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HELPING
LIBRARIES REACH
NEW HEIGHTS

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

Join Us at the Gaithersburg Book Festival

This day-long celebration of the literary world takes place May 20, 2023 in Bohrer Park

FOLMC will take our award-winning bookstores on the road once more and take over a pavilion at the Gaithersburg Book Festival (GBF) this spring. Have you been to GBF? Now in its second year at Bohrer Park at Summit Hill Farm, GBF is an all-day celebration of books, writers, literary excellence, and, most importantly, one of FOLMC's favorite festivals. FOLMC has been a proud participant at the Festival since its inception in 2010, and our staff spends the year between festivals gathering and curating a selection of books and music. GBF Founder and Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman said, "We are thrilled about FOLMC's continued participation as our used bookstore vendor. It is win-win-win to support each other, the community, and public libraries."

Taking place on May 20, 2023, from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, GBF is one of the nation's top literary events, attracting hundreds of notable and best-selling authors, poets, and songwriters from across the country.

Come and browse thousands of hardcover and paperback books, a wall of bookish buttons, and crates and crates of music. All for the same affordable prices FOLMC offers everyday at our bookstores, and with all proceeds benefiting FOLMC in support of MCPL.

This year's featured authors can be seen here: <https://www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org/authors/featured-authors/>. Make sure to check back often for updates. Authors will discuss and sign their books.

The Festival also offers programming for all ages, including writing workshops for children, teens, and adults as well as a poetry contest. There's simply something for everyone—and we promise you won't leave empty-handed.

GBF is free to attend and free to park. Bohrer Park is located at 506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Visit <https://www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org/> for complete details.



Photos by Mary Gies, @booknerdy.af

“We are thrilled about FOLMC's continued participation as our used bookstore vendor. It is win-win-win to support each other, the community, and public libraries”

– Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman

Cultivating Our Mission Living Out Our Purpose

FOLMC's mission is to strengthen, promote, and champion Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) for it to better serve the learning interests and needs of the diverse and changing communities of the County.

Organizations are living organisms, constantly in a state of change. It's important to consider an organization's purpose and core values to be fluid instead of fixed, so that when situations change, the organization can adapt—just like the world around us.

Nonprofit best practices recommend organizations revisit their governing documents, including mission and values, during their strategic planning process every 2-4 years, to make sure their activities support their purpose.

The FOLMC Board of Trustees did just that in August and recommitted to the following purposes as stated in the Articles of Incorporation (which you can read here: <https://www.folmc.org/about/>):

- To support the public library system in Montgomery County, Maryland
- To encourage gifts, memorials, and endowments for the benefit of library service
- To create opportunities for residents to volunteer their assistance
- To support fundraising efforts for special purposes
- To sponsor community events and activities
- To assist the library in its public information activities
- To cooperate with the work of the Montgomery County Library Board and the local library advisory committees

In this issue, we'll share a few ways how we live out our purposes **through our core programs, fundraising and advocacy efforts in support of MCPL**. And while it's our purposes that grow our mission, it's you, our donors, who keep us on the path to achieving it.

Support Fundraising Efforts for Special Purposes – Welcoming Library Kits

A central focus of FOLMC is to support fundraising efforts for special purposes with timely resonance, such as MCPL's new Welcoming Library Kits, demonstrated at right by MCPL Director Anita Vassallo. These are collections of books and resources that build welcoming communities for immigrants and new Americans. **To date we have raised more than \$20,000 to pilot kits at six branches. In keeping with our**



purpose to encourage gifts for the benefit of MCPL, we invite you to contribute so all branches can have a kit.

Use this link to donate: www.folmc.org/donate.

Create Opportunities for Residents to Volunteer Their Assistance

MCPL is a system, but we know how much residents love their local branches. To this end, we have been actively recruiting volunteers to sort and shelf donations at FOLMC Branch Booksales. Proceeds fund a variety of programs and initiatives at the respective branches. We also need Volunteer Booksale Leads at each branch to assist FOLMC staff in recruiting volunteers, scheduling volunteer shifts, and other related tasks.

Visit www.folmc.org to learn more and fill out our volunteer application.

Cooperate with the Work of the Montgomery County Library Board and the Local Library Advisory Committees

FOLMC works in solidarity with the Montgomery County Library Board to advocate for full funding for the library system. Our activities have included welcoming new elected officials as well as hosting Joint Meetings and Advocacy Sessions with MCPL in cooperation with the Library Board. Our annual spring potluck with County Councilmembers (put on hold during the pandemic) allowed face-to-face interaction with the Councilmembers prior to public hearings on the operating budget. Our orange t-shirts and buttons signified the importance of libraries and our passion for supporting them.

Thank You to Our Welcoming Library Kit Donors!



Lynn Abrahamson
Diane Baker
Daniel & Nancy Balz
Ellen Berman
Jane Bornhorst
Frances Frost
Nina Gray
Diane & Dennis Horn
Larissa Johnson
Frank S. Joseph
John & Kathleen Kenyon
Rachel Maleh
Melissa McDonald
Judith McLean

James & Marjorie McMann
Kelly Metz
Denise Neary
Paige Nerenberg
Robert & Margaret Rafner
Pamela & Gordon Saussy
Michelle Seltzer
The Slavin Foundation
Eric R. Smith
Tony Spearman-Leach
Tom Thomson
Jae Ju Yang, Jin Ok Yang,
Sung Sook Yang &
Eun-Sook Goidel in memory
of Hong Bo Yang

Sponsor Community Events and Activities

Have you spotted FOLMC out in the community lately? Staff and volunteers love to engage with others in the county and participate in fun events our nonprofit partners schedule throughout the year. As seen earlier in this newsletter, FOLMC has been a proud supporter of the Gaithersburg Book Festival for over 10 years. You can also spot us this year at the Kensington Day of the Book, Montgomery Hills Street Festival, Olney SummerFest, and more. Make sure to follow us on Social Media to learn where you can spot us next. You can also catch us **assisting the library in its public information activities** by inviting outreach staff to join us or sponsoring a table for them at these events. Additionally, the Mosaic Creative Writing Program for Montgomery County Middle School Students was created with the specific purpose of reconnecting this special age group to their public libraries and targeted resources for teens.

Just like a gardener plants seeds in the hopes of cultivating a garden, FOLMC is grounded in our purpose to grow a healthy organizational future.

We thank our volunteers and everyone for their dedication in supporting our treasured public libraries. We ask all of you for your continued support and donations which makes a critical difference to MCPL, both today and tomorrow.



Booksales Are Back!

After a 2-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, FOLMC Branch Booksales are coming back. FOLMC's Branch Booksale funds benefit the library at which they were raised and support enhancements like Summer Reading Challenge!, Makerspace activities, Health & Wellness programming, and Workforce Development classes.

For example, Booksales at Germantown recently funded workroom task chairs, including ones for ADA computers, while at Davis, funds paid for Science Saturday programs. You can see how the money raised really "stays local."

The following branches have resumed Booksales: Connie Morella, Davis, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Kensington Park, and Olney.

Don't see your branch? FOLMC is actively recruiting volunteers at all branches. Once the FOLMC Branch Booksale has enough volunteers to resume, we will contact all volunteers to set up a schedule. (Note that Potomac Library remains closed for a refresh.) Visit www.folmc.org to fill out our volunteer application. We thank you for your help!



A Note from MCPL Director Anita Vassallo



In September 2022, MCPL released its FY23 – FY26 Strategic Plan: Increasing Equity in Access & Opportunity. This Plan defines our core mission, values, and community-centered vision while identifying goal areas that will be the main focus over the next three years.

MCPL will continue to provide its core services for all, while working to achieve the goals in support of the following populations in particular:

- Children 5 and under are ready for kindergarten.
- Teens are ready for college and/or the workforce, and to be lifelong users of the library.
- Speakers of languages other than English can participate fully in American society.
- Residents with limited access to technology and/or the internet can navigate a digital world to get what they need.

To achieve these goals, MCPL will explore launching its strategic priorities at branches located in and around Equity Focus Areas. These are parts of the County that are characterized by high concentrations of lower-income people of color, who may not speak English as their first language. Our Plan targets residents who are susceptible to systemic racial and social inequities. MCPL pledges to work with these and other communities implicated in the Strategic Plan to understand and respond to their needs and interests.

The framework of the plan reflects the needs and desires of the community. MCPL partnered with the Montgomery County Innovation Team to engage community members and MCPL staff in identifying and prioritizing community needs for its strategic framework. Community members and staff shared their feedback through postcards, vision boards, focus groups, and an online survey. Many of you participated in this process, and we are grateful for your time and invaluable feedback.

MCPL's strategic planning is an ongoing process. We will annually assess where we are with the Plan's actions and update it based on achievements and changing community needs. Learn more about the plan here:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/resources/files/about/strategicplan-fy23-fy26.pdf>

find

A BOOK TO LOVE AT
FRIENDS' BOOKSTORES

ROCKVILLE BOOKSTORE

Open for shopping and donations

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4886 Boiling Brook Parkway
(301) 984-3300

WHEATON BOOKSTORE

Open for shopping and donations

Wheaton Library and Community
Recreation Center
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(301) 933-1110

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FOLMC and bookstore news.**

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 [Friends of the Library,
Montgomery County](https://www.linkedin.com/company/friends-of-the-library-montgomery-county)



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**SATURDAY
APRIL 22, 2023**

Rockville

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Wheaton

Wheaton Library & Community Rec Center
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Wheaton, MD 20902

