



## Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

# Comments Are Love Notes To Our Library...

**Friends of the Library board member Pat Hanrahan recently spoke with a number of Library users.**

**In their words, here are reasons why some spent a sunny weekend indoors...**

**M**arquita Halstead, who has lived in Takoma Park for 42 years, likes the notion of “borrowing” books. “I have so many books in my house,” she notes. “I don’t need more, but I still love reading.” As part of her non-acquisition strategy, Halstead borrows then returns books to our Takoma Park Maryland Library, keeping only the knowledge and enjoyment, which take no room on her shelves.

**R**J Respress said the Takoma Park library attracts both adults and the kids in his family. His children, ages 9 and 12, are fans and followers of SummerQuest. Library Associate Dave Burbank is their hero. Everyone in his family frequently borrows books from the library. He praises the librarians and points to his daughter’s participation in a project on Chinese food for her Montessori school. Our librarians gave her all the resources she needed to do the project well and learn about Chinese culinary history and traditions.

**R**ecent Takoma Park resident Lauren Greenberg values the library because she and her sons have made new friends at its “wonderful” programs for children. Equally important, librarian Karen MacPherson has helped Greenberg answer 3-year old Nate and 5-year old Ben’s tough questions about how society works. To help her explain why she posted a “Black Lives Matter” sign at their home, Greenberg turned to the library. Karen MacPherson’s book recommendations for explaining black history in the U.S. became the most popular ones in the house and was read nightly. The boys took ideas from them that their mom admitted would not have occurred to her. “Books usually have a broader approach” she said, and “cover areas I may not know.”

*Continued on page 2*

### Thank You for Being a Library Friend

As you can see in this newsletter, the Friends support Library activities in many ways and for all ages. Your membership donations, gifts, and our book sales, make these and other programs possible.

Please check your address label to see the date of your last contribution. We need you! Please invite your friends to join too.

## Comments Are Love Notes to Our Library

*Continued from page 1*

University of Nevada at Las Vegas student, Ayele Gebreselassie, was studying at the library on a Saturday to prepare for engineering exams. His host and brother sent him there when Gebreselassie needed a quiet space. He was delighted to have found the library across the street from his brother's place and its peaceful situation for serious concentration.

Simret Demissie lives in the Langley Crossroads neighborhood, and drives 10 minutes to the library five or more days each week for Internet access, which she uses for job searches, studying, and keeping up with friends and family. The Takoma Park library is the closest one to her apartment and was highly recommended by a neighbor. She loves the quiet it provides for her research.

Takoma Parker Monique was on the run returning books she'd enjoyed, but paused for a minute to exclaim, "I adore the library!" The atmosphere has that traditional library feel—a calm, welcoming place for people in the community, a great place to work in or to read. The library staff are excellent sources of information on both library and community events, and on library resources. Monique emphasized that she is always impressed with the "incredible range of fiction and non-fiction books" the library holds.

A color version of this newsletter can be viewed and downloaded at [www.ftpml.org/newsletters/spring2015.pdf](http://www.ftpml.org/newsletters/spring2015.pdf)



*All are cordially invited to the*

## Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Annual Meeting

**Thursday  
March 30  
at 7:30pm  
in the Library**

By Pat Hanrahan

**More Information at  
[www.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org)**

Joe Cirincione, the speaker for the FTPML Annual Meeting, has been a Takoma Park resident since 1981. With his wife, Priscilla Labovitz and Amy, their baby, he moved here for graduate school, and then took a position as staff to the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, which was focused on Star Wars (the 1983 Strategic Defense Initiative under President Reagan). The work was thrilling, says Cirincione. These were the times of the last popular movement for a nuclear freeze. In 1982 over a million people gathered in Central Park in support of an end to the nuclear arms race, heady times that Cirincione believes are returning.

Another baby was born to Priscilla and Joe, brother Peter to big sister Amy. Cirincione coached soccer and watched his kids grow

up and through the Takoma Park schools and beyond. Peter is now teaching at his alma mater, Blair High School. And Joe has taken his passion to help nations control the spread of nuclear weapons through other jobs and other organizations to his current role as president of Ploughshares Fund, where he's been for nine years.

On March 30, Cirincione will help us understand nuclear weapons policy in the context of our current president and today's world. He will bring his own nuclear football, a replica of the nation's Star Wars mobile hub, which the president has available at all times and can use to authorize a nuclear attack while away from fixed command centers such as the White House Situation Room. Cirincione's talk promises to be provocative, illuminating, unsettling.

# Children's and Teen Programs

By Karen MacPherson

✓ *Mark your calendars for Monday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. when we will kick off the 2017 SummerQuest program!*

✓ *On Saturday, April 8, at 2 p.m., checkout the Books-to-Action Club, the Library's new social justice book club.*

As spring takes hold, we're kicking into high gear to finalize plans for our annual **SummerQuest** program. This unique — and very popular — summer reading program has been funded by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for nearly two decades.

Each year, Library Associate Dave Burbank creates a SummerQuest story and gameboard in which 10 open-ended reading challenges are embedded. Dave also creates a giant gameboard in the Children's Room, and young readers' characters are moved along the giant gameboard as they complete each reading challenge. In the past two years, we've added a separate set of challenges for parents with pre-readers, something that will continue this summer.

With Friends' support, we also provide copies of summer reading booklists crafted each year by the Association for Library Service to Children. Overall, SummerQuest is a fun way to excite kids to read over the summer, so mark your calendars for Monday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. when we will kick off the 2017 SummerQuest program!

Meanwhile, we've got lots of other great programs taking place this spring. On April 24, 7p.m., our **Caldecott Club** will launch another year of reading and discussing the best picture books; the Friends contribute funds for lemonade and cookies at each meeting.

We've also expanded our weekly **Spanish Circle Time** to two sessions on Thursdays, thanks to the Friends.

The Friends fund supplies for our newest program, the **Books-to-Action Club**, a social justice book club for kids and families. Our first meeting in February spotlighted books about immigration. Our meeting on Saturday, April 8, 2 p.m. will focus on books about the environment and global warming in preparation for the April 22 March for Science.



Specific program dates are on our website, [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library); click on "Events" at the top of the page. You also can check our Facebook page (Takoma Park Library) or our Twitter (@takoma).

## Spring Book Sale Sat., May 20, 10am-3pm

**The Friends book sales help pay for many Library programs and services!**

We need volunteers as cashiers and to set up the sale. To help, contact Ellen Arnold-Robbins at [ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov).  
Community service hours for high school students.

Following the introduction to the novel on March 22 at Historic Takoma, the discussions will be held at the Community Center.

**April 5 & 19  
and May 3**

**Wednesdays  
at 7:30pm**

# Faust

*by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

More Information at  
[www.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org)

*Everyone is welcome to join the "Big Book" Reading Group for all or just one of our discussion meetings.*

# Poetry for Our City Streets and Parks

By Merrill Leffler

*An urban poetry walk — Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park — has now become a featured part of our cityscape.*

One April day in 2007, Takoma Park was suddenly abloom with poetry. Installed on rigid stems (steel poles) were colorful posters of poems by well-known poets, among them Emily Dickinson, E.E. Cummings, and Langston Hughes, many contemporary poets, some with reputations like Lucille Clifton and Robert Hayden, and many younger poets—thirty posters from Takoma Junction to Old Town, in numbers of city parks, and at the Community Center. The project is supported by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library in collaboration with a graphic design class at Montgomery College, first under Professor Andrea Adams and now Professor Norberto Gomez.

Each January a committee selects the poems that Merrill Leffler and Michele Morgan, board members of the Friends, present to the class. For students, designing the posters is an opportunity to have their work before the public. For residents and visitors to the city, it's a chance to stop for a moment and read—even contemplate—a poet's unique take on some subject, whether it be love, oystering, cooking, teeth(!), buzzards, or a new dress! As in the past, this year's poems are from all over the world. Along with U.S. poets, there are poets from 16th century Persia, 18th century England, Turkey,

Poland, Mexico, Peru, and even stanzas from "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" by Nobel Prize winner Bob Dylan.

Most of the posters from all years can be downloaded as PDFs from [www.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org). Visit them there and be on the lookout in April for this year's new poems.

## Be Glad Your Nose Is on Your Face

Be glad your nose is on your face,  
not pasted on some other place,  
for if it were where it is not,  
you might dislike your nose a lot.

Imagine if your precious nose  
were sandwiched in between your toes,  
that clearly would not be a treat,  
for you'd be forced to smell your feet.

Your nose would be a source of dread  
were it attached atop your head,  
it soon would drive you to despair,  
forever tickled by your hair.

Within your ear, your nose would be  
an absolute catastrophe,  
for when you were obliged to sneeze,  
your brain would rattle from the breeze.

Your nose, instead, through thick and thin,  
remains between your eyes and chin,  
not pasted on some other place—  
be glad your nose is on your face!

— Jack Prelutsky

## I seek Women

I seek Women,  
who can be aware of injustice,  
I seek Women,  
who can struggle for their ideals.  
I seek Women,  
who are fed up with all the lies,  
the blows — the violence.  
I seek Women  
who cannot be indifferent  
to people suffering.  
I seek Women  
who might have wings—women  
who will fly.

— Karla Báez, Mexico  
Trans. from Spanish

*More Poetry in April!*

**Favorite Poem Evening**

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Read or just listen to favorite poems!

Details at [www.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org)

### Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

[www.cityoftakomapark.org/library](http://www.cityoftakomapark.org/library)

Visit the Friends at [www.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org)

### FTPML Board Members

as of March, 2016

Tim Rahn, *President*

Pat Hanrahan, *Vice President*

Walter Mulbry, *Treasurer & Membership*

Sylvie Shaffer, *Secretary*

Deborah Nelson, *Member-at-large*

Miriam Szapiro, *Member-at-large*

Rebecca Zanditon, *Member-at-large*

Merrill Leffler, *Book Sale Coordinator*

Michele Morgan, *Newsletter Editor*

Ellen Arnold-Robbins, *Ex-Officio Member,*

*Director of the Takoma Park Maryland Library*

with the help of Clair Garman, *webmaster*

All are cordially invited to the

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Annual Meeting

featuring **Joe Cirincione**

Thursday,  
March 30,  
2017 at  
7:30pm in  
the Library



Join us at the Library, when Joe Cirincione will be our guest speaker. He is president of Ploughshares Fund, a global security foundation, and is the author of three books on nuclear weapon policy and politics including the most recent, *Nuclear Nightmares: Securing the World Before It Is Too Late*.

He was the vice president for national security at the Center for American Progress and served for eight years as director for nonproliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Joe worked for over nine years on the professional staff of the Armed Services Committee and the Government Operations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives.

He teaches a graduate course at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He appears frequently on television and radio and is the author of over six hundred articles and reports on defense and national security.

**Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library**

101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD

For more about the Friends visit [www.ftpml.org](http://www.ftpml.org) or call the Library at 301-891-7259.

The evening's events will conclude with socializing and refreshments. Elections for the FTPML Board of Directors will follow the speaker's presentation. All are welcome to stay for the brief meeting and election.

Members of the Friends whose dues are current are eligible to serve on the Board and vote in the election. Those interested in serving on the Board may contact Library Director Ellen Arnold-Robbins, [ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov).

New and renewed memberships will be accepted at the meeting.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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.

- |   |          |                                     |          |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior | \$ 5.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron     | \$500.00 |
|   |          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other      | _____    |

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](http://www.ftpml.org).