


Friends



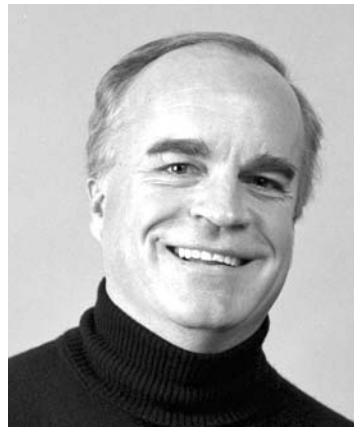
Friends of the Library Newsletter • Montgomery County Maryland

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Friends' Fall Literary Events



The 16th annual Literary Luncheon Series kicks off on October 16, 2003 with *USA Today* columnist Craig Wilson who will present *It's the Little Things*. Patricia Elam, author of *Breathing Room* will be featured on November 20, 2003. This series is held at Strathmore Hall Arts Center located at 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets range from \$20 to \$15, depending on your membership status. All programs begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon and book signing at 12:30 p.m. Call 240.777.0020 to purchase tickets. The first twenty people to register will receive a prize at the door!



Craig Wilson



Patricia Elam

The Friends Celebrate Diversity

Our Celebrate! US series is in its third season thanks to a grant from the Executive's Ball for the Benefit of the Arts and Humanities.

Three diverse performers are scheduled to appear this fall and winter at local libraries to help celebrate the County's diversity. The Friends hope to attract citizens of our County who may not be familiar with all the wonderful resources that public libraries have to offer.

The season begins with a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on October 4 with a performance by *Teatro de Danzas Contemporanea de El Salvador* at Gaithersburg Library.

On November 8, Brazilian master guitarist and multilingual poet, *Franky the Genius* (see left) and his jazz ensemble will per-

form original works in English, French, and Portuguese at Twinbrook Library.

Anansegromma of Ghana (below right) will introduce West African culture through traditional music, storytelling, and dance on December 13 at Aspen Hill Library.

All programs start at 11:00 a.m. and are free to the public. Check with the library before each performance to find out if registration is required. Visit www.montgomerylibrary.org for library information and directions or call 240.777.0020 for general program information.



P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R



Dear Friends:

It is with mixed emotions that I write this last letter for the Friends' newsletter. A new President will be elected at our October 22nd Annual meeting and I will no longer have the opportunity to address my many "Friends" in Montgomery County. These past years have meant a great deal to me and I

have relied on the kindness and assistance of many old and new Friends to make our organization one of the best and well respected library support groups in the country. Sometimes we take those who help us behind the scenes for granted.

I want to thank every Montgomery County Library employee for their dedication and service in promoting the Friends. Our mission and success is made easier because of them. A special hug to my Friends at my home library, Little Falls. My heart will always belong at home and if you will have me, I will continue working for our community library. The Friends have always had a wonderful relationship with the Library Department, and Director Harriet Henderson has worked closely with us to make all our programs and ideas successful.

I truly believe that the Friends' Board of Trustees, made up of community volunteers, works so well together that we could solve almost any problem and lead any organization. A very special thank you to the Executive Committee, who has seen many changes and brought the Friends to where they are today. I hope we will remain friends for many years to come. Our organization is where we are today because of our past executive director, Diane Leatherman and our current one, Ari Brooks. They have both made my commitment easier and I am grateful for their good humor!

And, last but not least, my gratitude and love to my husband, Cam and son, Alex for holding down the fort on all those evenings when I was at meetings or programs; for answering the telephone and taking some strange messages; and for allowing me the time to devote to the Friends.

I appreciate the opportunity the Friends' members have given me to work with all these people who care so much about our community and our libraries, and have fun at the same time!

Sincerely,

Susan J. Schmidt, Board President



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*By Ari Z. Brooks, MSW,
Executive Director*

In this issue of *The Friends'* I would like to salute our Chapters for their hard work, energy, and enthusiastic support of our public library system. The Montgomery County Friends

(because of the individual and combined work of its Chapters) are, by far, one of the most unique and productive library groups in this region. With more than 3,000 dues paying members, hundreds of volunteers ranging from Board members to book sale organizers, and fundraising efforts totaling over \$1 million, it's no wonder Montgomery County can boast of a stellar library system. As a matter of fact, ALA recently recognized our library department for their excellent service to young adults, which is made possible because of our financial support at the County and local levels. In addition to program support, Friends' Chapters also work to fund volunteer and staff appreciation events, to organize book clubs and literary salons, and to advocate for increased funding for our libraries. With an increasingly diverse community such as ours, it's no small feat to coordinate efforts with library staff, the County Friends, and library advisory groups. From the *Books for Babies* project at Silver Spring to the Quince Orchard Community Day activities or from the Read-a-thon at Aspen Hill to the sleepovers at Damascus, your creativity at reaching our library patrons is boundless and unmatched!

The following is a list of current Chapter Presidents. Please join me in thanking them, their Boards, and volunteers for *all* they do to make our library system so special. Their dedication and commitment are truly to be commended!

Barbara Shaw Aspen Hill	Susan Schmidt Little Falls
Kathie Weinberg Bethesda	Eva Shankman Olney
Debbie Woods Chevy Chase	Karin Currie Potomac
Earl Patrick Damascus	Claudette Mead Quince Orchard
Marcy Pekar Davis	Ellen Sachs and Gayl Selkin-Gutman Rockville
Betsy Matthews Fairland	Nancy Pond Silver Spring
Denise Phillips Gaithersburg	

As One Chapter Ends, Another Opens

The Friends' Bookstore at Westfield Shoppingtown Wheaton closed its doors on August 31st. Because of a generous contribution, the store operated at the mall (rent free) for over ten years. As Westfield begins renovations and plans to expand the mall, the Friends' store was forced to close.

A new store will open at Randolph Hills Shopping Center sometime this fall. The store will still offer great discounts on books, records, and CDs. This is a great opportunity for the Friends to reach even more book lovers in the County. Please watch for details about our grand opening!



New Friends' Bookstore is conveniently located at Randolph Hills Shopping Center next to Katz Grocery Store and Amazing Savings

MCPL Staff Association and Friends Award Annual Scholarship



Sonia Thangavelu of Silver Spring was awarded a \$500 undergraduate scholarship this year.

For the past four years, Ms. Thangavelu has worked as a shelving assistant at the White Oak Library. She graduated from Springbrook High School, where she earned the International Baccalaureate diploma with honors.

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The *Friends of the Library* is supported in part by funding from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

This newsletter is published four times a year by *Friends of the Library* and is available free-of-charge. If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send a written request to ari.brooks@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Friends of the Library

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URL: www.montgomerylibrary.org/friends.html

on Louie, whose book, *Raymond's Perfect Present*, led to discussion of writing and publishing processes. The Friends supplied a copy that was presented to the child whose birthday fell closest to the author's. Every child received an autographed postcard from the author as a memory of the event. The children then played "Book Character Bingo" until each participant won a book. After a movie, pizza from Papa John's and ice cream from Weis concluded the evening. In the morning, the staff handed out an insulated lunch bag decorated with the sleepover logo designed by Amy Alapati.



Davis Library and Special Needs Library

Davis Chapter

Marcy Pekar, President

The Davis Library's *Annual Teen Poetry Contest 2003* received 124 entries from middle and high school students all over the County. Entries were judged for use of language, theme, poetic form and originality. An Awards Ceremony was held at the Davis Library on Thursday, May 29. The Davis Chapter provided gift certificates to all the winners. The 2003 winners were:

- 1st Prize** \$75.00 to **Melissa Rice** "Twilightening" of Tilden Middle School, Grade 7
- 2nd Prize** \$50.00 to **Lily Icklow** "The Moon" of Eastern Middle School, Grade 8
- 3rd Prize** \$25.00 to **Julie Kaufman** "Lost and Found" of Takoma Park Middle School

Honorable Mentions:

Gordon Cook "Eden" of Richard Montgomery High School, Grade 10

David Damtoft "Edmund of Berwick" of Westland Middle School, Grade 7

Brooks Ward "Odds & Ends" of Urbana High School

Alexis Wisniewski-Chesson "Temptations of Spring" of Mother of God School

Hundreds of children have been attending our summer reading programs. The Davis Chapter once again helped fund a number of programs beginning with "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" featuring storyteller, Noa Baum; "The

Good, the Bad, and the Ugly", an animal presentation by "Scales & Tales"; and "Rumplestiltskin", presented by the *Stevens Puppets*.

On June 21, the Davis Library celebrated its first Annual Community Day. The Community was treated to a wide variety of activities and performances. Davis staff member Amy Chen (along with her two daughters) entertained the children by teaching them how to make origami animals. Staff member Sun Chong gave children "fake" tattoos. At 1:00 p.m. Lakshmi Swaminathan and Rajashree Behera performed Indian Classical Dances in native costume. At 2:00 p.m. the Maryland Department of Natural Resources presented "Scales & Tales" with live animals. Despite the rainy weather a large crowd enjoyed the activities and presentations. At 3:00 p.m. the Davis B. McCarn Memorial Wall was dedicated. Many members and friends of the McCarn family came especially for this beautiful tribute. Contributions toward the construction of this stone wall were made by the Davis Friends Chapter, the Davis Library Advisory Committee and friends and family members. Landscaping was provided by the Bethesda Garden Club.

Davis B. McCarn was a friend, patron and life long supporter of libraries. He was one time president of the Library Board and he organized and led the Great Books Program at the Chevy Chase Library. He made many other important contributions to Maryland libraries and held many offices. Davis McCarn was President and board member of the Citizens for Maryland Libraries, he started Publius, a political action committee, he maintained statistics for all Maryland County libraries that were used by the libraries to increase funding and he was on the White House Conference on Library and Information Science to name just a few of his involvements. He was a member of the Davis Library Advisory Committee and Davis Friends Chapter at the time of his death. He will be very much missed by all who knew him.

On July 21st the 2003–2004 Directors of the Davis Chapter elected new officers for the new fiscal year. These new officers are President, Marcy Pekar; Treasurer, Chuck Herbert; Secretary, Ellen Collier. The new Membership Chairperson will be Carolyn Herbert.

Detention Center

Joan Deacon, Library Manager

Thank you, Friends of the Library, for a generous Bloch Grant in the amount of \$10,000, which funded a special collection of Successful Community Re-entry materials, including books for inmate borrowing, videos for staff use with inmates, literacy materials, and picture dictionaries in various languages. Book topics include anger management and motivation as well as job search techniques, many of them specifi-

cally targeted for the ex-offender, such as *9 to 5 Beats Ten to Life* and *Ex-Offender's Job Search Companion*. Video titles include *Cage Your Rage*, *Putting the Bars Behind You*, *Success After Prison*, *Self-Esteem for Adults*, *Employment After Prison*, *Power to Change*, *Best 10 Tips for People With a Not So Hot Past*, *Making Anger Work for You*, *Victims' Awareness*, and *In Their Own Words: True Stories of Ex-Inmates*.

The Detention Center Library is looking for volunteers. The library offers free and equal access to library services and community resources to help inmates find the general and legal information they need to improve and enrich their lives, develop skills, and enable successful community re-entry. Many inmates use the library for the first time when they are incarcerated.

Our goal is to make this a positive, instructional experience, encouraging them to use libraries as a resource to more successfully reintegrate into the community. A recent budget cut reduced staff, so volunteers are especially needed at this time.

Inmates have access to a general browsing collection of books and encyclopedias, as well as specialized legal resources. PCs are available for word-processing and the preparation of basic *pro-se* legal motions. The library itself is a large, bright room designed for visibility to correctional officers from all areas.


Library volunteer opportunities include:

- Helping inmates use the library catalog and assisting with shelving and collection maintenance projects, interacting with inmate workers and the general population;
- Assisting inmates with legal research during "law library" groups. Legal experience is especially valuable, along with general research skills and natural curiosity;
- Literacy tutoring for inmates through the program, "You've Got the Time, Now Learn How to Read." Community volunteers work with inmate tutors as well as students.
- Working with the Library Advisory Committee, a group of general citizens interested in the delivery of library services to the incarcerated.

Inmates really appreciate interaction with community volunteers. Volunteers giving of themselves provide a helping hand—a bridge between the institution and the larger community.

Volunteers receive orientation and annual training. They must be 18 years of age, pass a criminal history check, and provide a negative TB test result. Volunteer application forms are available from Vonda Henley, Volunteer Coordinator, at 240-773-9898 or Vonda.Henley@montgomerycountymd.gov.

For further information about the library, contact Joan Deacon, Librarian, at 240-773-9914 or Joan.Deacon@montgomerycountymd.gov



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Little Falls Chapter

Susan J. Schmidt, President

Fall is always a busy time for the Little Falls Chapter. Please mark your calendar and join us for these "Literary Salon" events:

- Dr. Karen Arnold (Wednesday, November 5th, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.)
- *Atonement* by Ian McEwan (Wednesday, December 3rd, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.)

You will also receive a membership renewal letter very soon. Won't you take a moment to send your contribution? This past year, we purchased book shelf pads to make your browsing and staff shelving easier and bought shades to filter the afternoon sun. Your past contributions have made our

February Family Celebration a huge success for over 300 revelers. The Little Falls Chapter has also made sure that our staff has felt appreciated thanks to your generous donations.

The Little Falls Chapter congratulates the Bethesda Library community on the reopening and renovation of their building. We will miss our new "friends" and hope they will come back and visit again soon.

Quince Orchard Chapter

David Heiser, Treasurer

Good luck and Mother Nature smiled on Quince Orchard Library for a fourth year in a row as the rains held off long enough for the library to host its 4th annual Community Day festival on June 21. A smattering of sprinkles briefly threatened the festivities, but failed to dampen the spirits of more than 3,500 patrons who enjoyed cultural performances, music, games, balloons, the annual used book sale, arts and



Quince Orchard Library Friends Garden

crafts, and more. Performers included the Quince Orchard Penny Theatre Players, the "Blues Train" jazz band, a Korean drum performance, magician Tom Lilly, and Gaithersburg Friends president Denise Phillips as "Chuckles the Clown."

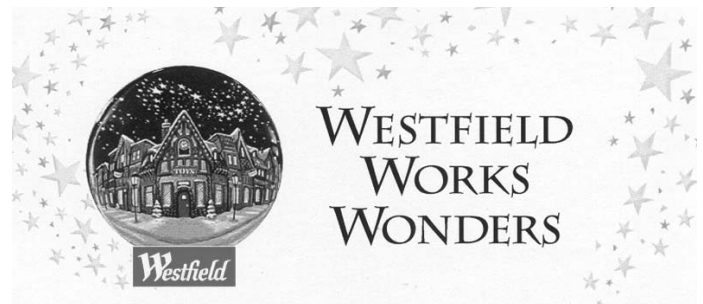
Other participants included Aggregate Industries and their antique fire truck, North Potomac Citizens Association, the Germantown/Gaithersburg Jaycees, the Master Gardeners, Montgomery County Humane Society Mobile Adoption Unit, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Upcounty Government Services, Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services, and Quince Orchard Library book clubs.

The day also witnessed the formal opening of the Quince Orchard Library Friends Garden. Designed by retired U.S. Capitol landscape architect Paul Pincus, the garden features

landscape stone donated by Aggregate Industries, Inc., stone benches donated by patrons, and a circular walk consisting of engraved bricks. Plantings include a weeping cherry tree donated by the Darnestown Civic Association. The bricks for the walk have been a featured part of the Quince Orchard Chapter fundraising campaign. Donors can purchase a brick and have up to 3 lines of 14 characters each engraved on the brick. The balance of the donation after the cost of engraving and installation will fund special needs of Quince Orchard Library for years to come. As of June 30, 2003, over 250 bricks, out of a possible 1,000, had been sold.

The Quince Orchard Chapter was also presented with a large check by Aggregate Industries and the North Potomac Community Earth Day Committee resulting in part from the Earth Day event hosted by Aggregate Industries at the Rockville Quarry.

Visit the Montgomery County Friends' new website at www.folmc.org this fall. Get up-to-date information about County and Chapter events, book sales, and ways you can support your local library.



Westfield Works Wonders Tickets On Sale Now

The Friends are selling \$5 tickets to Westfield Works Wonders again this year. This pre-holiday shopping event helps local charities, like the Friends raise funds for our cause.

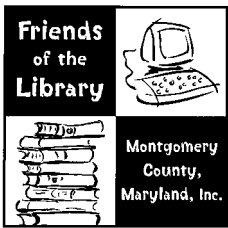
The event is on November 16 at Westfield Shoppingtowns Montgomery and Annapolis. Because of mall renovations, it will not be held at Wheaton this year. The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. There's fun for the whole family including discounted merchandise, complimentary gift wrap, celebrity appearances, music, entertainment, and door prizes. Call 240.777.0020 to purchase your tickets today.

**Next newsletter deadline
is November 3, 2003.**



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- I/We would like to become a Friend.
 Please send this membership to my local chapter _____ (name of library).

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 I wish to charge to my account _____ exp. _____
 I am a member. Please consider this a renewal.

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Your contribution to the Friends of the Library is tax deductible to the fullest extent under the law.

Friends of the Library is supported in part by funding from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.