

# Show of Hands



Fairfax County Public Library  
Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2009

## Star Quality

The Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees honored 23 individuals and two community service partners at its annual Star Volunteer Awards ceremony on April 7 at the George Mason Regional Library. "Tonight we recognize one of our community's greatest assets — the volunteers of the Fairfax County Public Library," Charles Fegan, chair of the library's Board of Trustees told the audience.

Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross (Mason District) also addressed the audience explaining that in tight budget times, volunteers are needed more than ever.

"Volunteers are not paid — not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless," she said.

Virginia House of Delegates member Mark Sickles emceed the festivities, which included special recognition to Interstate Worldwide Relocation and Southland Concrete who assisted in moving and creating bases for the Art in the Pages book statutes that are now placed outside library branches. The Fairfax Library Foundation coordinated the project.

Individual volunteers were recognized for both length of service and exceptional service.



*James McDonnell from Worldwide Relocation (far left) and Greg Kohlhaas from Southland Concrete (far right) receive community service plaques from Charles Fegan and Delegate Mark Sickles at the Star Volunteer recognition on April 7.*



*Hayley Lawrence, who teaches Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint to library customers at the Woodrow Wilson Library, received recognition for exceptional service.*



*David Hegeler was honored for organizing the gaming program at the Patrick Henry Library. He has organized more than 40 gaming programs that attract teens to the branch.*

## Community Service Partner Awards

Interstate Worldwide Relocation

Southland Concrete

### Star Volunteer Honorees

**3,000  
Hours**

Bette Behringer, PO

**1,000  
Hours**

Pat Barber, FX  
Mary Bogdan, KN  
Patricia Burns, FX  
Kathe Gunther, FX

**Exceptional  
Service**

Priya D'Souza, FX  
Robert D'Souza, FX  
Carol Dickerson, JM  
Denise Dorn, Tech Ops

Wally Mack, TY  
Lynn Mobley, GF  
Emma Montgomery, SH  
Albert Opp, SH

David Hegeler, PH  
Joan Kane, Foundation  
Hayley Lawrence, WW  
Justin Panuski, SH

Gail Osberg, RR  
Almetha Powell, KN  
Barbara Swartchick, TJ

Lupita Parra, WW  
Robert Teachy, WW  
Shirley Wisotsky, KP

## Woodrow Wilson's Chess Masters



**Volunteer Robert Teachey poses with Woodrow Wilson Library's first-class chess players and their trophies (Photo: Kay Karim).**

While there are many wonderful volunteers at the Woodrow Wilson Library, the branch is home to two special volunteers, Robert Teachey and Stuart Feldstein, who come in each week to assist an after-school chess program. The activity is open to any child who wants to learn and/or play. There is no pre-registration and as many as 20 children sometimes crowd into our meeting room to concentrate on a couple hours of solid play.

The two spearheading our chess club are patient, intelligent, wonderful adult volunteers who truly enjoy both chess and the children they teach and play against.

Recently, a group of WW chess players participated in a tournament held at Graham Park Middle School in Falls Church and brought home fourth- and fifth-place trophies. They and their parents give much of the credit to these two volunteers who have instructed and played against them. In particular, Teachey visited the branch specifically to prep the youngsters for the competition. He made time in a busy schedule to ensure the youngsters had knowledge they needed to prepare for the tournament.

These two men are just a few of the volunteers that make Woodrow Wilson both a library and a community center. We look forward to seeing them weekly and rely on their expertise and willingness to help us maintain excellent service to the residents of Fairfax County.

Chess Club is held every Tuesday from 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. There is no sign-up, and any child aged 6-12 who would like to learn or play is welcome.

— Josie Gillis, Woodrow Wilson Library

## Scholarships for FCPL Volunteers

To both help enhance Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) and express appreciation to dedicated volunteers who contribute valuable time and expertise, continuing education scholarships are available through the Fairfax Library Foundation's Friends Scholarship Fund.

The Friends Scholarship Fund provides several full or partial scholarships a year ranging from \$150 to \$1,000 to support the continuing education of individuals within FCPL. Applications are accepted and scholarships issued twice a year. Applications will be accepted with closing dates of June 15 and December 15 each year for events taking place six months before or after the closing date chosen.

Scholarship applications and forms are available online at [www.FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org). If you have any questions about any aspect of the application process, or to contribute to the Friends Scholarship Fund, call the foundation at 703-324-8300; e-mail [info@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org](mailto:info@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org); or see the Web site above. Mail applications and donations to: Fairfax Library Foundation 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 329, Fairfax, VA 22035.

FAIRFAX LIBRARY  
*Foundation*



## Interlibrary Loan Volunteer Denise Dorn: A Profile

Recently the Fairfax County Public Library began offering items in its collection to borrowers in other library systems throughout the country through its Interlibrary Loan Office. Library users had just begun to discover FCPL holdings in the WorldCat database when Denise Dorn attended the interlibrary loan (ILL) "boot camp" workshop offered by staffers Susan Bleistein and Sue Williams. Denise thought the work of ILL sounded interesting and inquired about volunteering. Now, six months later, Denise is a thoroughly expert and efficient one-woman lending department within ILL. She is also our star volunteer.

Denise received a M.L.S. degree from Catholic University in 2007 and became a 12-hour Librarian I first at Richard Byrd then at Herndon. She has also given approximately 30 hours per month as a volunteer in ILL.

On the day she was interviewed for this article, Denise shared that she was working with 62 requests to lend FCPL items. For the most part, the requests are from libraries in Virginia. The other requests come from a mix of the other 49 states. Half of the requests were deflected because the materials are from the Virginia Room or on order or too new

to be circulated outside of FCPL. Denise plucked eight of the eligible requests from the shelves of the Chantilly Regional Library and placed holds on 24 other titles. Our star volunteer processes the items for lending, mails them, checks them in when they are returned, tracks overdue and recall items that are mostly mystery, romance and sci-fi paperbacks, and not surprisingly in these stressful times, economics and self-help titles.

Denise finds fun and reward in her volunteer activity in the Interlibrary Loan Office. We are grateful to her for her generous gift of time, expertise, and excellent judgment.



**Interlibrary Loan Department volunteer Denise Dorn recently received over 60 requests for FCPL material in one day.**

— Betsy Keefe, Technical Operations



*Mary Pajewski celebrates 25 years volunteering at the circulation desk at the Kings Park Library.*

## Volunteer Celebrates 25 Years of Service

This year marks Mary Pajewski's 25th anniversary volunteering at the Kings Park Library in Burke. During her time at the branch, Mary has volunteered weekly at the circulation desk, balancing the time with her job over the years in the ophthalmology department at Fairfax Hospital and Inova Health System.

Her enthusiasm and love of the library is evident in the excellent customer service she provides to all our customers, but especially to the children. The entire staff finds her a delight to work with and appreciates her expertise in handling the numerous changes in circulation services over the years. We hope Mary will continue volunteering at Kings Park for many more years to come. In addition to her remarkable dedication and commitment, we enjoy hearing her beautiful Polish accent. She truly is an exceptional lady!

— Karen Donahue, Kings Park Library

## Bonnie Rupp Memorial Reading Program

A memorial was recently established in memory of Bonnie Rupp, a volunteer with the library's Early Literacy Outreach Program, who enriched Pine Spring Elementary School near Thomas Jefferson Library with her excellent programs, teaching expertise and everlasting love of reading. Her husband and family have established a memorial fund in her honor, which will lovingly continue her work with children.

Bonnie was one of the library's Early Literacy Outreach volunteers who visit schools, preschools and Head Start programs in a library branch's service area to get young children interested in reading and help parents and caregivers get their children ready to read.

Sometimes the person conveys the message best. Bonnie's professionalism is evident in an excerpt from an e-mail report sent to library staff on Thanksgiving Day, 2008 — 15 days before her death.

"Hi, Irene and Renee,

Today I read to the Head Start students at Pine Spring Elementary. There were 14 children and two adults. This class of 4-year olds and newly 5-year olds speaks limited English. I left 17 copies of the board book, *Max's Toys* by Rosemary Wells ... I wished them a Happy Thanksgiving from FCPL. We sang the 'Good-bye Song.' Happy Thanksgiving!  
Bonnie"

The Bonnie Rupp Memorial Reading Program was established to help young children who need special reading support. The Fairfax Library Foundation will administer this program. Tax deductible contributions can be mailed to:

Bonnie Rupp Memorial Reading Program/ FLF Fairfax Library Foundation 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 329 Fairfax, VA 22035.

— Helen Critchfield, Thomas Jefferson Library

## Library Volunteers Gain County-Wide Recognition

On April 24, several library volunteers were honored during the 17th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. These awards were established to celebrate the contributions volunteers make to improve the quality of life in our community. Library volunteers that received recognition include Pohick teen volunteers **Rana Suliman** and **Yena Hong**, John Marshall volunteer **Carol Dickerson**, Sherwood volunteers **Janet Jacobi** and **Sheila Sheehan**, and Library Foundation volunteer **Joan Kane**.

**Stuart Feldstein**, a volunteer with the Woodrow Wilson Chess Club (see related article on p.2), was selected by Mason

District Supervisor Penny Gross as a Community Champion.

To read more about the contributions of these volunteers, visit the library's Web site. ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library))



*Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross (Mason District) with Community Champion Stuart Feldstein, a volunteer with the Woodrow Wilson Chess Club.*

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# Volunteer Opportunities at the Fairfax County Public Library

The Fairfax County Public Library is recruiting volunteers. Please help us advertise our opportunities by sharing this list with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, schools, clubs or places of worship – wherever someone may be able to help.

## Spring 2009

### Alexandria

**Adopt-a-Shelf or pull hold requests** off the shelves at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Good attention to detail required and some computer skills preferred; Put your skills and creativity to work. We especially welcome those willing to put their hands to work **mending books, straightening items** on our shelves or **tending our garden**. We're also looking for **folks with an MLS degree** to work with our customers at the information desk. Contact David Hanlon at 703-765-3645; [David.Hanlon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:David.Hanlon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Annandale

Keep us organized! Volunteers are needed to **shelve books** at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike. Must be 16 years or older and be able to work 1-2 hours per week for a minimum of four months. Contact Chris Duggan at 703-256-3800 or [Christopher.Duggan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Christopher.Duggan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Burke

Volunteers needed to **sort and shelve carts** in the picture books area, straightening the shelves as needed. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road. Contact Matt Major or John McGillvray at 703-644-7333; [Matthew.Major@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Matthew.Major@fairfaxcounty.gov); [John.Mcgillvray@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:John.Mcgillvray@fairfaxcounty.gov). **Adopt-a-Shelf** volunteers are also needed. Duties include reading the spine labels, determining which books need mending, pulling books that belong to other branches and reshelving books that are out of order. Attention to detail is required. Contact Florence Whipple at 703-644-7333; [Florence.Whipple@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Florence.Whipple@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Centreville

Volunteers are needed to **shelve books** and **assist with various circulation functions** including checking in books and processing materials returned to the branch. Contact Al Brown at 703-830-2223; [Alphonzo.Brown@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Alphonzo.Brown@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Chantilly

Can you spare an hour or two a week to help us get the books where they belong? Volunteers are needed to **sort carts and shelve books** at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. We also have many shelves in need of adopting! **Adopt-a-Shelf** volunteers make sure books are in the correct location, determine if books are in need of repair, and pull books that belong to other branches. This is a great family volunteer opportunity with a flexible schedule. Contact Elizabeth Rhodes at 703-502-3883; [Elizabeth.Rhodes@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Rhodes@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Kingstowne

**Shelve and shelf read** in the children's picture book/juvenile fiction area at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Contact Melanie Erhart at 703-339-4610; [Melanie.Erhart@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Melanie.Erhart@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Oakton

The Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, is seeking volunteers for a variety of positions including:  
**Adopt-a-Shelf** – duties include reading spine labels, reshelving books that are out of order, pulling books that belong to other branches and determining which books need mending;  
**circulation support** – complete customer maintenance; weed paperbacks; place carts in order; search for items to be reserved for library customers; mend books and magazines;  
**reserved books assistant** – check in items received, capture customer information; place items on assigned shelves at holds pickup; remove and route expired reserves;  
**page** volunteers – put carts in order, shelve paperbacks, edge and dust shelves, shelf read, shelve cart and set up the meeting room;  
**library aide** – work at the circulation desk checking books in and out and providing other customer service;  
**mender** – mend library materials so they can be used by the public;  
**meeting room maintenance** – group of volunteers needed to clean and provide other maintenance to furniture in the library's meeting room.

Each volunteer opportunity requires different skill levels, experience and time commitment. Contact Mary Medina at 703-242-4010, [Mary.Medina@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Mary.Medina@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Vienna

Volunteers are needed to **tutor adult ESL customers**. Must be 18 years old and have some experience teaching non-English speakers and good interpersonal skills. Contact Marcia Ferreira at 703-938-0405; [Marcia.Ferreira@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Marcia.Ferreira@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Other volunteer opportunities may be available as well and training is available for all positions. For more information, contact the branch/department where you are interested in volunteering. For a list of volunteer coordinators and their contact information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Then click on "Do You Know...How to Volunteer at the Library?"**



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