

# The FRIENDS of Oakton Library



December 2014  
Newsletter

*Oakton, VA*

Oakton Community Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA 22124, 703-242-4020  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events) [FriendsofOaktonLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofOaktonLibrary@gmail.com)

## Fall Book Sale – A Huge Success

Our October book sale set records in all categories:

- We had the largest number of books ever (sorted and boxed by our tremendous team of Sorters).
- The Premium/Gift Book Room brought in a record \$882 thanks to the expertise and hard work of Corinne Savage and Kap Cohen.
- A record number of children and families used Summer Reading coupons.
- We had the highest credit card volume ever.
- The sale expenses were the lowest ever.
- And best of all, we had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest gross sales and net sales. The sale netted **\$9,182.73** for the Oakton Library!

Despite the volume of books, the sale was set up in record time by a huge group of volunteers, including many new faces. And the take down and cleanup was accomplished in an hour!

All of this would clearly not be possible without the tremendous support of a large number of volunteers. 442 hours were logged during the week of the sale alone!

We would also like to thank:

- All who donated these fabulous books!
- Boy Scout Troop 1983
- The Oakton Library staff for their patience and support.

And most of all, **THANK YOU** to our perennial Book Sale co-chairs **Carole Dowd** and **Ralph Tener**.

## Mark your Calendar Now!

Let's do it again in the Spring!

The Spring 2015 Book Sale will take place Thursday, March 19 through Saturday, March 21.

Setup will be on Saturday, March 14.

Meanwhile, keep your book donations coming. Our sorters are waiting!!



Oakton Community Library  
10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA 22124-1785  
703-242-4020 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events)



Fairfax County Public Library  
We're everywhere you are.

### Winter Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 6



#### Live Music

11 am Chalet Brass

#### Holiday Gift Books for Sale

All proceeds benefit the library.



10 am - 3 pm



#### Seasonal Refreshments

10:30 am—12:30 pm

This event is made possible thanks to The FRIENDS of Oakton Library



Special accommodation may be available by advance request. Call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703-324-8365.

## Friends' Funding & Projects - 2014

The Oakton Friends had a spectacular year in 2014. Everything we do depends on the funding we have available; our members have been fantastic with memberships, donations (of books, money and time) and support of our two semi-annual book sales and our ongoing lobby sales.

Only about 2% of our expenditures this year were related to the operation of the Friends organization; almost all of our spending is for the benefit of Oakton Library and the Fairfax County Library System.

Let's look at the details for 2014:

- Some of our largest expenditures this year included \$1,700 in supplemental magazine subscriptions for Oakton and \$12,000 in book purchases for the library system. Additional county-wide donations included \$5,000 to the Fairfax Library Foundation and \$500 to the Fall for the Book festival.

- 2014 was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fairfax Library System. For this diamond anniversary, the Oakton Friends arranged and co-hosted a presentation on the Hope Diamond. The speaker for the evening was Jeff Post, the Curator-in-Charge of the Smithsonian's Gem and Mineral collection. (Thank you to Carole Dowd, for arranging for this lecture.) This was a marvelous presentation and drew a capacity audience.

- In 2014, we provided funds to co-host three children's programs presented during the Summer Reading Program (Joe Romano Magic, American Giants of Science, and Mutts Gone Nuts.) Kids who complete the Summer Reading Program receive a discount coupon for library book sales (\$2.00 off of a \$5.00 purchase.) This year, Oakton Friends accepted 32 coupons worth \$64.00 during our fall sale.

- Oakton's new Assistant Children's Librarian, Renee Costello, brought a program that she developed at the Chantilly branch, called DUPLO Read! Build! Play! The program uses DUPLO and LEGO kits and materials to help young children develop reading and other skills. The Friends purchased the kits that are used in the programs.

- We've also continued our support of the Reading Buddies program for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade boys which pairs these kids with high school mentors in a series of activities that encourages and develops reading skills. Both of these children's programs are extremely popular.

- The much loved giraffe who stood watch over the Children's area for the past several years finally wore out and had to be retired. We funded the purchase of a replacement, now on duty to welcome the kids. We also purchased some board games to replace and expand the offerings available for children's activities.

- We funded additional programs during the year, including topics on the library's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the D-Day 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and -- coming next year -- Hula with Mokihana.

- The Friends replaced the two-sided portable sign in the front entry that advertises upcoming activities and programs.

- Volunteers play a key role in the operation of the library. In May, the library staff and the Friends hosted a "thank you" event for all of the volunteers who provide assistance at the Oakton Library. The Friends provided \$1,100 in funding for food, decorations and thank-you gifts.

- In December, the Friends group will once again host a holiday open house, including a musical performance by Chalet Brass, holiday decorations and refreshments, and a take-home Snowflake Bookmark craft project for the kids.

- And finally, we have a separate funding category in our budget for outdoor expenses that include the planters and flower beds, and purchases of seed, feeders and bird houses for the Habitat area around the library.

## Annual Meeting of the Friends

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Oakton Library on Tuesday, January 20, at 7:30 pm. We will review the financial results for 2014 and the budget for 2015, as well as elect officers for the coming year.

## Comprise™ Comes to Oakton Library

During Thanksgiving week, the new Comprise kiosk was installed in Oakton Library. This new system has been gradually rolled out to all of the Fairfax County Library branches.

Once operational, the staff librarians will no longer participate in financial transactions in the Library (and will have no cash). Instead, the self-service Comprise™ kiosk will be used for credit or debit card transactions, as well as cash.

Transactions will include the payment of fines, purchase of books from our Friends ongoing book sale, payment for copies or printing, as well as sign-ups for computer usage.

Patrons will now be allowed 120 minutes of Internet PC time per day (formerly 90 minutes per day), allotted in four 30-minute sessions.

At the same time, the public computers in the branches are being rebalanced (redistributed) according to the history of usage in the branch. Many customers in branches such as ours now prefer to use their own devices, rather than log on to a library computer.

These changes will result in significant savings to the library system, reducing effort in the branch, in the central financial office, and in cash collection/transportation. As a result of these savings, the Friends will now receive 65% of the money collected from ongoing book sales; our portion of those sales was formerly 50%.

## In January – Travel Into Africa!

Have you ever been interested in helping at an African orphanage? Have you wanted to travel to the African savannahs in a search of the "Big Five" safari animals? If so, meet local parents who recently travelled to Karen von Blixen's homeland of Kenya in a unique trip where they were able to do both! Mon., Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm.

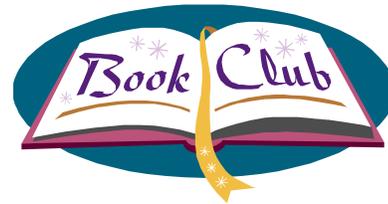
Please pass this newsletter along to a friend or neighbor who is interested in the Library, and encourage them to join the Friends!  
(See page 8)

## 2015 Dues are due!!

If we have your home mailing address, you should soon receive our reminder of 2015 membership renewal. Please return the green envelope with your dues (and perhaps a holiday contribution!) to the Library.

If we do not have your address, this newsletter will be your only reminder. You may use the dues renewal form at the end of this letter.

As always, we thank you!!



## Book Group Reading Lists

The following book groups meet monthly at Oakton Library and are open to the public. Refer to the calendar on page 7 for meeting dates and times for these book clubs.

### Money Matters

Dec. – "Money Mania: Booms, Panics, and Busts from Ancient Rome to the Great Meltdown" by Bob Swarup (First half of the book)  
Jan. – "Money Mania: Booms, Panics, and Busts from Ancient Rome to the Great Meltdown" by Bob Swarup (Second half of the book)  
Feb. – "Asset Allocation Demystified" by Paul Lim (First half of book)

### Mystery Book Club

Dec. – No gathering.  
Jan. – "Suspend" by Robert Crais  
Feb. – "Thunder Bay" by William Kent Krueger

### Oakton Book Discussion Group

Dec. – "Corelli's Mandolin" by Louis De Be Bernieres  
Jan. – "Telling the Bees" by Beth Hesketh  
Feb. – "The Daughter of Time" by Josephine Tey

## Friends' Choice Award to Barbara Hippe

On the evening of October 8, at the monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting, the 2014 Friends' Choice award nominees were honored. Nominations are made by the various Friends' organizations, honoring one or more members of their group for outstanding service.

This year the Friends of Oakton Library nominated Barbara Hippe, shown below with Branch Manager Jerilyn Polson.



For the Oakton library property to maintain its certification by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Habitat, it must provide ongoing sources of food and water, cover and a place for wild birds to raise their young.

For several years, Barbara, with occasional help from her husband, Dan and son, Kenneth, has maintained and enhanced the wild bird feeders and houses on library grounds. To this end she regularly walks the grounds, keeping the feeders full of sunflower and thistle seed, suet cakes replenished and, in season, hummingbird food made and available. She and her family have found innovative ways to protect birds from other wildlife and have built and installed bluebird and chickadee houses that conform to specifications recommended by nesting experts.

In addition, Barbara regularly volunteers at the branch's semi-annual Friends' book sales and recruits the help of Boy Scout Troop 1983 of Oakton. She currently serves as the Secretary of the Friends of Oakton Library Board.

Thank you, Barbara, and congratulations!

## Acknowledgements and Thanks

As 2014 draws to a close, we are thankful for your continued support in so many ways. In particular, we would like to highlight the following:

- The ExxonMobil Corporation for their excellent employee match program. Not only do we receive matching money for contributions, but we have received \$500 as a result of a retired employee's donation of 20 hours of volunteer time.
- The Saturday Sit and Sew group that gathers in a library meeting room has made a \$50 donation.
- The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who are valuable volunteers during our book sales.
- The recent sixth annual Fairfax Library Foundation's *Library Jubilee*, held at City of Fairfax Regional Library, celebrated both 75 years of Fairfax County Public Library Service and the 20th anniversary of Fairfax Library Foundation! The event was a huge success thanks to the help of the sponsors, attendees, and volunteers, and raised over \$155,000! Thank you to our Oakton Friends members who participated!

## Holiday Shopping Opportunities

During the Winter Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 6, we will have a small book sale of gift-quality and holiday books. Hours are 10-3.

In addition, the lobby shelves of our Ongoing Book Sale contain many pristine books suitable for giving.

Be sure to include Oakton Library in your holiday shopping plans!



## Eagles over Oakton – Trish Strat, Master Naturalist



A good crowd enjoyed Oakton resident Trish Strat's presentation on eagles in our area.



## Fall Book Sale – Ready to for Business!



Children's books



Teen books



Right: The main room

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Event – The Hope Diamond



Branch Manager Jerilyn Polson, Ted Kavich, Program Coordinator for FCPL, and Carole Dowd greet speaker Dr. Jeffrey Post, Curator of the Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History



Linda Byrne and her mother talk with the speaker.



Friends' board members Corinne Savage, Jackie Giovannelli, Carol Fay, Tooley Milstead, Fred Pitman, and Jane Sharnoff served as hosts.

## Winter Calendar

- All events take place at the Oakton Library unless specified.
- Most programs require a reservation. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events).
- Note that many events are repeated on multiple dates.
- **One-on-one English conversation** is available by appointment most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 1:30 pm.
- **Group English conversation** is available most Mondays at 10:30 am.
- **Computer One-on-One tutoring** in Internet Basics, E-mail, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint by appointment most Mondays and Tuesdays at 12:00 pm.
- eBook/eReader Instruction on Wednesdays at 10:30 am beginning Jan. 14.
- All libraries will be **closed** on these dates: Wed. Dec. 24 at 1:00 pm, Dec. 25 and 26, Dec. 31 at 5:00 pm, Jan. 1 and 2, Jan. 19, and Feb. 16

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Wed., Dec. 3, Jan. 7, and Feb. 4 – 10:30 am – **Duplo: Read! Build! Play!** (Age 18-26 months with an adult.) 🌿

Sat., Dec. 6 – 10:30 – **Winter Holiday Celebration** and Holiday Book Sale. 🌿

Mon., Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9 – 4:30 pm – **Brain Games** Come and play chess and other fun strategy games, e.g. Blokus, Battleship, and Rush Hour. (Age 6 and up)

Tues., Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10 – 7:00 pm – **Money Matters.** Book discussion focused on personal finance and investing. (See page 3 for the books.)

Wed., Dec. 10, Jan. 21, Feb. 11– 10:30 am – **Toddler Tales.** (Age 2-3 with an adult.)

Sat., Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14 – 10:30 am – **Saturday Story Time.** Stories and songs. (Age 2-5 with an adult)

Wed., Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Jan. 28, Feb. 18 – 10:30 am – **Small Wonders** Short stories for you and your child. (Age 13-23 months with an adult.)

Thurs., Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19 – 7:00 pm – **Oakton Book Discussion** (Adults; See page 3 for the books.)

Wed., Jan. 14, Feb. 11 – 1:00 pm – **Mystery Book Club** (Adults; See page 3 for the books.)

Tues., Jan. 20 – 7:30 pm – **Friends of Oakton Library Annual Meeting** 🌿

Mon., Jan. 26, Feb. 23 – 4:00 pm – **Legos in the Library** Have fun and make new friends. Hundreds of Legos await you and your creativity! No registration needed. (Age 5-12)

Mon., Jan 26 – 7:00 pm – **Into Africa** Meet local parents who traveled to Kenya, searched for the "big five" animals, and helped at a local orphanage. (Adults and school age) 🌿

Tues., Feb.17 – 7:30 pm – **Board Meeting**, Friends of Oakton Library 🌿



Sponsored or co-sponsored by Friends of Oakton Library.

**Use the QR link below to access the Oakton Library information page (Address, Hours, Phone.)**



## Yes, Count Me as a Friend

Renew my membership for 2015!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New? \_\_\_\_ Membership Renewal? \_\_\_\_

Here's My Annual Membership Donation

\$10 Individual \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Family \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to volunteer

my talents to help the Friends of Oakton Library.

Please 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!**