

The FRIENDS of Oakton Library



June 2014
Newsletter

Oakton, VA

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

Oakton Library's Outdoor Habitat – Barbara Hippe

The Oakton Library property is certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Habitat. By providing food, water, cover and a place to raise their young, the Friends help sustain wild bird populations in the middle of Oakton.

In April, two new bird houses were installed. A chickadee nest box, mounted on a pole, is tucked into a sheltered spot outside the northwest corner window. Made of a PVC tube, it is painted to mimic the trunk of a birch tree. Chickadees prefer short flights to/from covered perches and their nest.

A bluebird house now resides outside the west windows. The house features roof vents, floor drains and a sloped roof to shed rain. A sheet metal snake guard suspends from the pole and a wire cat/raccoon guard protects the "front door". Both houses were built by hand by Dan Hippe to specifications recommended by nesting experts.



Within a month, the house was occupied and 5 eggs were observed!



These new houses augment the existing house (located outside the magazine-section window), which in the past has hosted a variety of bird families, and the existing bath, feeder and hummingbird installations.

For more information: www.virginiabluebirds.org/, www.nationalzoo.si.edu and www.nwf.org

Book Sale News

Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2014 Spring Book Sale. Dave Mertens reports that 54 volunteers contributed a total of 275.75 hours! It was worth the effort, as we raised over \$7,500 for Oakton Library.

Donations for the Fall sale are arriving at a steady pace, managed by our great team of volunteer sorters.

Don't miss our special **Beach Book Sale** on Saturday, June 7th, beginning at 10:00 am. This is a great opportunity to stock up for your summer reading.

Keep those donations coming, and don't forget to check out the **On-going Sale** in the lobby of the Library.

Easy Readers – Lauren Crum

In the Fall of 2013, the Friends sponsored another successful year of Easy Readers. The intent of Easy Readers is to increase 1st and 2nd grade boys' excitement about reading.

High school mentors subtly encourage the boys to read by conducting scavenger hunts with written clues, making mud pies while following recipes, building LEGO boats and helicopters with instructions, and completing other fun activities while reading with the boys the entire time.



Participants in the program are obtained through contact with local elementary school teachers, who then identify children who would benefit from this kind of opportunity to build their reading skills.

In 2013, Ryan Crum and Michael Lynch were leaders of the program, assisted by Miles Shah, Dale Good, Evan Leckenby and Liam Stack.

The program is so popular that teachers have already contacted us about this Fall!

Parking Lot Renovation

What's going on in the parking lot? To improve the water quality of storm water runoff into neighboring streams and connected watersheds, Stormtech bioretention installations beneath the surface are required. The side parking lot work will include permeable pavers; the front parking lot work will be beneath an island of grass and trees. Any tree lost will be replaced, though relocated to avoid interfering with the new filtration systems. The project is estimated to last three months, having begun in early May.

Frederick Oakley Beattie, III April 6, 1922 - September 12, 2005

-- Judith Beattie Druham

(The memorial bench at the Library was recently refurbished by the Beattie Family, so it seemed a good time to refresh our memories of Frederick Beattie. – The Editor)



My father and mother (Judy Beattie of HMCDS) moved to Vienna in 1952, where together they built their stone home, designed by my maternal grandfather. My father was a Foreign Service Officer, specializing in the Chinese language. We lived all over the world: Germany, Taiwan (twice), Burma, Hong Kong and Jamaica.

Prior to the Foreign Service, my father was in the Navy during World War II. He was a Lt JG serving on LST's which were being readied for the Invasion of Normandy. He survived Exercise Tiger, an operation designed to prepare for the Invasion during which more lives were lost than on D-Day. After his recuperation, Dad was given another ship and served in the Invasion himself.

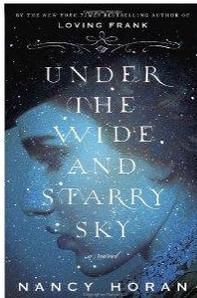
When he retired from the State Department, he went to work for Crown Books in the Oakton store. He worked in this store for 17 years as the manager. My father loved people and he loved books -- to this day our family believes those were the happiest days of his life. He used to let people sit and read the books in the store and he was particularly happy to let children lay on the floor of the store reading.

Upon the dedication of the bench when the Oakton Library opened in 2007, his friends and neighbors said that my dad was 'Oakton's First Librarian' -- he would have loved this bench and he would have loved the fact that he is remembered for his time at Crown Books.

Book Review – Tooley Milstead

Under the Wide and Starry Sky: A Novel

by Nancy Horan



Nancy Horan has again written a novel based on the tragic love alliance of an artist and his paramour. *Loving Frank*, featuring Frank Lloyd Wright, was her first foray into this type of fiction; now she gives us Robert Louis Stevenson's rocky romance with Fanny Osbourne. *Starry Sky* is based on the 18

year tumultuous courtship and marriage of Stevenson to a fellow bohemian/creative soul.

Prior to meeting RLS, Fanny fled to Belgium to escape her failed marriage, taking her three children. Lung disease (likely TB) took Hervey, the youngest of her children, an event that unraveled her. To recover from her loss, Fanny took up residence at a French inn where she met RLS. The death of Hervey eventually served Fanny in her ability to care for Robert Louis Stevenson after their 1880 marriage through his many bouts with this disease. Attempting to live in a climate that would give "Louis" a reprieve from the wretched malady, the Stevensons lived in Paris, California, the south of France, Switzerland, England and the South Pacific.

With an inheritance Louis received and his increasing success as an author of *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Fanny and Louis were able to build Vailima, a 300 acre plantation in Samoa. Trials continued eventually leading to Fanny's mental collapse amid her efforts to turn their jungle paradise into a profitable business. She and Louis became somewhat alienated from one another as Fanny tried to realize her many creative talents. Stevenson's health stabilized a bit, and he was able to care for Fanny. He was writing a novel and articles about life in Samoa. Less well received with the English newspaper readers were Louis's expressed concerns about the rights of the native people.

At the end of his life, the couple found peace living at Vailima with Fanny's two children and Louis's mother. When a cerebral hemorrhage killed this mighty storyteller, the literary world lost a valiant hero.

Spotlight on the Staff – Mary Medina

Aliya Parvez – Information Assistant



As a child in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Aliya aspired to work with words; although, how to do so changed as she grew. At first, she had dreams of being

a secretary, then a teacher, and then a reporter. It's no surprise that she received her BA from Dhaka University in English Literature.

In April of 1981, before she could enter into her Master's program, she was married off to a man who would take her to Princeton, NJ. Two children followed quickly before her husband informed her that he had a new job in DC and to pack her bags. This she happily did with her 4 year old and her infant in tow, arriving in Herndon, VA. Her third son arrived in 1992. Soon her husband decided to start his own business.

Although Aliya was raising three boys, she decided to find employment outside of the home to provide health insurance and other benefits to the family. She began volunteering at Reston Regional. After a month she was hired as a page, later transferring to "Little Herndon" which was housed in a Quaker Meeting House. As pages in Herndon regularly helped out at the circulation desk, she garnered a LOT of experience which served her well when "Big Herndon" was ready. She received a 20 hour library aide position and benefits. Positions at Patrick Henry and Dolly Madison followed, and then Aliya helped open Oakton Library in 2007.

Aliya wanted to earn her MLS, took classes at GMU to get the required credits for acceptance, and graduated in 2010. She soon began her Master's program online at University of North Texas, graduating in 2013. Aliya hopes to get a full time Librarian position in FCPL soon.

Aliya is partial to female British authors. The best thing about working in Oakton is the sense of contentment she gets from helping customers. She also enjoys working with a super staff that is sympathetic with each other. And all Oakton Library patrons appreciate Aliya's warm welcoming smile at the Information Desk.

Library Volunteer Needs

The Library has need for one-on-one English Language tutors, offering English language conversation to individuals.

Length of Commitment: 1 year

Time Involvement: 1 hour per week minimum

Position Summary: Participates in one-on-one tutoring for English Language Learners. Converses with people who sign up for, or attend as walk-ins, an informal program for practicing English skills. This is not teaching English, but providing practice for ELL students outside the classroom, or for anyone who seeks an opportunity to improve English skills through conversation.

Major Responsibilities: Leads a conversation one-on-one, listening attentively, helping individuals to pronounce words and create phrases, sentences, etc. and asking questions.

Qualifications:

Minimum age of 16. Available once a week. Ability to speak English with little or no accent. Must enjoy meeting and talking with people, have good interpersonal skills, and be able to adapt to changing needs. Ability to facilitate a discussion.

We Can't Say it Better ...

From the Fairfax Library Foundation newsletter:

“FY 2015 Budget Passed!”

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has officially passed a budget for FY2015. We are pleased to say that the library will have access to an additional \$250,000 worth of library materials every year for the next four years, totaling \$1 million to expand the library's collection for library users! Thank you to everyone who spoke on behalf of the library through emails, phone calls, and at the public hearings on the budget.”

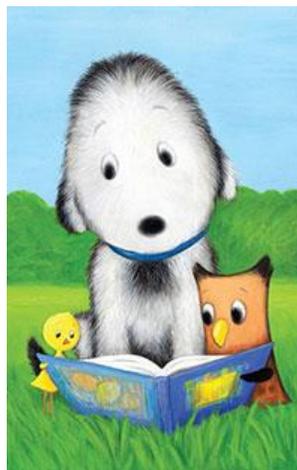
[Donate Books](#)
[Through the Amazon.com Wish List!](#)

It's easy! Just click on the link above!

In Memoriam

The Friends of Oakton Library has received contributions in memory of Mr. Sterling Brisbin, including one from the Miller Heights Book Club. We would like to thank those donors and add our condolences to his family.

2014 Summer Reading Program



June 20 - August 30

Get ready to enjoy “Paws to Read” during the 2014 Summer Reading Program at the Fairfax County Public Library. Register online or in person at your local library beginning June 20.

Preschoolers through high schoolers earn a coupon book with great

prizes including free and discounted items by completing their reading and going to their local library branch by August 30.

Activities are planned for families, preschoolers, school-age youngsters, teens and adults throughout the summer.

Book Club Reading Lists

Refer to the calendar on page 7 for meeting dates and times for these book clubs.

Money Matters

June – “Warren Buffet and the Interpretation of Financial Statements” by Mary Buffet.

July – “Financial Shenanigans” by Howard Schilit

Aug. – “Debunkery” by Ken Fisher

Mystery Book Club

June – “Defending Jacob” by William Landay

July – “The Next Accident” by Lisa Gardner

Aug. – “Service of All the Dead” (an Inspector Morse Mystery) by Colin Dexter

Oakton Book Discussion Group

June – “The Silver Star” by Jeanette Walls

July – “The Buddha in the Attic” by Julie Otsuka

Aug. – “The Book Thief” by Marcus Zusak

Friends' Funding and Projects

This quarter, we are seeing the results of our recent expenditures. The two love seats we purchased last year have arrived and the seating in the children's area has been reorganized. The Summer Reading Program is beginning soon and will include four programs that were funded by the George Mason and Oakton Friends.

So far this year, the ongoing book sales in the lobby have generated \$3,000. In March, we held our Spring book sale which raised \$7,500. These results are due to your book donations and purchasing support for our sales.

In April, the Friends provided \$1,600 for newspaper and magazine subscriptions to supplement the materials provided by the County. The habitat area behind the library was updated with a new feeder and some new bird houses. In May, we provided funding for the Volunteer Appreciation event hosted by the Oakton Library staff, including dinner and gift bags. This event was attended by 31 volunteers. In total, volunteers contributed 5,837.4 hours to Oakton Library in the course of the year.

We are planning on funding some activities and programs for the Fall related to the 75th anniversary of the Fairfax County Library System. Please stay tuned for news on these special celebrations.

Public Meeting at Oakton Library

A meeting of the Library Board of Trustees' Ad Hoc Communication & Evaluation Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00 pm at the Oakton Community Library.

Purpose: This meeting is the only public opportunity for community input on plans for an extensive survey which will be used to determine the future of our libraries - including the development of a new Strategic Plan and establishing the criteria for a new Library Director within the next couple of years.

Please help spread the word!

Library Friends' Donation Summary

The Fairfax County Library offices recently prepared a summary of donations to the Library system from Friends groups at all of the Library branches for the years 2010 through 2013. The numbers are amazing!

There are 8 regional (larger) libraries and 15 smaller "community" or specialized branches.

Among the community libraries, Oakton Library was 2nd highest in total donations with a total for the four years of \$57,819.26 (following only the Kings Park library). And we came in higher than two of the regional libraries.

Among all of the Friends groups, the total donations for the four years was

\$1,296,835.50

And that does not include all of the volunteer time donated by individual members of the Friends groups.

Across the system, this money provided everything from furniture and carpeting to eReaders to programs, and of course, additions to the Library's collection of books and periodicals.

Wow!

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)

"Free Events" is back!!

Pick up the latest issue of this free periodical at the Library to learn what's happening at all of the Fairfax County Library branches!



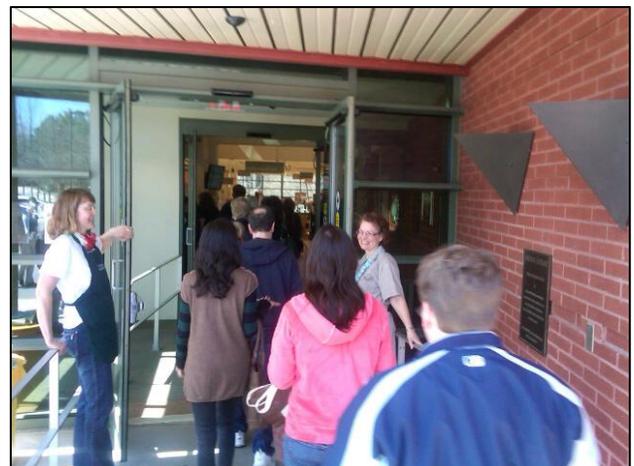
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thank you to Co-chairs Jackie Giovannelli and Carol Fay, and the Library staff. A fun evening for all!



Friends' Donations

One of two new loveseats purchased by the Friends, together with the preschool play cube for early literacy skills purchased in 2013.



Book Sale – Spring 2014

(Left) Preparing for the sale – delivered boxes previously packed by our fabulous sorters.
(Right) Branch Manager Jerilyn Polson and Willow Martin greet the waiting shoppers.

Summer Calendar

- All events take place at the Oakton Library unless specified.
- Most programs require a reservation. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.
- Note that many events are repeated on multiple dates.
- **One-on-one computer instruction** is available by appointment most Tues. and Thurs. afternoons at 4:00 pm.
- **One-on-one English conversation** is available by appointment most Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm.
- **Group English conversation** is available most Mondays at 10:30 am.
- All libraries will be **closed** on these dates: July 4, August 31, and September 1.

Tues., June 3 – 10:30 am – **D-Day and Beyond**
Guest speaker Jim Lewis presents the events leading up to and following the D-Day invasions of June 6, 1944. (Adults) **

Tues., June 3 – 7:00 pm – Library Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Communication and Evaluation Committee meeting.

Wed., June 4 and June 11 – 10:30 am – eBook and eReader instruction.

Sat., June 7 – 10:00 am – **Beach Book Sale**

Tues., June 10, July 8, and Aug. 12 – 7:00 pm – **Money Matters**. Book discussion focused on personal finance and investing. (See page 4 for the books.)

Tues., June 17 – 7:30 pm – **Board Meeting**, Friends of Oakton Library (No meeting in July or August)

Wed., June 18, July 16, and Aug. 20 – 1:00 pm – **Mystery Book Club** (Adults; See page 4 for the books.)

Thurs., June 19, July 17, Aug. 21 – 7:00 pm – **Oakton Book Discussion** (Adults; See page 4 for the books.)

Tues, June 24; Thurs., July 3, and Aug. 7 – 7:00 pm – **Starlight Storytime** (Age 2-5 with an adult)

Wed., June 25 – 10:30 am – **Books –The Magic is Real** Magician Joe Romano (Age 6-12) ***

Thurs., June 26 – 2:00 pm – **Jessie and James: Mutts Gone Nuts!** See Jessie and James and their mischievous pack of mutts present a thrilling and comic dog show with juggling, rope walking and crowd play (All ages) **

Wed., July 2 – 10:30 am – **Rufus the Dog** : Enjoy this Blue Sky Puppet Theatre story of a special dog and his search for friendship. (All ages) **

Tues., July 8 – 2:30 pm – **Storytime & Rhyme** Storytelling, music, and movement with Wolf Trap teaching artist Kofi Dennis. (All ages) ***

Wed., July 9, July 23, Aug. 20 – 10:30 am – **Toddler Tales**. (Age 2-3 with an adult.)

Wed., July 16, Aug. 13 – 10:30 am – **Small Wonders** Short stories for you and your child. (13-23 months.)

Thurs., July 17 – 2:30 – **Spectacular Science** Explore the secrets of fireworks, bubbles and more with Mad Science (Age 6-12) ***

Mon., July 21 – 2:30 pm – **Professor Parsnip's Lab** Bright Star Theatre production (All ages) ***

Mon., July 28 – 7:00 pm – **Reptiles Alive** See how these amazing animals cling, climb, and chase in the wild (Age 6-12) **

Wed., July 30, Aug. 27 – 10:30 am – **Preschool Storytime** (Age 3-5 with an adult)

Wed., Aug. 6 – 10:30 am – **American Giants of Science** Meet Americas most famous inventors. (Age 6-12) ***

** Co-sponsored by the Friends of Oakton Library

*** Co-sponsored by the Friends of George Mason Regional Library.

Yes, Count Me as a Friend

It's not too late to renew your
membership for 2014!

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!

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

