



Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

Graphic Novels

More than Comic Books

By Karen MacPherson

...some parents wonder whether reading such "comic books" is good for their kids. We point them to research showing that graphic novels offer numerous benefits to readers, including helping to develop some key literacy skills.

Several years ago, a local real estate agent passed out magnets to crowds gathered along the annual Takoma Park July 4th parade. The magnets listed five reasons why Takoma Park stands out; one of those reasons was the Takoma Park Maryland Library's graphic novel collection.

Indeed, the library has hundreds of graphic novels for all ages, and is known throughout the area for the breadth and depth of our collection. We also have large collections of manga, a type of Japanese graphic novel, for adults, teens and kids, plus a good-sized selection of books of comic strips, from "Peanuts" to "Zits."

Library Assistant Dave Burbank is the library's graphic novel "guru," the go-to guy when you want to know just about anything about graphic novels. Dave's knowledge is especially important when we have to decide whether a particular graphic novel belongs in the adult section, or if it could work for teens or even kids.



The decision can depend on a number of factors, including whether a book has realistic or cartoon-type violence, if it has rather pronounced body types (these are particularly prevalent in superhero graphic novels), if there is vulgar language, and just who might best enjoy the book.

Many readers remain unfamiliar with graphic novels, with some put off by the idea of "graphic" novel (they're just really long-form comics, or stories told with a combination of words and pictures). Others don't like the idea of reading comics, or just don't enjoy "reading" illustrations. But many other readers love graphic novels, and the genre has skyrocketed in popularity over the past few years. Graphic novels aimed at kids are

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Kevin Adler checks out a book on Larch Avenue.

More Little Free Libraries *Take a book (and leave one if you can)*

FTPML sponsored two new Little Free Libraries located near both ends of Elm Avenue in Takoma Park. They are in front of private residences at 822 Larch (near the corner of Elm) and 6709 Allegheny (between Elm and 1st). Drop by and take a book!

Children's books are in high demand at all little libraries. If you have some to share, please drop them off at a Little Free Library or contact FTPML on our Facebook page or website to arrange a pickup by a volunteer. Eight more FTPML sponsored libraries will be installed this fall. We need volunteer stewards to help take care of them. Please contact us via Facebook or contact Walter Mulbry (301-270-0472) if you are interested in this book sharing experience.

Graphic Novels

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especially popular right now, and they are some of the most checked-out books in our library. Yet some parents wonder whether reading such “comic books” is good for their kids. We point them to research showing that graphic novels offer numerous benefits to readers, including helping to develop some key literacy skills. We have a handout for parents listing these benefits, and we also have a booklist of some of the best graphic novels for young readers — just ask us for these resources.

Recently, we’ve been seeing a number of adults — most of whom have never read a graphic novel — coming into the library and asking for *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, a graphic novel

memoir for adults by Roz Chast. It’s a remarkable book about how Chast, a single child, dealt with her parents’ difficult final years, and it has struck a nerve with many baby boomers in the same situation. Chast’s book is one of ten on the “long list” for the National Book Award’s non-fiction prize, but perhaps more importantly than that, it’s become a book that has inspired non-graphic novel readers to give the genre a try.

So, if you’re ready to give graphic novels a try, our collection is a great place to start. And if you’re already a fan of the genre, come dig into our terrific treasure trove.

Friends Great Big Book Club to Discuss *Don Quixote*

By Merrill Leffler

Catholic University Professor Bruno Damiani to Introduce the Novel, October 20 at 7:30pm

Historic Takoma Building, 7328 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD

The *Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha* is the Friends’ Big Book for Fall 2014. Published in two volumes, 1605 and 1615, Miguel de Cervantes’ great prose work is both a comic and sombre classic, the first of its kind—and a major influence on European and American novels until today. Don’t take my word for it! Here, for example, is Flaubert, author of *Madame Bovary*: “You know that our first impressions are never erased. We carry our past within us, and we feed off it throughout our lifetime.... Whenever I analyze my own inner core, I always find the same thing: *Don Quixote*.”

And Dostoevsky: “There is nothing in life more powerful than this piece of fiction. It is still the final and the greatest expression of human thought, the most bitter irony that a human is capable of

expressing; and if the world came to an end and people were asked somewhere there: ‘Well, did you understand anything about your life on earth and draw any conclusion from it?’ A person could silently hand over *Don Quixote*. ‘Here is my conclusion about life. Can you condemn me for it?’ ” And Mark Twain: “*Don Quixote* is one of the most exquisite books that was ever written, and to lose it from the world’s literature would be as the wresting of a constellation from the symmetry and perfection of the firmament.”

All are invited to join us to hear Professor Damiani on Oct. 20 and to drop in for the continuing discussions.

Future discussion dates and more information will be found at www.ftpml.org.

Thanks Friends!

The Friends support activities for all ages. Your membership donations and our book sales make these programs possible. Please check the red expiration date on your address label to find out if it is time to renew your membership donation. Invite your friends to join too!

Programs for All Ages

By Karen MacPherson

We have a full slate of upcoming programs for all ages, many of them thanks to the generous support of our Friends of the Library.

Our trio of Fall/Winter “signature” programs—the ones that have become annual traditions for people of all ages—will be back, all of them funded by the Friends. First up, there’s “**Scary Stories**,” led by veteran storyteller Candace Wolf. The program will take place on Monday, Oct. 27 and this year there will be two sessions: 7-7:45 p.m. for ages 5-7, and 7:50-8:50 for ages 8-13.

Next is our annual visit from **Eaglebear**, a.k.a Tomas Shash, who brings family and friends each year to share their Xicano and Apache heritage with us. It’s always a wonderfully interactive program for all ages, and we have families who come each year.

In addition to the wide variety of fall events described above, the Library will partner with Politics and Prose Bookstore to offer two programs with children’s author-illustrators:

- Fri., Nov. 21 at 7:30 pm—**Jon Scieszka, Tom Angleberger** and **Cece Bell**.
- Sun., Nov. 23 at 1:00 p.m.—Caldecott Medalist, **Jon Klassen**.

The final signature program is the **Winter Solstice** celebration, which will be held this year on Thursday, Dec. 18. We’ll begin at 6:30 p.m. with a drum circle led by master drummer Bill Jenkins, and then the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in at 7:30 with their songs, sticks and good cheer.

Other Friends-funded programs include: our popular monthly **LEGO Club** for ages 5-12; the monthly “Petites Chansons” (French Circle Time) for babies, toddlers and preschoolers; and the three “**College Bound**” events in October. Book-related events include the kick-off session—on Monday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m.—of this fall’s **Don Quixote** discussion, featuring professor Bruno Damiani, who teaches a course on Miguel De Cervantes’ classic, as well as a Nov. 12 discussion of **Loitering With Intent** by Muriel Spark.

As you can see, we’ve got a busy season coming up! Keep updated with the latest programs by “friending” us on Facebook (Takoma Park Maryland Library) and checking out our blogs, which can be found on our website: www.takomapark.info/library.

Looking Forward to a 21st. Century Library

By Ellen Robbins

This is a critical time to be a Library Friend — and to show your interest and support for the Library’s future.

The Library is in the midst of an exciting space-planning initiative with a noted architectural firm and professional library space designers, The Lukmire Partnership. Principal architect Gregory Lukmire and designer Robin Puttock met with Library staff on September 23. Lukmire met with City Managers, and with community members in a public meeting on October 8. The public meeting, which will be re-broadcast on Takoma Park Cable Television, offered residents, who use their neighborhood Library and have an interest in its renovation and redesign, an opportunity to share their ideas for how they want it to evolve in the future.

Lukmire and associates will look at the options for significant renovation, and the

feasibility of adding space. They will offer several design possibilities, with opportunity for public review.

Built in 1955, the Library was last renovated in 1990, nearly a quarter century ago! The space-planning project is an outcome of the Needs Assessment the Library completed at the end of 2013. Among the findings, Library users asked for improved and enlarged space for many purposes: adult and kids’ programs, reading materials, comfortable reading space, collaboration, Wi-Fi, and teen books and activities.

For more information, or to be put on an e-mail list for further updates as the process continues, contact Ellen Robbins at the Library: ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov or at 301-891-7258.

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

Sat. Oct. 25 10 a.m.
to 3 p.m.

Quality Used Books

All proceeds support Library
programs and supplies.



**Bag
your
books
in a Friends
big blue
bag for a
donation of
only \$4!**

At the Takoma Park Maryland Library • Corner of Philadelphia (Rt 410) and Maple

www.ftpml.org

To help at the sale e-mail: ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov

Friends Book Sale Coming October 25 !

High school
students,
Earn service
learning hours
for working at
the Friends'
Book Sale!

The Friends of the Library will hold their semi-annual book sale October 25 on the Library lawn.

A major source of income for the Friends, the book sales offer fiction and nonfiction for adults and children of all ages at amazing bargain prices. All proceeds go to the Library—and are used to support Spanish and French Circle Time, original art and story for Summer Quest, crafts and special performances and workshops, as well as refreshments for special events.

Volunteers are sought to help at the sale in two hour shifts—beginning at 8:00 am !

- 8 – 10 Set-up, mobilizing tables, arranging cartons of books.
- 10 – 12 Busiest selling period, and lots of fun!
- 12 – 2 Also a busy selling period, especially from 12 to 1.
- 2 – 4 Slower from 2 to 3. At 3 we pack books into boxes for storage, fold up tables, and clean up. Just coming at 3 is a big help.

To volunteer, contact Ellen Robbins at ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov



101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.

Visit the Friends at www.ftpml.org

Friends of the FTPML Board Members

as of March, 2014

Pat Hanrahan, *President*

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Director of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

with the help of Clair Garman, webmaster

A color version of this newsletter

can be viewed and printed at

www.ftpml.org/newsletters/fall2014.pdf

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/FTPML

Become a Friend...



Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
www.ftpml.org

To become a Friend or to renew for one year please fill out this form and send it with your member contribution to:

FTPML

101 Philadelphia Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Name/s _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

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Please circle (above) where you prefer to be contacted,
and indicate any restrictions on the day or time. _____

Join e-mail list? Yes No (The e-mail list is for announcements only, and you can unsubscribe at any time. You will receive less than 1-2 messages per month.)

Please mark the donation you wish to give.

- | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$ 25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer | \$ 50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$100.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Champion | \$250.00 | |
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Make your payment out to Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Inc.

FTPML IS A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Your gift is greatly appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution.

If you're interested in donating time and/or expertise, please let us know:

- Book Sales (semi-annual or mini-sales)
- Publicity Committee (newsletter, flyers, printing, mailings, etc.)
- Table Staffing (staffing a table at the Farmers' Market or other event)
- Board of Directors or Committee Chair

May we include your name if we exchange our list of members with other Takoma Park community not-for-profit organizations? Yes No

To find out more about the Friends please visit us at www.ftpml.org.

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