

# friends

HELPING  
LIBRARIES REACH  
NEW HEIGHTS

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

## FOLMC Branch Booksales are Back!

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of FOLMC's dedicated Booksale volunteers as well as our Volunteer Manager, Angela Meyers, FOLMC Branch Booksales (housed in MCPL Branches) have resumed.



FOLMC Branch Booksale at Davis Library Volunteers

During the Covid-19 pandemic, when library buildings were closed for more than a year, all Branch Booksales went on hiatus. However, our volunteers, under Meyers' direction, diligently worked to resume the Booksales, and we're happy to report that, as of February 2024, they have reopened at the following MCPL branches:

- Aspen Hill Library
- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring)
- Chevy Chase Library
- Connie Morella Library (Bethesda)
- Damascus Library
- Davis Library (North Bethesda)
- Gaithersburg Library
- Germantown Library
- Kensington Park Library
- Little Falls Library
- Long Branch Library
- Olney Library
- Quince Orchard Library
- Rockville Memorial Library
- White Oak Library

### Why Are Booksales Important?

Whenever you visit and purchase from a FOLMC Booksale, you're directly supporting your local community, as booksale funding raises money for specific MCPL branches that are used to support their programming and services.

Not many people know just how much of an impact a Booksale has on the branch itself. "The library staff is so excited over the resumption of the Branch Booksales, as they help to fund new children's programming, the Summer Reading Challenge!, Makerspace activities, Health & Wellness programming, Workforce Development, and more," Meyers said, "And patrons, in turn, are equally thrilled to browse a varied and well-maintained collection of books once again."

*"I want to take a moment and thank the more than 150 FOLMC Branch Booksale Volunteers for their contribution of time, skill, and enthusiasm," Meyers continues, "Their role is invaluable to FOLMC."*

### How Can I Donate to a Booksale?

Many MCPL branches accept donations of used books, music, and DVDs, but space is limited. Check to see if your branch is currently accepting donations and what their requirements are by visiting the Book Donations page on MCPL's website.

### How Can I Become a Booksale Volunteer?

Volunteers make our Booksales possible - it's a great way to engage with your community, connect with your friends, and make new ones with a shared bond.

With so many new Branch Booksales now open, we're currently on the lookout for more volunteers to sort and shelve donations.

If your branch doesn't have a Booksale yet, you can help get one off the ground! Simply fill out and submit our Volunteer form, which is available on our website, [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org).

*Pictured above: FOLMC Volunteer Manager Angela Meyers*





# Introducing the FOLMC Board's New Leadership

Ari Z. Brooks, Executive Director, FOLMC

Strong leaders create strong Boards of Directors. A strong Board of Trustees plays a critical role in carrying out a nonprofit's mission and positively impacts its success.

As the organization's governing body, the Board of Trustees does so much more than provide financial oversight and manage risk. The Board is a central part of every nonprofit, as it sets its strategic direction, collectively makes decisions, and builds relationships with the community.

According to Maryland Nonprofits' Standards for Excellence Institute, "effective leadership consists of a partnership between the Board of Directors and management, each of which plays an essential role."

But just as strong leaders bring skills and experience that fit a Board's needs, they are also aware that their time on the Board is limited. A Board, in effect, is a dynamic and ever-evolving entity. It has to be. Setting term limits for Board members, like the 3-year limit mandated in FOLMC's bylaws, creates systematic change for the organization as well as a continuous flow of new energy. This helps to ensure its longevity—and drives it forward.

I wish to thank our outgoing Board members, Pamela Saussy, President, Kathy Bittinger, Tyler Hoover, Paige Nerenberg, and Martin White, for their years of excellent service and ask you to join me as we welcome our newest Board leadership:

*"Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people."*

*—Author Nicholas Sparks*



**Frances Frost**

**Frances Frost** has been elected our new Board President. Frost is an educational advocate and the author of two novels, "Mourning Calm" (published in 2016) and "Life in Spades" (2013) as well as the owner of a small publishing company, InvisionBooks. For over 20 years, Frost has served in leadership roles at a variety of nonprofits, ranging from local family foundations to national organizations. Her main focus has been with organizations that address barriers, advocate for equitable opportunities for youth and families in education, and provide community service, particularly to Black communities and women. Frost has also served on the Board at the Pearls of Hope Community Foundation and as a National PTA Board Member Representative and President of Montgomery County (MD) Council of PTAs.



**Shelley Johnson Carey**

**Shelley Johnson Carey** is our New Vice President. Carey is the author of "Thin Mint Memories," an exploration of how participating in the Girl Scout cookie program leads to female empowerment. Carey recently retired from a 40-year career in educational publishing, which included editing the "Peer Review." She is a certified workshop leader in the Amherst Writing & Artists writing method and owns a business, *A Writer's POV*, that offers writing workshops in the DC area.

*We look forward to the experience Frost and Carey bring to our table as they move forward our next strategic plan.*



## A Note from MCPL Director Anita Vassallo

MCPL began the new year offering many exciting programs, services, and events to spark new ideas, foster connections, and expand knowledge.

We were thrilled to team up again with the Washington Wizards to promote youth reading and literacy through the “Wizard Winter Reading Challenge,” which kicked off on January 3 and ends on March 20. This free challenge is a fun way to inspire children, teens, and their families to enjoy reading, visit their local library, connect with their community, and find different ways to be physically active this winter. Those who complete the challenge are eligible for a variety of prizes that will be available at their local library while supplies last. They also will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win two tickets to the Wizards’ home game on Friday, April 12.

An exciting Contemporary Conversations series is being planned beginning with poet, writer, curator, and organizer Mahogany L. Browne in celebration of Black History Month. Browne is the author of recent works: *Chlorine Sky*, *Woke: A Young Poets Call to Justice*, *Woke Baby*, and *Black Girl Magic*. The series will also include speakers in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander, Caribbean Heritage, Hispanic Heritage, and Native American Heritage months.

Our branch Teen Advisory Boards (TAB) are busy helping their local libraries and the community by implementing, promoting, and advocating for youth services in the county. TAB is a group of library teen volunteers who provide feedback on programs, assist librarians with planning and running events, and advocating for libraries. Applicants for TAB must be 13 or in 8th grade at time of application, up to 17 or 18, and a senior in high school.

We continue to offer free vital resources for workforce, financial, and business development. Upcoming events include: help finding childcare and financial assistance to help with childcare; YouthBuild, a community-based pre-apprenticeship program for youth ages 16-24, to assist in connecting teens and young adults to jobs and training; LinkedIn Boot Camp for 45+ job seekers; how to pay for college and trade school; digital skills workshops; staff from the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program will be available to discuss services and assistance available to veterans; learn what Montgomery College has to offer - degrees, certificates, and financial aid; and a webinar to determine whether starting a business is right for you and whether you’re ready for it.

Visit MCPL’s website ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library)) and connect with us on social media to keep up to date on all of our resources, services and events. MCPL – a place for everyone!

**GBF** **GAITHERSBURG** **BOOK Festival**

**Visit Our Pavilion!**

**Saturday, May 18**  
**10-6 pm**  
[www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org)

Bohrer Park  
506 S. Frederick Ave  
Gaithersburg, MD

**friends LIBRARY**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The graphic features a sun, a pavilion with a girl carrying books, and children reading. The pavilion has the Friends of the Library logo on its roof. The entire scene is set against a background of flowers and a fence.

21 Maryland Avenue  
Suite 310  
Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

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Wheaton Library and Community  
Recreation Center  
11701 Georgia Avenue  
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 Friends of the Library,  
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with a tribute brick.*



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Visit [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org) for more information