

# friends

HELPING  
LIBRARIES REACH  
NEW HEIGHTS

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

## LIBRARY L♥VERS MONTH 2020

### Kickoff Celebration

Saturday, February 1, 2020  
11am

Connie Morella Library  
7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda



Count the ways you love the library this February during Library Lovers Month, a month-long celebration of libraries around the country. This year's theme is "Libraries By the Numbers."

FOLMC will host a family-friendly Library Lovers Month Kickoff with Bradley Fields, who will present "Math Magic." Free tickets will be available 30 minutes before the program. Space is limited.

MCPL provides a variety of resources and offerings year round that help foster a love of science and exploration. It also provides a stimulating environment to celebrate mathematics and develop numeracy skills. Branches and FOLMC Chapters will host special events and activities to celebrate math all month long.

You can also tell us why you love your library. Just fill out a postcard while at your branch or share a photo on FOLMC's Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages (be sure to tag #ILoveMyLibrary and #LibrariesBytheNumbers).

Visit [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org) for more information about the kickoff event and other Library Lovers Month activities. Library Lovers Month Kickoff is sponsored in partnership with the Montgomery County Library Board and Friends of the Library, Connie Morella Chapter.



### Dine-In Day Fundraiser

Thursday, February 27, 2020  
7am to 3pm

Two locations:

Bethesda, 7703 Woodmont Avenue, (301) 986-0285  
Rockville, 12224 Rockville Pike, (301) 468-0886

Celebrate Library Lovers Month with stacks for the stacks. OPH will generously donate 15% of sales to FOLMC. Visit [www.OPHRestaurants.com](http://www.OPHRestaurants.com) for their menu.



### FOLMC Chapter Sponsored Events

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

#### DECEMBER

- 7 12:30pm, Potomac: Author Visit – KK Ottesen
- 7 2pm, Gaithersburg: Build a Gingerbread House
- 21 2pm, Davis: Science Saturday – Superhero Science
- 28 2pm, Germantown: Reptiles Alive!
- 31 11:15am, Damascus: Happy Noon Year's Eve!

#### JANUARY

- 11 All Day, Silver Spring: As You Wish!
- 16 4pm, Connie Morella: Kids' Board Game Time
- 18 2pm, Davis Library: Science Saturday – Uncovering Facts about Dinosaurs
- 25 3pm, Chevy Chase Library: Chinese New Year Lion Dance

#### FEBRUARY

- 15 10:30am, Silver Spring: Roos2U – Meet a Kangaroo!
- 15 2pm, Potomac: Celtic Harp Solo – "All Kinds of Love"
- 15 2pm, Davis: Science Saturday – All About Hearts
- 22 All Day, Germantown: National Aquarium Rainforest Presentation
- 22 2pm, Rockville Memorial: Great Escapes – Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad

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Maraki Solomon

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**friends of the LIBRARY**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

(240) 777-0020  
office@folmc.org

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

# From the President of the Board and the Executive Director

Tom Thomson and Ari Z. Brooks, MSW

## Inspiring a Future Generation of Library Lovers

I first met Jamar Foster at an advocacy potluck at the Germantown Library that he attended with his mother. I immediately noticed his tall stature which made me ask his grade. He was a high school freshman, Jamar told me, and an avid lover of books—biographies, especially Oprah, Barack Obama, and the U.S. presidents.

Not long after our meeting, Jamar applied for the position of student representative on the FOLMC Board of Trustees and was overwhelmingly recommended. The position had a lasting effect.

I recently spoke to Jamar, who informed me that he is now living in Boston and attending Harvard University. "My experience with FOLMC started me on my path to Harvard," he said. "In interviews it was a great conversation starter. People were intrigued to know about my board experience as a young person."

FOLMC has encouraged the participation of young people on the board for more than 20 years. Student representatives act as an extra set of eyes and ears, providing advice on their library experience and how library services and programs can best meet their needs. This year's FOLMC student representative is Maraki Solomon. We are delighted to welcome her and know that she will make a significant mark on the organization in the coming years (no pressure, Maraki).

## How can more young people get involved?

If we want to sustain libraries, we need to reach our youngest library constituents, not only to develop their interests but also to empower them to give back. We can do this by encouraging teens to take on leadership roles and seeking their input on library programming and the library's collections.

## What are some other ways you can involve a teen in our library community?

\*\*Give a donation in honor of a teen in your life. As part of our community, they will receive a FOLMC membership card, the latest FOLMC news and events, and special discounts at our two used bookstores.

\*\*If you run a youth group in a church or synagogue, you could help organize a book drive, and donate them to our used bookstores. We've written before about Eagle Scout William T. Camut – he collected several thousands of books and served as a role model for others to follow.

\*\*Bring your teen to a YA-focused program at the library like MoComCon, the MCPL Comic Convention, which takes place every January, or our own Vinyl Record Day Festival, which takes place in April.

\*\*Teachers or media center specialists could register your students to participate in our Mosaic Program, designed for middle school students. Its winners are published in an anthology which is added to MCPL collections.

Drop us a line at staff@folmc.org to let us know other ways you are inspiring young people to get involved—and give back—to our libraries. You never know what great things will happen next!



# From the Stacks

## New Wheaton Bookstore

Have you been to the new Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center yet? Our Wheaton FOLMC Bookstore, located on the first floor, has returned home and features the same great, high-quality books at affordable prices you have grown to love from FOLMC.

Please note that in conjunction with the opening of the new Wheaton FOLMC Bookstore, the Silver Spring FOLMC Bookstore (8901 Colesville Road) has closed.

The Rockville FOLMC Bookstore (4886 Boiling Brook Parkway) is open for business as usual and is going through a reorganization, so please pardon our appearance.

We always welcome donations during business hours. Donations larger than two (2) boxes should be taken to the Rockville FOLMC Bookstore (4886 Boiling Brook Parkway). Call ahead of time for donations of more than 10 boxes at once.



## Staff Spotlight Suzanna Dickson

Growing up in Gaithersburg, I've lived in Montgomery County for most of my life. My parents worked weekends when I was a child. My mother worked as a page for Montgomery County Public Libraries and so, until we were old enough to stay home alone, my brother and I would spend four hours every weekend at the library. While my parents always, always encouraged us to read, I credit those weekends as the start of my passion for books.

I've always had a peripheral awareness of FOLMC through the library branches, knowing FOLMC volunteers took donations at the libraries and ran the in-house used booksales. I learned about the bookstores and scale of FOLMC's support of MCPL much later. I started working as a page with MCPL five years ago to supplement my full-time retail job. This year a friend and library co-worker, married to one of FOLMC'S bookstore clerks, told me there were job opportunities with the bookstores. I jumped at the chance and here I am, delighted to have 50 percent of my work week dedicated to books.

Working multiple jobs, I don't have nearly as much time to dedicate to hobbies as I would like. Reading has been relegated to work breaks and any kind of wait I do on my own, and so I keep a book with me always. I started fishing again this year, remembering why I loved the activity so much as a kid, though I do recall being much more successful in my youth. In an attempt to return to a daily workout regimen, I've picked up boxing again after a two-year break. Nothing relieves stress quite like wailing on a heavy bag.

We welcome Suzanna and invite you to find your next page-turner at our award-winning Bookstores in Rockville and Wheaton.



# Mark Your Calendars

Sign up for events at [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org), fill out the included flyer, or call the office at (240) 777- 0020.



## Board Spotlight Lynn S. Abrahamson



**When did you move to Montgomery County?  
What do you like about it?**

Montgomery County has been home since 2012. The diversity and cultural assets of the area are my favorite characteristics – as well as the many restaurants!

**Why did you decide to join the FOLMC board?**

An American Public Health Association article sparked my interest in libraries. A 2016 Pew Research Center survey found that 38% of people who use libraries sought health care information. As a nurse (University of Pennsylvania alum) and a public health professional (University of Connecticut grad), I was looking for a way to contribute to the broader community and support hard-to-reach populations.

**What's a fun memory of a library?**

Finding the latest Nancy Drew book, taking it home and discovering under the covers late at night how she solved mysteries.

**What do you like to read now? What's on your nightstand?**

Novels that offer insights into human behavior are my favorite books. Anne Tyler is my favorite author. I also read

the newspaper, health care journals, and *People* magazine regularly. Currently I'm reading *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson, a book about three generations of women and their challenges navigating through life.

**What's a fun fact about you?**

I was a high school exchange student in Brazil. This experience helped me embrace different cultures and perspectives.

**How did you hear about FOLMC?**

After volunteering with the Friends of the Library, Gaithersburg Chapter, I learned about the value of libraries as a trusted resource and access point for many community members. Serving on the FOLMC board seemed like a logical next step.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering with FOLMC?**

I enjoy being able to support a vital community institution as well as fostering the writing skills of middle school students as a Mosaic Contest judge.

# From the Library Director

Anita Vassallo, MCPL Director



I am extremely honored to have been appointed the Director of Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), and I look forward to leading the wonderful staff of our system in providing innovative, exceptional service to all members of our community.

I have worked throughout the library system in many different positions, beginning at the tiny Four Corners branch, my home library growing up in the Woodmoor area of Silver Spring. I have seen the library system, library services, and the profession itself undergo radical changes over the course of my career. I am proud of how MCPL has risen to the challenge of evolving to stay relevant to the residents we serve. The core mission of public libraries has always been to provide the resources that people need to live an informed and fulfilled life, and although methods and materials may have changed, that mission remains at the heart of all we do.

I so appreciate the support of the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County and its chapters. Your generous funding has enabled MCPL to implement many new and exciting initiatives, while your advocacy continues to highlight the critical role of public libraries in our community.

I pledge to do my best to continue the tradition of great community service established by my predecessors, and I hope to have opportunities to hear from many of you about how we, working together, can best serve you, the residents of Montgomery County.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY PRESENTS  
6TH ANNUAL LIBRARY AFTER DARK GALA

**BEYOND**  
*the Book*

**friends** OF THE LIBRARY  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

*Save the Date*  
APRIL 25, 2020

## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Aspen Hill

4407 Aspen Hill Road  
Rockville, MD 20853  
President: Chris Swan  
aspenhill@folmc.org

### Chevy Chase

8005 Connecticut Avenue  
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President: Judy McGuire  
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### Connie Morella (Bethesda)

7400 Arlington Road  
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President: Joan Greenbaum  
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### Damascus

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President: Earl Patrick  
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### Davis

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### Gaithersburg

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Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
President: Janet Brown  
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### Germantown

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Germantown, MD 20874  
President: Robert Fuss  
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### Kensington Park

4201 Knowles Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895  
President: Katie Engen  
kensingtonpark@folmc.org

### Little Falls

5501 Massachusetts Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
President: Jane Snyder  
littlefalls@folmc.org

## Chapter Spotlight

### CONNIE MORELLA

*President: Joan Greenbaum*

Have you seen the new mural at Connie Morella Library? "Literary Dogs and a Few Cats" measures 40 feet long by 5 feet tall and is located behind the circulation desk. The mural was created by Chevy Chase-based artist, Kathryn Freeman, and was unveiled this summer. Ms. Freeman used fluid acrylic paint to create the mural on a continuous canvas scroll. It took four people to install it.



*Photography by Tim Tiebout // www.timtiebout.com*



The mural, which celebrates dozens of famous four-legged friends in popular literature, includes Lassie, Old Yeller and Big Red in poses of rest or play. What other literary animals do you see?

The dedication ceremony, sponsored by Friends of the Library, Connie Morella Chapter, which took place in July, featured remarks by Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Maryland State Senator Susan Lee, and Maryland State Delegate Marc Korman. "What a great example of books and art coming to life and of the talent and treasures we are so lucky to have here in our community," Councilmember Friedson said. Be sure to see it for yourself!

#### **A New Name for Bethesda's Library**

Many people remember it as the Bethesda Library, but the branch was renamed after former FOLMC Board Member, politician, and former U.S. ambassador Connie Morella in 2018. The library also underwent a refresh and now features new self-checkout kiosks, new information and circulation desks, LED lighting, a brighter, lighter color scheme, and renovated bathrooms. Additional improvements were made to the building's infrastructure, including replacing the roof. The sidewalk and parking lot were also updated.

#### **Upcoming Events at Connie Morella Library**

On Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 11am, the Friends of the Library, Connie Morella Chapter is excited to host Bradley Fields' "Math Magic." This is the kickoff event to Library Lovers Month, and the theme is "Library by the Numbers."

Learn all about the Chapter's events by visiting this link:  
<https://www.folmc.org/chapters/morella-chapter/>

For more information or volunteer opportunities, send an email to [morella@folmc.org](mailto:morella@folmc.org).



## Vision

Everyone in the County values, benefits from, and supports Montgomery County Public Libraries.

## Mission

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, by

- **Raising** funds to enhance and supplement library programming, equipment, and services;
- **Increasing** public awareness of library resources and connecting local communities with their branch libraries;
- **Creating** volunteer opportunities for County residents to support MCPL;
- **Engaging** with the County’s library support community to address the ongoing needs of the library system, and advocating for MCPL’s budget to the County government.

## Values

**Education** – we facilitate awareness of public library resources for everyone

**Innovation** – we embrace change and evolution of libraries

**Service** – we give back to our community

**Integrity** – we operate transparently as responsible stewards of public trust

**Advocacy** – we are champions for our library system

## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Olney

3500 Olney-Laytonsville Road  
Olney, MD 20832

President: Salley Shannon  
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### Potomac

10101 Glenolden Drive  
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President: Edythe Wingate  
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### Marilyn J. Praisner

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Burtonsville, MD 20866

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### Quince Orchard

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Gaithersburg, MD 20878

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### Rockville Memorial

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### Silver Spring

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### Twinbrook

202 Meadow Hall Drive  
Rockville, MD 20851

President: Elaine Joselovitz  
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### White Oak

11701 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

President: Paulette Wright  
whiteoak@folmc.org

## DESIGNATE FOLMC IN YOUR WORKPLACE GIVING



CFC Designation  
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## Save the Dates

Library Lovers Month Kickoff – February 1, 11am at Connie Morella Library

Dine In Day Fundraiser – February 27, 7am to 3pm at The Original Pancake House

Michelle Singletary Contemporary Conversation – April 4, 7pm at Wheaton Library

Vinyl Record Festival – April 18, noon to 4pm at Silver Spring Library

6th Annual Library After Dark Gala – April 25, 7:30pm at Rockville Memorial Library

Gaithersburg Book Festival – May 16, 10am to 6pm at Bohrer Park

## Chapter Booksales

For a full list of booksales 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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## 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 – OPENED 9/8/2019**

Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center  
11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902  
(301) 933-1110

### **WHEATON BOOKSTORE – CLOSED 9/7/2019**

at the Old Silver Spring Library  
8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

**Get social with all the latest FOLMC news.**

 Facebook.com/FOLMC  @FOLMC  @folmcmd

 Friends of the Library, Montgomery County



**JOIN  
OUR TEAM**

## Board of Directors

Are you looking for a meaningful way to become more involved in your community? FOLMC invites library lovers to join our Board of Trustees. Apply online at [www.folmc.org/support/volunteer-with-us/board-of-trustees-application/](http://www.folmc.org/support/volunteer-with-us/board-of-trustees-application/) or call (240) 777-0020 with questions.