

# The FRIENDS of Oakton Library



June 2015  
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)

## Selling Now on Amazon !

The Friends of Oakton Library are now selling a limited number of donated books on-line at Amazon.com.

After our Friends at Reston Regional Library provided valuable advice on initiating an on-line sales venture, we opened an account and began listing books. In March, we shipped our first sale to South Carolina, a pictorial about a shipwreck and sunken treasure. In May, we made our first international sale, sending a tome on the Theory of Relativity, to Norway.

While finding good homes for harder-to-find volumes, we so far have earned over \$1,000 to augment our semi-annual and ongoing book sale proceeds to benefit FCPL and Friends of Oakton Library initiatives.

A thank you to Barbara Hippe for undertaking this venture for us: selecting likely books for sale, researching the entire process of becoming an Amazon book seller, monitoring our account, and packaging and mailing on a timely basis those books that have sold.

★★★★★ for Barbara !!

Heading for the beach? Looking for a good read at a bargain price? Visit our Ongoing Book Sale in the lobby of the Library and around the corner near the Library's media stacks.

## Book Sale News

Thanks to a tremendous team of volunteers who contributed over 340 hours of work, and to all who donated books, our Spring Book Sale netted over **\$6,500** for the Friends, and in turn, for Oakton Library and the FCPL system.

We have already begun collecting and sorting donations for the Fall Sale. So bring 'em on! Summer is a great time to sort through your library for books we can use. Remember, we welcome clean, undamaged books. And we always need more **children's books**.

Save the dates – Fall Sale:

<b>Sat, Sept. 19</b>	<b>Set-up Day</b>
<b>Thu, Sept. 24</b>	<b>Book Sale</b>
<b>Fri, Sept. 25</b>	<b>Book Sale</b>
<b>Sat, Sept 26</b>	<b>Book Sale and Cleanup</b>

Thanks!



## Miriam Smolen Joins the Library Board of Trustees



From Ms. Smolen:

I am very pleased to be appointed as the Providence District representative to the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees.

The Library Board is made up of Fairfax County residents and includes one member-at-large, nine members representing each district, a member appointed by Fairfax City Council and one member nominated by the Fairfax County School Board. The Library Board's responsibilities include establishing library policies, selecting the Director of the Library system and providing general direction to the Director.

As a Library Board member, I represent the citizens of Providence District which includes the wonderful Oakton Library. I recently attended a Friends of the Oakton Library Board meeting and am so excited by the speaker and fundraising events sponsored by the Friends group.

I have lived in Fairfax County with my husband Jerry for close to twenty-five years, first in Vienna and now in the Mantua neighborhood, and have been a devoted user and supporter of our library system for all that time. When they were young, my two sons and I spent many hours in the children's sections and developed wonderful relationships with the library staff in those areas. I am a devoted "reader" of audiobooks, and am thrilled with the availability of eBooks from the Fairfax Public Library system.

Professionally, I am an attorney and have worked for the federal government, as in-house counsel for a financial institution and in private law practice. I currently work as an Associate General Counsel for the Federal Housing Finance Agency located in Washington D.C. In my spare time, I play tennis (although not very well), and can be found walking my dog (a Tibetan Terrier) through our neighborhood.

I look forward to meeting the users of the Oakton Library!

## Library Staff Salutes our Volunteers

On the evening of May 27, the Library Staff hosted the many volunteers who help with every aspect of Oakton Library. The event was held at the new Providence Community Center, a festive change of scene. Dinner was delicious, a Dr. Seuss game stumped us all, and the raffled door prizes were a big hit. (Barbara Hippe won the Gardener's Basket – how appropriate!)

Lorraine Renteria-O'Reilly received the **FCPL Star Award: Exceptional Service** for her work with the children's books. Also three volunteers reached **1000 hours of service**: Jim Houston, Liz Nguyen, and Peter Nichols. Congratulations!

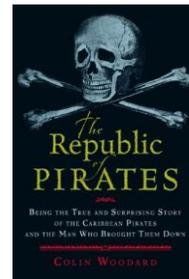


Thank you to the staff for organizing the evening and to the Friends of Oakton Library for underwriting the event.

## Book Review – Fred Pitman

### **The Republic of Pirates** by Colin Woodward

(Available from the library in paperback, audio eBook and audio-CD formats.)



Pirates have existed in various parts of the world for centuries, but Woodward's book deals specifically with the pirate captains and crews who operated in the early 1700's in the Bahamas, the Caribbean and along the eastern coast of North America. While the book's timeframe spans the 1690's until around 1730, there were only about four years (1716 – 1720) that are considered the "golden age of piracy" in this region.

In the 1600's and 1700's, it was fairly common for governments at war to issue privateering commissions as a means of supplementing their naval forces. A privateer would provide and arm a ship and crew, and was authorized to capture vessels sailing under an enemy flag. Privateer crews were permitted to keep or sell the captured ships and their cargos. Since sea duty on either a naval or merchant ship at that time was so onerous – months-long voyages, low wages (when they were paid), harsh discipline, poor food and high risk (from dangerous work conditions and disease) -- the possibility of sharing in the value of captured "prizes" was very appealing. Some privateers also achieved significant fame and were honored by their country; Francis Drake and Henry Morgan were both knighted for their service as British privateers.

The difference between a privateer and a pirate is that pirates are not very discriminating in determining which country's ships they attack. But in some ways, even pirates in the 1700's were looked on as Robin Hood folk heroes by the general population. They stole from rich governments and wealthy merchants and redistributed that wealth among their crews, families and communities (and sometimes greased the palm of a government official or two.) Often, some of the crew from a captured ship would voluntarily join the pirate company on the spot, apparently judging *PIRATE* to be a more lucrative job title than *SEAMAN*.

Woodard personalizes Caribbean piracy with biographies (at least what is known) of three of the most-successful pirate captains of that time: "Black Sam" Bellamy, Charles Vane, and Edward "Blackbeard" Thatch. (Historians now believe Blackbeard's surname was Thatch, not Teach.) Woodard also includes a number of other lesser-known characters, including Henry Avery, Benjamin Hornigold, "Calico Jack" Rackham, Anne Bonny and the plantation-owner-turned-inept-pirate-captain Stede Bonnet. The book also introduces Woodes Rogers, the British government's pirate hunter who, with the British Navy and others, helped put an end to the "golden age".

***The Republic of Pirates*** was adapted into the 2014 NBC TV series "Crossbones" and was also the topic of an article in the February 2014 issue of ***Smithsonian*** magazine.

## Library Volunteer Opportunities

The Library needs one or two volunteers to help behind the scenes with circulation on Saturday mornings.

You can sign up to volunteer online at

<https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/recruiter/index.php?class=VolunteerNavigation&recruiterID=1380&act=CONTROL:LOGIN> LINK.

Thank you to all who choose to benefit The Friends of Oakton Library through the Amazon Smile program. We received our first donation check! Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> and choose Friends of Oakton Library as your charity.

## Summer Reading Program -- June 19 - September 5

Get ready to enjoy “Read to the Rhythm” during the 2015 Summer Reading Program. You will be able to register online or in person at the library beginning June 19.

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 September 5.

Activities are planned for families, preschoolers, school-age youngsters, teens and adults throughout the summer. Search our [calendar of events](#) or pick up a printed copy of the summer calendar at the Library.

**To sign up, go to this link on June 19 or after:**

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp/>



## Watch Us Grow!

During the summer of 2014, modifications were made to the Library parking lot in order to better filter stormwater runoff before it heads into the neighborhood streams and eventually into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

The new permeable paver parking bays on the south side of the building allow for infiltration of the runoff that previously would have gone directly to the storm drain. There is a gravel layer under the pavers that detains rain water after each storm.

The parking bays on the east side of the building were improved with gravel below the parking spaces and two rows of chambers that increase the volume of stormwater that can be retained after each storm event. Runoff from the roof of the library and the parking lot are diverted into the chambers to infiltrate the soil below.

As part of that project, a “rain garden” trough-like area was created which receives run off directly from the parking lot. There is a special soil in the rain garden that allows for infiltration within 24 – 48 hours after each storm.

In May, John Palmer, Landscape Architect with the Stormwater Planning Division of the County’s Department of Public Works and Environmental Services supervised the planting of the rain garden using plant material from North Creek Nursery and RGR (the original contractor). Mr. Palmer asked for volunteer assistance for the actual planting, and numerous Friends rose to the challenge.

The strategy is to densely plant native, pollinator-friendly perennials of various heights. Once established, the garden is designed to be self-sustaining; the plants should choke out weeds by depriving them of space and light; the roots will cleanse the stormwater runoff while the garden absorbs much of it, reducing the amount of water and pollutants that enter the watershed.

Happily, this strategy is consistent with the original design of the gardens on the south side of the Library, which also emphasized pollinator-friendly native plants, and reinforces our status as a “Backyard Habitat”.

The pictures on the next page tell the story. Thank you to all the willing volunteers who assisted on a hot, humid day!

## A great team!!

Front row: Marilee Davies, Barbara Hippe, Jackie Giovannelli, Ann Balch.  
Back row: Willow Martin, Jim Hubbard, Rosemarie Jaksetic, Amy Davies, John Palmer



Before



John Palmer drills planting holes.



Plants laid out as planned.



Ready for the volunteers.



Volunteer training from the pro.



The planting begins.



Many hands make light work.



Finished in an hour!



And the watering begins.

## 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 8 for meeting dates and times for these book clubs.

### Money Matters

- June – *Why Moats Matter: The Morningstar Approach to Stock Investing* by Heather Brilliant and Elizabeth Collins (Second half of book)
- July and August - *Why Moats Matter: The Morningstar Approach to Stock Investing* by Heather Brilliant and Elizabeth Collins (continued)

### Mystery Book Club

- June – *Cuckoo's Calling* by J. K. Rowling and Robert Galbraith
- July. – *The House at Sea's End* by Elly Griffiths
- August – *Standing in Another Man's Grave* by Ian Rankin

### Oakton Book Discussion Group

- June – *Blindness* by Jose Saramago
- July. – *I Always Loved You: A Novel* by Robin Oliveira
- August – *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

## DUPLO® Read! Build! Play!

-- Fred Pitman

Most people these days are aware of the LEGO® brand building blocks that appeal to so many kids. Some may not be aware of the DUPLO® blocks made by the same company. DUPLO® blocks are very similar to LEGO®, but are larger in size. That makes them easier to handle and snap together, and the larger size also meets the safety standards for toys intended for young children.

The Lego Group (parent company for LEGO® and DUPLO®) has recently begun to produce DUPLO® story kits that include a story book with a set of blocks to build objects that relate directly to the story. The stories and the brightly-colored blocks are excellent teaching tools and the stories are interesting to girls and boys.



A few years ago, the Chantilly branch created a program for young children using DUPLO® blocks. The goal of the program is to help parents introduce their child to developmental activities that are a foundation for future reading skills. Initially, the activity involved a combination of storytelling and play time, but that wasn't completely satisfactory, so when the DUPLO® story kits became available, Chantilly decided to adapt their programs to use them.

Renee Costello was a staff member at Chantilly at the time and she took the lead in developing the specific agenda for the revised program. When Renee transferred to Oakton as the Assistant Children's Librarian, she brought the concept with her and created a similar program here. Friends groups at Chantilly and Oakton purchased the story kits that are used in the programs.

This program is extremely popular at Chantilly, and was equally well-received at Oakton. Currently there are at least five branches within the Fairfax Library System that offer some form of DUPLO® or LEGO® story time or playtime activities.

Oakton Friends is very pleased that we were able to provide funding to help create and expand this program. Last year, we bought two sets of kits (**Grow Caterpillar Grow** and **Peekaboo Jungle**) to get the program started at Oakton; recently we added a third set of kits (**Fairy Tales**) to include more variety in the programs.

## A DUPLO® Read! Build! Play! session at Oakton

A typical session at Oakton is targeted to children aged 18 – 36 months. These events require registration because each child – accompanied by a parent or caregiver -- will have their own book and story kit for the session.

The program starts with a Welcome song, with the kids and parents clapping and singing along. Next, the “My Name Is” song introduces each child one at a time.

Then the Read! Build! Play! fun begins.



### R E A D



First, each child gets the picture book from a story kit for the particular story for the day. Then they sit with their parent who reads the story with the child.

**Miss Renee’s tip for the parent:** As you read the story, point to the words on the page. That will help the child understand that there is a relationship between the text on the page and the sound of the words.

### B U I L D



After everyone has read the story, each child picks up a kit containing the DUPLO® blocks.

Using the picture book and instructions, the child constructs objects that relate to the story they just heard.

### P L A Y



After the books and kits are put away, a big tub of DUPLO® blocks and figures provides the kids with about 20 minutes of creative freestyle play time.

The session wraps up with the kids helping to put all the materials away, a Good Bye song, and stickers for all the participants.

Thanks to Miss Renee and the parents and children who allowed me to observe and photograph their recent session. - FRP

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 9)

# Summer 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** is available most Wednesdays at 10:30 am.
- **Master Gardeners' Plant Clinic** – most Saturdays beginning at 10:00 am
- All libraries will be **closed** on these dates: Fri., July 3 and Sat., July 4.

Thurs., June 4 – 7:30 pm – **Back Pain: What? Why? What to Do About It?** Back pain comes in many different forms from many different causes. This presentation will discuss some of the more common back pain syndromes, the causes not commonly discussed, and non-evasive treatment and pain prevention options that allow you live pain free. (Adults.) 🌱

Tues., June 9, July 14, Aug. 11 – 7:00 pm – **Money Matters.** Book discussion focused on personal finance and investing. (See page 6 for the books.)

Wed., June 10, July 8, Aug. 12 – 1:00 pm – **Mystery Book Club** (Adults; See page 6 for the books.)

Thurs., June 18, July 16, Aug. 20 – 7:00 pm – **Oakton Book Discussion** (Adults; See page 6 for the books.)

Mon., June 22, July 13, Aug. 10 – 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)

Tues., June 23 – 10:30 am – **Container Gardening** Using containers for gardening can provide beautiful accents for small areas and patios. Learn how to select appropriate containers and plants to use in them that complement each other and spice up your living space. Presented by Green Spring Gardens Master Gardeners. 🌱

Tues, June 23 – 2:30 pm - **The Wonderful World of Bats** - Learn about bats and make a bat T-shirt. Presented by Jerry Schneider. Kids bring a white or light colored T-shirt or buy shirt for \$4. (Age 6-12.) \*\*\*

Wed., June 24, July 15, Aug. 12 – 10:30 am – **Small Wonders** Short stories for you and your child. (Age 13-23 months with an adult.)

Tues, June 30 – 10:30 am – **Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres.** Sing and move with music and dance from Latin America with Andres Salguero. All ages. \*\*\*

Wed., July 1, August 5 – 10:30 am – **Duplo: Read! Build! Play!** (Age 18-36 months with an adult.) 🌱

Wed., July 8 – 10:30 am -- **Preschool Science 123** Mad Science presents fun and amazing experiments. (Age 3-6 with adult.) \*\*\*

Thurs., July 9, Aug. 6 – 7:00 pm – **Starlight Storytime.** (Age 2-5 with adult)

Monday, July 20 – 10:30 am – **Robin and His Merry Band.** Impressions Theatre presents the musical story of Robin Hood. (Age 6-12.) \*\*\*

Wed., July 22, August 19 – 10:30 am – **Toddler Tales.** (Age 2-3 with an adult.)

Thurs., July 30 – 7:00 pm – **Under the Sea** Meet live sea creatures. Presented by Andrew Wilson. (Age 6-12.) \*\*\*

Mon., Aug. 3 – 10:30 am – **The Kindercise Show.** Sing and dance with Wolf Trap teaching artist John Taylor. (All ages.) \*\*\*

🌱 Sponsored or co-sponsored by Friends of Oakton Library.

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



## Yes, Count Me as a Friend

**It's not too late! 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 / 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.)

