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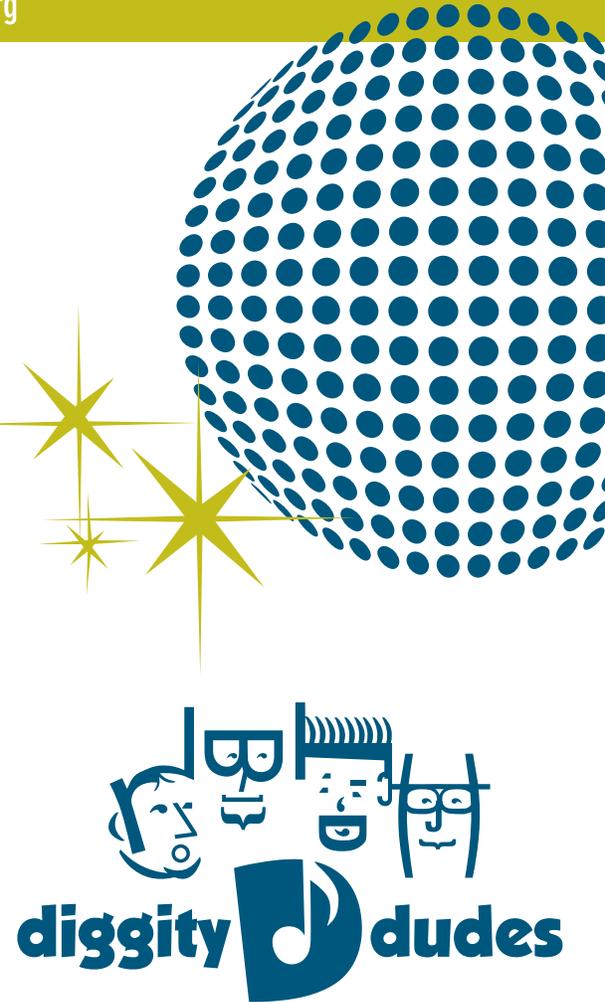
Library Lovers Month, February 2015



Do you love feathered hair, disco balls, and catchy music for kids? More importantly, do you love libraries? Come show your libraries some love during Library Lovers Month in February! Library Lovers Month is a month-long celebration of your library system, sponsored by FOLMC and the Montgomery County Library Board. FOLMC will host a kickoff event at the newly renovated Olney branch library on Saturday, January 31, at 11 am. Look for the disco-themed decorations and entertainment in the library meeting room. FOLMC will sponsor door prizes and other fun activities that day, including a musical performance by the Diggity Dudes.

The Diggity Dudes, a funky children's musical group, will perform in the morning. The Dudes play hip music for hip kids, about topics ranging from science to the Presidential Physical Fitness test. You may have seen the Diggity Dudes this summer in Rockville Town Center or King's Dominion, where they kept kids and their families grooving to their catchy beats.

FOLMC chapters at most branches are hosting Library Lovers Month events throughout February. Head over to your local branch for a fun Saturday. While you're there, fill out a postcard or take a photo and tell us why you love libraries. Your picture may be featured on our Facebook page!



Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2015

- 17 Praisner chapter Book Sale
- 24 Rockville Memorial Simple Gifts concert
- 31 Library Lovers Month Kickoff

FEBRUARY

- 21 Praisner Chapter Book Sale
- 22 Rockville Memorial Chinese New Year performance
- 23 Praisner Chapter Book Sale



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FOLMC's Spring 2015 Literary Luncheon Authors

FOLMC is thrilled to announce our spring 2015 Literary Luncheon authors, Kathryn O'Sullivan and Jeffery Deaver. O'Sullivan will discuss her newest mystery novel, *Murder on the Hoof*, on March 19, and Deaver will talk about his latest Lincoln Rhyme thriller, *The Skin Collector*, on April 16. Both events will be held at the beautiful Strathmore Mansion in North Bethesda.



Kathryn O'Sullivan is an award-winning playwright and novelist whose work has been featured at the American Globe Theatre and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. *Murder on the Hoof* is the second in her new mystery series about Colleen McCabe, an intrepid fire chief swept up in a murder investigation. Set in the beautiful Outer Banks town of Corolla, NC, *Murder on the Hoof* is a charming mystery full of twists, turns, and dark deeds.

Jeffery Deaver is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Lincoln Rhyme thrillers, among many other novels. *The Skin Collector* is his latest in the series, about a new serial killer who appears to be inspired by an old Lincoln Rhyme villain, the Bone Collector. Rhyme and his partner Amelia Sachs have to untangle a series of clues left on his victims before the Skin Collector kills again.



Thanks to everyone who made our fall Literary Luncheons a great success! Larry Matthews, our talented board member and published author, graciously filled in at the last minute when one of our authors became ill, and Grady Smith and Dr. Ida E. Jones were completely spellbinding at their luncheons. We hope you will join us for our spring series.

To reserve your space at our Literary Luncheons, please visit www.folmc.org or complete and mail the enclosed reservation form. Lectures begin at 11:30 am and are followed by a catered lunch and book signing at 12:30 pm. A limited number of books will be available for purchase on site.



From the Executive Director and President of the Board of Trustees

Ellen L. Berman and Ari Z. Brooks, MSW



Libraries Matter

The partnership between Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC), Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), and the Montgomery County Library Board dates back to 1982 when the Library Director, Agnes Griffen, convened a group of concerned residents to establish FOLMC as an organization that would raise funds for special library projects to “make a good library system great.” Over the years, the partnership has flourished into one of the most dynamic and exciting models of collaboration in the county.

Our partnership is successful because it was based on mutual respect. Both groups share a common goal to support the library department although our paths to achieve the goal may differ. The partnership has withstood the test of time because we annually affirm this goal at a joint meeting between all parties and our affiliate groups.

These groups are the 17 affiliate chapters of FOLMC working locally to raise funds to strengthen their branches. While the library board is comprised 23 library advisory committees to “be the eyes and ears” of MCPL and advise on library services and programs.

Together, we form a “sea of orange” that educates the residents and our elected officials on the importance of library services in our community.

There is room to join our partnership. Sign up to receive our online advocacy newsletter, “In the Know” to get budget information and learn how to take action. Email us at staff@folmc.org to sign up for the mailing and let us know why libraries matter.

From the Stacks

New Business Coordinator

Lance Salins, FOLMC’s Business Coordinator, has been involved with the organization in various capacities for the past five years. In addition to his primary duties marketing and supporting our two used bookstores in Rockville and Wheaton, Lance contributes to our From the Stacks column, staffs meetings and special events, and runs our bookstore Twitter feed, @folmcbookstores.

Before he was our fulltime Business Coordinator, Lance was a devout customer of the used bookstore on Boiling Brook Parkway in Rockville. Lance is only truly comfortable when surrounded by books, so applying to volunteer at our store in 2009 was a natural fit. He received a warm welcome from store manager Les Rich, and after two years of shelving books, Les offered him a chance to join the staff. He worked as a clerk and then as an assistant manager before taking on his current role this past spring. He also launched our first Twice Told Tale live auction this past June.

Lance is a native Marylander and earned a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Maryland at the age of 18. He enjoys experimental literature, philology, and ephemera.



Check It Out!

You know that FOLMC funds projects for the library system, but what have your donations given to the library? This new column will highlight a project that your donations and bookstore visits have given to MCPL this year.

Go! Kits are backpacks developed by MCPL filled with items to get kids excited about science and technology. Each backpack contains books, science tools, and an iPad loaded with fun and educational apps to engage kids as they learn. Go! Kits were designed for parents and caregivers to interact with children as they explore the world around them together. Each kit has a theme, including the Solar System, Weather, Robots, and many others, and the books and science tools tie into the kit's theme.

"Little Explorers" kits are designed for pre-k to 2nd grade kids, while "Young Voyagers Go!" kits are perfect for grades 3-6. All the books, tools, and apps were handselected by MCPL librarians, so you know kids will have a great time while they learn to love STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Your friendly branch librarians are also available to show patrons how to use all of the items in the Go! Kits at checkout. Go! Kits are available for checkout for up to two weeks at these branches, which are piloting the program:

- Aspen Hill
- Gaithersburg
- Olney
- Twinbrook
- Silver Spring
- White Oak
- Noyes Library for Young Children (Little Explorers only)

They're very popular, so head over to your closest branch soon!

Thanks to your generous donations, elementary school children across the county now have access to STEM-related technology, and they are loving it. FOLMC funded 63 Go! Kits this year, and they are constantly in use. We could not have done it without you.



A young patron eagerly pulls her Go! Kit out of the library.

FOLMC Board Recruitment

Do you want to take your support of libraries to the next level? FOLMC is looking for library-loving professionals to join our Board of Trustees. Terms begin in January of each year. Our board is a dedicated group of working and retired professionals who have a passion for Montgomery County Public Libraries. They provide guidance, leadership, oversight, and extra pairs of hands to our small staff on a wide variety of projects. Does this sound like you or someone you know? If you have skills in finance, fundraising, human resources, or marketing, or if you know someone who does, please contact our office at (240) 777-0020 or email Ari Brooks, Executive Director, at abrooks@folmc.org.



From the Library Director

Our Mission: *Montgomery County Public Libraries offers free and equal access to services and resources that connect the people of Montgomery County to ideas and information which sustain and enrich their lives.*

For MCPL to accomplish this mission, we must know who “the people” are and what they want. The demographics of Montgomery County have changed significantly over the past decade with each community being unique. To get to know our County’s everchanging population and their needs, we had to devise and utilize tools that would give us the information to ensure the residents of Montgomery County are being provided with the library materials and resources they want when they want them.

MCPL managers have been trained to create reports for their respective communities using Census data which includes nationality, age, sex, language spoken at home, education level, etc. They are using this information to create their annual branch work plans.

We are receiving valuable information from our specialized Outreach Team who have been able to connect face to face with residents, learning who they are and what they need. An internal tool, engageMCPL, was created to provide feedback from branch staff to administration. The feedback is based on

staff interactions with customers; customers’ comments; and staff observations. This information, which includes all units (i.e. facilities, branch operations, collections, technology and business), is analyzed each month and shared system-wide.

On September 30 of this year, I convened a daylong, inhouse Collection Summit to examine our policies and procedures for the acquisition, delivery and merchandising of our collection. After reviewing the newest Census data and projections, ideas were brainstormed for each of the three areas. Plans are now in place to implement the proposals which we feel will best serve our residents.

Using these strategies is key in knowing who we serve; what materials and services they want and need; the best methods to efficiently deliver these resources; and how to spread the message—Montgomery County Public Libraries is Where the County Reads, Where the County Meets, Where the County Learns.

Board Spotlight Cecilia Wu



Cecilia Wu is one of FOLMC’s newest board members, and she brings great energy and organizational skills to the role. She joined the FOLMC Board of Trustees in late 2013 and chairs our Strategic Planning Committee. The board is currently working on a new strategic plan for FOLMC that will guide the organization over the next three years. Cecilia also chairs the Grants Committee, which reviews grant proposals to fund MCPL projects.

As a longtime library customer, Cecilia joined the FOLMC board with a desire to make a difference in the library’s effort to meet the changing needs

of our community.

She believes in FOLMC’s mission and that libraries are important community spaces in Montgomery County.

Cecilia has many years of experience providing technical and management services to public and commercial sectors. She is currently a consultant advising and assisting organizations and companies in the areas of program/project management, business transformation, and strategy.

Cecilia and her husband enjoy tennis, golf, and travel during their spare time.

FOLMC CHAPTERS

Aspen Hill

President: Chris Swan
aspenhill@folmc.org

Bethesda

Co-chairs: Sarah Fleischer &
Joan Greenbaum
bethesda@folmc.org

Chevy Chase

President: Steve Schmal
chevychase@folmc.org

Damascus

President: Earl Patrick
damascus@folmc.org

Davis

President: Robert Owen
davis@folmc.org

Gaithersburg

President: Patrick McGinn
gaithersburg@folmc.org

Germantown

President: Robert Fuss
germantown@folmc.org



Give the Gift of Libraries

Libraries are a gift to their communities, and FOLMC supports our libraries through your donations and book purchases at our two used book stores in Rockville and Wheaton. We need you to keep us going, and December is our most important time of year. There are several ways you can support us! Our bookstores are great places to do some holiday shopping, and we are also members of the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign workplace giving campaigns. Our United Way number is 8729, and our CFC number is 42387; keep us in mind as you plan your workplace giving, and see your HR department for details.

Our end-of-year giving campaign is underway, and we need your support to keep Montgomery County Public Libraries going strong into the future. Keep a look out for our letters and emails in November and December, and check out our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FOLMC. Remember, every donation you give **before midnight on December 31** counts for the 2014 tax season. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all donations to FOLMC are fully tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Bookstore Donations

We wouldn't exist without them. One of the most common questions we get in our office and stores is, "What types of used books and media do you accept in your stores?" Look no further for the answer.

Here are the basics of what we do and do not accept: All materials must be in good condition. Common defects that make materials unsuitable for donation include: stains, warping, water damage, missing pages, cracked spines, and strong odors. Such materials may be recycled or disposed in good conscience.

Textbooks

Math, Philosophy, Engineering: Any and all

Other Subjects: Published within the last ten years

Magazines

We DO accept those published in the last twelve months

Back issues of speciality magazines: Please call the stores

Encyclopedias

We do NOT accept general encyclopedias (e.g. Britannica, World Book)

Specialist Encyclopedias: Please call the stores

Other Items

We DO accept books in foreign languages.

We DO accept all media formats, including: VHS, DVD, BluRay, cassette, CD, Vinyl

We DO accept video games, complete puzzles, maps, and unused greeting cards.

We can NOT accept home recorded media (i.e. movies or music you recorded on a blank tape or disc).

We do NOT accept Reader's Digest condensed books.

If you will be donating more than ten boxes at once, please call the store beforehand so that we may best accommodate you. Please bring donations in boxes or bags.

If you require special assistance or have any questions about donating, please call the store first and we'll be happy to assist you.

Chapter Spotlights

White Oak *President: Frank Altrichter*

The White Oak chapter had an exciting 2014. With the addition of new board members, we now have seven active members at most of our meetings. Our ongoing sale of used books and membership dues are our main sources of income. With the help of several dedicated volunteers that solely maintain the used books, sales are enough to allow us to support many enhancements to the White Oak Library. Our branch is one of the older branches and furniture and fixtures are often in need of repair or replacement. Our chapter just approved \$6,000 to repair and reupholster 30 chairs that were taken out of service due to their condition, and we will continue to discuss further branch improvements in 2015.

This year, the White Oak chapter has funded several programs and projects, including:

- A vibrant speaker for our African American book discussion group, which meets regularly throughout the year
- A rhyming workshop for young writers
- Supplies for several youth, tweens and teens craft projects
- The Diane Macklin storyteller program
- Puzzles for the children's room
- Paul Merklein's drawing superheroes program
- 1000 refrigerator magnets to promote our chapter and the new October library hours

If White Oak is your favorite library and you would like to join our chapter, please contact our chapter president at whiteoak@folmc.org and come to our next chapter meeting!

Potomac *President: Edythe Wingate*

Like other FOL chapters in Montgomery County, the Potomac chapter uses money raised from membership dues and monthly book sales to enhance library programs at the Potomac Library branch, including:

- Summer reading programs and other programs for children. This summer we had more than 700 students enrolled in the countywide Fizz, Boom, Read program! Between 60 and 80 children, along with their parents, attended each weird magic, mad science, and crafty kids program, which provided learning and entertainment for children.
- A Great Decisions group, a program we sponsor in partnership with the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. The group meets monthly and draws an average of 35 adults at each of our eight sessions to discuss world affairs, food and climate concerns, and U.S. trade policy, among other timely issues.

At the request of staff librarians, we purchased a digital bulletin board, providing a lively medium for announcing upcoming library programs. We also financially support the Potomac Village Garden Club in their efforts to maintain an award-winning garden design for the library grounds, and at the end of October we joined the Potomac Day parade and staffed a booth at the event, where local kids received gifts and posted their favorite books on our post-it board.

If you love the Potomac branch, please join us at our chapter meetings. Contact our chapter president at potomac@folmc.org for more information about our meetings and activities.

Kensington Park

President: Rachel Maleh
kensingtonpark@folmc.org

Little Falls

President: Jane Snyder
littlefalls@folmc.org

Olney

President: Salley Shannon
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Potomac

President: Edythe Wingate
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Marilyn J. Praisner

Co-chairs: Vicky Taheri & Nora Siegel
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Quince Orchard

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Twinbrook

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White Oak

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LOCATIONS

ROCKVILLE BOOKSTORE

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

WHEATON BOOKSTORE

Wheaton Library Lower Level
11701 Georgia Avenue
Wheaton, MD // 301-933-1110

GAITHERSBURG BOOKSTORE – CLOSED

