

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Annual Meeting

7:30 pm March 27, 2018

Agenda

7:30 Guest Speaker Lisa Page, co-editor, We Wear the Mask: 15 True Stories of Passing in America

8:20 Friends business meeting and election

8:30 Refreshments

President's Report

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.” – Walter Cronkite

The Friends of Takoma Park Maryland Library is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that supports our community library. We had a particularly important mission this past year: Help secure its future.

While our library program is healthy and growing, the building is not. It has a leaky roof, a limping HVAC and impossibly cramped spaces. And the need for major repairs forced a hard community conversation about the cost versus value of maintaining our own local library.

The Takoma Park City Council held a series of hearings to decide its fate. Many of us stood in line at the microphone to convey the numerous and essential ways the library serves our community. I described it as our community living room, where people of all ages, economic and cultural backgrounds connect – to big books and big ideas, to wifi and each other. Others spoke to the children’s programs that promote literacy, the library’s importance as an after-school homework hub and a forum for authors and artists.

“I care about the TP library not just because it’s an exceptional library but for its proximity to the low-income and immigrant population we are fortunate to have,” Michele Morgan, who is retiring from the Friends board after 12 years, reflected in a recent email. “I know of people whose only access to a computer for job search and homework has been our library. The safe, supporting space it provides for homework and research for students is a possible game changer for many in our community.”

Ensuring everyone in the greater Takoma community has the same resources “is our most important work in my view,” Michele wrote.

In the end, the city council unanimously and enthusiastically approved a \$7 million major renovation that will create a more versatile space for books and people and serve generations to come. A big thank you to Kate Stewart, Peter Kovar, Rizzy Qureshi, Fred Schultz, Tim Male, Terry J. Seamens and Jarrett Smith on the city council; to Suzanne Ludlow and the city staff; to Ellen Arnold-Robbins and the library staff; and to the Friends board, volunteers and members who showed their support.

Stay tuned. The renovation will present Friends with new opportunities to support the library and its programs. So, please renew your membership, donate generously and consider volunteering.

This past year, we launched several new initiatives:

- We took the library on the road -- to Takoma Langley Crossroads, where we host a twice monthly Spanish Circle Time with Senora Geiza in space donated by the Kool Smiles dental office. We also planted a Little Free Library in Takoma Langley. Thank you to volunteers Kathleen Fulton and Melanie Isis, along with board members Anand Parikh and Walter Mulbry.

- I hope you'll tune in for the Friends segment on Takoma Radio with Eric Bond at 1pm on the fourth Sunday of the month. Board members and guests have shared reflections on selecting children's books, managing book clubs and the Little Free Library movement. Eric's show, "Talk of Takoma," airs on WOCD-LP FM, 94.3FM and streams at <http://live2.takomaradio.org/stream>. Please send recommendations for topics and guests!
- The Friends hosted a packed house at the community center for the documentary, "This Little Light of Mine: The Legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer," recounting her role in the 1964 Freedom Summer African-American voter registration drive. Afterward, filmmaker Robin Hamilton talked with José Morales of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. The City of Takoma Park co-hosted the event as part of its "We Are Takoma" cultural series. Thank you to Friends board member Pat Hanrahan, who proposed and coordinated the event.
- If you haven't seen the FTPML Facebook page lately, check it out. You'll find a fun and illuminating stream of original thoughts and posts culled from literary sites around the world. Pat's our maestro, but she likes company. Please "like" the Friends and join in the conversation. <https://www.facebook.com/FTPML/> We've also updated <http://ftpml.org/> and our newsletter. Thank you to volunteers Maurice Belanger and Sonya Mallinoff.

In the year ahead, we plan to build on those new initiatives as well as our legacy programs: book sales, book clubs, Little Free Libraries, Spring for Poetry with Montgomery College School of Art and Design, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2017. We'll also extend our support of library programs: Spanish and French Circle Times, Summer Quest and Winter Quest. We'll need to re-invigorate donations, which dropped last year, and rally volunteers, so we can take full advantage of new opportunities the library renovation will inspire.

To do all of the above, we are asking the membership to add four seats to the FTPML board. That would give us a 14-member board, which is where we need to be for what's ahead as an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. We're asking for your vote, your ideas, your donations and your help!

-- Deborah Nelson, president

FTPML Treasurer's Report

March 14, 2017 – March 13, 2018

Income	<i>Expenses continued</i>
1. Book sales: 5,974	2. Resources for the library: (\$1102)
2. Membership dues and donations: 5,313	a. Books (books and breakfast club): 613
Total Income: \$11,287	b. French books: 499
Expenses	3. Publicity and administrative expenses (\$1058)
1. Event-Related, Outreach, and Program Expenses: (\$10,373)	a. Newsletter, Website, Promotions: 529
a. Spanish & French Programs: 6,990	b. Sales Taxes: 351
b. Storytelling programs: 2,400	Total Expenses: \$16,287
c. Summer Quest & Winter Quest: 2,558	Overall Total: (\$5,000)
d. Local speakers program: 1,419	
e. Big Book Club Speakers: 125	
f. Solstice programs: 500	
g. Poetry Programming, Spring for Poetry: 316	

Checking Account Balance
 Opening: March 14, 2017: \$18,397
 Ending: March 13, 2018: \$13,296*
 *Does not include pending payments
 - Walter Mulbry, Treasurer, March 13, 2018

FTPML Membership report

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Households	63	64	76
Membership/donations	\$6,161	\$7,799	\$5,313
- Walter Mulbry, Membership, March 13, 2018			