

**There are now two on-line join/renewal options. You don't need to find an envelope or stamp!**

1. **Through our own website, [www.folss.net/members](http://www.folss.net/members)** – no need to mail in the form – or
2. **Through the County Friends of the Library website – [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org).** Please designate Silver Spring as your chapter. The dues schedule is slightly higher on the County Friends web site.

Also, please consider donating your time to help the Library. See volunteer options below.

❖ **We are now online! Check us out at [www.folss.net](http://www.folss.net)**



I'm a NEW or RENEWING member *(please circle one)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

email / telephone \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$25.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation \$ _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Membership \$50.00 |

Check to opt into electronic only communications, including Renewal Notices, Newsletter and more for 2015! Make sure you provide a clearly written valid email address.

**Volunteer Options**

- Help sort donations for sale at the used book carts
- Brainstorm, plan special events and/or raise funds *(more important than ever with the new library)*
- Help with FOL Silver Spring newsletter
- Help with FOL Silver Spring website

**How Did Life Begin?  
Bill Mesler to Speak on New Book  
*A Brief History of Creation***

**Thursday, December 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Silver Spring Library, Third Floor  
900 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring**

How did life begin? That is the subject author Bill Mesler tackles in his fascinating new book: *A Brief History of Creation: Science and the Search for the Origin of Life*.

That question—how did life begin?—is perhaps the most important question science has ever asked. Over the centuries, the search for an answer has been entwined with some of science's most revolutionary advances including van Leeuwenhoek's microscope, Darwin's theory of evolution, and Crick and Watson's unveiling of DNA. Now, in an age of genetic engineering and space exploration, some scientists believe they are on the verge of creating life from nonliving elements and that our knowledge of the potential for life on other planets is ever-expanding.

In the midst of these exciting developments, *A Brief History of Creation* provides an essential and illuminating history of Western science, tracing the trials and triumphs of the iconoclastic scientists who have sought to uncover the mystery of how life first came to be. Mesler, along with his co-author H. James Cleaves II, examines historical discoveries in the context of philosophical debates, political change, and our evolving understanding of the complexity of biology. The result, says Kirkus Reviews, is "a lively, highly readable jaunt through the world of science."

Bill will be in conversation with journalist and author Eric Weiner. A former correspondent for NPR, Weiner is author of, among other books, *The Geography of Bliss*. Join us for what is sure to be a lively discussion about a fascinating topic. A book signing will follow.

For more information, contact the Silver Spring Library: 240-773-9420  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/branches/silverspring.html>

**This is the second program in the Author Series**  
jointly sponsored by the Silver Spring Library,  
Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter,  
and Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee.

