

# friends

HELPING  
LIBRARIES REACH  
NEW HEIGHTS

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

## Library Lovers Month 2019

I LOVE Libraries

### Kickoff Celebration

Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11 a.m.  
Gaithersburg Library  
18330 Montgomery Village Ave



Celebrate Library Lovers Month with music by *Alex and the Kaleidoscope*, then let us know why you love your library by filling out an "I Love My Library Because" sign and postcard to remind our newly elected officials how much we value MCPL. The music will be appropriate for elementary-school-aged children, while sharing your love for libraries is appropriate for all ages. Sponsored in partnership with Montgomery County Library Board and Friends of the Library, Gaithersburg Chapter.

### Dine-In Day Fundraiser



Thursday, February 28, 2019  
7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 at either location of Original Pancake House (OPH). OPH will generously donate 15% of sales to FOLMC. For more information on OPH check out their website: [www.originalpancakehouse.com](http://www.originalpancakehouse.com)



### FOL Chapter Sponsored Events

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

#### DECEMBER

- 22 11am, Twinbrook: Jingle Bell Jazz for Kids
- 27 2pm, Potomac: Fun with Playdough
- 28, 10:30am, Damascus: Superhero Comic Book LEGO Challenge

#### JANUARY

- 3 4:30pm, Kensington Park: DIY – Create Your Own Superhero
- 5 11am, Rockville Memorial, Cuentos & Canciones with Ms. Mabelle
- 8 4:30pm, Potomac: Origami for Kids
- 12 10am, Germantown: Drop-In Superhero Photo Booth
- 12 2pm, Olney: Superhero Science
- 17 4pm, Connie Morella: Board Games
- 19 2pm, Germantown: John Hadfield presents: "Science is Everywhere"
- 28 4:30pm Potomac: Off the Hook Stitching Club

#### FEBRUARY

- 9 2pm, Gaithersburg: Lunar New Year Celebration
- 9 2pm, Olney: All About Hearts
- 16 10:30am, Silver Spring: West African Drums, Songs, Stories & Games
- 19 10:30am, Chevy Chase: Bilingual Storytime with Lupe Marks (Spanish/English)
- 23 2pm, Germantown: Jazz for Kids – Library Lovers Version!

### Bookstores Round-up

When you shop at our bookstores in February, round up your purchase to the nearest dollar, and donate the change to FOLMC, which supports MCPL.

*All Roads Lead to the Library*

## Officers

Tom Thomson, *President*  
Fred Evans, *Vice President*  
Larry Matthews, *Secretary*  
Eric R. Smith, *Treasurer*

## Trustees

Awo Sarpong Ansu	Hannah Padilla, CPA
Nidhi Basu	Laura Rich
Gary Berg-Cross	Venchele Saint Dic
Larry Friend	Carla Satinsky
Frances Frost	Pamela H. Saussy
Gary Funkhouser	Kristen Theiss
James M. Montgomery	Joel Yesley

## Student Representative

Jahin Nawr, *11th Grade*

## Counsel

Dennis M. Horn, Esq.

## Office

Ari Z. Brooks, MSW, *Executive Director*  
Lysette House, *Deputy Director*  
Melly Kitenge, *Office Coordinator*  
Lance Salins, *Director of Business Operations*

## Bookstores

### Managers

Carmen Jackman, *Assistant Manager*  
Andrea Nakonechny, *Assistant Manager*  
Leslie Rich, *Rockville Bookstore Manager*

### Staff

James Annable	Hannah O'Toole
Charlene Blaine	Rodman Quill
Susan Bobst	Tom Skallerup
Guy Brussat	Patty Walker
Anthony Carter	Deborah Weiner
Claire Center	Kitty Wells
Debra Dunn	Haili You
Bruce Hendrickson	Grey Zalusky

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

(240) 777-0020 • [staff@folmc.org](mailto:staff@folmc.org)

**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 fellow library lovers:

Libraries are special places. Each of us has personal stories about how our local public library or a librarian helped us find books that opened our lives to the larger world.

This feeling about public libraries is universal. The acclaimed author Dinaw Mengestu, whose book *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* was selected for the 2018 NEA Big Read Montgomery, talked about how public libraries influenced his life during the closing event at the Silver Spring Branch.

"We are in a public library and it is a space that is open, in theory, to anyone who chooses to walk into its door. And, like just about every writer I know, I have a fondness for libraries. They are the proverbial home away from home for the bookish child or adult. I don't know a writer or reader that does not have some story of being lost among shelves of books in a library. A story of walking home with a bag bursting with novels."

I think we all share that feeling and that public libraries are essential community institutions. For me, at least, it was for this reason and for my lifelong love of books that I became a member of FOLMC, served on the Board of Trustees, and have served as President for the last two years.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work together with the community of library lovers from the FOL Chapters, Montgomery County Library Board and Library Advisory Committees, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Montgomery County Government, County Executive, and County Council. I look forward to my second term as your President and hope to meet even more like-minded Montgomery County residents eager to support one of our county's greatest resources.

If you are interested in joining our Board of Trustees, applications can be found on our website at [www.folmc.org/support/volunteer-with-us/board-of-trustees-application/](http://www.folmc.org/support/volunteer-with-us/board-of-trustees-application/).

Best wishes,  
Tom Thomson



## Save the Dates

Library Lovers Month – Feb. 2, Gaithersburg Library

Literary Luncheon – March 14, Mansion at Strathmore

Library After Dark – April 13, Rockville Memorial Library

Vinyl Day: Record Festival – April 27, Silver Spring Library

Mosaic: Diversity Through Creative Writing Awards Ceremony

May 22, Johns Hopkins University, Montgomery County Campus

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County invites you to the  
**5TH ANNUAL LIBRARY AFTER DARK GALA**

# Library After Dark Gala

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave

Join FOLMC, Honorary Chairs Penny and David Yao, and Emcee Bob Levey, author and journalist, formerly of *The Washington Post*, at the 5th Annual Library After Dark Gala to recognize the library staff, volunteers, donors, and community leaders who make Montgomery County Public Libraries an outstanding, nationally-recognized system.

This year's theme, "Libraries Take You Places," celebrates not only the exotic settings to which books transport readers but also the ability of MCPL to transform lives by providing rich resources to learn, grow, and create community for all who live, work, and play in the county.

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. Check out [www.folmc.org/events-calendar/library-after-dark/sponsorship/](http://www.folmc.org/events-calendar/library-after-dark/sponsorship/) for information on how you can become a sponsor.



Thank You to Our Sponsors



Penny and David Yao

## Staff Spotlight

### Meet Andrea Nakonechny and Carmen Jackman, Bookstore Assistant Managers

Andrea is originally from Philadelphia and went to college at Temple University, graduating with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. In her free time, Andrea enjoys drawing, often using nature as her subject, to create drawings with either realistic or magical spins. She loves cryptids—creatures whose existence has not yet been proven, like the Mothman or Loch Ness Monster—"because they're just so fun and interesting to imagine."

Her favorite subjects to read are science/nature books about plants, insects, or animals, (especially succulents, moths, and sea slugs), some fiction (particularly magical realism like Haruki Murakami), and poetry (Mary Oliver and Rainier Maria Rilke are few of her favorites).

She says "I really like working at FOLMC because each day is like a little adventure and you never know what sorts of books, people, or cryptids you'll come across."



Carmen Jackman grew up locally and had friends who volunteered at the Wheaton Bookstore, introducing her to us. Her favorite memory of a local library is going to the Marilyn J. Praisner Branch to read *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Carmen studied Spanish Language and Literature at Universidad de Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Mexico and attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, graduating with a B.A. in History and a minor in Sociology.

After college, Carmen found her way back to our Wheaton Bookstore and worked for a year as a clerk. Carmen returned to our bookstores last summer in her current role. On her nightstand are *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, *The Doors of Perception* by Aldous Huxley, and *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carryrou.

*Pictured left to right: Carmen Jackman and Andrea Nakonechny*

# Mark Your Calendars

## Final Literary Luncheon

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 11:30 a.m.  
Mansion at Strathmore  
10701 Rockville Pike



For the past 31 years, FOLMC has enjoyed a remarkable partnership with Strathmore which has allowed us to host our popular Literary Luncheon Series at the beautiful Mansion. Notable writers, including international best-selling author Martha Grimes; award winning journalists Bob Levey, Cokie and Steve Roberts; and prominent political figure, and former lieutenant governor, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, have graced our attendees with insights and engaging and enlightening stories.

This March, we plan to close out our season with a final luncheon at the Mansion. Details regarding the final event will be released in the coming months, so ensure you are signed up for our enews and follow us on social media.

## Vinyl Day

Saturday, April 27, 2019, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Silver Spring Branch, 900 Wayne Ave.



**Just for the RECORD**

Join this retro event celebrating vinyl records with fun for the whole family. There will be:

- Speakers discussing aspects of the vinyl record industry. Makerspace activities using unplayable records,
- Record sales,
- Demonstrations, and
- Musical performances by contestants of Make Music Montgomery.

## Board Spotlight Gary Funkhouser



**Why did you decide to join the FOLMC board?** I had been retired for several years and had the time and desire to contribute to the community. I have always loved books and libraries, so it seemed like a good opportunity to pursue.

**How did you hear about FOLMC?** I became acquainted with Executive Director Ari Brooks and FOLMC through the Literary Luncheon series at Strathmore Mansion.

**What is your hometown, professional background, where did you go to school?** Rockville has been my hometown since 1958. I received a B.A. in Fine Art from the University of Maryland in 1971 and was commissioned in the Air Force. I served as a missile launch officer for four years during which time I got my M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Northern Colorado in 1974. After the service, I went to work in human resources for a local defense contractor before joining the Boeing Company. I retired in 2012.

**What do you like to read?** Science fiction, history, humor and satire, philosophy and ethics, nature, travel, offbeat fiction, and whatever seems interesting.

**What's on your nightstand?** *A Sand County Almanac* by

Aldo Leopold; *Bang the Drum Slowly* by Mark Harris; *A Good Walk Spoiled* by John Feinstein; *In Sunlight or in Shadow-Stories Inspired by the Paintings of Edward Hopper* edited by Lawrence Block; *The Cowboy Humor of Alfred Henry Lewis* edited by Richard Myers; an alarm clock; a lamp; and my wife's college yearbook picture.

**What are your hobbies?** Painting, drawing, golf, and travel.

**What's a fun memory of your local library?** When I was growing up in the 1960s, I used to bicycle on Saturday mornings to the old Twinbrook Library when it was located under the Twinbrook Shopping Center (currently the site of American Legion Post 86). I loved the creaky wooden steps and the musty book smell.

**What's a fun fact about you?** My wife and I met while working summer jobs in the book review and evaluation office of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

**What do you enjoy most of working/volunteering with FOLMC?** Using my experience to help FOLMC accomplish its mission.

# From the Library Director

Anita Vassallo, Acting MCPL Director



Public libraries have always been very important to communities. They serve as a great equalizer, providing access to information, technology, resources, and services for all community members regardless of age, social status, or income.

They have evolved over time becoming community gathering sites, technology hubs, meeting places, entertainment venues, innovation spaces, job search and career centers, virtual learning ports, information sources, history preservers, refuges for the homeless, and yes, still providers of books. Residents have come to rely heavily on public libraries to provide everything from a quiet place to sit to tax preparation aid to a locale to charge a phone.

Our customers say:

*"It gives necessary and important access to all community members. Libraries are community centers to people of all cultures and help improve the economic opportunities of its users."*

*"Libraries give the best bang for the buck. Literacy, social interaction, music, and science. Everything is there."*

*"As a senior citizen on a fixed budget, I have access to new books and DVDs, free workshops, computers, magazines, and newspapers...Travel videos make it possible to see the world vicariously. The library opens doors that would be shut if it didn't have the needed resources."*

With over 4.5 million visits to our branches and 3.3 million visits to our website in fiscal year 2018, Montgomery County Public Libraries is a well-used resource. I hope, as the new County Executive and County Council begin their terms, that we all will continue to work together to ensure this valuable resource remains an open, inviting and vital gateway to the information, ideas and enrichment that strengthens our County.

## We're Hiring

### Are you someone who can take FOLMC's fundraising to the next level?

We're looking for Development and Communications professionals.

FOLMC has openings for a Development & Communications Coordinator and an Assistant. These positions work closely together with the Deputy Director and direct and support the work of the board Fundraising Committee. Preferred candidates have nonprofit development and communications experience, are passionate about the value of libraries in our county, and have a desire to serve the Montgomery County community. Major fundraising activities include: grant development; semi-annual fundraising campaigns; fundraising support for annual event; and donor development of individual, corporate, and foundation funding.

Key Responsibilities:

- Coordinate fundraising activities to develop, implement, and continuously improve fund development.
- Coordinate communications and marketing planning and development including writing content for print and electronic newsletters, advocacy campaigns, website content, and other communications.
- Coordinate alignment of fundraising goals to Strategic Plan.



To Apply: Email your resume and a cover letter describing your interest in working in Development & Communications for FOLMC to [staff@folmc.org](mailto:staff@folmc.org).

## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Aspen Hill

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

### Chevy Chase

8005 Connecticut Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
President: Judy McGuire  
chevychase@folmc.org

### Connie Morella Library (Bethesda)

7400 Arlington Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
President: Joan Greenbaum  
morella@folmc.org

### Damascus

9701 Main Street  
Damascus, MD 20872  
President: Earl Patrick  
damascus@folmc.org

### Davis

6400 Democracy Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
President: Robert Owen  
davis@folmc.org

### Gaithersburg

18330 Montgomery Village Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
President: Virginia Shull  
gaithersburg@folmc.org

### Germantown

19840 Century Boulevard  
Germantown, MD 20874  
President: Robert Fuss  
germantown@folmc.org

### Kensington Park

4201 Knowles Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895  
President: Eli Sola-Sole  
kensingtonpark@folmc.org

### Little Falls

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

## Chapter Spotlight

### GAITHERSBURG

*President: Virginia Shull*

Gaithersburg Library re-opened in January 2014 after a four year renovation and expansion to add a second floor for meeting rooms, the Gilchrist Center annex, and new classrooms to better serve the local community. The Friends of the Library, Gaithersburg Chapter was pleased to contribute to the renovation by funding an expansion of the Children's Discovery Room, which provided: furniture, rugs, tape recorders, and numerous educational toys. The Chapter also purchased additional receipt printers.

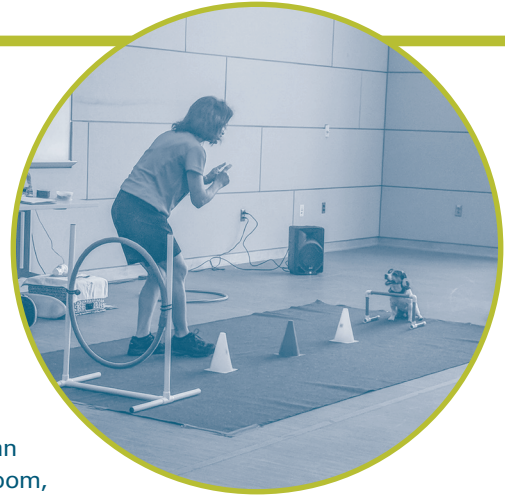
In addition to supporting expansions and additions to the library, Gaithersburg patrons have also been able to attend numerous events funded by the Chapter, including:

- Lunar New Year Program,
- STEM programs,
- Jacks are Wild!,
- Shazam Magic: Explore the Impossible,
- Storyteller: Diane Macklin,
- Scales and Tales: Owl Prowl,
- Harp! Happy.

With Chapter support, the Gaithersburg Branch has hosted Kojo Nnamdi as part of the Contemporary Conversations series as well as authors like David Baldacci.

The Chapter is looking forward to working with FOLMC to host the kickoff for Library Lovers Month on February 2, 2019.

Check out the Book Nook and tri-annual booksales to support the Chapter. If you would like more information on the Chapter, please contact the Chapter president at [gaithersburg@folmc.org](mailto:gaithersburg@folmc.org).



# Chapter Spotlight

## OLNEY

*President: Salley Shannon*

Attend a STEM program at the Olney library and you might see kids only a little beyond toddlerhood playing with a dozen brightly colored, plastic caterpillar toys. As they use them, the children are learning computer coding.

The caterpillars are among many “extras” from the Friends of the Library, Olney Chapter. The Chapter has paid for STEM and summer learning programs, purchased two oval, three-shelf display tables, and recognized the efforts of the 20-person staff of the Olney Branch.

The Chapter funds these activities through the used booksale at the rear of the library. Sale shelves hold a mix of classics, thrillers, romances, young adult novels, adult nonfiction, and always, stacks of children’s picture books. “These, especially, fly off the shelves,” says former chapter president, Mary Jane Heinbuch.

Since the booksale has been a fixture for at least a decade, little advertising is needed, beyond occasional notes at the check-out desk. A team of volunteers sorts the books and keeps the sale shelves stocked and tidy. Come summer, when readers muse, “I really shouldn’t read library books on the beach,” sales spike, says Chapter Board Member Joan Manny.

To volunteer, email the Chapter at [olney@folmc.org](mailto:olney@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.

## FOLMC CHAPTERS

### Olney

3500 Olney-Laytonsville Road  
Olney, MD 20832

President: Salley Shannon  
[olney@folmc.org](mailto:olney@folmc.org)

### Potomac

10101 Glenolden Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854

President: Edythe Wingate  
[potomac@folmc.org](mailto:potomac@folmc.org)

### Marilyn J. Praisner

14910 Old Columbia Pike  
Burtonsville, MD 20866

President: Elizabeth Matthews  
[praisner@folmc.org](mailto:praisner@folmc.org)

### Quince Orchard

15831 Quince Orchard Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

President: Dawn Fairbanks  
[quinceorchard@folmc.org](mailto:quinceorchard@folmc.org)

### Rockville Memorial

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 100  
Rockville, MD 20850

President: Kathy Wessman  
[rockville@folmc.org](mailto:rockville@folmc.org)

### Silver Spring

900 Wayne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

President: Joseph House  
[silverspring@folmc.org](mailto:silverspring@folmc.org)

### Twinbrook

202 Meadow Hall Drive  
Rockville, MD 20851

President: Elaine Joselovitz  
[twinbrook@folmc.org](mailto:twinbrook@folmc.org)

### White Oak

11701 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

President: Paulette Wright  
[whiteoak@folmc.org](mailto:whiteoak@folmc.org)

## 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 – NOW OPEN!**

at the Old Silver Spring Library  
8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD  
(301) 933-1110

### **GAITHERSBURG BOOKSTORE – CLOSED**

**Get social and stay up to date on all  
the latest FOLMC news.**

 Facebook.com/FOLMC  @FOLMC  @folmcmd

## End of Year Giving

Your gift ensures FOLMC can continue to assist Montgomery County Public Libraries provide residents an enriched library experience. Help us reach our end-of-year campaign goal of \$10,000.

- Join or renew your membership today.
- Give an additional end-of-year contribution with the enclosed envelope, or online at [www.folmc.org/donate](http://www.folmc.org/donate).
- Shop at our bookstores to find great gifts for the holidays.
- Designate FOLMC as your workplace charity of choice. United Way #8729, CFC #42387, Maryland Charities Campaign #5273, DC One Fund #8729.

Remember, your donation to FOLMC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

## Board Recruitment

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.