



Friends Making Friends

The Takoma Park Maryland Library, joined by our Friends, is further expanding its reach into the community through innovative partnerships with a trio of outside organizations: Historic Takoma, Politics & Prose bookstore, and the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center.

Working with these new partners, the Library and the Friends will be able to offer new and expanded types of programs and activities. Here's a closer look at each of these new partnerships.



The Friends and public joined Historic Takoma in an opening reception for the window display featuring Spring for Poetry posters.



In December 2012, Historic Takoma hosted the Friends Holiday Book Sale in their newly opened building. Readers of all ages poured into the inviting space. Below are the organizers, HTI President Diana Kohn and Friends Book Sale Coordinator Merrill Leffler.



Historic Takoma

By Merrill Leffler

No exhibition space in Takoma Park can quite match Historic Takoma's great windows, 7328 Carroll Avenue: Try and pass by its exhibition-filled artistic windows without stopping, even if you're on an emergency run to the CO-OP for milk or ice cream. This was especially so in January and February when Susan Robb hung the expanse with 25 Spring for Poetry posters from past years.

The strikingly professional posters are the work of students in the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College, the result of a collaboration that began in 2007 between the Friends which developed the project and Professor Andrea Adams.

Each year a small group of poets selects new poems that we then present to the students with guidelines on the design criteria.

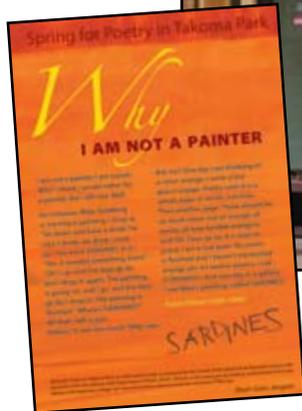
Continued on page 2

Friends Making Friends

Continued from page 1

To see the poem "Why I Am Not A Painter" brought to life go to www.ftpml.org or directly to the video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWDiLT2_o-o&list=UUXj3PenkmG7iqorcBmHuH8Q&index=3&feature=plcp



 Check out Historic Takoma at their website, www.historictakoma.org and visit the Friends of the Takoma Park Library as well at www.ftpml.org.

This past spring, Takoma Park Video Production head Alvaro Calabia produced a film on the process of choosing and producing the poems, including interviews with student designers. You can link to it on the Friends website: www.ftpml.org.

Once Professor Adams delivers her students' printed posters, they are laminated and framed — all the frames are the work of Friend of the Library Clair Garman. We then install the posters in outdoor locations throughout city, along Carroll Avenue, all the parks, the Community Center and the city library. This year we're adding locations at Takoma-Langley Crossroads. So be on the look out this April for a new crop of posters!

The exhibition, and Historic Takoma's opening reception, was one of two joint efforts so far: this past December, we held a special holiday sale of childrens and teens books there. It was a great success for Historic Takoma in attracting many parents and children for the first time to its welcoming space and for the Friends, which raised thirteen hundred dollars that will support new programs.

Politics & Prose

By Karen MacPherson

Politics & Prose is one of the nation's premier independent bookstores, offering author events nearly every day of the year. Because the store has limited space for such events, however, Politics & Prose now is looking to do more events off-site.

That's where the Takoma Park Maryland Library comes in. Kerri Poore, the bookstore's new children's and teen events coordinator, approached Library staffers late last year, asking if we would like to form a partnership. We would provide the space for some children's and teen events, and Politics & Prose would provide the authors, as well as books for those who wish to purchase them.

It's a win-win situation. At the Library, we get to offer more programs featuring authors at no cost to us, since the publishers pay for the authors to appear at "bookstore" events. Politics & Prose, meanwhile, gets an additional event location and, of course, gets to sell books. (Note: No book purchase is required to attend any of these programs, which are free and open to the public).

Continued on page 3

The Friends Annual Meeting

All are welcome! Hear our special guest speaker Clarence Page. Local author and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist will speak at our annual meeting on Wednesday March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Library.

Friends Making Friends

Continued from page 2

New Books for After-School Reading Fun

The Friends continue to encourage reading for children in the New Hampshire Recreation Center. Shown with the newly donated books are the children in Ms. Sandra Boone's after school program.



An Evening of Awesome

Our partnership started with a bang in January, when we joined with Politics & Prose in hosting the “live-streaming” of an event featuring popular young adult author John Green. The actual event, *An Evening of Awesome*, took place at Carnegie Hall in New York City and was sold-out, but Green worked with his publisher to offer a live-streaming of the event to select bookstores. More than 150 John Green fans signed up for our live-streaming event, which was held in the auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Come August, Come Freedom

In February, our partnership with Politics & Prose allowed us to offer a special Black History Month program featuring author Gigi Amateau, author of *Come August, Come Freedom*, a book for ages 12 up. At the event, Amateau talked about how her book combines fact and fiction to tell the story of Gabriel, a literate slave who tried to incite a

rebellion in Richmond, Virginia, in August 1800. Gabriel's plan failed, due to a massive storm and the betrayal of friends, but Amateau's account of his story makes riveting and inspiring reading.

Pluto's Secret

For younger readers, we'll be offering an event on March 16 at 2 p.m. featuring the authors and illustrator of *Pluto's Secret*, a whimsical and informative look at why Pluto is no longer considered a planet. Just published by Abrams, in co-operation with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, *Pluto's Secret* features a talking Pluto who proudly takes readers through his history. Authors Margaret A. Weitekamp and David DeVorkin, plus illustrator — and Takoma Park resident — Diane Kidd will tell how they came to write the story and share some interesting snippets from their book.

Continued on page 8

Spring Book Sale
Saturday May 18
10am-3pm

Your Friends Need You

Volunteers are needed to join in the set-up and to cashier at the Saturday May 18th book sale. It's fun!
To volunteer contact Ellen Arnold-Robbins at ellenr@takomagov.org.
Community service hours are available for high school students.

Children's Programs

By Karen MacPherson

There's always a lot going on at the Library, thanks to our Friends!

Children's Librarian Karen MacPherson leads visiting preschoolers in songs and activities. Introducing Library visits at an early age promotes later reading and homework. These children are from the Takoma Park Child Development Center and Kids Adventures/Academy for Early Learning.

Thanks to our Friends, the Library is able to offer a variety of regular and special programs for kids.

Petites Chansons

Each week children and adults attend our Thursday *Spanish Circle Time* with Senora Geiza. Once a month, Francophiles get their turn, with *Petites Chansons*, a program in French for babies, toddlers and preschoolers led by Madame Marie.

Comics Jam

Comics Jam, which takes place the second Tuesday of the month, is another Friends sponsored program. Library assistant Dave Burbank reads comics, which viewers can see on a big screen via the ELMO document camera purchased by the Friends. *Comics Jam* concludes with Dave taking drawing "requests" from the audience.

Creative Crafts

In addition to the regular programs, we present distinctive, one-time events sponsored by the Friends. We'll have our annual Mother's Day gift-making program on Saturday May 4. Children supply the creativity and the Friends provide the materials. It's a great way for kids to make keepsakes for the special women in their lives.

Fathers get their turn June 8, when we'll

host a Friends-sponsored gift-making program. Children also can make end-of-the-school-year gifts for their teachers.

Summer Quest

Our biggest Friends-funded program is the unique *Summer Quest* reading program beginning in mid-June. Dave Burbank creates a read-to-play story and artwork for *Summer Quest*, which attracts an ever-growing number of young readers. We're the only library in Maryland to create our own summer reading program.

We offer three special, Friends-funded *Summer Quest*-related programs. There's the program kick-off on June 10. In early August, we'll have our popular *Summer Quest* "Campfire" program, at which we read stories, sing songs and send everyone home with the makings for "S'mores." Our final program in September concludes *Summer Quest 2013* with a grand party, and everyone will go home with free books.

Coming Fall and Winter Events

Then it's time to rev up for our hugely-popular Friends-funded fall/winter programs: Halloween storytelling with Candace Wolf; the visit of Eaglebear and his family in November; and our Winter Solstice event.



BOOK F(R)IENDS

By Merrill Leffler

“...the details, are wrongly described as little — there are no little facts in the human realm, any more than there are little leaves in the realm of vegetation.”

— Victor Hugo

With more than enough practical demands on each day’s 24 hours, why do so many of us forcibly reserve an hour or two of them to enter another world, a world of make-believe that seemingly has no relation to the daily one we inhabit? Unlike watching a movie or an adaptation of a novel on Masterpiece Theater where little is required of us but to sit back and be entertained, reading is work — a novel doesn’t entertain by itself. Each of us on our own has to make it happen.

So why do we do it? One simple answer may be escape: in leaving behind our own stories with its travails and preoccupations, we step into another story, where characters are confronted with situations that may be strangely like ones we are familiar with, for instance, John Updike’s *Rabbit, Run* or wholly different and exotic, say Tolstoy’s *War and Peace* and Melville’s *Moby Dick*, or otherworldly and fantastic — think of the *Life of Pi*. Realistic or surrealistic, novelists bring characters to life — if their storytelling is compelling, we are lulled into suspending our disbelief and they become real in our minds.

“A good read” is a book that gives us characters that matter to us, and situations and conflicts that sustain our interest to know what happens next — they keep us going to the end. We want to know how our characters fare through their travails and often speak of them as though they have consciousness and free will! That’s great storytelling.

Yes and but: readers who come together to discuss books as in the Friends Bimonthly and Great Big Book groups — we have more than 90 on our list — are not only after that so-called good read but something more. Why else have 15 to 20 readers met four or five times every two weeks to discuss such classic works as *War and Peace*, *The Brothers Karamazov*, *Bleak House*, *Moby Dick*, *Les Miserables*,

The Magic Mountain? These are Big Books, not only in length but also in their ambition, in their breadth, in their looking at life on a large scale and a small scale, simultaneously, something that books of history cannot do very well. Victor Hugo had something to say about this in *Les Miserables*, which our Big Book Group read last spring. “History neglects little details and cannot do otherwise if it is not to be swamped by the infinite minutiae,” Hugo wrote. “And yet,” he continued, “the details, are wrongly described as little — there are no little facts in the human realm, any more than there are little leaves in the realm of vegetation.”

We want a good story, yes, one that takes us out of ourselves, but at the same time has something important to say to us. That is, we want “something more.” Listen to Joseph Conrad who wrote about what he was trying to achieve in the novel: “by the power of the written word, I want to make you hear, to make you feel, to make you see. That — and no more, and it is everything.” But Conrad didn’t end there. “If I succeed,” he wrote, “you shall find there according to your deserts: encouragement, consolation, fear, charm — all you demand... and also that glimpse of truth for which you have forgotten to ask.” In other words, that “something more.”

So we are embarking this Spring on what is arguably the most formidable novel of the 20th century, James Joyce’s *Ulysses*, a work so varied in its style, in its diverse narratives, in its structure, in its exploration of the limits of language, in its psychological realism, in its dealing with ideas of religion and history that much will be required from its readers. Towards what end? An escape? No! It’s for the uniquely told story and journey of Stephen Dedalus, Leopold Bloom, and Molly Bloom and for that something more — a world both common and marvelous, one that immerses us into the complex human condition itself — ours.

Wanda Hsiung



A Whirlwind

Wanda Hsiung may be encountered at the Library nearly any morning — including Sundays and holidays, when she and her husband Shang share the job of emptying our overflowing bookdrop.

Wanda is our only permanent Shelver (we lost Debbie Erwin, our other Shelver, in 2010). In her 15 hours per week, she is a whirlwind of activity — and as essential to our operation as anyone on staff. She shelves myriads of returned books, and both trains and supervises the work of the adult and student volunteer shelvees who alternate during the week. Shang assists her as a volunteer and brings donated magazines from a nearby retirement home for our sale cart. Wanda also mounts decorative and book-oriented displays in the children's room, and often works extra hours as a desk substitute in the afternoons or evenings. She says she loves being able to create the displays and colorful signs she has made for the Library — but to her the best part of

her job is “handling and being surrounded by books!”

When not at the Library, volleyball is an avocation for both Wanda and her husband. Wanda has coached varsity volleyball at Kennedy High School since 1981 — making her both the longest serving varsity volleyball coach in Montgomery County schools, and the longest serving tenured coach at Kennedy. Shang is the Director of “Champions of Tomorrow,” a Rockville-based youth volleyball program that operates under USA Volleyball.

Not surprisingly, her daughter Amanda played volleyball at Vassar College, and as a graduate student at George Washington University. Amanda is fluent in Chinese, and now works for the non-profit Global Fund for Children — but we remember her when as an elementary school student she accompanied her mother to help barcode our collection 16 years ago!

Wanda and her family are as dedicated to the Library as we are to them. We couldn't be the warm, inviting community space that we are without staff like Wanda, whose exuberance, creativity and care all contribute to make our Library unique and special!

Palestinian Author Chosen by Reading Group

“The main themes in his writings are uprootedness, exile and national struggle.”

The Friends Reading Group will meet April 9th for a discussion of a collection of short stories by Ghassan Kanafani. Kanafani was a Palestinian novelist, short-story writer and dramatist. He was also a spokesperson for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He was killed by a car bomb in Beirut in 1972, allegedly by the Mossad.

“He often used the desert and its heat as a symbol for the plight of the Palestinian people. Kanafani's life and career as a

writer was closely connected to the situation of the Palestinians, and his intense involvement in Palestinian affairs gave him a unique vantage point.”

[from 'books and writers' www.kirjasto.sci.fi/kanaf.htm]

The story collection, *Men in the Sun and Other Palestinian Stories*, will be available in the Takoma Park Library.

All are welcome to join the Friends Reading Group discussions, which are held in the Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

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!

Become a Friend...



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

To become a Friend 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 _____

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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 no more than 1-2 messages per month.

Please mark the donation you wish to give.

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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 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 the Friends please visit us at www.ftpml.org.

Highlights and Events

Favorite Poem Evening Returns by Popular Demand!

This celebration of poems will be held in the Library on Tuesday April 23, at 7:30 p.m. and will be hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler.

The *Favorite Poem Evening*, sponsored jointly by the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of the Library, is now in its 14th year. Last year's event drew a record number of readers and poetry enthusiasts.

If you would like to participate, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet other than you or your friends. Poems written in languages other than English are welcome, if they are accompanied by an English translation. There are plenty of ideas for possible choices in the Library's poetry collections.

Send the name and author of the poem you have chosen and your own name and gener-

ic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912, or by e-mail to ellenr@takomagov.org. **The deadline for submission is Thursday, April 18th.**

Originally conceived as a national event by U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, the *Favorite Poem Evening* in Takoma Park has been a lovely, warm and community building event for more than a dozen years.

All ages are welcome. Please attend and bring your friends and neighbors! Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

Friends Making Friends

Continued from page 3

Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass

On May 1 at 7:30 p.m., Meg Medina, a highly-regarded Latina author for kids and teens, will discuss her provocative new novel for teens on bullying, *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*. Medina tells the story of a girl, Piddy Sanchez, who finds herself being bullied by someone she doesn't even know. Piddy at first tries to ignore it, but the harassment takes over her life and forces her to take a stand. Medina has been quoted about the need for more books with Hispanic protagonists, and her discussion is sure to be thought-provoking.

The Cats of Tanglewood Forest

The next night, May 2 at 7 p.m., we'll present something totally different as illustrator Charles Vess talks about his artwork for a new kids' fantasy novel, *The Cats of Tanglewood Forest*, written by Charles de Lint. Vess also will talk about his illustration career, including his illustrations for *Rose*, a *Bone* book written by Jeff Smith, and *Blueberry Girl* and *Instructions*, both written by Neil Gaiman. Vess will conclude the program with a drawing demonstration.

These programs provide just a taste of what our new partnership with Politics & Prose can offer to the Library and our patrons! More programs are in the works, and we look forward to a long and flourishing partnership.



101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.

Visit the Friends at www.ftpml.org

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as of January, 2013

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A color version of this newsletter can be seen and printed at www.ftpml.org/newsletters/spring2013.pdf