

Inquiries or Suggestions? -- write FriendsOfOaktonLibrary@gmail.com

You're Invited!

Winter Holiday Open House

Oakton Community Library

Saturday, December 10, 11 am—3 pm



Live Musical Performances

11 am Chalet Brass
1 pm Cor²

Craft Activities

Let our volunteers help you,
or take them home to do
later.



Seasonal Refreshments

*This event is made possible thanks to the Friends
of Oakton Library.*

Remember the Friends!

As you plan your year-end contributions, please remember the Friends of Oakton Library. Whether you decide to renew your membership dues or make a donation in an amount of your choosing, your generosity will be very much appreciated and put to good use.

In the following pages, you will find a summary of the accomplishments of the Friends during 2011. The funds for this work come entirely from your donations and from the Book Sale receipts. Without your help, these good works would not be possible.

As our library matures, its needs are growing. Gradually repairs must be made and furnishings replaced. The Friends are building a reserve fund to meet these coming requirements.

Later in this newsletter there is a form that you can use to submit your donation or membership renewal. Please be generous.

**Your library and your community
thank you!!**

Library News

-- Jerilyn Polson

The Library staff is excited about redesigning a welcoming reading area with adults in mind. Just as the children and teens have specially designed spaces, this space is intended to be attractive for the adult reader. Seating is comfortable, safe and sturdy, with plenty of floor space for the growing number of adult customers who are using canes, walkers and wheelchairs. Adjacent to magazines and newspapers, a print enlarging machine, fiction books, and large print books, the new seating area offers lovely outdoor views inviting visitors to relax and stay awhile. Removed from centers of activity, like the children's area, service desks and internet stations, this area is also likely to be quieter than the rest of the library. Shelving changes will begin any day, and new furniture is expected early in the new year. A special program in the spring will highlight the new space and introduce adult customers to some resources offered at the Library just for them. Funding for this project comes from a generous grant from Sunrise Assisted Living and from The Friends of Oakton Library.

Children are the future, of course, and the staff continues to offer story time programs which encourage early literacy skills for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. School aged children are invited to the popular Brain Games program during the winter months, which many adults also find challenging to the mind and enjoyable for the spirit. If you haven't had a good Chess partner for some time, please stop by and join in the fun. Special events, like professional storytellers, puppet shows and science programs round out the program plan, thanks to funding from our Friends. Check out the full schedule on the web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events, and please remember to register in advance so we'll know how many people to expect.

FOL Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, January 17th
7:30 pm – At the Library**

All Friends of Oakton Library (FOL) members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting.

- Officers for 2012 will be elected.
- The budget will be voted upon.
- Plans for 2012 will be discussed.

See you there!

Book Sales

Our Fall Book Sale in September brought in \$7,443 in revenue, including \$500 from the Premium Book Room. Thank you to Kap Cohen and Corinne Oliverio for lending their expertise to make that room possible. And thank you to all FOL members who donated books, volunteered during the sale, and/or came to shop! It was a huge success!

Have you noticed our "On-going Book Sale" in the Library foyer? These books may be purchased at any time by taking them to the Library checkout desk. This effort has been very successful, netting over \$2000 in 2011!

Now save the date for our Spring Book Sale – Thursday through Saturday, March 24-25-26, 2012.

And please keep your book donations coming! We appreciate books in good, clean condition. Children's books are especially welcome.

Oakton Community Library
10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA 22124
703-242-4020
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events

Book Review

-- Tooley Milstead

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS By Rebecca Skloot

The thing about this title you should remember is the word, "immortal." Henrietta Lacks became an unknowing "donor" of cells that became a basis for understanding DNA and began unlimited medical progress. Henrietta was dying of cervical cancer and sought treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1951. Her prognosis was dire, and shortly before she died, a tissue sample was taken from her. It went to the lab of Dr. George Gey, head of tissue culture at Hopkins. The sample tissue cells multiplied prodigiously and eventually went to labs around the country and the world.

Skloot writes with compassion of the Lacks family and the fact that they didn't have knowledge of or understand the far-reaching implications of the sample cells taken from Henrietta. These cells became known as He La cells and are found in today's labs. Ms. Skloot worked tirelessly to befriend the Lacks family and to bring to light the limited access to health care a poor black family had in the 1950's. Henrietta's cells live on and continue to provide for medical research that helps all live longer and healthier lives.

(Note that the **Author Evening** on Thurs., Feb. 23 will explore similar themes.)

Please pass this newsletter along to a friend or neighbor who is interested in the Library, and encourage them to join the Friends!

Winter Calendar

- All events take place at the Oakton Library.
- Most programs require a reservation. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.
- Note that some events are repeated on multiple days.

Mon., Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Feb. 6 – 3:30 pm – **Brain Games** (age 6 and up with an adult)

Thurs., Dec. 8, Feb. 9 – 7:30 pm – **Bedtime Storytime** (Preschool with an adult.)

Thurs., Dec. 8, Dec. 15, Dec. 29, Jan. 5, Jan. 19, Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 16 – 7:30 pm – **eBook/eReader Instruction**. Learn about library eBooks. Call for an appointment. 703-242-4020

Sat., Dec. 10 – 11:00 am to 3:00 pm – Winter Holiday Open House.

Tues., Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14 – 7:15 pm – **Money Matters**.

Wed., Dec. 14, Dec. 28, Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 15, Feb. 22 – 10:30 am – **Small Wonders** (Short stories for you and your child, age 13-23 months.)

Thurs., Dec. 29 – 3:00 pm – **Johnny Reb and Billy Yank**. Gary Lloyd presents true stories from both sides of the Civil War. (Age 8 and up; children accompanied by an adult.) Co-sponsored by FOL.

Tues., Jan. 17 – 7:30 pm – FOL Annual Meeting.

Wed., Jan 18 – 10:30 am – **Toddler Tales**. (Age 2-3 with an adult.)

Tues., Jan. 31 – 2:00 pm – **Creatures of the Night**. Puppets, games and activities help us understand the wildlife that is awake while we are sleeping. Led by a naturalist from Riverbend Park. (Preschool with an adult) Co-sponsored by FOL.

Thurs., Feb. 23 – 7:30 pm – **Author Evening**, Meet Alondra Nelson, author of "Body and Soul: the Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination". (Sponsored by FOL)

Friends of Oakton Library -- Accomplishments during 2011

Book Sales

Multi-day used-book sales in March and September.
The On-going Book Sale.

Enhancing the Library's Collection

\$6,000 to the Fairfax County Public Library system for general collection.
\$1,500 via the Fairfax Library Foundation fundraiser.

Periodical and Newspaper Subscriptions

\$2,000 to retain subscriptions slated for cancellation due to County budget cuts.

Indoor Furniture and Fixtures

Furniture for the SmartViewer (enlarger) for the new Adult Area.
Two carts for book donations.
Supply cabinet and printer stand for the staff area.
Step-stool for small customers at checkout desk.

Programs

Easy Readers -- materials, books and prizes.
Performers for children/family programs.
Plush animals, story time and other children's supplies.
Summer Reading Program (SRP) -- supplies, prizes, and recognition.

Special Events

Volunteer Recognition evening.
VolunteerFest refreshments.
Winter Holiday Open House.

Speaker Evenings

Sandra Parshall, mystery writer.
Hospice of Northern Virginia.
Astronaut Tom Jones – "Sky Walking".
Ingrid King – "Buckley's Story".
Robert F. Dorr – "Mission to Berlin".

Plant- and Garden-Related

Provide regular maintenance of the library's indoor plants.
Spring and fall plantings in two outdoor planters near the memorial bench.
Materials for VolunteerFest enhancements to the corner entrance garden.
Supplies for the Habitat area, including bird food, feeders, and storage box.

Summer Reading Program

The Friends recently received the following letter which we thought we should share with you. Successful participants received a coupon book which included a coupon to be redeemed at our FOL book sale. Eleven of these coupons were in fact redeemed by our young patrons.

Dear Friends of the Oakton Library:

I want to thank you for your continued support of our Summer Reading Program. In 2011, over 48,000 children signed up for the program with more than 20,000 finishing and receiving the coupon book. Coupons such as yours encourage participants to sign up and to complete the program.

The calendar, reading logs, and coupon book we produced had your Friends name. Your sponsorship was noted on our Summer Reading Program web page and there was a link to your Friends page from the Library's Summer Reading Program page. This information was posted from June through Labor Day weekend.

Your sponsorship furthers our goal of bringing county residents, especially children and their families, into the library, and fostering a love of books. With your support, we will continue to present county wide reading programs, such as the Summer Reading Program, that enhance life in Fairfax County. I'll be in touch as we plan for 2012 and hope to include your book sale again next year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Ted Kavich, Program Manager
Fairfax County Public Library

Yes, Count Me as a Friend

Not too early to renew your membership for 2012

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

New? ____ Membership Renewal? ____

Here's My Annual Membership Donation

\$10 Individual _____

\$25 Family _____

Other Amount _____

I would like to volunteer

my talents to help the Friends of Oakton Library.

Kindly check one or more:

- Book Sales
- Volunteer at the Library
- Friends Programs / Special Events
- Hospitality / Floral Displays
- Horticulture / Outdoor Habitat
- Expanding our Membership
- Occasional Assistance

Please make your check payable to

Friends of Oakton Library

and then mail to

Friends of Oakton Library
10304 Lynnhaven Place
Oakton, VA 22124-1785

FOL is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible.

Thank you!