



September 2015
Newsletter

Oakton, VA

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

Fall Book Sale – Volunteers Needed!

Our Fall Book sale is fast approaching. The donations of used books have come in steadily through the summer, so we'll have a great selection of books.

Thank you to our loyal team of **book sorters** who have processed and packed several hundred boxes of books in preparation for the sale. This work continues each day that the Library is open!

Now it is time for the rest of us to step up and help with the sale itself. So please respond to the requests for volunteers. Or email Carole Dowd if you have not volunteered before. (cdowd2000@verizon.net)

Here are the dates:

- Sat, Sept. 19** **Set-up Day**
- Thu, Sept. 24** **Book Sale**
- Fri, Sept. 25** **Book Sale**
- Sat, Sept 26** **Book Sale and Cleanup**

**Deadline for book donations –
Saturday, September 12**

**Please do not leave donations
outside the Library entrance.**

Thank you to all who have donated!

VolunteerFest – Outdoor Work Day at the Library

As part of National Make a Difference Day, Fairfax County VolunteerFest and Providence District VolunteerFest, the Friends of Oakton Library will hold an outdoor work day at the Library. Mark the date:

Saturday, October 24, 9:00 – 11:00 am

At several locations around the Library, invasive vines, weeds, and small trees are encroaching on the property and overrunning some lovely holly trees. We intend to clear the invasives out. The Park Authority has agreed to pick up our clippings and debris. So this is a golden opportunity to make a huge difference on the property.

Those who wish to volunteer (age 14 and older) should send an email to FriendsOfOaktonLibrary@gmail.com or call Ann Balch (703-242-7277).

Wear long sleeves and long pants, bring gloves, clippers or loppers, and water. We will attempt to mark any poison ivy. There will be other jobs (weeding and trash pickup) for those who are highly sensitive.

Come join your neighbors on a nice fall day!

National Book Festival

The 15th annual **Library of Congress National Book Festival** will take place Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015, at the Washington Convention Center. [Click here for information.](#)

Meet the Staff – Comings & Goings

-- Carol Fay

The Oakton Library announces three recent staff additions. Lauren Neal is now the library's Youth Services Manager and the two new Information Assistants are Yehualashet Abebe and Joyce Fitzpatrick.

Lauren Neal, who received a graduate degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh, comes to Oakton from Wilmington, North Carolina, where she was a librarian at a school of the arts. In her full-time position as Youth Services Manager, Lauren coordinates all programs for children and teens, helps develop the system collection for this same audience, and supervises Youth Services Assistant, Renee Costello. She also reaches out to schools and

community groups to foster cooperation and better serve the youth in our area.



Since joining the Oakton staff in April, Lauren has been busy with youth programs. One recent week saw her conducting a Lego Program with 37 children and their

parents. Lauren says she enjoys “seeing parents bonding not only with the kids but with each other.” Later that week Lauren conducted two sessions of Small Wonders, working with toddlers 13-23 months old. In her time away from the library, Lauren’s favorite pastime is spending time with her five-year-old son, Marley.

In June **Yehualashet Abebe** was promoted from Library Aide at Oakton to the position of Information Assistant.

Yehuala has worked in various libraries in the United States and in her native country, Ethiopia. She earned a master’s degree in library science at Belarus State University in Europe.



As Information Assistant, Yehuala says, “I enjoy helping people with varying personalities and educational

backgrounds to access information and resources.” She values intellectual freedom and loves working with changing technologies. Yehuala feels it is important to constantly “sharpen my skills and stay current in the profession.” Yehuala is married and has two children. She enjoys gaining knowledge and finding relaxation through reading, travel and cooking.

Joyce Fitzpatrick was promoted to Information



Assistant at Oakton in April after working for ten years in Circulation at two other Fairfax County branches. After graduating from Queen’s College in New York, Joyce worked in publishing and as a purchasing agent, but she says she kept returning to her interest in library

science.

As Information Assistant, Joyce greets patrons at the information desk, helping them find books and introducing them to online resources. She also assists with room reservations and programs. Joyce says that her favorite part of the job is “the satisfaction I get from helping people get what they need.” Joyce and her husband live in Burke and have three children. Joyce’s hobbies are reading, meditation, walking, swimming, classical music, travel and cooking.

Meanwhile, we congratulate and send our best wishes to **Amanda Post** who, after a short time at Oakton Library as Assistant Branch Manager, has been appointed Branch Manager at Herndon Fortnightly Library. We’ll miss you, Amanda!

Tweet! Tweet!

Our feathered friends wish to thank the **Neascu family** (Alexandra and her dad Valentin) for keeping their feeders full of tasty treats!



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Fairfax Library Foundation Scholarship Recipient – Renee Costello

Congratulations to staff member Renee Costello who was recently awarded a scholarship toward her Masters of Library Science degree at the University of North Texas by the Fairfax Library Foundation.

Several other Oakton Library staffers have received Foundation scholarships and grants in the past, including Nancy Bronez, Aliya Parvez, Delia Ullberg.

The Friends of Oakton Library as well as many of our individual members make annual contributions to the Fairfax Library Foundation. We're delighted to see that our library staff members can benefit!

Scholarships are available to library staff and volunteers for an undergraduate degree or Masters in Library Science. Or a staff member or volunteer may apply for aid for a single career development program or course. Residents of Fairfax County interested in Library Science are also eligible to apply for these awards.

More information can be found on the Foundation's web site:
<http://www.fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/>

Fairfax Library Foundation Announces 2015 Jubilee

A Library Jubilee!

A Library Jubilee! is the Fairfax Library Foundation's premier annual fundraising event, and we are excited to announce that the 7th annual Jubilee will be held Saturday, October 17, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the [Woodrow Wilson Library](#) in Falls Church, Virginia. This beautifully remodeled branch is the perfect location to host our celebration of the Fairfax County Public Library--and we hope you will join us!

Save the date!

Fall for the Book Sunday, September 27 to Saturday, October 3

Information from the Fall for the Book website:

"Fall for the Book is a seven day festival, running from September 27-October 3, 2015. We hope you'll join us and over 150 authors in the wonderful D.C. metro region.

All Fall for the Book events are free and open to the public, thanks to sponsors including George Mason University, Mason's Barnes & Noble Bookstore, NOVEC, the Fairfax County Public Library, and other generous businesses and organizations. Events are held on George Mason University's Fairfax, Virginia Campus and at select locations throughout Northern Virginia, DC, and Maryland. [Click here](#) for our updated list of authors.

Reservations are sold out for the VIP reception for Diana Gabaldon, but tickets are still available for the VIP receptions to meet Ernest J. Gaines and Tim O'Brien before their readings. Seats are available for each reading on a first-come, first-served basis. To guarantee advance seats before that date and to receive tickets to VIP receptions, please consider becoming a [Friend of Fall for the Book](#).

National Book Award-winning novelist **Tim O'Brien** will accept Fall for the Book's highest honor, the Fairfax Prize, on the festival's closing night, Saturday, October 3, at Harris Theater on Mason's Fairfax campus, where he will speak with Stephen Goodwin, professor of writing at Mason, about O'Brien's experiences in Vietnam and how they led to his writing *The Things They Carried*."

Note: The Friends of Oakton Library annually supports Fall for the Book. This fall, one event, **Meet Author Jonathan Horn**, political commentator and author of *The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision That Changed American History*, will be held at Oakton Library on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 7:00 pm.

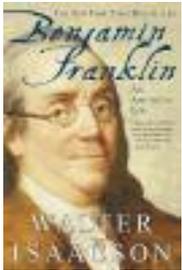
See a full event calendar at <http://fallforthebook.org/schedule/>.

Book Review – Fred Pitman

Benjamin Franklin – An American Life

by Walter Isaacson

Available from the library in print, eBook, audio eBook and audio-CD formats.



In an era when the average life expectancy from birth was about 40 years and most adults who survived infancy and childhood disease might expect to live to their 60's, Ben Franklin lived to the age of 84. But what is so interesting is not the length of his life but the many, many different

things he accomplished during those 84 years.

Many people are familiar with at least some of the details of Franklin's life: he started as a printer; his business included the publication of *Poor Richard's Almanac* and, like many printers of the day, also created a newspaper (the *Pennsylvania Gazette*; still published today.) He was appointed Deputy Postmaster for the colonies, creating a postal system so efficient that mail between New York and Philadelphia was delivered in one day.

At age 42, Franklin retired from the day-to-day printing business to focus more on his scientific interests and social improvements. Although Franklin did discover that lightning was a form of electricity, Isaacson notes that Franklin was more of an inventor than a pure scientist. His work was concentrated on the development of practical devices, which included the lightning rod, the Franklin stove, and bifocals. In the area of social improvements, Franklin helped create a subscription library, a volunteer fire company, a hospital and a college (today, the University of Pennsylvania.)

By the 1750's, Franklin was participating in many of the political discussions and meetings related to the problems with England, and eventually, the Declaration of Independence and war. Franklin's diplomatic assignments played a key role in obtaining support from France and then in negotiating the Paris peace treaty. Later, he participated in the Constitutional Convention, and in his 80's was elected President of the Pennsylvania Legislature for three terms.

Isaacson also delves into the anguish of Franklin's dysfunctional family life and the complexities of his relationships.

Isaacson's biography will probably surprise you with the vast number of technical and social improvements and the many political and diplomatic roles that Franklin played in the colonial period and early U.S history. One of the more interesting parts of the book are Isaacson's "what if" speculations: What if Franklin had become a minister as his family initially hoped? What if Franklin had remained in the printing business and not pursued his scientific interests? What if Franklin had not gotten involved in politics and the diplomatic service?

Walter Isaacson is a former *Time* magazine editor and is the author of the books *Kissinger*, *Einstein*, *Steve Jobs*, and – recently – *The Innovators*, along with other biographical studies.

Advocacy on Behalf of the Library

-- Tooley Milstead and Corinne Savage

Following several years of budget cuts to the funding of Fairfax County Public Library, patrons of the library and members of Friends' organizations across the County have joined together to raise awareness and communicate to County Supervisors the need for additional support.

Staffing vacancies, collection shortfalls, and reduced hours have prompted two organizations, **Fairfax Library Advocates** and **Invest in Fairfax**, to hold meetings this past spring in the hope of influencing Supervisors to increase funding of services, including FCPL.

Unfortunately, the Board of Supervisors voted in April to approve the FY2016 budget without increasing funds for library services. Both organizations will continue to meet with members of the Board of Supervisors to voice budget concerns. A future newsletter will have more on this subject.

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

Note: For September and October, multiple books have been selected. Participants may choose one or more to read. Summaries and notes for all books will be presented.

September

- *Big Data Revolution: what farmers, doctors and insurance agents teach us about discovering big data patterns* by Rob Thomas;
- *Big Data: a revolution that will transform how we live, work and think* by Victor Mayer-Schonberger

October - The discussion will focus on how money affects our lives. Read one of these books:

- *Blue Chip Kids: what every child (and parent) should know about money, investing and the stock market* by David Bianchi;
- *Happy Money: the science of smarter spending* by Elizabeth Dunn;
- *Picture Your Prosperity: smart money moves to turn your vision into reality* by Ellen Rogin;
- *Resilient Investor: a plan for your life, not just your money* by Hal Brill.

November -- *Dear Investor, What the Hell Are You Doing? Smart and Easy Ways to Fix the Mistakes You Make With Your Money* by Ken Weber.

Mystery Book Club

September – *Art of Deception* by Ridley Pearson

October – *August Heat* by Andrea Camillien

November. – No meeting

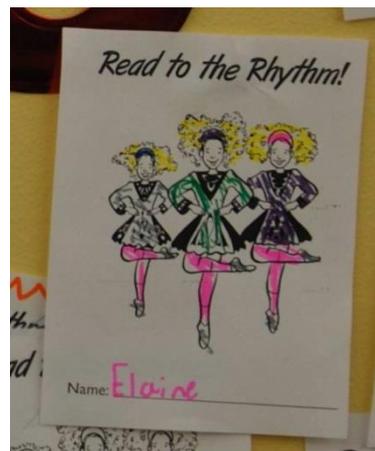
Oakton Book Discussion Group

September – *Orphan Train* by Cristina Baker Kline

October – *Nora Webster* by Colm Toibin

November – *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Caron McCullers

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)



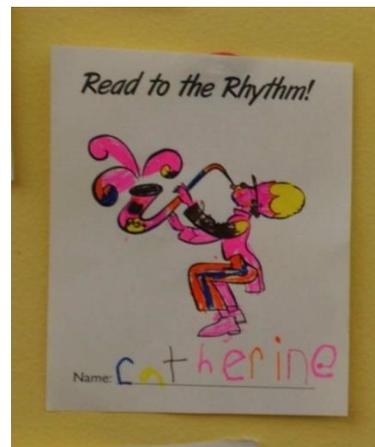
New Programs

Several new programs will be offered at the library this fall:

- Canasta for adults
- Yoga Storytime for the youngsters
- Playdate Café, which features toys and playspace for children, and coffee and conversation for grownups. No registration needed.
- National Grandparents' Day Celebration
- S.T.E.A.M. Storytime, focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math concepts for age 3-5.

Check "New" listings in the calendar on page 7.

Also two sessions of the popular program **Small Wonders** will now be offered.



Summer Reading Program – A Huge Success

The Fairfax County Summer Reading Program (SRP), “Read to the Rhythm”, was a big hit with Oakton’s young people. As of Aug. 24, 617 children and 33 teens completed the program, receiving a coupon book including a coupon usable at our Fall Book Sale and ongoing sale. (There is still time to finish before the deadline, September 5th.) In addition, numerous programs, generously co-sponsored by the Friends of George Mason Regional Library, attracted crowds of youngsters.



Even the animals got rhythm!



Renee Costello shows The Wall of Finishers.



Music and dance from Latin America with Andres Salguero



Robin Hood and his Band



Kindercise with John Taylor -- Happy Feet!

Fall 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 English conversation** -- by appointment most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 1:30 pm.
- **Group English conversation** -- Mondays at 10:30 am on Sept. 14, Oct. 19 and 26, Nov. 9 and 30.
- **Computer One-on-One tutoring** in Internet Basics, E-mail, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint -- Tuesdays at 11:00 am on Sept. 1 and 8, Oct. 6 and 13, Nov. 3, 10 and 17.
- **eBook/eReader instruction** -- Wednesdays at 10:30 am on Sept. 2 and 9, Oct. 7 and 14, Nov. 4.
- **Master Gardeners' Plant Clinic** -- most Saturdays through September beginning at 10:00 am.
- **New! Canasta group** -- weekly on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm. (Adults)
- All libraries will be **closed** on these dates: Sun.-Mon. Sept 6-7, Mon. Oct. 12, Wed. Nov. 11, Thurs-Fri. Nov. 26-27.

Tues., Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 – 7:00 pm – **New! Yoga Storytime.** Join us for bedtime stories, stretching and simple yoga poses. Bring a mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing. (Age 4-8).

Wed., Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 – 10:30 am – **Duplo: Read! Build! Play!** (Age 18-36 months with an adult.) 🍌

Tues., Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 – 7:00 pm – **Money Matters.** Book discussion focused on personal finance and investing. (See page 5 for the books.)

Wed., Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 18 – 10:30 **and** 11:30 am – **Small Wonders.** Short stories for you and your child. (Age 13-23 months with an adult.)

Wed., Sept. 9, Oct. 14 – 1:00 pm – **Mystery Book Club** (Adults; See page 5 for the books.)

Sat., Sept. 12 – 10:30 am – **New! National Grandparents Day Celebration.** Grandparents are invited to bring their grandchildren for a Grandparents Day celebration, which will include storytime and craft-making. To participate in craft, families are encouraged to bring a picture of themselves. (Age 3-7 with an adult.)

Mon., Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 9 – 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., Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 – 7:30 pm – **Board Meeting, Friends of Oakton Library.**

Wed., Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 25 – 10:30 am – **Toddler Tales.** (Age 2-3 with an adult.)

Thurs., Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 – 7:00 pm – **Oakton Book Discussion** (Adults; See page 5 for the books.)

Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 24-26 – **Book Sale !!** 🍌

Tues, Sept. 29, Thurs, Oct. 29, Tues, Nov. 24 – 7:00 pm -- **Pajama Party Storytime.** (Age 2-5)

Wed., Sept. 30, Oct. 28 – 10:30 am **New! Playdate Café.** Toys and Playspace for children. Coffee and Conversation for grownups. No registration needed. (Ages birth-5)

Thurs., Oct. 1 – 7:00 pm – **Meet Author Jonathan Horn,** political commentator and author of *The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision That Changed American History.* Books available for sale and signing. Cosponsored by **Fall for the Book.** No registration needed. (Adults and teens)

Sat., Oct. 24 – 9:00 am – **VolunteerFest Outdoor Workday.** 🍌

Mon. Nov. 2 – 7:00 pm – **Meet Author Phyllis Lawson.** Join Ms. Lawson for a discussion of her heart-wrenching and inspiring memoir *Quilt of Souls.* The book tells the story of hard-working black women whose valiant efforts to hold their families together is symbolized by her grandmother's cherished quilt. (Adults) 🍌

Mon., Nov. 16 – 1:00 pm – **New! S.T.E.A.M. Storytime.** EXPLORE THE WORLD! Stories, songs and rhymes introducing Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math concepts! (Age 3-5)

Mon., Nov. 16 – 4:30 pm – **Brain Games.** Come and play chess and other fun strategy games such as `Blokus, Battleship, and Rush Hour. No registration needed. (Age 6 and up)

🍌 Sponsored or co-sponsored by Friends of Oakton 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

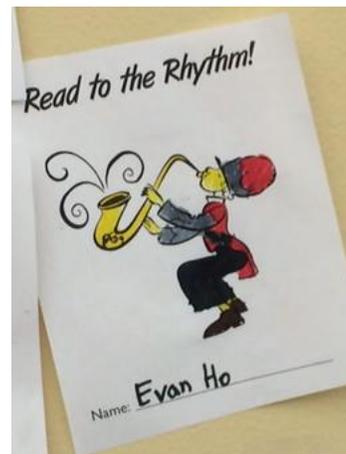
FOL is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible.

Thank you!

Remember --

Get an early start on your Holiday shopping
or find a good book to read now that the
kids have gone back to school!

Visit our **Ongoing Book Sale** in the
lobby of the Library and around the
corner near the Library's media stacks.



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

