

friends

HELPING
LIBRARIES REACH
NEW HEIGHTS

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

You're Invited to Coffee & Community: A FOLMC Fundraiser on Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Online auction will take place during National Friends of Libraries Week
from October 15-21



Please Join Us!

Tuesday October 17 from 6-9PM

All Set Restaurant & Bar

8630 Fenton Street, Plaza, 5, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Visit All Set for dinner service in the dining room or patio ONLY (carryout or delivery orders will not be counted), and mention to your server that you want your check counted towards the FOLMC fundraiser.

A paid public parking garage is available across the street at the intersection of Cameron Street & Fenton Street (across from L.A. Fitness)

**Try the evening's featured drink—
Murder on the Orient Espresso Martini!**

Calling all coffee connoisseurs! Excitement is percolating for our Fall fundraising event.

FOLMC has partnered with All Set Restaurant & Bar to host a fundraiser on **Tuesday, October 17 from 6-9 PM**. We're calling this event "Coffee & Community" because we wanted a theme that really spoke to our audience (and who doesn't love coffee?)

The "Community" part comes from you, our longtime Friends and supporters. This event is your chance to celebrate libraries, which are the ultimate community builder, as they connect people to ideas, knowledge—and each other.

This will be our first in-person fundraising event since 2019—we've missed having them, and we really want to see you again, so we hope you will come out, eat well, meet FOLMC's staff and Board, and have fun—all for a good cause.

All Set Restaurant & Bar is a dine-in restaurant that serves American cuisine influenced by the traditions of coastal New England with flavors that are comforting yet classic, warm, and friendly. Located in the Montgomery Center on Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring, its ambiance is as inviting as it is sophisticated. We're so grateful to All Set for understanding the importance of libraries in our community by partnering with us this year.

Best of all, there's no advance registration or reservations required; all you have to do is show up to participate.

Our Online Auction Takes Place All Week Long During National Friends of Libraries Week

Even if you can't make it out to All Set Restaurant & Bar, there are other ways to show your support for libraries during National Friends of Libraries Week.

Between October 15-October 21, we'll host an online silent auction (<https://go.rallyup.com/folmc2023/>), with coffee and tea items to bid on, signed books, and FOLMC branded merchandise. We are grateful to have received donations from coffee shops in every corner of Montgomery County!

The goal of Coffee & Community is to celebrate the critical role our libraries play in our community while raising funds for MCPL; specifically, a portion of event proceeds will support MCPL's World Language Collection.

Thanks to supporters like you, our organization has made a difference in Montgomery County for over 40 years and counting! We hope you'll join us again this October for another great night.



From the Desk of Ari Z. Brooks

Executive Director, FOLMC



FOLMC went through a transformation over the past year as we embraced a unified volunteer model, ONE FOLMC.

And while we've discussed our new structure, I also want to highlight another core component of the organization, which was adopted by our Board of Trustees in November, 2020.

FOLMC's **Racial Equity and Social Justice Plan** demonstrates our commitment to racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County.

Every aspect of our organization is involved to achieve the following:

- Our Board and Staff reflect the diversity of the county.
- FOLMC fosters a culture of inclusion and mutual support to ensure that every person within our organization can thrive.
- Our programs and marketing efforts increase cross cultural understanding and civic responsibility.
- We recognize the power in providing free programming for the county and use this opportunity to spotlight voices from marginalized communities.
- And as a partner to MCPL, we advocate for budget and policy changes to expand library access and services for critical populations.

What Does Equity Mean From an Organizational Standpoint?

It's important to note that there's a difference between equity and equality. When things are equal, they are the same, but when things are equitable, they are *fair*. Equity comes from dismantling things that produce inequality. When applied internally, our organization

made changes to its operational structure to create a more just and welcoming environment for all.

For instance, not only do we want to fund programs that represent the entire community; we also want all different kinds of people to see themselves in the programs we produce, people we were not previously reaching but who are central to our mission.



- We reviewed our programming through a racial equity lens, creating a framework for the optimal times of day and days of the week to hold programs for our audiences.
- Our new volunteer model supports an array of different skill sets that maximizes impact.
- Our Board of Trustees comprises a variety of perspectives, experiences, ages, and cultures, which translates into effective guidance and decision-making. While a few of our Trustees will be cycling out as they reach their term limits, at one point as much as 20% of the Board has been an underrepresented demographic in library groups.

Inclusivity is a core purpose of MCPL's strategic plan, and as the Friends of the Library, we not only support that—we live it, too. We want everyone to feel like they can take part in supporting their library, regardless of their background and status, so that we can embody our mission to respond to the needs of all county residents and the ever-changing world we live in.

Download a copy of our **Racial Equity and Social Justice Plan** here: www.folmc.org/about/

Wanted: Trustees to the FOLMC Board

Are you a library-loving professional? FOLMC seeks enthusiastic partners to serve on our Board of Trustees.

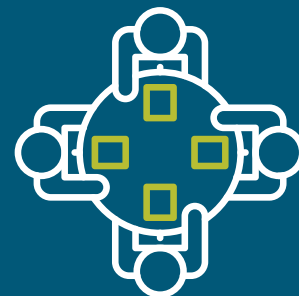
FOLMC's Board of Trustees is a dedicated group of working and retired professionals who are committed to our mission of strengthening, promoting, and championing Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL).

The Board of Trustees supports FOLMC through governance, fundraising, and outreach. This opportunity is a volunteer position. Each Trustee should have the following abilities:

- Commitment to FOLMC's mission and a genuine interest in at least one of the following areas: Literacy, social justice, and education.
- Willingness to be a team player and an empathetic listener.
- Knowledge and skills in finance, fundraising, insurance, governance, and/or personnel.
- Willingness to commit to three years of Board service.

- Willingness to serve and actively participate with at least one committee.
- Willingness to commit time for quarterly board meetings, committee meetings, and special events (10-20 hours per quarter).
- Willingness to participate in FOLMC's fundraising efforts by actively seeking new donors (individual and/or institutional) and stewarding current donors.
- Willingness to use networks and connections to share FOLMC-related news and events.

Our Trustees provide insight, leadership, oversight, and wisdom on a wide variety of projects. Sound like the perfect fit? Submit your application and resume through this link: www.folmc.org/support/volunteer-with-us/





A Note from MCPL Director Anita Vassallo

Exciting things are happening at MCPL!

We wrapped up an enormously successful Summer Reading Challenge! (SRC) Kickoff at the Rockville Memorial Library on June 17. Approximately, 2,880 residents (children, teens and families) took pictures in the Monty the Service Dog photo booth, created crafts, participated in a scavenger hunt, met service dogs and rabbits, kept pace with the drumming of Kofi Dennis, enjoyed an engaging storytime, and more. Children who signed up to participate in the SRC were able to select a free book to take home. As of mid-July, over 11,500 children and teens have signed up to participate. We're expecting another very successful SRC program.

Service to teens is one of MCPL's four strategic goals for the next three years. MCPL's Teen Program Manager, Tyler Chadwell-English, is working to ensure there are welcoming spaces for teens in each branch and to enhance their library experiences. A part of this initiative is to provide a variety of gaming equipment to support teen gaming programs across the system. Gaming systems are planned to be open daily for use by teen customers to promote positive interactions at the branches and to be used for programs. These programs will promote collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, discovery based learning, and healthy

competition. Tyler is now consulting with the Librarians for Teens and their supervisors about the appropriate teen space set up for each individual branch. He has identified the gaming equipment and will soon begin ordering the items. He is also reaching out to the Teen Advisory Boards for their input. Once everything is in place, Tyler and the other members of the Central Programming Team will begin pilots. Pairing these offerings with programs that encourage teen participation and collaboration will strengthen our relationship with teens and encourage lifelong library usership.

Residents and staff are so pleased to have the FOLMC Booksales back in many of the branches and looking forward to their return to all locations. The Booksales offer residents opportunities to help their local libraries and their communities through volunteering and donations.

The support of Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, through the branch Booksales and other avenues has allowed MCPL to enhance services and programming like these and many others. We are very appreciative of the support and look forward to sharing the progress and outcomes of these initiatives.

A Tremendous Gift

Drs. Helen & Stanley Segall

FOLMC thanks Hal Segall of Potomac MD, and Wynn Segall, of Bethesda MD, for their incredible donation of approximately 3,525 books, the majority of which are Russian 19th and 20th century literature in the Russian language.

The Russian books are from the estates of Dr. Helen Segall (1931-2018), Hal and Wynn's mother and a Professor of Russian Language and Literature who served as Chair of the Russian Department at Dickinson College. A portion of the collection, including books about science, history, and literature, belonged to Dr. Segall's husband, Dr. Stanley Segall (1930-2022), who chaired the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences at Drexel University.

A survivor of the Holocaust, Dr. Helen Segall immigrated to the U.S. from a displaced persons camp in Germany on

Thanksgiving Day 1949. Fluent in Polish and Russian, and conversant in German, Ukrainian, and English when she arrived in the U.S., Dr. Segall subsequently earned a B.S. in Library Science from Simmons College and a PhD. in Russian Language and Literature from Bryn Mawr College.

In addition to articles on Russian literature, Dr. Segall authored works on the Holocaust, which were published in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos. One of the donated books, *Perestroika at the Crossroads*, contains an essay by Dr. Segall.

Hal and Wynn divided the collection between academia and FOLMC. "The majority have been donated to FOLMC because we learned that there is strong interest in Russian language books in the Russian émigré community in the DC area and beyond our region, and we wanted the books to go to people who would appreciate and value them," Hal said, "Our mother and father loved and collected books, and because my mother began her

career with a degree in Library Sciences, it seemed fitting to support the Montgomery County Public Libraries on behalf of both our parents."

Dr. Segall's life has inspired us tremendously, and FOLMC is grateful to Wynn, Hal, and their respective families for sharing her books with us so that we can find new readership for this incredible collection.

Do you have books to donate? FOLMC accepts new and gently used items in good, clean condition. There's no need to make an appointment – simply stop by our Rockville or Wheaton Bookstore by 5:00 PM daily, and our friendly staff will help you. You can also view our donation guidelines on our website: www.folmc.org/bookstores/items-we-accept/



find

A BOOK TO LOVE AT
FRIENDS' BOOKSTORES

ROCKVILLE BOOKSTORE

Open for shopping and donations

Randolph Hills Shopping Center
4886 Boiling Brook Parkway
(301) 984-3300

WHEATON BOOKSTORE

Open for shopping and donations

Wheaton Library and Community
Recreation Center
11701 Georgia Avenue
(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)



Meet Our Volunteer Manager, Angela Meyers!



FOLMC welcomes Angela Meyers as its new Volunteer Manager! Angela is a distinguished professional with over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry as well as a dedicated volunteer with the Rockville Baseball Association, where she served on its Board as Director of Snack Bar Operations and Director of Volunteers. Her commitment to exceptional volunteerism was recognized by the Washington Nationals in 2021.

Angela grew up in a rural area of Virginia, and her most treasured memory of the library was when the Bookmobile stopped by her elementary school. "I would spend my entire lunch hour with the books," she said, "I would imagine how they would look, feel, and smell, and then I would get to hold them. Heaven!"

Her passion for historical fiction is evident in her diverse reading preferences. Fascinated by the *Earth's Children* Series by Jean M. Auel, her curiosity led her to study archaeology and anthropology, culminating in joining a dig at Black Hill's Regional Park.

Driven by her passion for community engagement, Angela is delighted to be part of FOLMC, where she is actively involved in building the FOLMC Branch Booksales volunteer program.

"I love the staff, of course; I've never worked in an environment that was so accepting and welcoming, but I have to say my favorite part of my job is speaking with and visiting with all the volunteers. Volunteers give so much of themselves to FOLMC, and for me to share in their stories and learn what FOLMC and books mean to them enriches my life."

We couldn't agree more, Angela! We're so happy to have you with us.