



Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

Library Receives “Read-Out” Grant

The Library is thrilled to be awarded its second grant from the ALA Freedom to Read Foundation!

In September, the Library was named a recipient of one of seven grants awarded nationwide to libraries and other institutions across the country in support of *Read-Out!* events during Banned Books Week (September 25-October 2, 2010).

The \$1000 award was given by the American Library Association’s Freedom to Read Foundation as its first Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund award. Other award recipients included the Santa Monica (California) Public Library, the ACLU of Pennsylvania, and Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

The Takoma Park Library *Read-Out!* focused on children’s books — picture books and novels for kids through age 12 — that have been challenged in other parts of the country. The grant enabled the Library to give all participants free copies of some of these children’s books.

At the Takoma Park *Read-Out!* program on Oct. 2, participants of all ages (including a group of ESL learners from Montgomery College) read passages from some of the challenged children’s novels. They also read entire challenged picture books together using the ELMO document reader projector (given by the Friends) and big screen. Karen MacPherson who wrote the grant proposal and Dave Burbank coordinated the event, with help from Ellen Robbins, volunteers from the Friends, and the City’s Communications Department. The participants were treated to a pizza lunch after the program.



Shown here are books that have been banned or challenged at some schools and libraries.

Children's Programming

By Karen MacPherson

With lots of help from our Friends, the Takoma Park Maryland Library offers our community some outstanding programs: our unique-in-Maryland "Summer Quest" reading program; our French and Spanish Circle Times; our Banned Books Club for teens and our Junior Banned Books Club for kids in grades 3-5; and various special programs like Halloween Storytelling, and various special programs such as the College Bound Speakers Series.



Only Summer Reading Program!

In fact, the Takoma Park Maryland Library was the only library in Montgomery County to offer a summer reading program this year. We're used to being the only library in the state of Maryland to create our own summer reading program, which is written and illustrated each year by Library Assistant Dave Burbank with funding from the Friends.

This summer, we had a record number of participants. More than 250 kids signed up for the program, and participants read 1,551 books over the summer. Our top readers included Camden Roberts, who read 63 books, and Abe Joyner-Meyers and Kevin Awoufack, who each read 43. More than 70 kids and adults attended our End of Summer Quest party, at which everyone talked about what books they particularly loved reading, demonstrated some of the things they learned in our "make or do" Summer Quest challenge, enjoyed cupcakes and juice, and went home with several free new books.

SummerQuest registration was a busy time for excited young readers and parents.

Continuing with Banned Books

Of course, our Friends-funded efforts to keep kids reading don't stop when the Summer Quest program ends. Our award-winning Banned Books Club for middle- and high school students meets monthly to discuss books that people in other places (NOT Takoma Park!) have tried to keep off the shelves of public and school libraries. Recent books that club members have read include "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair, "Fallen Angels" by Walter Dean Myers, and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Due to popular demand, this summer we began a Junior Banned Books Club for kids in grades 3-5. So far, we've read and discussed "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," "Matilda," and "The Higher Power of Lucky." It's a very enthusiastic group, and we expect that many members will "graduate" to the Banned Books Club as they get older.

New Reading Group

This fall, we're starting an innovative new reading group, the Caldecott Club, for both kids (ages 5 up) and grown-ups who love children's picture books. We'll meet once a month — on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.— in October, November and December to discuss some of the

books that could possibly win the 2011 Caldecott Medal. Each month, we'll first read together Caldecott possibilities on the big screen by using our ELMO document camera and projector, and then discuss those books. At our December meeting, we'll vote on our favorite, and then in January — after the actual winner is announced — we'll have a final meeting to see how our selection fared.

The Friends Help

The Caldecott Club is just one program where we use our ELMO, which was a gift from the Friends two years ago. We also use it for our monthly Comix Jams to allow everyone to read comics together on the big screen. Recently, we also used the ELMO to do an author study on Kevin Henkes with all of the first-grade classes from Takoma Park Elementary School. The first graders came to the Library on a field trip (two classes at a time) and we used the ELMO to read together some of Henkes' wonderful picture books, including his Caldecott Medal-winning "Kitten's First Full Moon."

For more information about children's library programs and schedules, please visit www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.

Book Sale Snapshots

Children and their friends and family enjoyed the treasures found at the 2010 Friends Spring Book Sale. The fall sale is Oct. 23rd.



Funds to support library programs for children and teens, reading groups, poetry readings, and other reading activities come from the Friends booksales and memberships. Please join us!

Coming Events

Excitement for Mystery Fans!

On Tuesday November 9, first-time mystery writers Thomas Kaufman and Allison Leotta will appear at the Community Center auditorium at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of reading, discussion and book-signing, sponsored by the Library.

Drink the Tea

Thomas Kaufman won the PWA Best First Private Eye Novel Competition for his book *Drink the Tea*, a “taut, compelling tale of violence and corruption.” (Publishers Weekly)

Introducing private investigator Willis Gidney in this impressive debut novel set in Washington D.C., Booklist Magazine gave it a starred review: “Kaufman, an award winning cinematographer, has created a wonderful new series hero, a smart, tough and cocky knight errant, scarred by his past but resilient and resourceful.”

“Kaufman’s debut...benefits from brisk development and a flattering, textured portrait

of the nation’s capital.” Wisecracking narrator Gidney is also an appealing spinner of yarns.” (Kirkus Reviews)

Law of Attraction

Allison Leotta’s debut thriller *Law of Attraction* will be released on October 12th by Simon & Schuster. It tells the story of “a strong, smart female prosecutor who fights to protect women from domestic violence.”

“But it’s more than a courtroom drama — it’s part love story, part murder mystery.” (Publisher’s note) Alan Dershowitz wrote “This is a great read for anyone who loves legal thrillers, cares about domestic violence or wonders how lawyers can live with themselves.”

Allison Leotta is a federal prosecutor in Washington D.C., and a graduate of Harvard Law School.

Both authors reside in Takoma Park.

Literary Recycling

The Friends Book Sale

Saturday, October 23

10am-3pm

Quality used books
in a wide range of subjects
at bargain prices!

All proceeds go to support
the activities of the
Takoma Park Library.

For more information contact
the Takoma Park Library at 301-891-7259.



Your Friends Need You
Volunteers are needed to set-up
and cashier at the book sale.

Call Ellen at 301-891-7258
to volunteer.

Community service hours are
available for high school students.

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Visit the Friends at www.ftpml.org.
The Library is at www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.