

# Show of Hands



Fairfax County Public Library  
Volunteer Newsletter

Winter 2009

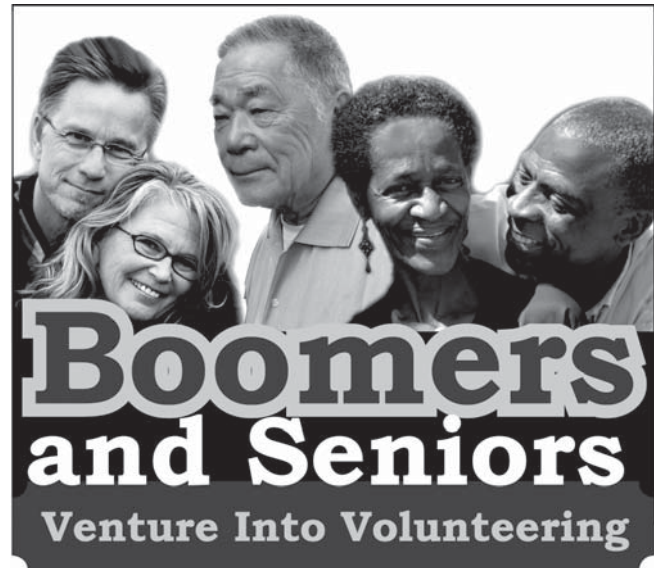
## Volunteer Fair for Older Adults

**B**aby boomers, retirees and seniors are invited to attend the Venture into Volunteering Fair on March 5, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, Va. Fairfax County Supervisor Michael Frey (Sully District) will offer opening remarks.

Attendees will have the chance to visit with area non-profit groups and county agencies that are in need of volunteers. "During these tough financial times, many organizations are especially in need of volunteers. Older adults have a wealth of experience and talents that can really benefit local agencies," said event co-organizer Erin Chernisky.

The event has won a national award for the collaboration and successful connection of more than 600 volunteers with 70-plus agencies and non-profit groups. More than 20 agencies and groups will provide representatives to discuss their current volunteer opportunities. Door prizes and light refreshments will be served.

This event is sponsored by: Fairfax County Public Library, the Department of Family Services' Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, Volunteer Fairfax and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. The grand prize will be provided by the Fairfax Library Foundation. For more information contact: Trina Mayhan-Webb at 703-704-6075 or via e-mail: [Trina.Mayhan-Webb@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Trina.Mayhan-Webb@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## VolunteerFest 2008



Michael Rose, Nancy Davis, Marsha White, John Lanzerotta, Natalie Mills, Milly Rose and Ed Kringer (back row) donated their time during VolunteerFest at the Burke Centre Library.

**O**n October 25, 2008 several library branches excitedly welcomed community volunteers as part of the 14th annual VolunteerFest, a county-wide day of service, sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax. During this one-day event 75 volunteers contributed nearly 300 hours of service at three branches. At John Marshall Library volunteers worked inside giving the library a good cleaning, leaving everything from book carts to computer tables sparkling. Outside, volunteers were hard at work beautifying the grounds, spreading mulch, weeding and planting flowers. Boy Scout Troop 118 and Girl Scout Junior Troop 425 were among the volunteers.

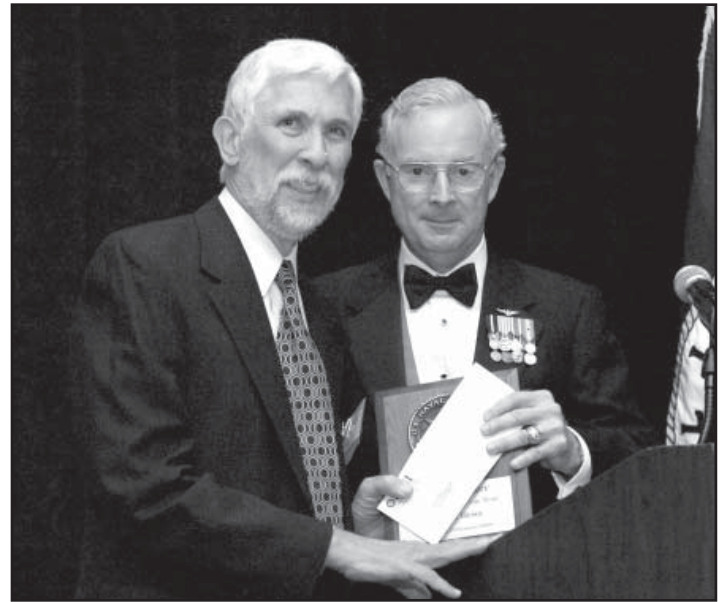
At Pohick Regional Library volunteers worked under the direction of the branch's Master Gardener, volunteer **Karen Knopes**, removing invasive plants. At the Burke Centre Library, volunteers worked inside organizing the children's section and pulling books for circulation reports. Thanks to all who participated!

## Virginia Room Volunteer Honored

Virginia Room volunteer **Alan Rems**, a retired Mobil employee and genealogist, was honored by the U.S. Naval Institute in October for his article "Halsey Knows the Straight Story," which appeared in the August 2008 issue of *Naval History*. Using the Marine Corps Archives at Quantico, Rems discovered unpublished letters that formed the basis of his article about the command history of the I Marine Amphibious Corps.

Each year, the U.S. Naval Institute, a 135-year-old non-profit organization that publishes books and two magazines, selects the best writings for first, second and third-place awards. Rems was selected for a first place award, which included a check for \$5,000 for his article.

Rems has volunteered at the Virginia Room for the past several years preparing bibliographies. His resources on continental European, German and Jewish genealogy resources can be found on the library's Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Click on Library Branches, Virginia Room and then scroll to Genealogy.



Virginia Room volunteer Alan Rems (left) receives the "2008 Author of the Year Award" for an article which appeared in *Naval History* magazine, published by the U.S. Naval Institute. Major General Thomas L. Wilkerson, USMC (Retired), the CEO of the USNI presented the award.

## Volunteers Help Create Memorial Garden

Thanks to collaboration between staff and volunteers, a beautiful young magnolia graces Chantilly Regional Library's new memorial garden honoring the branch's friend and colleague Kathy Tewell, who was lost to cancer last year. The volunteers involved in the project included one of Kathy's friends, **Teri O'Brien**, our Master Gardener, who worked with staff to develop a design for an area just outside our lunchroom; circulation volunteer **Dave Littman**; and a group of 12 from **Neiman-Marcus**, who discovered the project through the Volunteer Fairfax Web site. With support and inspiration (not to mention a hot lunch!) provided by library staff, these civic-minded volunteers came out on a cold and windy October day to help create a small, public memorial to a very private, but much-loved colleague.

Assistant Circulation Manager Afaf Guttri, who knew Kathy for nearly 15 years, was the guiding force behind Kathy's garden, although she insists that Kathy's spirit must have been at work to bring the project together so beautifully. Kathy Tewell helped to open Chantilly in 1995 and was assistant branch manager here when she died in December 2007. After Kathy's death, staff knew at once that a memory garden would be the perfect way to remember Kathy, to reflect her love of people and plants and honor her natural instinct as a caretaker. With support from Branch Managers Bonnie Worcester and Daria Parnes, and generous funding provided by the Chantilly Friends, Teri and Afaf chose the magnolia to symbolize Kathy's grace and strength. Serviceberry, lilacs, nandina and boxwoods add color and will help attract birds, while flowering annuals and perennials complete the landscape. The garden is adjacent to an ornamental garden planted by a young Eagle Scout – a project overseen by Kathy in 2004. The garden could not have been completed without help from Claudia McDonald, circulation manager, who dug right in (literally!) and Monika Flood, a library aide who helped with the design.



Volunteers, including a group from Neiman-Marcus, helped staff at the Chantilly Regional Library plant a memory garden to honor Kathy Tewell, who was CH's assistant branch manager when she died of cancer last year.

Chantilly will host a small ceremony in the spring to inaugurate Kathy's Garden and to remember her quiet advocacy for Chantilly staff. Afaf is certain that Kathy would not have wanted anyone to go to the trouble of creating a garden in her memory. Here at Chantilly, we are glad so many did.

— Mimi Mimmick, CH

## Enter to Win!

Celebrate Library Lovers' Month by letting us know how much you love volunteering at the Fairfax County Public Library!

The Fairfax Library Foundation invites all volunteers to send a valentine with a brief paragraph describing why you love your library along with your name and address. To enter, simply send an e-mail valentine message to [LoveMyLibrary@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org](mailto:LoveMyLibrary@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org) OR mail a valentine to the address listed below.

Prizes include autographed books and special bookmarks. Winners will be randomly chosen from valentines received by March 2, 2009. Include your name and address, since notification will be made to all winners by mail. Each individual may be entered in the drawing one time. (Fairfax County Public Library and Foundation boards, staff and their immediate families are ineligible to participate.)

Many LoveMyLibrary valentine responses will be posted on the Library Foundation Web site at [www.FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org) in March.

For more information about the contest, please call 703-324-8300, e-mail [info@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org](mailto:info@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org) or visit the foundation's Web site. Mail valentines or donations to Fairfax Library Foundation, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 329, Fairfax, VA 22035.

# FAIRFAX LIBRARY *Foundation*



## New Branch, Long History

Oakton is a very tight-knit community with a strong sense of identity. Oakton Library customers frequently ask for materials relating to local history. Luckily, staff members now have even more information to share. For her Silver Award project, local Girl Scout **Elizabeth Drake** combined her love of scrapbooking with service to the Oakton community. Though her project only required her to complete 40 hours, Elizabeth went above and beyond. The result is a beautiful scrapbook that takes readers on a journey from past to present, including pictures of Oakton's construction phase through opening day and on to our many children's programs. Elizabeth even contacted local individuals, organizations and schools as she gathered photographs of the Oakton community.

Elizabeth also realized that we would benefit from having a collection of newspaper articles, handouts, and other printed materials, so she assisted with the creation of an Oakton article notebook, even learning how to use ProQuest to seek out articles from many years ago. The notebook is easily updated, meaning that Elizabeth's hard work will benefit the library for years to come, as new Oakton memories are made!



Oakton Library has chronicled its short history in a delightful branch scrapbook thanks to the efforts of volunteer Elizabeth Drake.

## Show of Hands



Published quarterly  
Volunteer Newsletter of the Fairfax County Public Library  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 324  
Fairfax, VA 22035-0059

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Erin Chernisky

**Editor**  
Pat Bangs

**Design & Production**  
Michael Sherman

# 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.

## Winter 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

**Adopt-a-Shelf** volunteers are needed at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike. 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. Bilingual skills a plus but not required. Contact David Meisky 703-259-3800; [David.Meisky@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:David.Meisky@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Burke

**Shelve and shelf read in the children's picture book area** at the 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).

### Fairfax (Government Center)

An **Assistant Support Group Leader** is needed to help at low-vision support group meetings. The support group VIB (Visually Impaired or Blind) meets on second Fridays from 10 a.m.-noon. at the Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax. Duties include: assist in setting the meeting agenda, arrange for speakers, assist in leading the meetings and serve as the liaison to the Access Services Library branch. Must be a caring and compassionate individual who is interested in working with seniors. Contact Beena Pandey at 703-324-8388; [Beena.Pandey@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Beena.Pandey@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Fairfax (Countywide)

Volunteers with experience teaching or leading children's programs are needed to help the library's Early Literacy Outreach Specialist with the **Ready to Read program**, by reading books aloud at preschools and childcare centers. Volunteers can work in an area of the county that is most convenient for them. Contact Renee Edwards at 703-324-8413; [Renee.Edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Renee.Edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Falls Church

**Computer tutor volunteer** to teach a one-on-one tutoring class of basic computer skills for Spanish speakers at the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive. Need someone for two one-hour sessions on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Contact Kathryn Young at 703-820-8774; [Kathryn.Young@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Young@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Franconia

**Sort and select donations** for the John Marshall Library Friends' book sale, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Help is needed daily to keep the book sale shelves replenished with new and appealing items. Contact Sohelee Ditu at 703-971-0010; [Sohelee.Ditu@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Sohelee.Ditu@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

**Adopt-a-Shelf** volunteers are needed at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place. 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. **Help sort library carts**. Volunteers needed to put library carts in order for shelving. Experience with the Dewey Decimal System a plus, but not required. Contact Mary Medina at 703-242-4010, [Mary.Medina@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Mary.Medina@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?"**



**Show of Hands** is published by the Fairfax County Public Library, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324, Fairfax, VA 22035, 703-324-3100. Contact the Director of Volunteer Programs, Erin Chernisky, at 703-324-8332 or [Erin.Chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Erin.Chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Visit the library's Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).



A Fairfax County, Va., publication



To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-8380 or TTY 703-324-8365.

Printed February 2009