

The FRIENDS of Oakton Library



June 2013
Newsletter

Oakton, VA

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

Book Sale News

The Spring Book Sale was a huge success, bringing in **\$8,961.38**, our second highest total ever! In addition, we accepted credit card sales for the first time. There were many happy, smiling customers – the best reward of all!

Of course, this is not accomplished without hard work by numerous volunteers. During the sale, 34 volunteers generously contributed 142.25 hours. That is in addition to all of the sorting that takes place before the sale, and all those who donated books to build our fabulous inventory. Thank you!!

Speaking of sorting, many of you know that we have, for years, rented an off-site storage facility to store all those sorted boxes until sale time. Our **great news** is that this is no longer necessary! We are now able to store our boxes at a Fairfax County Facilities warehouse, saving several thousand dollars each year! Now nearly all of the money made during the sales will be available for Friends' expenditures like those described in the next article.

Save the Date!! Our Fall Book Sale will be held Thursday, Sept. 19 – Saturday, Sept. 21, with set-up on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Meanwhile be sure to shop our “ongoing book sale” in the Library foyer and around the corner. Great beach books lurk there!

Friends' Funding and Projects

-- Fred Pitman, Treasurer

We continue to receive good support in the form of memberships and donations. A few people have also included matching gift forms from their employers. Your support of the ongoing book sales in the lobby as well as your book donations (any time the library is open) also benefit the Friends. Recently, we received a quarterly check from the County for almost \$500 – our share of the ongoing book sale funds raised. We receive 50% of the sales amount, and the library system uses the other 50% for training and other opportunities that are not funded in the county budget.

Major Friends' projects during the early part of this year included:

- \$1,840 to fund subscriptions for six newspapers and magazines in addition to the subscriptions funded by the County budget. (See the article on page 4 for more information on this.)
- \$1,200 for a Volunteer Recognition luncheon hosted by the library staff. (See the article on page 3.)
- \$1,150 to replace broken tables and add additional tables in the meeting rooms.
- \$860 for upcoming programs: “Beauty of Indian Dance” during the Summer Reading Program; “All Creatures Great and Small” for the Fall teacher work day;

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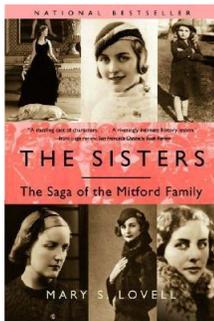
and a Winter break program based on Eric Carle's book Horse of Another Color.

- \$500 to support the County-wide Fall for the Book event.
- We also provided \$500 to purchase the Activity Play Center in the Children's area and \$100 for the Brain Games pizza party in May.

As you can see, Friends funding does a great deal to enhance and expand the library's services to the community.

Book Review -- Tooley Milstead

Downton Abbey – The Appetizer
The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family – The Full Course



Yes, it's entertaining to watch the Earl and Countess of Grantham along with Lady Mary, Lady Sybil (tragically gone now) and Lady Edith dress elegantly for one of their innumerable formal family dinners. Yet, the non-fiction work by Mary S. Lovell, *The Sisters: The Saga of The Mitford Family*, deals unflinchingly with the English aristocracy of the same era but with rich details of the six idiosyncratic sisters whose notorious passions spanned the early Twentieth Century.

Meet sophisticated **Nancy**, oldest of the girls who went on to become a famed English novelist. There was **Unity**, the Nazi and Hitler lover; oh, did she become disenchanted! The lovely **Diana**, known for her beauty, married into the famous Guinness family, but proceeded to leave that wealth for Oswald Mosley, an avowed

Fascist while an English citizen. Diana went to prison for this devotion which caused much family strife. Sister **Pam** was known as the quiet one who loved the country, had kinship with farming and animals, and was never rebellious.

Contrast her with **Jessica** (Decca) who fled the upper layers of English society after her coming out, to partake in the excitement of the Spanish Civil War. She eloped with a distant cousin, Esmond Romilly and moved to the United States. The couple lived simply but with important political connections. After Esmond was killed in WWII, she married an American and joined the Communist Party. She authored several books, including *The American Way of Death*. Lastly there was **Deborah** who became the Duchess of Devonshire, later writing several books about Chatsworth, the family estate, and her life as Lady Cavendish. **Tom**, the only son, was a promising young man who was killed at the end of WWII in Burma.

Recalling the events of this epic reminds me that truth is stranger than fiction. *The Sisters* was published and reviewed in the Washington Post in 2001. It is a very good read, and is available in the library. Many true stories have been spun off the Mitfords. Read this yourself and you'll see why. There will be an October 2013 presentation of this book as part of the Friends' Speaker Series.

We continue to accept book donations throughout the summer. You can leave them on the Friends' cart inside near the entrance planters. Remember we appreciate clean, gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and audio books.

We do not accept text books or magazines. Please do not leave books outside the library or place them in the Book Return slot.

Spotlight on the Staff

-- Aliya Parvez

Dave Mertens joined the Oakton team in August of 2012, as Page Manager and Adult Volunteer Coordinator.



He was born in Indianapolis and his family moved to Springfield, Virginia when he was a year old. He graduated from Paul the VI High School in 2003. Dave got his Bachelor's Degree from Marymount University in Psychology and Special Ed.

Dave worked as a page in FCPL when he was in high school. He also worked at Baskin Robbins and as a landscaper for Garden World of Virginia. After he completed his undergraduate degree he worked in an elementary school. He was also a Sunday Circulation Aide for three years, and a Sunday Circulation Manager for 9 months at the Kings Park Library.

Dave is appreciative of the library environment and the management style here, and thinks the best practices when dealing with volunteers, customers and pages have led to the success of Oakton Library. He enjoys being around books and dealing with them.

Dave plays the guitar and loves to cook. He also enjoys his time with family particularly his niece and nephew who are 8 and 5.

The Oakton Library staff is fortunate to have Dave Mertens on their team.

We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

April was Volunteer Appreciation Month, and our Oakton Library volunteers were much celebrated! Last year we had 4,162 hours contributed by 68 adult volunteers. In addition, 394 student hours were donated, making an astounding total of 4,556 hours!

As a point of interest, Volunteer Fairfax uses an hourly rate of \$22 to value volunteer time. Accordingly Oakton Library received over \$100,000 in volunteer support last year!

On May 1, volunteers were treated to a delicious Mediterranean luncheon organized by the library staff and underwritten by the Friends of Oakton Library. There were gift bags for all, and door prizes for winners of trivia contests and drawings. (See the pictures on page 5.) Thank you to the staff committee for all their hard work, to Maya Mann and Corinne Savage for organizing the prizes, and to our anonymous prize donors!

In addition, the following volunteers were honored at the 21st Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards breakfast: **Michelle Lord, Maureen Cohen, Peter Nichols, Emilio Jaksetic, Tomas Comi**, AND the Friends of Oakton Library as an organization.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

The Library would like to offer a monthly day-time book discussion group if a group leader can be found. Several patrons have requested such a group. The group leader could choose the theme, format, and the day and time that is most convenient. The Library can offer guidelines and suggestions for the group leader.

If you could assist in this way, please complete the Volunteer form at the Information Desk, and specify "book discussion group". Also speak with Dave Mertens or James Vroom.

Also, the Friends would like to add to our list of members who are interested in helping with occasional outdoor work. Specifically we hope to improve the appearance of the corner near the stoplight.

If we could call on you for this type of help, please email Ann Balch at abalch@aol.com.



Tooley Milstead, Ann Balch, and Jackie Giovannelli survey our weed-free corner.

Periodicals at Oakton Library

For the calendar year 2013, Oakton Library subscribes to a total of 65 periodicals (newspapers and magazines), six of which are paid for by the Friends of Oakton Library. Each year, the Library conducts an in-house survey of periodicals to determine the usage of each. This information is combined with the circulation counts (number of check-outs) for back issues to determine the total estimated use of each periodical.

For calendar year 2014, the Library will subscribe to 52 periodicals (not including titles paid for directly by the system or direct gifts, e.g. *Smithsonian*).

Of these, the Friends of Oakton Library will pay for six titles:

- The Economist
- The New York Times
- Time Magazine
- USA Today
- The Wall Street Journal
- Cricket (new this year, for our younger readers)

These year-long subscriptions total \$1,839. Each of these periodicals will carry an indication that it has been provided by the Friends. Thank you to all our supporters!

Pssst! By the way, as always, we still need volunteers who could shelve periodicals. This job could be shared with a friend. Pick your day!

The Oakton Community Remembers Renny Martin

We have learned that Renny Martin passed away on May 10, 2013. Renny was an early supporter of the citizens' effort to establish the Oakton Library.

A memorial celebration and open house is planned for June 10, between 7:00 and 9:00 pm, in the meeting room at the library. All are welcome.

Spring Activities at the Library

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – May 1, 2013



Peter Nichols displays his prize.

Flint Hill School – Art in the Library



Oakton Library Gardens



The gardens near the Library building continue to be maintained by Five Hills Garden Club. .

Summer Calendar

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

Thursdays – 7:30 pm – **eBook/eReader Instruction**.
Learn about library eBooks. Drop-in. (Except July 4)

Saturdays – 10:00 am – **Master Gardener’s Plant Clinic**

Tues., June 11, July 9, Aug. 13 – 7:15 pm – **Money Matters**.

Tues., June 18, Aug. 20 – 7:30 pm – **Board Meeting**,
Friends of Oakton Library

Thurs., June 20, July 18, Aug. 15 – 7:00 pm – **Book Discussion** (Adults; Check website for book.)

Wed., June 26 – 10:30 am – **Toddler Tales**. (Age 2-3 with an adult.)

Thurs., June 27 – 2:30 pm – **Eat My Dust**. Vocal sound impressionist and comedian. (Age 6-12)

Tues., July 2 – 10:30 am – **Groovy Nate**. Sing and dance with Groovy Nate and his puppets. (All ages.)

Tues., July 9 – 2:30 pm – **Dig Into Reading**. Magic tricks, puppet, and music. (Age 6-12) **Co-sponsored by the Friends of Oakton Library**.

Wed., July 10, Aug. 14 – 10:30 am – **Small Wonders**
Short stories for you and your child. (13-23 months.)

Sat., July 13 – 2:30 pm – **Los Quetzales**. Mexican music and dance. (Children of all ages.)

Tues., July 16 – 10:30 am – **Children’s Science Center**. Hands-on science experiments. (Age 6-12)

Mon., July 22 – 7:00 pm – **The Fabulous Five Senses / Dinosaur Show**. Return to the dinosaurs with Goodlife Theatre Puppets. (All ages)

Wed., July 24 – 10:30 am – **Preschool Storytime** (Age 3-5 with an adult)

Tues., July 30 – 10:30 am – **Tangle of Tales**. Favorite folk tales with Grey Seal Puppets. (All ages)

Wed., Aug. 7 – 2:30 pm – **Beauty of Indian Dance**.

Classical & Bollywood dance with Sumona. (All ages)
Co-sponsored by Friends of Oakton Library.

Mon., Aug. 26 – 7:30 pm – **Bedtime Storytime** (Age 2-5 with an adult.)

Yes, Count Me as a Friend

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!