



What a Difference Friends Can Make



Holiday crafts, "Spanish Circle Time," and "Nicholas At Night" are among the many events that introduce children to the treasures of the Takoma Park Library.



Do you have a pre-schooler? A child in middle or high school? Do you borrow library books or music CDs? Do you read magazines on-line? Are you interested in a book discussion group or the Takoma Park film festival or storytelling programs or even poetry? Then you are a beneficiary of the Friends support to our city's library—the only independent municipal library in Maryland.

Our goals are to promote widespread use of the library's resources and support innovative programs. These programs reach across all age groups, from Spanish Circle Time for pre-school children to Col-

lege Bound presentations—a now-annual series that brings experts to meet with high school seniors and their parents on choosing a college, seeking scholarship aid, and readying for the SATs—to a range of storytelling programs, book discussion and reading groups, and much more.

Look inside! We hope you will become a member and help further enhance our library's resources and community services.

Spring for Poetry —Returning!

By Merrill Leffler

In April of 2007, Takoma Park was abloom with poetry!

With the Friends' support, *Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park* arrived on streets and in parks all around the city: framed poster-size poems were planted on Carroll Avenue from Takoma Junction to Old Town, at bus stops on Maple and Philadelphia Avenues, on elementary and middle school grounds, at city parks and the library. Poems such as Robert Hayden's "Winter Sundays," Emily Dickinson's "I'm Nobody Who Are You," and Antonio Machado's "The Spring, One Brilliant Day" began to captivate city residents.

Conceived by Ann Slayton and Merrill Leffler, the city's poetry walk was a success, says Slayton, because of the Friend's support, our collaboration with Andrea Adams, Director of Design at Montgomery College, and contributions by the city's Department of Public Works and volunteer neighbors, most especially Clair Garman, on Sherman Avenue, who made all of the 35 frames.

The project began with a committee to select the poems — Slayton, Leffler, Rosanne Singer, and Matthew Salomon. "We aimed for a diversity of poetic voices of the Americas," says Slayton, "and wanted to include several generations of poets." The result was poems by Dickinson from the 19th century; E.E. Cummings, William Carlos Williams, Langston Hughes from the first half of the 20th century; several Latin American poets — Machado, Pablo Neruda and Cesar Vallejo; and numerous contemporary poets including Lucille Clifton, Rita Dove, Reed Whitemore, Linda Pastan and the late Roland Flint, the latter three former Maryland poet laureates.

Andrea Adams enlisted her typography class students to design and print the posters—it was an opportunity for the students to get real-world experience says Adams and, at the same time,

sign their work and add it to their portfolios. When the posters were ready, Daryl Braithwaite, director of the city's Department of Public Works, assigned a crew who graciously went out with Garman and Frank Gallant, also of Sherman Avenue, to plant the poles for hanging the posters and, later, rotate the poems mid-summer and early fall.

What originated as an April Poetry Month project was extended to seven months and will bloom again with new poems in 2008, thanks to the enthusiastic support of the community and funding for materials by the Friends. Adams' students are designing posters for new poems. An outdoor reading of this year's selections is planned at the Farmer's Market in April. Stay tuned for other events, and after installation, see copies of the poems with a list of their locations at www.ftpml.org.

Comments from the community...

"What a delight Spring for Poetry has been for me — and a double delight when it continued into the summer," wrote Jane Williams-Grube. *"I re-route my walks and reread the poems. I find old favorites and new pleasures."*

"How much we LOVE the poetry walk," wrote Dina Borzekowski. *"My 11-year old daughter and 7-year old son are so familiar with the posters that when they were moved around, they could tell you where the poems had been previously."*

"Please accept my intense gratitude for the poems," wrote Elizabeth Maury. *"I walk regularly along Sligo Creek and Maple and have been so moved by Jean Connors' "Returning," and Theodore Roethke's "My Papa's Waltz."*

One homeowner on Holly Avenue was even inspired to produce a parody — Fall for Poetry in Takoma Park — with "The Shoe Less Worn," a take-off on Robert Frost's "The Road Less Traveled."

Morrissey Scores Again!

By Gene Miller and Ellen Robbins

Some sixty golfers participated in the sixth Annual Mike Morrissey Mulligan Madness Charity Golf Tournament at Redgate Golf Course on September 17, 2007. Each fall friends of the late Mike Morrissey and of the Library join to honor his fondness for our Takoma Park Library.

A Library threesome was sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Library and Takoma Park City Councilmember Josh Wright. The Library's team this year included Dave Burbank and Gene Miller, who apparently didn't suffer enough last year, and newcomer—to golf at least—Nic Fontem.

Although little white balls and great tufts of turf, dirt and sand once again flew every which way, the Library team this year found the tournament to be a moral challenge as well—a challenge that they surmounted with ease. At the end of the day the scores were tallied and the Library team, having reported the highest score, took home the honors for being the most honest team on the course. "It was a piece of cake," said one teammate who declined to be identified.

Following the tournament, the atmosphere was relaxed and celebratory at Rumors Restaurant in Dupont Circle, where Ellen Robbins and Dave Burbank of the library staff joined sunburned golfers and Mike's friends and relatives, as an auction of donated goods and

services added to the day's proceeds. A good time was had by all.

In early December, tournament organizers Ceil Madden, Steve Dubos, and Ken Gill, along with several of Mike's friends, visited the Library for an informal reception with Library staff and members of the Friends of the Library. They presented Robbins with a check for \$6,500—exceeding the prior year's donation, and establishing an all-time record since the tournament began six years ago. Since its inception, the event in memory of Morrissey has raised more than \$27,000 for the Library.

This year, Takoma Park's Mayor and City Council decided it was time to do something special to show the City's appreciation for the group's continued and selfless hard work on behalf of the Library. At their January 7 council meeting, Mayor Bruce Williams presented Stan Barouh, a close friend of the late Morrissey, with an official proclamation of appreciation. It thanked the group for enabling the Friends to fund the Library's *Summer Quest* reading program for children, *Spanish Story Time* for pre-schoolers, a new large capacity book return, children's room shelving and support for computers in the Computer Learning Center as well as many other contributions.

Planning is already underway for next fall's tournament in Rockville, and Library staff and organizers hope to enlist more participants from Takoma Park.



Friends of Mike Morrissey join representatives from the library staff and the Friends for the presentation of the golf tournament donation to the library.

Children's Programming

By Karen MacPherson

What do glitter, bookshelves, scary stories, and board books have in common?

They're all part of the many contributions of the Friends to the Takoma Park Library's children's programming. Donations from the Friends help fund a range of activities, from our crowd-pleasing craft-making events to storyteller programs to our *Lapsit* series for babies and their grown-ups to the new mobile bookcases that house our wildly-popular graphic novel collection.

Spanish Circle Time Expanded

A major contribution from the Friends this year has allowed us to offer *Spanish Circle Time* every Thursday morning, from October through May. Previously the program, led by Lupe Marks, was offered only twice a month.

Now, each Thursday, Ms. Lupe leads an enthusiastic crowd of 40-45 (and sometimes more!) babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups in songs, rhymes and games in Spanish. Some parents travel from DC or other parts of Montgomery County and tell us they haven't found any other library program like it the area.

The popular Spanish Circle Time is now a weekly event!



Lapsit Program

Our *Lapsit* program, meanwhile, continues to flourish. Initiated last summer, the program, held on four consecutive Wednesdays four times per year, is designed specifically for babies 12 months and under and their parents and/or caregivers. A grant from the Friends allowed us to purchase the initial books needed for the program. In the *Lapsit* program, we focus on rhymes, fingerplays and songs, as well as simple books.

What's been particularly interesting about the *Lapsit* program (besides seeing how fast the babies grow between sessions!) is how it builds community. After each program, parents and caregivers mingle and swap stories and advice.

Summer Quest a BIG Hit with Kids and Teachers!

Support from the Friends is crucial to another program, our annual *Summer Quest* reading program, written and illustrated each year by Dave Burbank, library assistant and artist extraordinaire. We are the only library in the state to create our own program, and this past summer our participation rate more than doubled when students at the nearby elementary schools, Takoma Park Elementary and Piney Branch

Elementary, were urged to use our program for their summer reading.

We attracted exuberant crowds for several Summer Quest-related events, including our annual "Campfire," a Harry Potter Party, a Harry Potter Read-a-Thon, and our End of Summer Quest party. This year, with the Friends' contributions, we plan to offer Summer Quest t-shirts to participants and to further strengthen our link with the schools.



Craft activities bring children to the library thanks to the Friends' funding for materials.

Varied Activities Engage All Ages

Support from the Friends also has enabled us to host a number of craft-making events (materials paid for by the Friends) to mark such holidays as Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and the December holidays. These now-annual events typically draw large, enthusiastic crowds.

Various special library programs—annual events eagerly anticipated by children and families—also are sponsored by the Friends. These programs include: a spring poetry event at which kids created their own “shape” poems; a May Storytelling Fiesta to celebrate “Dia,” a new event created by the American Library Association to highlight diversity in children's books and programs; our “College Bound” series; “Scary Stories” for Halloween; “Eagle-bear and Friends”: and our Winter Solstice celebration.

Puppets Tell Stories

The Friends' donations also allowed us to offer a new program, *Shadow Puppets*, in January. Participants loved seeing a shadow

puppet show, creating their own puppets and then putting on their own show. We hope to offer the program again this summer as part of our Summer Quest program.

Graphic Novels Connect with Young Readers

Finally, anyone who's visited the Children's Room lately will have noticed that we now have three new beautiful bookcases—all paid for by the Friends. These mobile bookcases were purchased to house our expanding collection of graphic books for kids. Our statistics showed that these were the most popular books among young readers, but space constraints had limited our ability to expand the collection.

The three new bookcases not only provide more space, but also allow us to create three separate collections of graphic books: manga (Japanese-inspired graphic books that are the most popular with kids); graphic books for all ages; and graphic books for older readers. (As always, however, it is up to parents to decide what their children should read).

We're planning an event this spring to spotlight graphic books and offer tips for choosing the best ones to read.

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

Be a Friend of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

It's easy! Just fill out the form in this newsletter. Do a neighbor or friend a favor by passing a form on to them so they can also feel great about supporting the Library's programming for children through seniors.

Friends Support Reading On All Fronts

By Merrill Leffler

“**S**taggering...overwhelming...breathtaking...awe-inspiring” are hardly adequate to characterize the numbers of new books published each year in the U.S. In 2006, 292,000 titles crowded into the marketplace. Nearly 15 percent of those, or 42,000, were works of fiction. That is some 117 new titles a day, or almost four new novels or stories every hour!

These numbers are even more astonishing when the nation’s declining reading habits are considered: recent reports from the National Endowment for the Arts — *Reading at Risk* (2004) and *To Read or Not to Read: A Question of National Consequence* (2007) — provide dispiriting details on how Americans are reading less, especially teens who “read for shorter amounts of time compared with Americans of previous years” while reading less well. (You can find these reports and much more on the city library’s book blog, a trove of information maintained by library staff, particularly Rebecca Brown: cityoftakomapark.org/library/books/index.)

If a culture’s literature expresses its soul, what are the implications of these findings for ours?

While there are no easy answers, the Friends are addressing these issues in our own community by supporting a variety of programs to promote reading and critical discussion at different levels, from middle schoolers to elders. That support largely consists of purchasing multiple copies of books for participants to check out of the library and funding on-line reading groups. Here’s a brief summary.

Friends Reading Group

Organized in 2005 and meeting every two months, participants choose the books, nearly all of which are fiction. Novels during 2007 and into 2008 have included the depression-era classic, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck; Tim O’Brien’s *July, July*; Don DeLillo’s *White Noise*; Robert Heinlein’s *Stranger in a Strange Land*; Anchia Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, a novel set in Africa that focuses on the spiritual clash between ancient tribal traditions and colonialism with its Christian underpinnings; and most

recently, *The Diaries of Jane Somers* by Doris Lessing, a novel that brings us into the inner world of aged people who are impaired by the natural processes of physical and mental diminishment. William Maxwell’s *So Long, See You Tomorrow* is next — pick up a copy at the library and join us on March 19th.

Senior Reading Group

Sponsored by city’s Recreation Department, the group got underway in December in the Community Center with a talk by Naomi M. Forester, author of *Cat in My New Christmas Hat*. The first book, in February, was Sara Gruen’s *Water for Elephants*, says coordinator Paula Lisowski. Kiran Desai’s *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* is on tap for March, and Robert Hans van Gulick’s *The Willow Pattern: A Judge Dee Mystery*, for April. For more information, contact Ms. Lisowski at 301-891-7260 or PaulaL@takomagov.org.

T(w)een Book Club

Over this past year, the mostly sixth grade and some home schooled students meet once a month with children’s librarian, the indefatigable Karen MacPherson. Among the books they’ve discussed are Sue Corbett’s *12 Again*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor’s *The Agony of Alice*, and in February, Louis Sachar’s *Sixth Grade Secrets*. Children can register by calling 301-891-7259 or emailing: library-programs@spambob.net. Please put “t(w)een” in the subject line.

OnLine Book Clubs

Register at www.takomapark.info/library/elibrary/dearreader.html for an online club of your choice — fiction, nonfiction, audio. For each, a five-minute piece of a book is delivered via e-mail each day for a week; after five days, readers will have received one or two chapters, which should be enough to decide whether to continue with the book. The next week another book starts. There’s also a Teen Online Book Club for younger readers, from mysteries to comedies, true adventures, mystical science fiction; each week, different guest teenagers share their insights.

Become a Friend...



Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

To become a Friend for one year please fill out this membership form and send it with your fee to:

FTPML
101 Philadelphia Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Name/s _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail address _____

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

Join e-mail list? Yes No

The e-mail list is for announcements only, and you can unsubscribe at any time.
You will receive approximately 1-2 messages per month.

Please mark the membership category to which you wish to belong.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Champion \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100.00 | |

Make your payment out to **Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Inc.**

The Friends are a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c3) corporation.

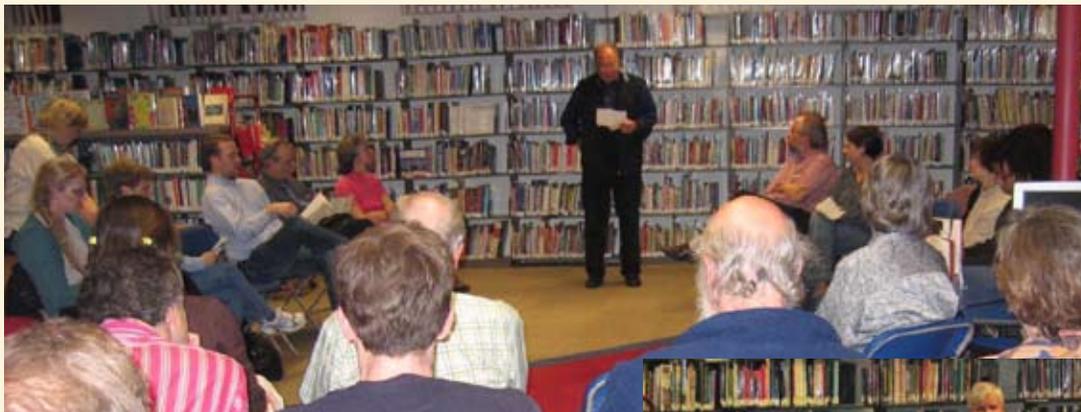
If you're interested in donating time and/or expertise, please let us know:

- Book Sales (semi-annual or mini-sales at Farmers' Market)
- Publicity Committee (newsletter, flyers, printing, mailings, list serve liaison, 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 library activities, visit www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.

Highlights and Events



The ninth annual reading of *Favorite Poems* by residents and friends was held in April 2007 at the library. Poems ranged from the serious to the comic, the seriously comic, traditionally rhymed and not. Come read a favorite poem—the only requirement is that it be a published poem. For information call the library at 301-891-7259 or check out the www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.



The FTPML 2007 Annual Meeting Was A Party! On March 27th the Friends met in the Library to celebrate the accomplishments of the year, elect two new members to the FTPML Board, and enjoy the Cajun music of Snakesauce featuring Jim Schmidt on fiddle, Anne McCabe, vocals and guitar, and Don Henninger, fiddle.

★ Please Join Us!

The Friends Reading Group

Meets bi-monthly for fun and
★ informative conversation.

FTPML Annual Meeting

Storyteller Ariana Ross entertains
at our annual party March 27th.

Favorite Poems ★

The tenth annual reading—April 24, 2008.

Become a Member ★

Visit us for dates and updates at
★ www.ftpml.org ★

For more information about Library programs and schedules, visit www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.



101 Philadelphia Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

www.ftpml.org

Friends of the FTPML Board Members

January, 2008

Rebekah Zanditon, *President (2006-2008)*
Sonja Kueppers, *Vice President (2006-2008)*
Dee Raff, *Secretary (2006-2008)*
Josh Wright, *Treasurer (2007-2009)*
Ellen Arnold-Robbins, *Ex-Officio Member,*
Director of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
Sara Criscitelli, *Member-at-large (2006-2008)*
Jim Kuhn, *Member-at-large (2007-2009)*
Merrill Leffler, *Book Sale Coordinator (2006-2008)*
Michele Morgan, *Member-at-large (2007-2009)*