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LIBRARIES REACH
NEW HEIGHTS

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County • www.folmc.org

Share Your Love for Libraries All February Long!

Library Lovers Month Kickoff Event with Ms. Niki: “Where JOY meets Lyrical LEARNING”

Saturday February 1, 2025 | 11:00AM – 12:00PM
Olney Library

February is Library Lovers Month, and we invite you to celebrate, explore, connect, and share your love for libraries all month long.

Our Kickoff Event, “Where JOY Meets Lyrical LEARNING,” takes place Saturday, February 1, at 11:00AM at MCPL’s Olney Library. Music edu-tainer Ms. Niki invites kids of all ages on a colorful adventure through upbeat original songs and classic favorites with a fresh new twist!

Ideal for early childhood, these songs help young students navigate their days, express happiness through movement, build self-love and body awareness, and discover patterns through beats and rhythms. Through her “Lyrical Learning” approach, listeners are guaranteed to learn something new about themselves and others.

A New Age cross between Mary Poppins and Ms. Frizzle, Ms. Niki offers a wide variety of songs, workshops, and performances for kids and kids at heart. Ms. Niki and 25 other artists are members of the 1 Tribe Collective whose album “All One Tribe” was GRAMMY-nominated for Best Children’s Music Album in 2022.

This event is geared towards elementary school-aged children. MCPL’s Olney Library is located at 3500 Olney Laytonsville Rd, Olney, MD 20832

Even more ways to love libraries in February

Library Lovers Month happens in February because love is already in the air for Valentine’s Day! You can show your love for libraries all month long by participating in a variety of Library Lovers Month-themed events and activities. Visit www.folmc.org to join in:

- Tell us why you love your library on our virtual Library Lovers Month Postcards—we’ll be sharing them with county officials.
- You can also download a “My library helped me ...?” flyer. Fill it out and take a selfie! Share it on FOLMC’s Facebook, Threads, and Instagram pages by tagging FOLMC, and we might spotlight you during Library Lovers Month.
- Support libraries every day: Volunteer at our Bookstores or at a Branch Booksale.
- Be a Friend of the Library! Together, we can build a lasting legacy of intellectual exploration and community connection.

Library Lovers Month Kickoff is sponsored in partnership with the Montgomery County Library Board.



From the Desk of Ari Z. Brooks

Executive Director, FOLMC



Join us for a comedy fundraiser in March — it's good for you!

March 13, 2025 | 7:00PM

March 14 & 15, 2025 | 8:00PM

Give a Hoot Comedy Club

We've all heard that "laughter is the best medicine," but exactly how does humor affect our health?

According to the Mayo Clinic, even laughing a few times a day can give you a full body makeover, enhancing your intake of oxygen, and stimulating your heart, lungs, and muscles. When you laugh, your brain releases endorphins, the feel-good chemicals, that increase circulation and lower your heart rate and blood pressure. Laughter can lessen feelings of stress, depression, and anxiety, and help you connect with others.

Did you ever notice how many children's books are funny stories? Using humor helps children develop their self-esteem and refine their problem-solving and social skills. A recent survey from Scholastic found that more than 50% of children said they look for books that make them laugh. Humor is an amazing tool for getting kids to enjoy themselves—and reading.

Laughter is a contagious emotion. Sharing it can bring people together, make us feel more alive, and even help us experience joy in our lives.

That's why for our spring fundraiser, we're raising our collective spirits while raising funds for a worthy cause—FOLMC. We're hosting a night of laughter at the Give a Hoot Comedy Club (16143 Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg) on Thursday, March 13 at 7:00PM and March 14 & 15 at 8:00PM featuring comedian Mike Burton.

Growing up in North Carolina and Delaware, Mike described himself as "having the southern roots to make me hospitable and enough New York in me to give me an edge." His performance experience includes warming up the crowds at daytime television shows such as *The Revolution*, *Bethenny*, and *Rachael Ray*, so you know you'll be in for some good belly laughs.

Tickets are just \$20, and there will be a full La Mexicana food and drink menu available. The Give a Hoot Comedy Club is located at the intersection of Shady Grove Road and Rockville Pike (behind Checkers), and there's plenty of free parking. Thanks to Give a Hoot for donating a percentage of sales to FOLMC to support libraries.

So come on out and exercise your funny bone this spring—it's good for your health! We thank you for your support.



A Note from New MCPL Director Darcell Graham

It is my sincere pleasure to send this first note to all of you at the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, in my new role as the director of Montgomery County Public Libraries. I am so excited to begin this new chapter in this amazing library system.

I am equally thrilled to partner with all of you at FOLMC! You have long been MCPL's champions, and I am inspired by your dedication to enhancing library services and fostering lifelong learning for all.

Whether helping our customers discover new stories, access essential resources, or find a safe space to dream and create, MCPL strives to meet the diverse needs of our community. I am committed to building upon this strong foundation, expanding access, and ensuring that our libraries remain inclusive, innovative, and accessible to everyone in Montgomery County.

There are so many exciting projects and programs in process at MCPL, many of which would not be possible without your support. I look forward to building even more with you in the months and years to come.

Here are a few recent highlights from our branches and Central Office:

- Vinyl Day at Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library at the end of the summer was incredibly successful. Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich stopped by to catch the action, meet our inspiring keynote presenter Johnny "Juice" Rosado, and took time to give some thoughtful remarks about his experience with music in the DMV, including the origins and growth of hip-hop culture and its impact on our residents. It was a great day,

including a sellout crowd for the FOLMC vinyl sale. Folks were lined up when the doors opened to browse!

- Summer Reading Challenge 2024 was our biggest and best ever, with over 16,600 registrants in early literacy, teen, and adult summer reading challenges. The first-ever adult challenge attracted nearly 4000 participants, with long waitlists for adult events, including a librarian-led trivia night at a local microbrewery that garnered much community participation. Plans are already in motion for the 2025 challenge, so stay tuned.
- As a warm-up, our Winter Reading Challenge partnership with the Washington Wizards will begin in late December. We look forward to an exciting year for this program.
- We are so excited to debut our new mobile outreach van in the new year! This vehicle, purchased with the generous support of FOLMC and an award from the Maryland State Library through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, is guaranteed to make a statement at the many events our staff travels to across the county each week. It will significantly enhance our service to the community, and access to our resources and services in underserved communities. We hope to see you on the road.

Thank you once again for your continued advocacy, fundraising, and volunteerism that makes so much of what we do possible. I welcome your ideas, feedback, and support as we embark on this new chapter together. I hope to meet you soon at the library!



FOLMC Funded Activities & Supplies

Below are highlights of the over 400 programs FOLMC funded in 2024 through speaker fees, supplies, and equipment. To see a complete list, please check out our calendar at www.folmc.org. Thank you to our donors and volunteers for their dedication to our mission.

Aspen Hill Library

- A Juneteenth Celebration featuring the Charles Rahmat Woods Quartet - A Jazzy Juneteenth Celebration
- Magician Presto
- Munit & Z Lovebugs

Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring)

- Create Your Own Graffiti Tag
- Music Production Basics

Chevy Chase Library

- History Alive! Juneteenth Event
- Echoes of Nature

Connie Morella Library (Bethesda)

- Poetry & Spoken Word Workshop with Regie Cabico
- Cantaré, Mucha Música!
- Colors of India Through Dance and Music

Damascus Library

- Enviro Drum-Maryland
- Cosmic Adventures presents A Brief Tour of the Universe

Davis Library (North Bethesda)

- Improv 4 Kids
- Greece Lightning: Ancient Olympic Adventures

Gaithersburg Library

- Ancient China: Time Travel Adventures
- Animal Olympics Nature Program
- Polynesian Dance with Meki's Tamure Arts Group

Germantown Library

- Molas: Panamanian Art - Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month
- Fall Leaf Mason Jar Luminary
- Pizza Box Solar Oven: STEAM

Kensington Park Library

- Winter Journey - A Film about Jewish musicians in Nazi Germany
- Origami Flowers
- Outdoor Summer Sports & Games

Little Falls Library

- True Crime: Forensics
- Mr. Lilo

Long Branch Library

- Reptile Smiles
- Rainbows Are Everywhere

Maggie Nightingale Library (Poolesville)

- Enviro Drum
- Magician Mike Rose - Magical Adventures

Noyes Library for Young Children

- Prime Slime Time
- Critter Cut Outs: Blue Crab

Olney Library

- Echoes of Nature Presents Safari Walk
- An Introduction to Taiko with Mark H Rooney
- STEAM at the Library: Build A Beach House

Potomac Library

- Abracadabra Alex
- Music Everywhere with Teresa Jimenez

Marilyn J. Praisner Library (Burtonsville)

- Radical Reptiles
- Polynesian Dance with Meki's Tamure Arts Group

Quince Orchard Library

- Rock & Read
- Adventure Week

Rockville Memorial Library

- Found in the Stars
- Squeals on Wheels
- Paper Circuits

Twinbrook Library

- STEAM at the Library: Electronic Art
- Craft at the Library: Mod Podge Candle Holder
- Music Bouquet

Wheaton Library

- African-American Genealogy for Beginners
- Found in the Stars: A Galactic Coming-of-Age Adventure
- Science Heroes: "Adventures of the Lost Treasure"

White Oak Library

- STEM Adventure with the Science Guys
- Celebrating Motown Hits



READ. RUN. REPEAT.

OCTOBER 20, 2024

friends of the LIBRARY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

A race to benefit Friends of the Library, Montgomery County



A big thank you to everyone who joined us in-person or virtually for our Read. Run. Repeat. 5K/10K race. With your participation, we raised almost \$7,000!

Mark your calendars for next year's race: It will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025 and will include a 1-mile fun run.

21 Maryland Avenue
Suite 310
Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF LAUGHTER



Raising your collective spirits

while raising funds for a worthy cause



FEATURING COMEDIAN
MIKE BURTON

Ha Ha
Ha Ha
Ha Ha
Ha Ha

**\$20
TICKETS**



WITH
**GIVE A HOOT
COMEDY CLUB**

MARCH 13, 2025 | 7:00PM
MARCH 14 & 15, 2025 | 8:00PM
A COMEDY FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING FOLMC

Full La Mexicana food and drink menu available in club
Free Parking | 16143 Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg

Buy tickets at www.giveahootcomedy.com