

Show of Hands

Fairfax County Public Library
Volunteer Newsletter

Summer 2008

Volunteer Fairfax Celebrates Library Volunteers

Three library volunteers were honored on April 24 at the 16th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax. Established in 1993, the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. The awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs.

Frank Passuth, a City of Fairfax Regional Library volunteer, was nominated in the Senior Volunteer category. Frank works in the Virginia Room and has indexed hundreds of thousands of records since he began in 1994.

His projects have included the indexing of the Quentin Porter photograph collection, various Fairfax County historical publications and all the birth, death and marriage announcements from the *Fairfax Journal* since 1973. Frank's most recent endeavor is updating the index to the historical Society of Fairfax County Yearbooks. His patient and accurate labors have resulted in the creation of numerous research tools that are used daily by local history researchers and genealogists.

Dolley Madison teen volunteer **Lisa Friedman** was nominated in the Youth Category. For over a year, Lisa worked with the children's department to create two guides for children's book titles in the series: "What's That Series About?" and "What's That Series Called?" The first guide provides short descriptions of what titles are about, and the second offers images of book covers in fun categories

Lisa wrote over 125 descriptions of children's series' titles for these guides and participated in developing the scheme of categories. These guides have been so successful that other FCPL library branches are interested in adapting them to their collections.

Teen volunteer **Yena Hong** received an award for volunteering over 100 hours last year at Pohick Regional Library. Yena has an artistic flair and lends her talents to the branch on a weekly basis helping to prepare craft materials for programs, designing bulletin boards and creating posters for the book sale.



Volunteer Yena Hong and staff member Alicia Easley at the 2008 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Centreville Gets Help From Eagle Scouts



Eagle Scout Alex Martello with volunteers at a spring landscaping project he organized at the Centreville Regional Library.

Teens: Earn Volunteer Hours!

In October, the library will again offer its popular teen volunteer fairs, cosponsored by Volunteer Fairfax, at four branches:

- Centreville Regional Library: Oct. 4, 2 – 4 p.m.
- George Mason Regional Library: Oct. 6, 7 – 8:45 p.m.
- Sherwood Regional Library: Oct. 7, 7 – 8:45 p.m.
- Pohick Regional Library: Oct. 23, 7 – 8:45 p.m.

Last year, more than 230 teens and 100-plus parents attended several teen volunteer fairs to sample volunteer opportunities offered by local community organizations.

Grants Office Volunteers: A Profile

Do you enjoy research? Have good writing skills? Have you considered volunteering with the Fairfax County Public Library's (FCPL) Grants Development Office?

"I wasn't aware of this kind of function in libraries," says Anne Suh, who volunteered in the Grants Development Office for almost a year. "Libraries are not just about branch support. It's also about how they get their resources." Suh, a market researcher for 15 years, helped the library find funding to set up a microbusiness Web site over the past year. She came to the U.S. at the age of nine and has fond memories of her visits to the Thomas Jefferson Library in Falls Church, where she now takes her own children.

"I love libraries. I would do anything for them," says Linda Hunt Hathaway, a former member of the library board, who has been volunteering for the past three years. She has done research for the library's "Changing Lives Through Literature," alternative sentencing program. Hathaway is the former director of libraries for the Fairfax County Public School system where she worked for 32 years.

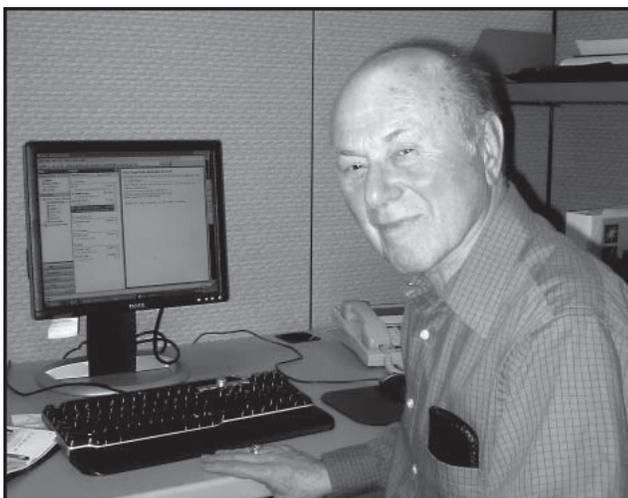
"This is a whole different concept of librarianship," says Sandra Cahill, a student at Catholic University's School of Library and Information Science, who is donating 120 hours to grants research. Cahill is the circulation manager at the Barrett Library in Alexandria. She has lived in Fairfax County since 1980 and decided to get her library degree after 26 years with the Alexandria Library system.

"It's challenging," says Mike Kogan, a former engineer with Northrop-Grumman, who has been researching grants for several years. "It is pleasant working with county employees." At the moment he is working on a grant to get funding from a large retailer for the "Changing Lives Through Literature" program.

The two-person Grants Development Office, headed by the library's Associate Director Vera Fessler, could not function without the help of the volunteers profiled above, as well as Tom Witherspoon and Christine Lanphere, who began her internship with the Grants Office last spring. If you would like to join this professional crew, contact Vera Fessler at 703-324-8311; or e-mail Vera.Fessler@fairfaxcounty.gov.



During the past year Anne Suh researched funding for the library's "Changing Lives Through Literature" program and other projects.



"It's challenging," says Mike Kogan of his volunteer work in the library's Grants Development Office.

New Burke Centre Library

Seeks Volunteers

The new Burke Centre Library opened on June 28 and seeks volunteers to keep it running smoothly! The circulation department needs adult volunteers to check in books in the morning or to search the shelves for books reserved by customers. Please contact Jerry Herrera at 703-249-1520; Gerardo.Herrera@fairfaxcounty.gov. The branch is located near the intersection of the Fairfax Parkway and Freds Oak Road in Burke.



Art in the Pages Thanks Volunteers!

Large, open book statues, approximately four feet high are on display in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax at library branches and other locations throughout the summer as part of the Art in the Pages project.

The success of this first-ever public art sculpture project is possible thanks to a collaborative partnership among the FCPL, the Fairfax Library Foundation and Signature Sponsor Verizon, in addition to the support of numerous volunteers!

Much of the initial planning grant application to the Arts Council of Fairfax County was written by FCPL Grants Department volunteer **Michael Kogan**. After the grant was approved, the planning phase steering committee was led by **Alvah Beander**, a volunteer with the Friends of the Sherwood Regional Library and the Fairfax Library Foundation. The Art in the Pages implementation phase included volunteer committee members and was co-chaired by volunteer foundation directors **Patrick Dexter**

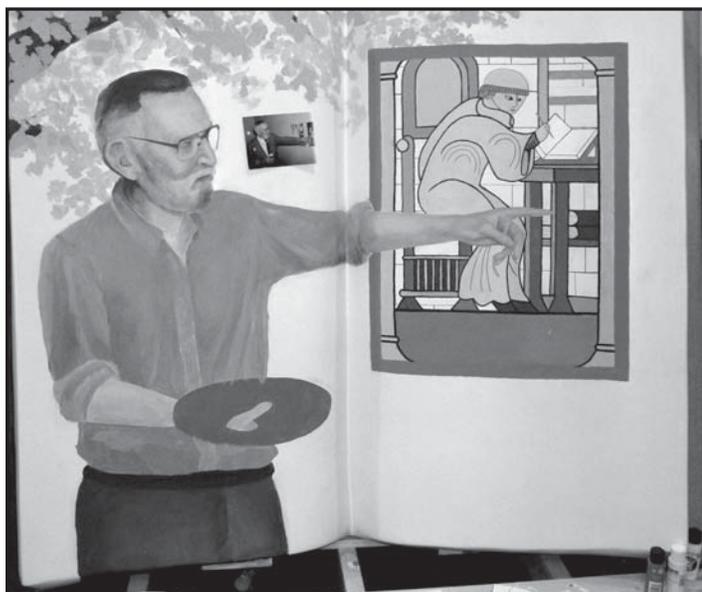
of ExxonMobil and **Sally Merten** of George Mason University.

Friends Groups comprised of dedicated volunteers sponsored statues for their respective branches at the Burke Centre Library, the City of Fairfax Regional Library, the Kings Park Library, the Oakton Library, the Patrick Henry Library, the Pohick Regional Library and the Sherwood Regional Library. An anonymous volunteer Fairfax Library Foundation Director sponsored an Art in the Pages statue for the George Mason Regional Library in honor of the continued support to the library system from the George Mason Friends.

Under the supervision of Fairfax Library Foundation Chair **Joan Kane** and Director **Paula Koeck-Gomez**, Southland Concrete donated and delivered the bases in coordination with Interstate Worldwide Relocation representatives who moved statues into place at no cost to the project.

FCPL and the Fairfax Library Foundation express sincere appreciation to every volunteer who helped make this project a success. Thank you all!

Pick up a map at any library branch or view an interactive map of statue locations at www.fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/maps/sculpturemap3.htm.



The late Bill Crockett, an artist and volunteer for many years at the Kings Park Library, is featured on the Art in the Pages sculpture that will sit outside the branch. Crockett painted oils and 12 murals that are used to decorate the children's area. KP staff page and artist Aaron Arby designed and created the piece, which is called "Volunteers at the Library."



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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.

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Alexandria

Teach Internet Basics to adults at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Dr. Contact Kathryn Alleman at 703-971-0010; Kathryn.Alleman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Sort and select donations for the John Marshall Library Friends' book sale. 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.

Discover how a library operates. Become part of a team of library volunteers working behind the scenes **checking in books** and **locating books on the shelves** for customers at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Preferred commitment is two hours per week. Afternoon shifts are available Mondays and Wednesdays and morning shifts are available Wednesdays and Fridays. Contact Melanie Erhart at 703-339-4610;

Melanie.Erhart@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Adopt-a-Shelf or pull hold requests off the shelves at the Sherwood Regional Library. Good attention to detail required and some computer skills preferred. Contact David Hanlon at 703-765-3645; 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.

Burke

Volunteer at the county's newest library branch, Burke Centre, 5935 Freds Oak Road checking in books or locating books on the shelves for customers. Contact Jerry Herrera at 703-249-1520; Gerardo.Herrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shelve and shelf read in the children's picture book area at the Pohick Regional Library. Contact Florence Whipple at 703-644-7333; Florence.Whipple@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Work with another person to **co-chair the semi-annual book sale** at the Kings Park Library in May and October. Existing guidelines, procedures and experienced volunteers are already in place to assist the co-chairs. Contact Barbara Schrantz at 703-978-5600; Barbara.Schrantz@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Centreville

Help others improve their English. Do one-on-one tutoring or co-lead conversation groups for people who

want to practice and improve their English skills at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. The greatest need is for evening and weekend sessions.

Put your green thumb to good use! A motivated person who can offer suggestions on how to improve landscaping is needed **to start and run a team of gardening volunteers**. Contact Margaret Kositch at 703-830-2223; Margaret.Kositch@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax (Government Center)

Volunteer at Library Administration, 12000 Government Center Parkway, **reading and copying newspaper articles** in the Public Information Office. Contact Linda Gifford at 703-324-8324; Linda.Gifford@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Assist the Grants Office with research. Contact Vera Fessler at 703-324-8311; Vera.Fessler@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.

Falls Church

An individual, a group or a garden club is needed to **adopt a garden**. The overgrown garden needs a plan, soil preparation, planting and ongoing maintenance. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike. Contact Rita Mayer at 703-790-8088; Rita.Mayer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Volunteers are also needed to **maintain the library grounds** outside and pick up litter and debris. Contact Linda Prante 703-790-8088; Linda.Prante@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Water plants, keep children's book shelves in order or help with the ongoing book sale at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd. Contact Lynn Steele, 703-573-1060; Lynn.Steele@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. 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.

Visit the library's Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.



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

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