

friends

HELPING
LIBRARIES REACH
NEW HEIGHTS

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County • www.folmc.org

Library Lovers Month, February 2016

Do you enjoy a mix of rock, blues, country, and Latin music? More importantly, do you love libraries? Join us for our annual Library Lovers Month Kickoff Saturday, February 6, at the new Silver Spring Library. Family entertainers, the grandsons, Jr., will kick off at 11 a.m. with a performance of upbeat music blending rock, swing, New Orleans R&B, country, and Latin known as Americana. We will be giving away door prizes and hosting activities and crafts for children of all ages. The Library Lovers Month Kickoff is presented in partnership with the FOL Silver Spring Chapter, MCPL, Montgomery County Library Board, and the Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee.

Throughout February, FOL chapters and branches will be hosting Library Lovers Month Americana themed programs and activities celebrating all aspects of American culture. When you stop by your local branch don't forget to fill out your postcard telling us why you love your library.



I ♥ Libraries

Upcoming Events

This calendar represents only the events that FOLMC and its chapters have funded.

For a full calendar of library activities, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/.

FRIDAYS, 3:30 P.M.
Chevy Chase: LEGO Play

DECEMBER

- 23** Damascus: Twelve Days of Winter Break through Jan. 3
- 29** 9 a.m., Germantown: Light Painting Lab with FutureMakers

JANUARY

- 9** 10 a.m., Germantown: Book Sale
- 9** 11 a.m., Wheaton: InterAct Story Theatre *Wheaton Family Theatre Series*
- 9** 3 p.m., Praisner: Vladimir Friedman – WHAMMY award winning Guitarist
- 14** 12 p.m., Davis: Documentary Film Series
- 16** 10 a.m., Praisner: Book Sale
- 16** 1 p.m., Davis: Blue Sky Puppet Theatre presents "If Pigs Could Fly"
- 18** 5 p.m., Praisner: Book Sale
- 21** 10:15 a.m., Quince Orchard: Penny Theatre
- 24** 1 p.m., Rockville Memorial: Simple Gifts concert

FEBRUARY (LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH)

- 6** 11 a.m., Davis: Step Afrika!
- 6** 11 a.m., Silver Spring: Library Lovers Month Kickoff
- 9** 10 a.m., Germantown: Book Sale
- 9** 11 a.m., Wheaton: InterAct Story Theatre-Wheaton Family Theatre Series
- 13** 3 p.m., Praisner: George Kafig & Friends – Piano Trio
- 18** 10:15 a.m., Quince Orchard: Penny Theatre
- 18** 7 p.m., Bethesda: Meet the Author – Veronica Rossi

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From the Executive Director and President of the Board of Trustees

Ellen L. Berman and Ari Z. Brooks, MSW

Our Next Chapter

Change is a good thing; it helps us grow, learn, and adapt. Over the past several months, we've had a fair share of changes at FOLMC. On the administrative side, we've added new positions and staff members.

Maria Jones was promoted to the new deputy director of programs and administration position and will continue to develop and evaluate programs in this role. She will also focus on implementing our three-year strategic plan and applying to a statewide nonprofit accreditation program. Carolee Noury is the new development and communications coordinator and will lead our fundraising and marketing efforts. Clare Jacocks is the new membership and database coordinator. She will work with our chapter affiliates and maintain information about our supporters. Cheryl Peirce is back with the organization in a new capacity as our officer coordinator to provide the administrative support that helps us operate effectively as a team.

Major changes to the Rockville bookstore include a newly expanded bookselling area and more space for programs. Through a new partnership with MCPL, we'll be able to host author talks, children's storytimes, and provide open gathering space for our customers. We expect to debut the new area in the coming year. Keep in touch with us through social media to learn more about the plan for our grand opening and program information.

Finally, our Wheaton bookstore will temporarily close in the coming months as the county upgrades the Wheaton library and combines it with the neighboring recreation center. If you haven't already discovered our Rockville bookstore this is the perfect time to do so as we will no longer accept donations at our Wheaton location after December 31. A new bookstore is planned for the library facility where we will continue to be a vibrant part of the Wheaton community.

We recognize that many of these changes may cause uncertainty for our employees, volunteers, chapters, and members. Our goal is to share timely information with you, our stakeholders, to keep you involved and engaged throughout the entire process. If you have any questions about whom to contact or why we are doing things differently, feel free to call Ari Brooks at 240-777-0020.

We are excited about the opportunities these changes will bring as we continue to evolve to meet the needs of our public library system. It is our firm belief that embracing change is essential to our ability to move forward in a new environment and to successfully achieve our mission.



Check It Out: STEM Programs

Curious about where your contributions to FOLMC go? In this issue, we're highlighting some of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and STEM plus art and design (STEAM) programs we cosponsor for school-aged library patrons.

As part of MCPL's All Children Excel (ACE) initiative, related activities provide opportunities for conversation, exploration, and interaction to introduce new words and information to our younger patrons. The specific goal of STEM education is to develop higher level skills to help youth excel in educational and vocational settings, with particular focus on critical thinking, creativity, and innovation.

FOLMC and our chapters fund and cosponsor many related efforts, including Go! Kits, the Silver Spring branch Early Literacy Center, and various engaging programs. To bridge the gap between Summer Reading and the start of the school year, we've sponsored programs such as:

- Hands-on STEM Fun, with science-based crafts;
- Mini-Makers, Science-Takers, offering projects like Pizza Box Solar Oven;
- Build the Future: LEGO Open Session, an opportunity for self-directed building with peers;
- Science Spectacular, featuring a "wild and wacky" scientist performing experiments; and
- Reptiles Alive, a show involving reptiles from all over the world.

The popular programs offer children a chance to fight summer learning attrition, hands-on education, and social engagement. Thank you for supporting the ACE efforts for our community!



*Building with Legos
at the Olney branch*



*Stem Stations
delight visitors of all ages.*

Photos courtesy of MCPL.

Board Spotlight Sarah Guroff



I grew up in Montgomery County and have lived most of my life somewhere between Bethesda and Silver Spring. When I was a child, my parents took me to Davis Library, and I had the library card that I still carry with me, long before I had my first wallet. It has served me for a long time thereafter. I attended a graduate program abroad and finished my thesis from home. It was through Montgomery County Public Libraries' collection and interlibrary loan that I was able to find key background documents for my master's thesis. I joined FOLMC's Board of Trustees to give back.

I lived abroad for a few years after college, first in Peru and then in the Netherlands, where I pursued my degree. When I returned home, I was fortunate to get a job with a consulting firm that worked primarily with the U.S. Agency for International Development. Since that time, I have shifted

my professional focus from direct project management to corporate finance.

Outside of work, I can usually be found hiking, biking, or training with my mixed-breed dog. The last several years, I have tried my hand at organic gardening to variable success. And I am a longtime student of Aikido. My latest pursuit is unraveling the mysteries of digital photography.

I usually have a couple books going at any given time. I am a sucker for a good story, and love well-written nonfiction. There are even a couple Spanish language novels that I didn't get to in college that I am determined to tackle one day. The new downtown Silver Spring branch is where you'll find me these days.

InterAct Story Theatre Presents Family Theatre Series at the Wheaton Library



InterAct Story Theatre's Wheaton Family Theatre Series presents free performances at the Wheaton Library for adults and children of all ages. Each program includes a performance, an interactive post-performance activity, and a book giveaway sponsored by FOLMC.

On January 9, Story Tapestries and Arianna Ross will present *The Giggling, Wiggling Bookworm*. Snow Date: January 16.

On February 13, InterAct will present *One Gold Coin--Una moneda de oro*, a play by founder Lenore Blank Kelner and directed by Artistic Director Ali Oliver-Krueger. Snow Date: February 20.

Wheaton Family Theatre Series launched on October 3, thanks to funding from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County's Wheaton Cultural Grant; partnerships with FOLMC and MCPL; along with the support of community sponsors.

The Wheaton Family Theatre Series has had three successful performances already, with InterAct's *The Hero of EVERYTHING* in September, Story Tapestries' *Succotash Stories*, featuring Diane Macklin, in October, and world percussionist Tom Teasley's *Drumming Through Time and Across Cultures* in December.

For more information, visit InterAct Story Theatre's website at www.interactstory.com.

From the Stacks

The Rockville Bookstore is Growing!

You may have noticed some furniture being shuffled around and holes in the wall at our Rockville bookstore. We are reorganizing to make space for even more books. As we expand into our newly added space, some bookcases will be moved.

Thank you for your patience during this transition. Once it's complete, we look forward to hosting events for the community including children's programs and author talks. Stay tuned for updates on our exciting plans.

Board Member Aileen Klein Honored

On October 19, Rockville mayor Bridget Donnell Newton presented longtime FOLMC board member Aileen Klein with a Good Neighbor Award on behalf of the city council. The award is presented to residents of the City of Rockville who are committed to improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Klein was nominated by state senator Cheryl Kagan who wrote, "Without her leadership, advocacy, thoughtfulness, follow-through, and kindness, the City of Rockville would be a very different place." Klein's contributions to our organization and the library system were highlighted in her nomination.

From the Library Director

Parker Hamilton, MCPL Director



On June 30, 2015, MCPL closed out an extremely busy fiscal year (FY15). We were able to accomplish many goals of our FY13-FY16 Strategic Plan. Our FY15 accomplishments included:

- Expanded access to the STEM learning Go! Kits that can now be borrowed at 11 library branches.*
- Added Early Literacy Computer stations with best-in-class learning software at all branches.*
- Opened new, state-of-the-art Silver Spring Library, which has the County's first Early Literacy Center.**
- Developed self-guided STEM learning stations in all library branches.
- Introduced a new Readers' Advisory service, Beanstack, to connect children and caregivers with book recommendations.*
- Began offering Tumblebooks, a new e-storybook collection.
- Kicked off the Library Refurbishment and 21st Century Library Enhancements refresh cycle at Twinbrook Library.
- Increased branch hours at 16 locations.
- Opened KID Museum location at Davis Library.*
- Provided space for groups like Richard Montgomery High School's Robotics Club, that have used our spaces to build award-winning robots.
- Hosted more than 4,000 hours of meeting room use by 440 groups.
- Worked with MCPS to get library cards into the hands of all 800 students at Gaithersburg Elementary School.
- Expanded our e-magazine collection by introducing Flipster, an e-magazine resource.
- Upgraded our Catalog and Account services to a robust cloud-based system.
- Added NovelList Select, a readers' advisory database, to help customers find read-alikes.
- Created or expanded Vietnamese collections at Gaithersburg and Silver Spring Libraries and Amharic collections at Gaithersburg, Silver Spring, and White Oak Libraries.
- Provided 66,048 hours of English Language instruction through our partners at the Gilchrist Center.

For a full accounting of MCPL's FY15 accomplishments, please watch for our 2015 *Report to the Community*, on the MCPL website. Read our e-newsletter, *Check Us Out*, to keep up to date on MCPL's progress through FY16.

*Partially funded by FOLMC

**Early Literacy Center funded by the FOL Silver Spring Chapter

FOLMC Board Recruitment

Feeling inspired to do even more for our library system? FOLMC is looking for library devotees to join our board of trustees.

Serving on the FOLMC board offers many benefits. Join us and take advantage of opportunities to:

- Make a difference in our community.
- Expand your personal network with other accomplished professionals.
- Add boardroom and leadership experience to your resume while broadening your existing skill set.

- Get special insight into the political and budget process.
- Learn more about local events, organizations, and resources.

Terms begin each January. Our current board is comprised of professionals from a variety of fields, including finance, fundraising, human resources, and marketing. We would love to speak with you about how you could contribute to our mission.

If you think you might be a good fit or know someone who would, please contact our office at 240-777-0020 or email executive director Ari Brooks at abrooks@folmc.org.

FOLMC CHAPTERS

Aspen Hill

4407 Aspen Hill Road
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Bethesda

7400 Arlington Road
Bethesda, MD 20814
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Chevy Chase

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Damascus

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President: Earl Patrick
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Davis

6400 Democracy Boulevard
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President: Patrick McGinn
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Germantown

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President: Robert Fuss
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Kensington Park

4201 Knowles Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895
President: Liz Brennan
kensingtonpark@folmc.org

Little Falls

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

Chapter Spotlights

GERMANTOWN

President: Robert Fuss



We conduct a monthly book sale that has been successful at bringing Germantown residents into the library and closer to our mission to benefit our branch. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers to set up and conduct the book sales. Many of our customers come back each month to take advantage of the great deals on books and music.

Thanks to the generosity of the Germantown branch's community (everything we sell is donated), we are able to support the following (among many other) projects:

- The **Germantown Library Chess Club** launched in January 2015 with our gift of 48 chess sets with clocks. The weekly club, open to all school-aged children, is off to a great start. Lessons are offered to those who don't already know how to play chess and there are plans for three tournaments each year. Find out more about the club on MCPL's Germantown branch website. <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/germantown.html>
- Two **community programs** offered each month during the summer and one each month during the fall and winter. This December we will offer a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) themed program and the wildly popular Chinese New Year celebration will take place in February.
- The **Children's Area fish tank**, which delights our young visitors.
- **Additional books and toys** for the Children's Discovery Room.

Our chapter also participates in community events, such as the grand opening of the nearby Germantown Town Center Urban Park this past October, where we and the Germantown branch cosponsored a children's book storyboard. The eight-acre wetland park is adjacent to our branch's lower parking lot.

We are always looking for ways to provide even more support for the Germantown Library. Our chapter board holds a monthly meeting open to anyone interested in helping to support the branch. For more information, please email us at germantown@folmc.org.

LITTLE FALLS

President: Jane Snyder



Our chapter has supported many programs at the Little Falls branch. A few highlights include:

- **Celebrate our Heroes Day**, where members of the Glen Echo Fire Department and the Montgomery County Police Department visited to speak about their services and to teach children about their vehicles.
- Our **Star Wars Reads Day** was a big hit. We offered games, activities, and giveaways. Participants were invited to dress up as their favorite characters.

Chapter Spotlights

LITTLE FALLS, cont.

- The monthly **Literary Salon** book discussions which have seasonal themes. Discussions are led by Dr. Karen Arnold. This year, themes included “Women’s Journeys” and “Middle East Voices, Past and Present.”
- Language Planet DC’s **Spanish Storytime** is a weekly interactive program for children of all ages.
- Annual **holiday sing-a-long** on December 12.

MARILYN J. PRAISNER

Co-chairs: Vicky Taheri & Nora Siegel

Our chapter has had a productive year. We have sponsored many well-attended programs for the community including **Uno, Dos, Tres con Andrés; Science Rocks!; The Shazam Magic Show; Stories from Guyana**; and The Rainbow Company’s Interactive Children’s Theater’s **The Brave Little Tailor**.



Our musical programs continue to be very popular. Recent offerings include:

- The **United States Navy Brass Quartet** (September).
- **Music from Bohemia**, a series of piano duets featuring our children’s librarian, Vera Ramaty, and our musical director, Maxine Lewack (October).
- The fourth performance of the **Montrose Wind Ensemble** (November).
- The **NIH Chamber Singers’** popular holiday program (December).

To the delight of our branch staff and patrons, we have begun refurbishment of library chairs. Of the twelve chairs we plan to reupholster before the end of the year, three have been completed so far. Please stop by to check out the more comfortable, attractive seats.

We also provide for the care and upkeep of our beautiful gardens. Many thanks to member Betsy Matthews for her hard work and dedication to our exquisite plantings. We have also sold t-shirts in support of the Summer Reading Program. For the 25th annual Burtonsville Day Celebration, we had a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors and talk about the many programs available in our library.

We have a dynamic team that runs our book sales at Praisner. The sales are successful thanks to the volunteers, donations from the community, and the quality selection of books to please every reader. Speaking of our team, we are in the process of planning a luncheon to celebrate everyone’s efforts.

As we move forward with our programs, we are actively seeking volunteers to help offer even more to our outstanding library. For more information, please email us at: praisner@folmc.org.

Branch photos courtesy of MCPL.

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>

FOLMC CHAPTERS

Olney

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Marilyn J. Praisner

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White Oak

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whiteoak@folmc.org



21 Maryland Avenue
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Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



A BOOK TO LOVE AT FRIENDS' BOOKSTORES

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

Give the Gift of Libraries

In the spirit of the giving season, please consider making a contribution to FOLMC. Your donations bolster the high level of MCPL programming our community has come to depend on, including the summer reading program, children's activities, and technology upgrades.

You can support our mission by:

- **RENEWING** your membership today.
- **CONTRIBUTING** an additional donation to your membership.
- **SHOPPING** at our bookstores.
- **DESIGNATING** FOLMC as your charity of choice as you plan your workplace giving. **United Way #8729.**
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) #42387.

Thank you for all
you do to help sustain
our libraries.

We hope we can count on
your continued support!

