

# friends

CELEBRATING  
35 YEARS!

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County • [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org)

## 30th Annual Literary Luncheon Series

FOLMC opens the three-day F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival with a luncheon featuring Dr. Robert Musil on October 19, at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Musil is the President and CEO of the Rachel Carson Council and has written on a range of environmental topics, including global environmental policy, climate change, and the unique environmental features of Washington, DC. Join us for this timely and informative discussion.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival, held on Saturday, October 21, will honor Annie Proulx author of *Brokeback Mountain* anchoring this year's theme around the topic of the environment and literature.

Copies of Dr. Musil's *Rachel Carson and Her Sisters* and *Washington in Spring* will be available for purchase and signing. The luncheon following the lecture offers an opportunity to continue a personal dialog with the author. Lunch is provided by Ridgewells Catering from a pre-selected menu.

After the lecture, take time to enjoy the Mansion at Strathmore stunning grounds and unique gift shop. The Mansion's spacious galleries house an array of works in every medium. The outdoor sculpture garden displays commissioned and donated sculptures by various local and national artists. Visit [www.strathmore.org/visual-arts](http://www.strathmore.org/visual-arts) and click on Visual Arts to view the current list of exhibitions.

Friends of the Library, F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival, and Strathmore members in good standing receive reduced ticket prices.

**Reserve lunch by October 9. Purchase tickets at [www.folmc.org/litseries](http://www.folmc.org/litseries)**



Dr. Musil, President and CEO of the Rachel Carson Council



### FOL Chapter Sponsored Events

Visit our website for more upcoming events: [www.folmc.org/events-calendar](http://www.folmc.org/events-calendar).

#### SEPTEMBER

- 6 7 p.m., Silver Spring: Author Talk: Annamaria Alfieri
- 7 3 p.m., Damascus: Teen Meet-ups: Friendship Bracelet
- 8 12 p.m., Davis: Senior Cinema Series: Gloria
- 12 6:30 p.m., Kensington Park: Author Talk: Keith Fentonmiller
- 13 6:30 p.m., Chevy Chase: Author Talk: Mike Lupica
- 19 10:30 a.m., Rockville Memorial: Pop-up Play Date
- 19 6 p.m., Silver Spring: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: Andean Music

#### OCTOBER

- 3 10:30 a.m., Rockville Memorial: Baby Storytime
- 3 6:30 p.m., Chevy Chase: Author Talk: James Riley
- 12 10:30 a.m., Damascus: Construction Crew: Duplo
- 13 4:30 p.m., Gaithersburg: Lego Crew
- 14 10 a.m., Germantown: Booksale
- 14 10 a.m., Potomac: Booksale
- 23 5 p.m., Praisner: Booksale
- 28 2:30 p.m., Chevy Chase: Harp Happy



STRATHMORE

## Officers

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Larry Matthews, *Secretary*  
Larry Friend, *Treasurer*

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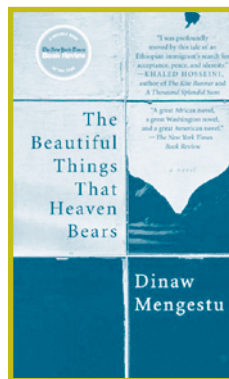
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# From the President of the Board and the Executive Director

Tom Thomson and Ari Z. Brooks, MSW

Tom and I share two things in common. We both earned degrees in social work and took life partners who are fairly recent immigrants to the U.S. This leads to many interesting conversations that have bound our friendship over the past few years. While our spouses are from very different parts of the world, our shared experiences adopting new cultures through marriage and raising bicultural families give us unique insight into how important it is to listen to, learn from, and respect others.

For this reason, we are pleased to announce, for the first time ever, the Big Read is coming to Montgomery County. An initiative of the National Endowment for Arts (NEA), the Big Read is a community reading program designed around a single book. Our literary partners, Montgomery Community Media (MCM) is one of 75 nonprofit organizations to receive a grant to host the NEA Big Read project in our community this spring.



FOLMC is a lead partner organization with Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) formed to put on numerous events and book discussions centered on the debut novel of Ethiopian author Dinaw Mengestu, *The Beautiful Thing That Heaven Bears*. This award-winning book captures immigrant life and will be used as a way to promote discussions relevant to the Montgomery County immigrant experience.

Join us for interesting author talks, lively cultural celebrations, and other activities including music and food in a variety of venues throughout the county. The partner organizations plan to involve all segments of the population including children, as well as reluctant and non-readers. More details about the Big Read events will be released this fall.

There are many opportunities to get involved now to make this county-wide initiative meaningful for everyone. We are looking for sponsors and donations. To learn how you can provide financial or in-kind support to the Big Read, contact Ari Brooks at [abrooks@folmc.org](mailto:abrooks@folmc.org).



*NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.*

## Call for Nominees: Charles W. Gilchrist Award

Watch for details on Charles W. Gilchrist award nominations due November 30.

To submit a nomination, go to [www.folmc.org/about/charles-w-gilchrist-award/application](http://www.folmc.org/about/charles-w-gilchrist-award/application)



FOLMC is supported in part by funding from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

# Work with FOLMC



We're looking for a part-time Development and Communications Coordinator.

FOLMC is currently seeking a Development & Communications Coordinator to take the organization's fundraising to the next level. This position works closely with the Executive Director and Board Fundraising Committee. Preferred candidates are passionate about the value of libraries in our county and have a desire to serve the Montgomery County community.

## Key Responsibilities:

- Coordinate fundraising activities to develop, implement, and continuously improve fund development.
- Major fundraising activities include: grant development; semi-annual fundraising campaigns; fundraising support for annual event; and donor development of individual, corporate, and foundation funding.
- Assist in communications and marketing planning and development including writing content for print and electronic newsletters, advocacy campaigns, website content, and other communications.

To apply, email resume and cover letter to [staff@folmc.org](mailto:staff@folmc.org).

The deadline to submit resumes is October 15.

Visit [www.folmc.org/careers/](http://www.folmc.org/careers/) for detailed job description.

## Board Spotlight Joel Yesley



Joel Yesley is serving his second term on the the board of FOLMC. Joel grew up in the Boston area in the 1950's in a family that valued education and culture. He always enjoyed reading books related to history and other social sciences, often going to the local library. Joel recalls researching a term paper using the Journal of Periodical Literature at the Boston Library, one of the oldest and grandest public libraries in the country. Joel left the Boston area to go to college at Clark University in Worcester, MA. There Joel welcomed the opportunity to develop critical and analytical faculties, majoring in economics.

Most of Joel's reading these days is still non-fiction, with a particular interest in economic history. He also reads a fair amount of politics and sociology. Joel moved to Gaithersburg from Columbia, MD about six years ago and began looking for volunteer opportunities in this area.

He came across an appeal for FOLMC board members and decided to respond. In addition to his desire to support the programs of the library, he was also motivated by respect for the professionalism of the MCPL librarians he encountered. In the course of his board service, Joel says, "I have had the pleasure of interacting with board colleagues of very diverse backgrounds who share my strong commitment to public service."

In addition to reading, Joel enjoys traveling to other countries, attending concerts and plays, and recreational activities, including biking and hiking.

# Staff Spotlight: Brooke Higdon



Brooke Higdon has been the Wheaton Bookstore manager for the past year helping with our transition into the interim Old Silver Spring Library location. We are fortunate to have Brooke's experience, knowledge, and expertise to further build on the Wheaton bookstore's successes.

## Why did you decide to join the FOLMC team?

After my recent retirement from Montgomery College I wanted to offer my many years of retail operations and management experience to a worthy cause. FOLMC seemed like the perfect fit and I'm grateful for the opportunity.

## What is your hometown, background, where did you go to school?

My family lived in Bethesda and I graduated from Gonzaga High School. I received an undergraduate degree in Dance/Theater from Antioch College in Ohio. Later, I continued graduate work at George Washington and American Universities.

## What do you like to read?

Most of my non-fiction reading focuses on art and architecture, the Italian Renaissance being a particular fascination, along with dance and theater of course. For more casual reading, I'm currently scouring the bookstore shelves for anything as yet unread by David Mitchell, Daniel Woodrell or Hanya Yanagihara.

## What are your other hobbies?

What little leisure time there is might be spent in my small Silver Spring perennial garden, or reading on the deck overlooking the Sligo Creek woods. I'm also working on improving my figure skating technique as often as I can.

## What's a fun fact about you?

I just returned from the trip of a lifetime – rafting the Colorado River with friends for ten days through the entire length of the Grand Canyon. What a spectacular adventure! But don't believe them when they tell you that 115 degrees in the shade with low humidity is just a "dry heat." It's still 115 degrees!



## From the Stacks

The Rockville Bookstore hosted its second Vintage Vinyl Auction on July 15. It was a fun afternoon of competitive bidding during which we sold \$1120 worth of records to further our mission. The top selling lot featured *Layla* by Derek and the Dominos and *What a Long Strange Trip It's Been* by The Grateful Dead, the pair selling for \$50. Initial planning has begun for the third iteration of vinyl vehemence, to be held in the winter. For updates tune in to our vinyl mailing list by emailing [bookstores@folmc.org](mailto:bookstores@folmc.org).

## Gems of the Treasure Hunt:

The Rockville Bookstore recently discovered and sold a limited edition illustrated copy of *Micromegas* by Voltaire. The novella from 1752 is considered a landmark in science fiction. In 1923, Rene Kiefer published an edition illustrated with fanciful, original watercolors by Joseph Hemard, limited to only 500 copies. Search for your own gems by visiting our used bookstores. Visit [www.folmc.org/bookstores](http://www.folmc.org/bookstores) for hours and directions.



# From the Library Director

Parker Hamilton, MCPL Director



After nearly 37 years with Montgomery County Government, I retired on August 1. During my time with the County, I served in many different capacities including front line staff, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, and Director of Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL). It has been a very rewarding experience for me, especially seeing a number of initiatives I have implemented or worked on during those years still in place, such as the Gang Prevention Task Force (now called the Positive Youth Development Initiative), the Limited English Proficiency program, elements from the Senior Summit and the County Executive's Library of the Future Summit.

Working with the Friends of the Library has been a pleasure. Together, we have succeeded in enhancing MCPL's system-wide programs, as well as some technologies; providing a full day of training each year for all merit employees of MCPL; annually celebrating our staff and invaluable volunteers; enabling MCPL to participate in state and national organizations such as Urban Libraries Council and Citizens

for Maryland Libraries; and during the recession, ensuring our collection did not suffer by adopting a temporary interpretation of the concept of "enhancement." These are just a few ways the Friends of the Library has assisted in enhancing the mission of public libraries.

I thank you for your commitment to public libraries and your support for MCPL Administration. I ask that you continue to support MCPL and Acting Director Anita Vassallo.

As you are reading this, I have already begun my new adventure. One of the many items on my "to do" list is traveling... so in the future, I will be visiting to see how Montgomery County Public Libraries has continued to move strategically forward in linking residents with resources and materials to create a more literate, connected, strong and vibrant, and delighted Montgomery County.

## Check It Out

The Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library is a "first stop" information center on deaf culture and resources for Maryland information seekers, providing

- online resources on deaf culture,
- a comprehensive electronic collection of deaf resources,
- deaf cultural programs, and
- training programs for library staff.

FOLMC is accepting applications for membership of individuals to help form a Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library Chapter. To create a chapter, FOLMC is especially interested in individuals who wish to serve in any of the four officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. To become a member, visit [www.folmc.org/join](http://www.folmc.org/join).



## We're On Instagram!

Get social and stay up to date on all the latest FOLMC news.

- Facebook.com/FOLMC
- @FOLMC
- @folmcmd

## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Aspen Hill

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### Damascus

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### Germantown

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### Kensington Park

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President: Eli Sola-Sole  
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### Little Falls

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President: Jane Snyder  
littlefalls@folmc.org

## Chapter Spotlights

### TWINBROOK

*President: Elaine Joselovitz*

The Twinbrook Chapter is focused on reflecting the interests of our diverse community and is pleased to learn from MCPL about the increased use of branch computers and checked-out materials available to all ages. The chapter's very successful sales of community-donated items have been managed, since the chapter re-chartered in 2009, by our Gilchrist Award winner David Scalzi. Elke Herzfeld has now taken over managing book sales. Proceeds have allowed the chapter to assist the branch with funding children's summer programs and providing children's educational materials, including a special STEM program. For the library building itself, the chapter acquired display racks and TV stands, providing funds to replace part of the carpeting and overhead signage for collection sections. The Twinbrook Chapter funded half of the cost for replacing the branch entry canopy and wholly funded landscaping for the entryway.

The chapter appreciates MCPL's "refresh" effort completed last year which has made the branch more accessible to patrons and has facilitated an increasing number of ongoing children's activities. FOL and Library Advisory Committee members work with branch manager Eric Carzon and staff to provide enhancements and input as needed throughout each administrative year. Speaking of enhancements, it's been a pleasure to provide a couple of Staff Appreciation lunches each year to thank staff for their service to our neighbors.

To join the Twinbrook Chapter, visit [www.folmc.org/join](http://www.folmc.org/join) or email [twinbrook@folmc.org](mailto:twinbrook@folmc.org).



*(from left) Kathy Deppe, Toby Altman, Elaine Joselovitz, Brigitta Mullican*

# Chapter Spotlights

## DAMASCUS

President: Earl Patrick

The Damascus Chapter is busy planning two exciting events in the Fall. At the Damascus Fair on September 8-10, children and adults will be able to make their own buttons using the button maker donated by the chapter. The chapter has also supported a staff project to enlarge photographs of old Damascus to be framed and hung in the library. On November 4, staff, volunteers, and residents will get together at the library for the annual Train Day. The chapter provides giveaways, equipment, a local band, and food. It is an event enjoyed by nearly 1000 attendees each year.



Looking back at past activities and events, the chapter has had a busy year so far. The Damascus Chapter kicked off 2017 with "Noon Year's Eve," the culminating activity of the "Twelve Days of Winter Break," a celebration for children and teens, with fun events every day of the vacation. The chapter funded many of the activities created by wonderful staff, Amy Alapati, Kathy Sultan, and branch manager Jan McHenry. In February, a Chinese New Year's Lion Dance and craft projects, featuring lanterns, fortune cookies, and roosters, were made possible

by the Damascus Chapter. Along with a local Girl Scout troop, our branch sponsored a creative Valentine's Day experience for children, encouraging them to explain why they love the library. The scouts presented the valentines to our county council members in order to remind them of the importance of our library system.



During the summer months we sponsored events for children, teens, and adults. June, July, and August have brought many programs for all ages. During Celebrate Damascus weekend in July, the staff marched

in a parade and organized *Where the Sidewalk Ends* with games and activities on the sidewalk in front of the branch. The Damascus Chapter has supported all these activities, including printing of flyers,

sales of t-shirts, and funding of events. Thirty-five children, ages eight to ten, enjoyed the annual sleepover in July. The chapter funded special t-shirts for that party, supplied pizza, and invited author Marc Tyler Nobleman, author of *Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman* and *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman* to speak to the participants.

Chapter funding comes from book sales in the library's lobby, memberships, and donations. A group of eight very dedicated volunteers sort and display donated books.

To join the Damascus Chapter, visit [www.folmc.org/join](http://www.folmc.org/join) or email [damascus@folmc.org](mailto:damascus@folmc.org).

## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Olney

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Olney, MD 20832

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### Potomac

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Potomac, MD 20854

President: Edythe Wingate  
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### Marilyn J. Praisner

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Burtonsville, MD 20866

Co-chairs: Vicky Taheri & Nora Siegel  
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### Quince Orchard

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President: Dawn Fairbanks  
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### Rockville

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 100  
Rockville, MD 20850

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### Silver Spring

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President: Kathlin Smith  
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### Twinbrook

202 Meadow Hall Drive  
Rockville, MD 20851

President: Elaine Joselovitz  
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### White Oak

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Silver Spring, MD 20904

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## Chapter Book Sales

For a full list of book sales in library branches, visit the MCPL website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/about/bookdonations.html>



21 Maryland Avenue  
Suite 310  
Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

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## A BOOK TO LOVE AT **FRIENDS' BOOKSTORES**

### **ROCKVILLE BOOKSTORE – EXPANDED**

Randolph Hills Shopping Center  
4886 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville, MD  
301-984-3300

### **WHEATON BOOKSTORE – NOW OPEN!**

at the Old Silver Spring Library  
8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD  
301-933-1110

### **GAITHERSBURG BOOKSTORE – CLOSED**

## **Workplace Giving**

Designate FOLMC as your charity of choice as you plan your workplace giving. Some companies may match your individual donation.

- United Way #8729
- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) #42387
- Maryland Charities Campaign #52-128337

Remember, your donation to FOLMC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

## **Board Recruitment**

Are you looking for a meaningful way to become more involved in your community?

FOLMC invites library lovers to join our Board of Trustees. Interested volunteers should complete the online Board Nomination Application at [www.folmc.org/about/our-people/folmc-board-of-trustees-application/](http://www.folmc.org/about/our-people/folmc-board-of-trustees-application/) or call (240) 777-0020 with questions. Elections will be held November 2017.