

The FRIENDS of Oakton Library



March 2014
Newsletter

Oakton, VA

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

From Your President

The Friends of Oakton Library welcomes a new Board for 2014. New and returning officers and chairpersons are:

President: Corinne Savage Oliverio
1st Vice-President: Jim Milstead
2nd Vice-President: Jane Sharnoff
Secretary: Barbara Hippe
Treasurer: Fred Pitman
Book Sales Co-Chairs: Carole Dowd and
Ralph Tener
Book Sorting: Tooley Milstead
Speaker Series Co-Chairs: Tooley Milstead
and Lauren Crum
Hospitality Co-Chairs: Carol Fay and Jackie
Giovannelli
Membership: Jackie Giovannelli and Ann
Balch
Newsletter: Ann Balch
Community Liaison: Linda Byrne

The board wishes to acknowledge and thank outgoing president Ann Balch for her extraordinary leadership and dedication to the Oakton Library. Her stewardship of the Friends organization has made possible significant growth in membership, generous support for library programs, and continued improvement of library services.

As incoming board president, I know I speak for all the Friends when I say that we are determined to support Oakton Library in the same full-hearted tradition of past boards. In

coming months, we hope to improve the visibility of our sign on Hunter Mill Road, host successful spring and fall book sales, contribute financial support to the Fairfax County Public Library system, and fund a wide variety of programs that serve the needs of Oakton Library patrons.

We are always looking for new members and new ideas—come join us at our next meeting, Tuesday, April 15, at 7:30 pm in the Oakton Library. Best regards,
Corinne Savage

Book Sale News

O Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"
- William Wordsworth

One of the first signs of spring will be on March 20, 21 and 22....the **BOOK SALE!**

The purpose is threefold: to raise money for the Oakton Library, to please our library patrons, and to have some fun surrounded by books.

We will begin arranging the books on Saturday, March 15, and continue on Monday and Tuesday. If you would like to help, please contact us and get on the schedule for setting up the sale and for working during the sale. Many thanks!

- Carole Dowd cdowd2000@verizon.net
and Ralph Tener
rtener@mccandlishlawyers.com

Thank you for your donations of many books for our sale!

Donation Cutoff Date: Monday, Mar. 10

Donations Resume: Monday, Mar. 24



Book Sale Hours

Thursday, Mar. 20 – 1:00 to 8:00

Friday, Mar. 21 – 10:00 to 6:00

Saturday, Mar. 22 – 10:00 to 3:00

Friends' Funding and Projects

Thank you to all of the members who have responded to our renewal letters. We have raised over \$3,000 in dues and additional contributions, including some employer matching funds donations. Due to these donations and the very successful 2013 book sales, we have a strong position moving into 2014.

At our annual meeting in January, we approved a budget that will spend about \$25,000 for the Oakton branch and an additional \$5,500 for other activities and projects. Late last year, we spent \$3,000 to purchase two love seats that will replace the sofa that is currently in the children's area. (The love seats should be arriving soon and the sofa will be returned to the staff area.)

We have also committed \$1400 to fund four programs, in addition to five already funded by the Friends of George Mason Regional Library, for this year's Summer Reading Program.

As you can see, our organization is off to a great start for the 75th anniversary year of the Fairfax County Library System.

Book Groups at Oakton Library

The **Masterpiece Book Discussion Group**, Oakton Library's newest discussion group, meets once a month (on a Wednesday at 10:30 am) to converse about Great Books—both master works that have become part of the Western Canon, and newer works that address the deepest questions of what it is to be human. In February, members were reading Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

- Mar. 12, 10:30 am – *Longbourn* by Jo Baker

We will return to the Bennet family when we take up the recently published *Longbourn*, by Jo Baker. In this Austen homage, Baker focuses on the personal lives of the servants who do the laundry, cooking, shopping and household tasks that sustain the lifestyle of the Bennet family members.

- Apr. 16 – *Persuasion* by Jane Austen
- May 14 – *Precious Bane* by Jane Webb

The **Mystery Book Club** meets on a Wednesday at 1:00 pm. Join in the monthly unraveling of a whodunit or thriller.

- Mar. 12 – *Busy Bodies* (a Claire Malloy mystery) by Joan Hess
- Apr. 16 – *The Expats* by Chris Pavone
- May 21 – *The Wine of Violence* by Priscilla Royal

Money Matters focuses on personal finance and investing. It meets on the 2nd Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

- Mar. 11 – *The Little Black Book of Behavioral Investing* by James Montier
- Apr. 8 – *25 Stupid Mistakes You Don't Want to Make in the Stock Market* by David Rye.
- May 13 – *How to Read a Financial Report* by John Tracy

Oakton Book Discussion Group meets on a Thursday at 7:00 pm.

- Mar. 27 – *For the Time Being* by Annie Dillard
- Apr. 17 – *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson
- May 15 – *Embers* by Sandor Marai

Library Happenings

Hooray for the return of the printed program guide, "*FREE EVENTS*"! Take one home with you and share it with a neighbor.

75th Anniversary Kids Project: "My Library is special because ..." Children may submit art, poetry or prose on a specially designed entry form, available in library branches or on the web site. Entries accepted Feb 28 – Mar 28, and displayed in libraries and on the web site in April. This is not a contest, it's just for fun! A special 75th Anniversary pencil will be awarded to each child submitting an entry.

The month of **April** will be chock-full of activities, since **National Library Week** is April 13-19. This year's theme is "Lives Change @ Your Library". In addition to our usual offerings, two special events are planned, one for adults and one for children:

- Tues, April 8, 10:30 am: "How Art Influences Our Lives, from Renaissance to Modern Times" presented by a National Gallery of Art docent. (Co-sponsored by Friends of Oakton Library)
- Mon, April 14, 7:00 pm: "Creating Comics with Matt Dembicki" (Funded by Friends of Oakton Library for ages 6-12)

In May the focus turns primarily to preparing for the Summer Reading Program (SRP). Activity begins in earnest with "booktalk" outreach visits to schools. This year's theme is "Paws to Read". We hope to increase our program offerings this summer with as many as one per week if possible; by combining funds available from the Friends of George Mason Regional Library with the Oakton Library Friends, we may be able to accomplish this.

Also in May, mystery author Judy Hogan will speak on Tues., May 6 at 10:30. Come hear the author of *Killer Frost* and *Farm Fresh and Fatal* read selections from her books and poetry. (Co-sponsored by the Friends of Oakton Library.)

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

What We're Reading

Some mini-reviews by members of your Board:

- *The Luminaries*, by Eleanor Catton
Winner of the 2013 Man Booker Prize, this 830 page novel is at once a love story, ghost story, and murder mystery. The 28 year old author has created a complex and richly layered tale, involving a fortune in gold, the mysterious disappearance of a wealthy young man, and the attempted suicide of a beautiful and canny young prostitute in the gold fields of New Zealand in the 1800s. The story unfolds gradually, detail by detail, as 12 lesser characters, each representing an influence of the zodiac, gradually reveal to one another what they know of events. But patience brings rich rewards--this is one of those wonderful novels that is about so much more than the events described. At its conclusion, I was ready to begin again, with a deep appreciation for the gorgeous talent on display and the memorable characters created.

- *No Ordinary Time: Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
Three of us recently read this 1995 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History, thoroughly enjoying it.

- *The Men Who United the States* by Simon Winchester
The Lewis and Clark expedition, the canals to complete waterways, wireless communication, transcontinental railroads to the Internet. Fascinating facts and stories from the time of Thomas Jefferson to the present.

- *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
(PRO) One of my recent favorites. This author manages to write convincingly in the voices of uptown New Yorkers, antique restorers, Vegas con men, art lovers, Russian mobsters, serious drug users, and teens suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It's long, but it's a tour de force. Holden Caulfield, move over!

(CON) The life story of a druggie who makes every choice but the one which common sense would dictate in at least 500 pages more than needed to tell the story.

So give it a read, and tell us what YOU think!

It's Budget Time Again

As you've likely read in the papers, the budget process for Fiscal Year 2015 and beyond has begun for all of Fairfax County.

Information about the proposed budget and about the budgeting process can be found on the Fairfax County web site:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

The detailed budget is available there, as well as an excellent pie chart showing the distribution of funds.

The proposed budget would provide \$27.7 million to the libraries, approximately **0.75%** of the total \$3,704,394,576 total.

The Connection newspapers recently published an analysis of our sister library systems in Northern Virginia:

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2014/feb/20/money-shelves-libraries/>

Fairfax County does not fare well! In the article, both the chart and the story that follows it are interesting.

In recent years, budget cuts have reduced staffing, reduced hours, and reduced the collection. As citizens, we've been effective in the past in speaking up for our libraries. Now it is time to do so again.

The following dates are important. And as always, contact your Supervisor and let him/her know how much you value your library.

- Supervisors' Town Hall Meetings
 - Hunter Mill District (Hudgins) – Sat., March 1, 9:00 am, Frying Pan Park
 - Providence District (Smyth) – Tues., March 18, 7:00 pm, Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring
- Public hearings in the Government Center Board Auditorium:
 - April 8, 6 p.m.
 - April 9, 3 p.m.
 - April 10, 3 p.m.

(Those wishing to speak at a public hearing can [sign up online](#) to place their name on the speakers list or contact the [Office of the Clerk to the Board](#) at 703-324-3151. You can also provide feedback/comments on the proposed budget through mid-April at dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov.)

- Formal adoption of the budget by Board of Supervisors is **April 29**.



FCPL is Celebrating a Milestone Birthday!

As noted in several articles in this newsletter, 2014 is the Diamond Anniversary for the Fairfax County Library System!

Commemorative diamond anniversary library cards (shown above) are available at the Library.

More information about the anniversary, including early photographs of the library and information about the early history, can be found at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/anniversary.htm>.

**Thank you to all who shop at our
Ongoing Book Sale.**
These books can be found year-round
on the shelves in the foyer as well as
around the corner (near the DVDs.)
The Friends earned over \$2,500 from
these sales in 2013.
THANK YOU!!

Friends of Oakton Library Board - 2014



Front row: Barbara Hippe, Corinne Savage, Jim Milstead, Fred Pitman
Back row: Ralph Tener, Carole Dowd, Jackie Giovannelli, Linda Byrne,
Jane Sharnoff, Carol Fay, and Tooley Milstead

Winter Holiday Open House – December 2013



Entertainment by Chalet Brass and Oakton's own Jerilyn Polson



Holiday story time!



Refreshments for all



Membership Chair Jackie Giovannelli at her station!

Spring 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 Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 pm. Call for appointment..
- The Library will be **closed** on Monday, May 26.

Mon., Mar. 3, Apr. 7, May 5 – 3:30 pm – **Brain Games: Intergenerational**. Bring your friend, your grandparent, or your grandchild. (Age 6 up.)

Wed., Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7 – 10:30 am – **Small Wonders** Short stories for you and your child. (13-23 months.)

Sat., Mar. 8, Apr. 19, May 17 – 10:30 am – **Saturday Storytime** (Ages 2-5 with an adult)

Tues., Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13 – 7:00 to 8:30 pm – **Money Matters**. Book discussion; See p. 3.

Wed., Mar. 12, Apr. 9, Apr. 30, May 14, May 28 – 10:30 am **Toddler Tales**. (Age 2-3 with adult.)

Wed., Mar. 12, Apr. 16, May 14 – 10:30 am – **Masterpiece Book Group**. See article on p. 2.

Wed., Mar. 12, Apr. 16, May 21 – 1:00 pm – **Mystery Book Club**. See article on page 2.

Thurs., Mar. 20 to Sat., Mar. 22 – **Book Sale**

Wed., Mar. 26 – 10:30 – **Rhyming Storytime** (Age 3-5 with an adult)

Thurs., Mar. 27, Apr. 17, May 15 – 7:00 pm – **Oakton Book Discussion**. See page 2.

Tues., Apr. 8 – 10:30 am – **How Art Influences Our Lives** with Marney Kennedy, NGA docent.

Mon., Apr. 14 – 7:00 pm – **Creating Comics with Matt Dembicki** (Age 6-12)

Tues., Apr. 15, May 20 – 7:30 pm – **Board Meeting** of the Friends of Oakton Library.

Tues., May 6 – 10:30 am – **Mystery Author Judy Hogan** will read. (Adults)

Yes, Count Me as a Friend

It's not too late -- renew your membership now 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.

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!