



Friends of the Library



Potomac Chapter

Spring Happenings @ Your Library

March 2015

Thank Goodness for Wireless Wednesdays!

Do you ever feel stumped by technology? I DO!!! Fortunately, help is now available at the Library! Librarian **Jeff Corber**, who began work at the Potomac Library in the late fall, saw an opportunity to help all of us who now have smart phones, i-pads, and notebooks, making it easier for us to access all the wonderful library material that is available online. That help is available from Jeff on Wireless Wednesdays, at the Information Desk in the library, from 11:30 to 12:30, every week.

Jeff, who is from Virginia, grew up with computers, so for him, working with devices is easy, and he enjoys teaching us, too. After graduating with an English degree from George Mason University, he went on to garner a library degree at Louisiana State University in 2012. He took his first job as a librarian at the New Orleans public library, where he was in charge of all computer programs.

When he and his wife moved back to Virginia and he came to the Potomac Library, he suggested a weekly wireless workshop. “I grew up with computers,” Jeff says, “and I consider it a big issue in libraries today. There is so much value in learning how to

use technology, in order to get to the wealth of library material online.”

So, to remind you of what’s available online, here’s a sample list...magazines, music, movies, past issues of the New York Times (for one), audio books, automotive advice, language learning – some of which you can download and keep forever!



When you come to the workshop, bring your “device,” and depending on the number of attendees, Jeff will work with you individually. Sometimes, he says, people attending will help one another. He’ll help you figure out how to get e-books, and introduce you to “apps” for other online library programs.

“Books will still be here,” Jeff adds. “I want to help people be more capable with both what’s here in this building and what’s available via technology.”

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President's Letter



Dear valued supporters,

February was **Library Lovers Month**—a month long celebration of libraries of all types! To celebrate, we had a table in the library all month, with a container filled with candy and free pencils, festooned with balloons and a mailbox our readers could use to jot a note on a postcard about why they valued their library. At the end of the month the cards were passed to the County Council and other elected officials so that they know how much we all value our library. A few of those messages are reprinted in this newsletter. Thank you, everyone, and thank you **Denise Shaw** for making it all happen!

We are not just about checking out books. Look at some of the Friends sponsored and the library staff provided activities that were offered in February—all free and open to the public:

Every Wednesday is Wireless Wednesday—a time to get help with your new tablet, smartphone or e-reader.

Every Thursday morning is a time for stories and activities for preschoolers.

On the 5th—the almost monthly Great Decisions group met to discuss *Russia and the Near Abroad*—over 51 adults attended.

On the 7th we celebrated the Chinese New Year with a wonderful family program which included the Lion Dance, clay figure making, calligraphy and much more. And on the 19th, we had a special English-Chinese bilingual story time, with over 50 children present, reading, dancing, and singing.



On the 14th we held our hugely successful monthly Book Sale—a time to find marvelous “new to you” gently used books and an opportunity for the Friends to raise money to support our Potomac Library.

Finally on the 28th, the Kaydee Puppeteers presented 2 delightful shows for children and families: *The Little Red Hen's Wacky Week* and *Animal Tales*.

That was February—elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on what's planned for the coming months.

Last issue I mentioned an interesting volunteer opportunity. Well, this issue I must report we still need a volunteer to help with adult programming and we also need someone to be our webmaster. Either job can be done from home. (For further information or to volunteer, please contact me at potomacfol@gmail.com)

Happy reading,*

Edie

*Have you enjoyed a particular book? Please send that recommendation—we'll pass it on!

Love Notes

In February, the Potomac Friends of the Library set up a table in the lobby with a mailbox, asking members, as they passed by, to write a note telling us what they loved about the Potomac Library. Here are some of the great answers they put in the mailbox!

"...a resource for my book club books and valuable for my children to have a wide range of books."

"The library is always the center of any community."

"It is a wonderful resource for our four young children. The programs are wonderful. It gets my kids involved and stimulates their love of knowledge and books."

"It is quiet, it is clean, my kids can spend hours looking at books — the staff is wonderful."

"I am able to browse and read literature, magazines, videos to which I otherwise would not have access."

"Browsing books and reading is a joy...from childhood the library has always been a favorite place and I took my own children often, I enjoy the recent addition of audiobooks and e-books. Libraries are important community gathering spots and they need support."

"My son loves to read and learn about a variety of topics. How great to have access on books on everything he is interested in. Going home with borrowed books is a gift each time we do it. We love the monthly book sale too."

"Potomac library has the most friend helpful staff. I work as a pre K teacher, and they help me every week with book selections. They are great."

"The people heard are so helpful... Congratulations on a wonderful job!"



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This newsletter is published four times a year by the Potomac Chapter of the Friends of the Library Montgomery County (FOLMC).

Selby McPhee, Editor

Potomac Library

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Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10 am – 8pm

Tuesdays: 1 pm – 8 pm

Fridays and Saturdays: 10 am – 6 pm

www.folmc.org www.folmc.org/potomac



Potomac Library Celebrations... Chinese New Year!

On February 7, the Potomac Library ushered in the year of the goat with the Washington Kuai Chi Chinese School, including a fabulous lion dance performed by the “East Rising Lion Dance Troupe.”



The celebration also included Chinese yo-yo, martial arts and folk dance performances, clay figure making, paper-cutting, calligraphy, and more. More than 100 people attended!



...and Snapshot Day...



On Snapshot Day, February 21, a day to celebrate all our libraries, **Chris Freeman**, head of MCPL branch Operations, joined **Anne Gerlach**, head of Potomac’s Children’s Services, to share some exciting stories, songs and rhymes with some of our youngest members.

Offutt's Crossroads: Local Historian Ralph Buglass Sees Old Potomac through Family History

Be sure to mark your calendar for **Monday, April 13, 7:30**, when **Ralph Buglass** will speak at the Potomac Library about Potomac's early days, through the eyes of his own ancestors, the village's earliest settlers, the Offutt Family. In his family history, *Legacy Lost*, Buglass learned about Potomac in the mid-nineteenth century, when it was called Offutt's Crossroads, "a few simple buildings – including Offutt's General Store – where Falls and River Roads meet." Those roads, which form the core of the Potomac we know, were then "nothing more than dirt thoroughfares," Buglass says, which "led mainly to farms surrounding the intersection in all directions."

Buglass, a retired communications professional and Montgomery County native, earned a bachelor's degree in history at Cornell University and a master's in journalism at American University. In doing his own were slave owners, he has become especially interested African-American history, and has recently toured civil rights sites in the south, and further pursued his interest with a course at American taught by civil rights leader Julian Bond, a former chairman of the NAACP.

Buglass is a member of the Montgomery County Historical Society's Speaker's Bureau and a docent at the historic Kingsley one-room school house in Clarksburg, restored in recent years by Montgomery County Parks, with assistance from the Clarksburg Historical Society. For his volunteer service at Kingsley School, both as a docent and a historian helping refurbish the school, Buglass was one of three people nationwide to be awarded the 2014 Service Award by Country School Association of America (CSAA).

Now Buglass continues to pursue the history of

segregated schools in Montgomery County, and the Rosenwald schools built for African-American students all over the South, including Maryland and Montgomery County, as a philanthropic effort of the then-president of Sears, Roebuck, Julius Rosenwald. He will talk to us about all of this when he speaks at the Potomac Library on April 13.

Admission is free, and there is no need to register in advance for this program, sponsored by the Potomac Chapter of the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC).

Photo: Part of the mural from Mitch & Bill's Exxon, showing Offutt's General Store, at the corner where the gas station now stands.



Great Decisions



The Potomac Library begins its third year of Great Decisions, a national program of the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association in which local groups gather monthly to discuss topics associated with foreign policy of the United States.

The Friends of the Library, Potomac is delighted to sponsor a group here at our Potomac Library. We meet on most first Thursdays from 12:30 to 2:00 pm and most months we have a guest speaker. The program is free and open to the public; bring a brown bag lunch if you are hungry. A copy of the 2015 Briefing Book is available at the Information Desk. The book cannot be checked out, but it only takes about an hour to read the relevant article. Books can be ordered at fpa.org. We still have one copy available for purchase in Potomac. For more information, contact potomacfol@gmail.com with "Great Decisions" in the subject line.

Thursday, March 5, 12:30 pm: Privacy in the Digital Age

Fearful of British spying, influence, and intervention, the founding fathers granted citizens significant protections in the Constitution. Now the tables have turned: concerns about what some see as a U.S. "dragnet" and unwarranted privacy intrusions have compelled other countries to revamp their own privacy protections. Legislation, both at home and abroad, hasn't kept pace with technological developments. Is privacy as we knew it long dead?

Thursday, April 2, 12:30 pm: Sectarianism in the Middle East

Current conflicts in the Middle East have been attributed to sectarianism, a politicization of ethnic and religious identity. In Iraq and Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia, the struggle between Sunni and Shiite groups for dominance is tearing apart the region and shows no signs of abating. How does sectarianism fit into a larger narrative of the Middle East? And what is the U.S. doing about it?

Thursday, May 7, 12:30 pm: India Changes Course

Fed up with corruption, dynastic policies and ineffective public services, Indian voters catapulted Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party to power in the country's 2014 elections. For voters, Modi embodied real change and an India that wasn't stumbling, but running to greatness. But for the U.S., change in India brings its own set of unknowns. Now the U.S. has to determine how to best secure its interests as India asserts itself on the world stage.

Thursday, June 4: U.S. Policy toward Africa

Africa is in the midst of an unprecedented transformation. The continent is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and it has become a draw for foreign investment. After the "Obamamania" of 2008 died down, the realization kicked in that President Obama wasn't going to prioritize U.S. Africa policy. Still, we have promised to promote "strong institutions, not strong men," and to favor good governance over profit. How can U.S. policy live up to its promise while securing its interests in the region?

Potomac Calendar of Events

Used Book Sales

Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Great Decisions Group

First Thursday of the month, 12:30-2 p.m.

March 5: Privacy in the Digital Age

April 2: Sectarianism in the Middle East

May 7: India Changes Course

June 4: U.S. Policy Toward Africa

Great Decisions is a program of the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association in which local groups gather monthly to discuss topics associated with foreign policy of the U.S

Wireless Wednesdays!

Every Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Information Desk

Need help with a new tablet, smartphone or e-reader? Bring your device to find help learn how to download apps for books and audiobooks.

Creating Your College List

Saturday, March 21, 2 pm

For students in grades 10 and 11

Workshop to help identify your “right fit” college, crafting the college list, and planning productive college visits. Free, no registration required.

Speaker Evening

Monday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Local Historian Ralph Buglass speaks on the Potomac Village of his ancestors – the Offutts of Offutt’s Crossroads in a lively tale of our town in its early days, Seen through the eyes of the earliest settlers. Free, no Registration required.

Potomac Chess Group

Saturdays, 3 p.m.

Participants of all ages are invited to play chess on Saturdays, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

You may bring your own Chess board.

Chinese Language Book Club

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

March 3: *Grand Railroad* by Ji Xiao

April 7: *Life Like a Floating Boat* by Junshan Shen

May 5: *Women and Marriage* by Yang Wang

June 2: *Please Take Me With You* by Kangkang Zhang
Book discussion in the Chinese language. Ask for the book at the circulation desk. No registration required.

Preschool Storytime, Potomac Toddlers and Potomac Cuddleups

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Stories, songs and rhymes for children and their caregivers. Preschool Storytime is for 3-to-6 year olds, Potomac Toddlers is for children ages 12-36 months, and Cuddleups is for babies from birth to 11 months. No registration required.

Spring Schedule:

Preschool Storytime: March 26, April 16, April 30, May 21

Cuddleups: March 12, April 2, May 7, May 28

Potomac Toddlers: March 5, March 19, April 9, April 23, May 14th

Lego Masters!

Mondays, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

For children 8 and up to build and create with Legos. Parents and caregivers are welcome and are required to accompany children younger than 8 years old. Not recommended for children younger than 4. No registration required.

Adult Book Club

Wednesday of the month, 1-2 p.m.

March 18: *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand.

April 15: *In the Garden of Beasts* by Eric Larson

May 20: *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson

No registration required; new members welcome
Ask for the book at the circulation desk.

Crafty Kids: Earth Day

Tuesday, April 21, 3:30 p.m.

Come in, get dirty and have fun creating a craft for Earth Day! For kids 8 and up, or younger if accompanied by an adult.

Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter Membership

Yes, I want to support the library!

- Please enroll me as a member of Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter
- Please renew my current membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your information is never shared with any other organization or individual. Friends of the Library is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues are 100% tax deductible.

Membership Levels

__ \$15_ Page Turner (seniors, students, teachers)

__ \$25_ Short Story

__ \$50_ Novel

__ \$100_ Classic

__ Donation - \$ _____

I would like to make my donation in honor of:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You will not only be keeping friends up to date with library activities and events, through the newsletter, you will be giving the gift of support to the library for all the special events that bring you and your children back to the library again and again...for book groups, author talks, foreign policy discussions, Lego Masters, preschool reading hours.

Membership makes no demands on personal time, but shows support for the enhancement of Potomac Library.

Please enclose your check made payable to Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter, with this form and leave with staff at the checkout desk, or mail to:

Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter
10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, MD 20854

Payments may also be made with credit card or Paypal at www.folmc.org/get-involved/become-a-member/ (choose Potomac as your "Favorite Library")

Volunteer activities are welcome but optional for chapter members. If you would like to help, tell us what your interests are and we will put you in touch with the right people!

__ Advocacy in support of the library budget

__ Membership Recruitment

__ Special Events

__ Newsletter

__ Other _____