

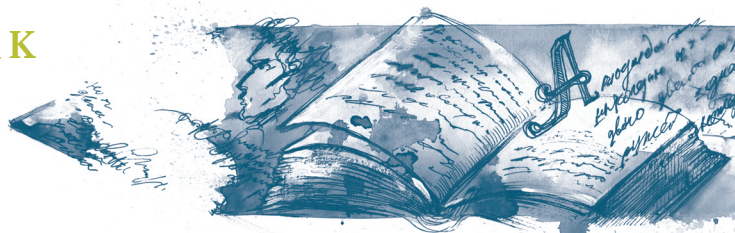
# friends

HELPING  
LIBRARIES REACH  
NEW HEIGHTS

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

## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIBRARY AFTER DARK

# STORIES *from* the STACKS



APRIL 14 • 7:30-10:00 p.m.  
Rockville Memorial Library

At the 4th Annual Library After Dark Gala, on Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockville Memorial Library, we will recognize the library staff, volunteers, donors, and community leaders who make Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) an outstanding, nationally-recognized system. This year's theme, *Stories from the Stacks*, celebrates not only the stories told in books at our libraries but of those who benefit from their rich resources to learn, grow, and create community. This is a chance to pay tribute and give back to libraries through your donations and your attendance at the premier library event of the year.

Tickets available for purchase at [www.folmc.org/lad](http://www.folmc.org/lad)

*Honoring*  
B. Parker Hamilton

*Honorary Committee*  
Tebabu Assefa and Sara Mussie  
Gilberto and Karen Zelaya  
Margaret Engel



2017 Library After Dark Gala emcee  
Tamika Smith, WAMU's weekend host.

## Thank You Sponsors



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## FOL Chapter Sponsored Events

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

### MARCH

- 2 3 p.m., Damascus: Teen Meet-Ups – Breakerspace
- 15 7 p.m., Silver Spring: Author Series – Barbara Feinman Todd
- 17 10 a.m., Kensington Park: Writers Workshop – All the Write Stuff
- 17 1 p.m., Davis: Kitchen Chemistry
- 18 2 p.m., Gaithersburg: Strawberry DNA
- 28 2 p.m., Chevy Chase: Fiction, Memoir and Biography Book Group

### APRIL

- 5 12:30 p.m., Potomac: Great Decisions – China and America, the New Geopolitical Equation
- 8 2 p.m., Silver Spring: Buoyancy/Archimedes
- 10 3 p.m., Olney: Make Fabulous Vinyl Art
- 10 6:30 p.m., Kensington Park: Author Talks – Michelle Carter
- 14 2 p.m., Davis: Crime Science Investigations – Escape Room
- 15 2 p.m., Gaithersburg: Fun with Computer Programming
- 29 2 p.m., Damascus: The Deep Blue Sea

### MAY

- 5 2 p.m., Chevy Chase: Foreign Film Showing “Testament of Youth”
- 15 7 p.m., Bethesda: Classics in Context – Martha Quest
- 22 11 a.m., Little Falls: AARP Safe Driving Course

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**arts & humanities**  
council of montgomery county

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

Dear Friends,

We are gearing up for an exciting season of programs including your favorite signature events and some exciting new ones. Our Immigrants in Literature **Literary Series** will be held on March 22 with local authors Dawit Habte and Ginny Gong. This program begins our discussion of the immigrant experience in Montgomery County as we celebrate the **NEA Big Read** by reading *The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears* by Dinaw Mengestu. Join us for programs from April to June including library book discussion groups, a lively musical program featuring DJ Gee Man on April 21, an authentic Ethiopian coffee ceremony on May 12, a unique creative writing celebration for young authors on May 23, and a closing ceremony with a keynote address by Dinaw Mengestu on June 9. See the full list of **NEA Big Read** events at [www.folmc.org/big-read/](http://www.folmc.org/big-read/).

We also invite you to join us on April 14 at **Library After Dark**, the premiere library event of the year, to acknowledge our most generous donors and dedicated library staff and volunteers. This year's theme, *Stories from the Stacks*, will honor the personal stories of those who contribute to the success of our libraries, including a special tribute to former Library Director, Parker Hamilton. You won't want to miss this wonderful chance to give back to libraries, connect with the library community, and share your own stories. Visit [www.folmc.org/lad/](http://www.folmc.org/lad/) for ticket information and sponsorship opportunities; or call (240) 777-0020 to discuss how you or your company can be involved.



## Student Board Rep Recruitment

FOLMC is now accepting applications for a Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. The term for the selected student will begin in August 2018. The deadline for application materials is March 31. Eligible students should be entering 11th grade in the fall of 2018 and must attend school and live in Montgomery County.

Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees gain valuable insight and experience related to areas of nonprofit organizations, nonprofit boards and governance, leadership, and community involvement. While not a voting member of the Board of Trustees, the student representative will impact how FOLMC determines programs and enhancements with particular focus for how to best serve the teen population in Montgomery County.

**To learn more and submit an application visit**  
[www.folmc.org/about/student-representative/](http://www.folmc.org/about/student-representative/).

# Mosaic

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY  
THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING



## Mosaic Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, May 23, 6 p.m.

Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road

Celebrate the winners and honorable mentions of the **Mosaic: Diversity Through Creative Writing** program. Hear students read their moving pieces and creatively express their diversity and culture through poems, essays, and short stories. A published anthology of these works will be for sale at the event and will also be available for check out at local libraries and middle school media centers.

Students will be treated to an appearance by Kwame Alexander, poet, educator, and bestselling author of *Rebound* (Pub Date: April 2, 2018), the follow-up to his Newbery-medal winning middle grade novel, *The Crossover*. *The New York Times* calls him "one of the country's most innovative children's book authors."

Now in its seventh year, this annual language arts program for middle school students showcases their creative talents and expresses their cultural identities. The program is held in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL).

The event is free and open to the public. Please register at [www.folmc.org/mosaic/](http://www.folmc.org/mosaic/).



## Board Spotlight Fred Evans

Fred Evans retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools after a successful 30-year career. While principal of Gaithersburg High School and Parkland Middle School, he helped to create strong community partnerships with parents, local and state governmental agencies, and local non-profit community groups to enhance the educational opportunities for his students.

As an educator, Mr. Evans experienced how important libraries were for his students and their families. He decided to become an FOLMC board member to advocate for appropriate resources for the entire county library system. Mr. Evans has been on the board since 2017 and is on the Executive and Advocacy committees. Prior to joining the board he served as a judge for the **Mosaic: Diversity Through Creative Writing**

program. He enjoys going to the local branches to see "first-hand" the excellent services provided to library users.

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Mr. Evans graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and earned a master's degree in school administration at McDaniel College. He fondly remembers the many hours that he spent in his local Pittsburgh library, which was within walking distance from his home. On a personal note, Mr. Evans enjoys reading biographies about famous athletes and a variety of American history books. Currently, Mr. Evans is reading *1968* by Mark Kurlansky.

Mr. Evans serves as an adjunct professor of education leadership at Hood College.

# Big Read Literary Series and Salons



Big Read in Montgomery County



## Immigrant Experience in Literature

Thursday, March 22, 11:30 a.m.  
The Mansion at Strathmore,  
10701 Rockville Pike



FOLMC will host an NEA Big Read pre-kickoff featuring an author panel on the immigrant experience in literature with Eritrean-born Dawit Gebremichael Habte, software engineer and author of *Gratitude in Low Voices*, and Ginny Gong, community leader and author of *From Ironing Board to Corporate Board*.

Tickets are available at [www.folmc.org/events-calendar/literary-series/](http://www.folmc.org/events-calendar/literary-series/).

## Vinyl Day Record Panel

Red Sea Recordings: The Recording Industry in Eritrea  
Saturday, April 21  
Silver Spring Library, 900 Wayne Avenue



Legendary recording artist Abdella Abubaker discusses the history of the recording industry in Eritrea. Learn about the rich history of ritual music and how the recording industry has evolved from revolutionary funk to viral pop.

## Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony

Saturday, May 12, 11 a.m.  
FOLMC Bookstore  
8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring

Join us for an authentic Ethiopian coffee ceremony and hambasha (a ceremonial bread eaten on special occasions) tasting presented in partnership with Blessed Coffee. This event is free and open to the first 50 people who register. Registration opens on April 2 at [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org).



Visit [www.folmc.org/big-read/](http://www.folmc.org/big-read/) for all NEA Big Read in Montgomery County events.

## MCPL Book Discussion Group

Join the conversation. MCPL Book Discussion Groups are happening around the county as part of the NEA Big Read in Montgomery County. Check out the MCPL NEA Big Read calendar at [montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/programs/neabigread.html](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/programs/neabigread.html).

## Closing Ceremony

Saturday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Silver Spring Library, 900 Wayne Avenue

Dinaw Mengestu will be the keynote speaker at the NEA Big Read Closing Ceremony.



# Vinyl Day Record Festival



Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Silver Spring Library, 900 Wayne Ave

Join John Corbett, author of *Vinyl Freak: Love Letters to a Dying Medium*, at this retro event celebrating vinyl records. Corbett will be one of several speakers discussing political and historical aspects of the vinyl record industry. In addition, there will be makerspace activities for all ages, record sales, demonstrations, and live music. Join in the fun and bring the whole family.

The event is hosted in partnership with MCPL, Open Sky Jazz, Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter, and Levine Music.

In conjunction with the Vinyl Day Festival, Olney Library, 3500 Olney-Laytonsville Road, will host **Make Fabulous Vinyl Art** on Tuesday, April 10 at 3 p.m. Make fabulous art out of scratched, and broken vinyl records. FOLMC will provide vinyl records; you bring the creativity and manpower! Sponsored by Friends of the Library, Olney Chapter.



# From the Library Director

Anita Vassallo, Acting MCPL Director



So far, fiscal year 2018 (FY18) has been very exciting. We have been moving forward in fulfilling the objectives of our FY17-20 Strategic Plan, while finding ways to contribute to the County's savings plans. It has been challenging, but we have accomplished a great deal, including the following:

- Refreshed Aspen Hill, Little Falls, and Quince Orchard libraries.
- Offered a creative writing workshop for veterans, active service members, and their adult family members to help shape and tell their stories.
- Collaborated with Gandhi Brigade Youth Media to offer free video production classes for high school students.
- Added 19 hours more per week of service to three branches - Little Falls, Kensington Park, and Twinbrook.
- Offered **Animation Workshops** during Montgomery County Public Schools' winter break.
- Launched LearningExpress Library offering free access to hundreds of online resources for academic and career success.
- Added Early Literacy and After School Edge tablets at 17 of our 21 branches.
- Hosted our second comic convention, **MoComCon**.
- Provided Lynda.com, offering free access to a collection of high-quality video tutorials taught by industry experts,

giving customers the opportunity to learn skills to achieve personal and professional goals.

- Through a grant from the NBC Universal Foundation and Montgomery Community Media, began offering **Literary Explorers**, a program to teach those ages 10 – 14 how to create and video a book talk.
- Celebrated the first anniversary of MCPL's podcast, Library Matters. The podcast produces new episodes every two weeks that explore the world of books, libraries, technology, learning, and current events.
- Joined Montgomery College, the Gaithersburg Book Festival, FOLMC, and Montgomery County Public Schools in hosting Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi, the author of the 2017 One Maryland One Book selection, *Purple Hibiscus*.
- Received a **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read** grant in partnership with FOLMC, Montgomery Community Media, and the Gaithersburg Book Festival.

At the close of FY18, a complete list of accomplishments will be compiled and included in our 2018 Report to the Community. We thank you for your support in helping us achieve our goals.

# Wedding at Wheaton Bookstore

Over the years, FOLMC has hosted many kinds of events from cooking classes to a battle of the bands, but never before in our history have we hosted a wedding. This spring, we are delighted to host the nuptials of booklovers, Kathy Trumbull and Reggie Harrison at our Wheaton Bookstore (temporarily housed at the Old Silver Spring Library). The bride-to-be works for a wine distributor and loves to read. Her fiancé is a realtor and paints in his spare time.

Last April Reggie proposed to Kathy at the bookstore – in the romance section! The couple chose to wed in the bookstore since it is where they had their very first date. Reggie's proposal began with how romantic the bookstore was, filled with love stories and poetry, and then he started

reciting a poem, before pulling out a ring. Kathy said "It was the most romantic way he could've ever asked me to marry him!"

The wedding is planned for the late afternoon with 50 family members and close friends gathered in the aisles of the bookstore. There are no honeymoon plans set as of yet, but we're sure the travel section will give them many ideas.

We are very excited to celebrate Kathy and Reggie's love and friendship at a place that is dear to them and all those who love a good book with a happy ending.



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## Chapter Spotlight

### KENSINGTON PARK

*President: Eli Sola-Sole*

Striving to unify our reading community, the Friends of the Library, Kensington Park Chapter (FOLKP) is sponsoring evergreen programs while piloting fresh options in 2018. Join us for one or all of our exciting upcoming events. On March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. FOLKP is hosting a free workshop **All the Write Stuff** where facilitator Steve Piacente is joined by authors featured in Kensington's 13th Annual Day of the Book Festival scheduled for April 22.

Sessions, for new and experienced adult writers, address writing poetry, history, and memoir; navigating publication; and the writing career. On April 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., professional journalist, Michelle Carter shares her memoir, *From Under the Russian Snow*, as part of FOLKP's **Author Talks** series. For questions and to register for any of these events, email [kensingtonpark@folmc.org](mailto:kensingtonpark@folmc.org).

In addition to local library events, FOLKP is participating in the county-wide **NEA Big Read** by hosting interactive programs. Visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/kensingtonpark.html/](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/kensingtonpark.html/) for chapter sponsored events.

FOLKP had a busy 2017 as well. The chapter hosted **Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone 20th Anniversary Party** in June. Nearly 200 muggles and others hunted Deathly Hallows-themed clues for prizes hidden in the library. All enjoyed the themed cakes, too. In August, our **Eclipse Party** saw hundreds of astronomy fans looking skyward using—and sharing—the free glasses from the library or viewers of their own making. **First Night Pajama Party** in October celebrated the newly (re-) expanded evening hours where families enjoyed an evening of bedtime stories and games. In December, **Music IN the Library** (see photo above) quietly enhanced the patron visit and library experience while keyboardist Scott Camillo and bassist Scott Douglass played various songs - and took requests!

In addition to events, FOLKP proudly supports local authors with a permanent Local Author Shelf. Shepherding these books through the cataloguing process ensures each is available for regular circulation. Like all the titles, the 10 most recent additions represent many genres.



Kensington Park Library patrons are surrounded by art and beauty with the library's professionally installed giant wall mural and stair risers featuring an array of classic titles and Walker Wall Art System, which showcases amazing art from local artists. Outdoors, patrons can enjoy nature, relax and sit next to the *Wizard of Oz* garden, phase one of seven accessible, interactive, and sustainable gardens featuring children's literature designed pro bono by local resident and landscape architect, Karin Johnson.

These events, program supplies and capital improvements are funded through FOLKP member dues, donations, and a book sale in the lobby. Join the chapter and help enrich the Kensington Park Library. Contact [kensingtonpark@folmc.org](mailto:kensingtonpark@folmc.org) for details.



# Thank You Donors

We wish to gratefully acknowledge the following **donors who generously contributed to our end-of-year campaign**. We are very proud of the work we do in support of libraries and are thrilled that you are partners in this endeavor.

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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>

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(301) 933-1110

### GAITHERSBURG BOOKSTORE – CLOSED

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FOLMC receives thoughtful contributions in memory of friends and relatives who have passed away, as well as to celebrate special occasions. The following gifts were received during 2017.

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