

**Walter Mulbry, Member and Treasurer FTPML,
Receives Little Free Library's Award for Outstanding
Achievement**

***Takoma Park Resident Built 23 Little Free Libraries for the
Community***

Hudson, WI (May 18, 2020) – (From a Little Free Library press release, May 18, 2020) – “The Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization is pleased to present Walter Mulbry of Takoma Park, Maryland, with the 2020 Todd H. Bol Award for Outstanding Achievement. This award honors extraordinary individuals who embody LFL’s mission to inspire a love of reading and build community.

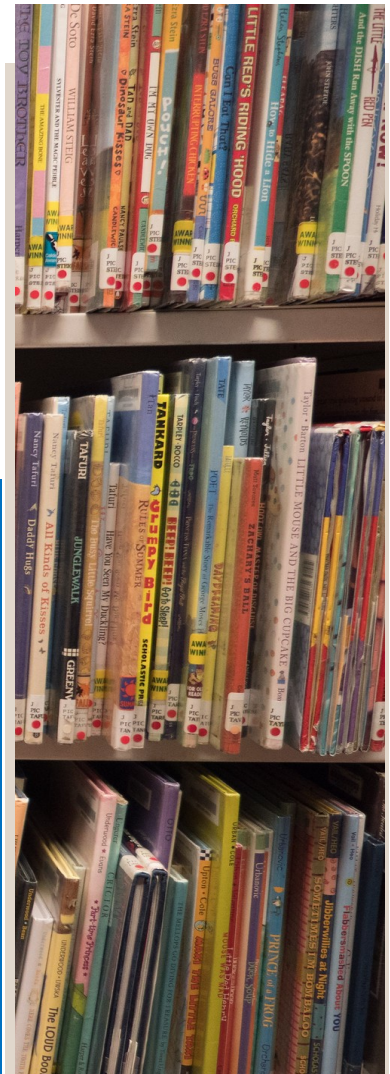


“It is a privilege to recognize Walter Mulbry as one of this year’s winners of the Todd H. Bol Award for Outstanding Achievement,” said LFL Executive Director Greig Metzger. “His volunteer efforts exemplify the vision of the late founder of Little Free Library, Todd Bol, to engage communities and enrich lives through the power of shared books. Through his effort,

Walter has made his community a better place to be.”

Walter Mulbry is a master builder, constructing 23 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes for his community. A board member of Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, he worked with his colleagues to purchase their first Little Free Library in 2014 then expanded the program with the libraries he built. A local mini-grant helps supply building materials; local artists paint the libraries; and the Friends book sale helps keep them stocked with reading material.

“Little libraries contribute toward our town’s sense of community. We are a very diverse community, but the love of reading is commonly shared,” Mulbry said. “Although our little libraries are located throughout the city, our focus is on locating them in public spaces near bus stops and large apartment buildings.”



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FTPML President's Report

By Francis Nugent



Fundraiser at Takoma Park VFW

In the previous year, we have continued to support our mainstay programs for children, including Spanish and French Circle time, storytelling and craft programs, and the ever-popular SummerQuest and WinterQuest reading programs.

Our book sales continue to bring the community together. Through our spring, fall, and winter book sales, we raised \$8,719.00 in 2019. Our sales became an even greater draw through partnerships with the Piney Branch and Takoma Elementary School PTAs, who have hosted bake sales to keep our book buyers and library patrons well-fed and well-energized.

We secured funding from the Takoma Foundation to continue the highly-regarded Piney Branch Elementary School English as a Second Language Community Book Club series during the 2019-2020 school year. The Book Club Series helps children who speak English as a second language catch up to grade-level English, provided participating families with hands-on opportunities to engage with school and library staff, and highlights many valuable community resources for attendees.

The Friends also launched an outreach campaign with presentations and resources for seniors and people with disabilities living in Takoma Park to encourage their use of the library. This initiative provides information about the many offerings of our library and how to access the resources remotely and in person.

We received a slight increase in membership dues and donations, pulling in \$6,396.00, an increase of \$448.00. The Friends are still working to identify outlets to reach new potential members and to offer our enthusiastic members with opportunities to have fun. One way we accomplished this was through a February fundraising event at the Takoma Park VFW. Headlined by a local band and 80s pop music powerhouse - the Airport 77s - the event was full of music, dancing, and friends. Thanks in large part to member support, the Friends brought in \$2,300 to fund the Takoma Park Library's 2020 SummerQuest and other library programming.

This year we say farewell to three board members who have made invaluable contributions to the trajectory of the board and to our community. I want to thank Anand Parikh, Silvie Shafer, and Rebekah Zanditon. Anand for his dedication to crafting innovative outreach opportunities for youth in our community; Silvie for her artistic flair and key role identifying children's literature and programming; and Rebekah for her tireless contributions to the success of the board, including her leadership as a two-term board president. We are also excited to welcome three new board members, Sawa Kamara, Jennifer Ruark, and Ariel Woods. Ariel, a veteran of our local PTAs, will

also be serving as the FTPML President. We are excited to see where her passion and vision leads us!

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, our next term will likely look much different than previous years. We have already had to postpone our annual meeting with guest speaker, Kevin Blackstone, and we had to cancel our Spring book sale. That being said, as we embark upon the library's 85th year, the board will continue to support the library, albeit in socially distant ways. We are grateful to the members and supporters of the library, and we look forward to another year of working to ensure the success of our library.

The New FTPML Board

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

www.cityoftakomapark.org/library

Visit the Friends at www.ftpml.org

FTPML Board Members

Ariel Woods, President

Francis Nugent, Vice President

Walter Mulbry, Treasurer

Mark Fisher, Secretary

Sawa Kamara, Member at Large

Deborah Nelson, Member at Large

Gina Lambright, Member at Large

Sonya Mallinoff, Member at Large & Newsletter Editor & Membership

Ruth Polk, Member at Large

Jennifer Ruark, Member at Large

Cathy Surace, Member at Large, Membership

Wendy Turman, Member at Large

Ellen Arnold-Robbins, Ex-Officio Member, Director of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

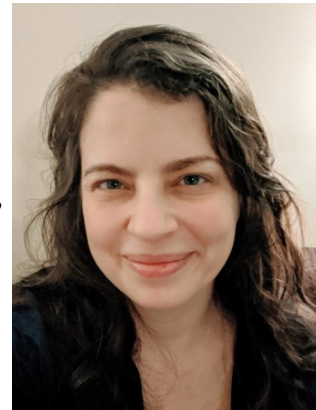
My Thoughts on Becoming a Member of FTPML Board and the New Board President

Ariel Woods

I am excited to join the Friends board. I would like to tell you a little bit about who I am, and the role I think our library plays in our community. In my lifetime so far, it's been a gateway to the outside world, an information desk when lost in a new city, and the place

of academic discovery and professional success. At the TPM Library I see patrons coming to meet their heroes on author nights; to find information about voting, renter's rights, and immigration; to do their homework after school; to have a safe place to be or meet up with a friend. Even now, residents gather around the building to use free, secure wifi. A library is at the heart of any town, and it seems especially true in Takoma Park. Like its town, our library is independent ("I heard about this library in library school!" my neighbor said), small but full, quiet and noisy. I so look forward to seeing it grow.

I moved to Takoma Park in August of 2001, not fathoming the ways the world was about to change, or the wonderful community I was stumbling into. The library was the first place I went to get my bearings, check my email, figure out why I couldn't get my phone service connected. In the years since, I've been lucky to become a parent, find my favorite TkPk neighborhood in Forest Park, and work for years on the boards of the TPES and PBES PTAs to help make our great schools even better. With my daughter growing up, I've been looking for a new volunteer opportunity that would tie my previous experiences together, and I think I found it here in our library, right where I started nearly twenty years ago.



It's not just good timing though that brings me to the role of president today. Before I came to the east coast, I was a home-schooled kid in small town Texas. My parents, liberal free thinkers, were often asked what curriculum we followed. My mom would produce our library cards and say there, that's our curriculum. It was an oasis for us, with an incredible children's librarian named Wanda Wright, and a reference librarian who became so used to being asked for as "the man with a beard" that he finally just printed that very phrase on his name tag (I knew his name was Charlie Cope). A fledgling historian, I spent hours in the genealogy room, learning how to use microfiche and microfilm machines. I got my very first, if non-paying, job there when I was 10, working as a page re-shelving books.

I went on to study history, worked in museums, and then found a career in academic publishing. Today I am the managing editor of ProQuest's History Vault, an ever-growing database of U.S. primary source documents spanning from the U.S. Revolution to the Gulf War. (Current holdings are about 20 million pages, and include government, business, and personal papers).

Become a member of the Friends! Your donations mean so much! They go towards funding so many activities in the Children's room, from the two circle times — Spanish & French — Summer and Winter Quest, Story-telling, and many many others. If you're considering giving to your community, please remember your local library . Follow this link to donate using credit cards or pay pal. <http://www.ftpml.org>.

Meet the Board

Ruth Polk: The Takoma Park Maryland Library is a special place for me and my family. Having a library within walking distance has made it so easy for us to take advantage of its many offerings, especially the opportunities to meet authors in an intimate setting and to snag a new book without a ridiculously long wait time. As a niche library, the programs are uniquely tailored to the needs and interests of Takoma Park residents. I joined the FTPML Board because I value what the library offers and want to contribute to its ongoing success.



Cathy Surace: I have been a member of the FTPML Board since March 2019. I work on membership and outreach to people with disabilities and older residents, as well as other Board activities. I joined the board after retiring from legal work for a Maryland non-profit focused on the rights of people with disabilities. A Takoma Park resident since 1981, I am an avid reader and regular patron of the Takoma Park Library. I joined the Board to support the activities of our wonderful library that has served so many in our community, particularly children and adults who don't have easy access to other libraries.



Sonya Mallinoff: After moving to Takoma Park in 1980, I raised three children here, and the Library was always the center during school years including daycare years. Reference material, a place to sit and do homework, speakers, story times, and Summer Quest! My daughter still fondly remembers the joy of that roll-out each summer. Now that I'm retired, the library remains a place of community, and books. I joined the board several years ago to help carry the message of its vital importance to our community.



Wendy Turman: Since I first moved to Takoma Park 20 years ago, I've found our library to be a deeply welcoming place for all ages, nurturing a love of reading and learning. Since joining the board of the Friends last year, I've been astounded to learn of the breadth and depth of the library programs and outreach to the wider community, and I am honored to support this vital and precious city resource.



Mark Fisher: This is my second term; I was first elected in 2018. I have been a resident of Ward Five in Takoma Park since 1984. The same year I retired from Montgomery College in 2018 as a tutor in the Writing Center, I accepted a nomination to the Board of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. As part of the board, my primary active support of the FTPML has been the distribution of yard signs and other publicity.



An FTPML project, supported through membership contributions!

Meet the Board continues on next page!

Meet the Board Continued

Walter Mulbry: I began volunteering at FTPML booksales with my two daughters about twenty years ago. I joined the board in 2008 and became treasurer in 2014. I've been energized by FTPML's ongoing efforts to engage and enhance our diverse community. I've been able to help by constructing little free libraries and reconstructing frames for the Spring for Poetry posters that were developed through the efforts of our illustrious and legendary board member Merrill Leffler.

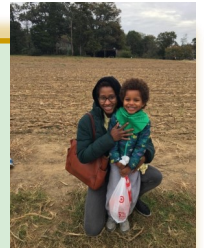


Visit the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library website at ftpml.org to learn about upcoming FTPML events. On the website, you can donate and become a member of FTPML. You can also read about our recent events, and find information about our book clubs, book sales, and library programs for children and adults that are made possible by your membership donation.

For news articles related to TPML's holding and initiatives as well as announcements of FTPML programs and book groups, follow FTPML on Facebook!

Gina Lambright: I joined the FTPML board in April 2019 and was motivated to join after receiving an email from a friend and board member at the time, Anand Parikh, that described the work of the board. I didn't hesitate. The library has been a huge part of our lives since we moved to Takoma Park in 2009. My kids, aged 13 and 10, have attended many, many of the library's events and programs for kids over the years and could typically be found at the library after school. The library has also often served as a quiet spot for me to work on evenings or weekends when home was not so quiet. Like us, so many members of the Takoma Park community benefit tremendously from all that the library has to offer. I hope to be able to help support the library's programs and its important role in our community.

Sawa Kamara: I have used the Takoma Park Library a great deal while raising my daughter. We've attended many activities including both Spanish & French circle times. It really gave us something productive to do. I helped collect books and funding for the African Library Project a few years ago. I believe our library is a vital part of the community and would like to collaborate on some literacy projects such as "Reading Partners." I want this space to serve you well just as it served me. I joined the board to find creativity ideas and also to connect more with the community. Glad to be a part of the FTPML.



Jennifer Ruark: One reason my husband and I moved to Takoma Park 23 years ago was that we liked the library. Some of our kids' earliest happy memories are rooted here. I joined the board this year to help ensure that the library continues as a wonderful resource and gathering space for residents of all backgrounds.



Ellen Arnold-Robbins

Takoma Park Maryland Library Director to Retire after 47 years!



From: City Manager Comments

Report of September 16, 2020

“Ellen Arnold-Robbins has announced that she will be retiring this winter; actual date as yet to be determined. Ellen has been with the City Library since 1973, serving as Library Director since 1982. The photos, from Takoma Park Newsletters, show her in 1975 and 1982. For most of us, she is the only Takoma Park Maryland Library Director we’ve ever known. We will give her a terrific send off when we are closer to her retirement date. In the meantime, I am pleased that she will advise us as we recruit for a new Library Director. The new Director will be able to structure the operations of the new library and its programs into the 21st Century library vision particularly suited for Takoma Park. We are so happy that Ellen has charted the course for this through 47 years with the City of Takoma Park!”

Mark Fisher, FTPML Board: “Since my wife and I moved to Takoma Park in 1984, Ellen has been a welcoming force in the city. Both my wife and my mother-in-law were librarians, which no doubt helped. For several years, my mother-in-law volunteered in the winters when she came south to live with us. She was always made to feel welcomed as a volunteer, and it made a big difference to her to feel she was of some use to our library.”

The FTPML Board has much to be grateful in working with Ellen. She has made our job easy as we as board members strive to serve the community—she is always looking for a way to support Takoma Park and all its residents. She will be so missed. We hope when we come out of this pandemic that we can celebrate her retirement in a more public manner! Good-luck Ellen!

Ellen Arnold Robbins in 1975 and 1982.



Ellen Robbins, Library Director & Ex-Officio Member: In the past 24 years, the Friends have been of inestimable value to our Library – both in raising funds, advocating for us at the state and local levels – and keeping us at the forefront of community attention and concern. They introduced our first public internet stations, engaged us in the wonderful Spring for Poetry series, funded and facilitated numerous book discussions, brought scholars and journalists to speak, purchased thousands of free lanyards for kids’ library cards, purchased furnishings and reference materials, and organized numerous book sales. With these and their many contributions to our children’s services, we are able to remain a vibrant, diverse and responsive local public library.

Children's Programs at the Library

Summer & Fall Programming

By Karen MacPherson

Our children's programs, now mostly on Zoom, continue to garner good participation from kids and families. Our Zoom programs for young children include Circle Time on Tuesday mornings and Spanish Circle Time on Thursday mornings. For older kids, there's Comics Jam on Wednesday afternoons and Scribblers Cabal on Friday afternoons. We're especially grateful to the Friends for their sponsorship of Zoom Spanish Circle Time, led by the energetic Senora Geiza. (See more info on our programs in the "New Normal" article).

This summer, for the first time, we brought our popular SummerQuest summer reading program online. Sponsored by the Friends for more than two decades, SummerQuest is created each year by Library Associate Dave Burbank. This year, instead of handing out paper copies of the SummerQuest story and gameboard, patrons could download their own via the Friends' website, thanks to webmaster Maurice Belanger.

With help from Rebecca Brown, the Library's Public Service coordinator, we also were able to offer kids and families the opportunity to track their SummerQuest reading through the ReaderZone app. It wasn't the same as kids tracking their SummerQuest characters on the big gameboard in the Children's Room, as they usually do, but the app did allow young readers to collect an online version of one of Dave's famous bunnies for each book they read. Overall, 127 readers

registered on the ReaderZone app for the SummerQuest program, reading close to 100 books.

We're also trying to keep up the Library's connection with kids and families in other ways. We're constantly adding new books to our kids and teen shelves, and because patrons can't browse right now to see what's new, I'm regularly putting photos of each book's cover, plus a brief write-up, on my blog, Children's Corner: <http://childrenscornerkm.blogspot.com/>

Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi, meanwhile, has put together quite a library of what she calls "Storytime Videos," which can be accessed for free on her YouTube channel, Kati Knows Storytime. In each of these short videos, Kati reads one or two books and sings a song or rhyme as well. Kati also offers lots of craft ideas on our Facebook page; she first tries out the crafts with her two young children so they are kid-tested!

Kati also is in charge of our "Take & Make" craft bag program, which takes place every other month or so. During the month we offer craft bags, they are filled with everything needed for a particular craft appropriate for ages 3 up. Twenty bags are available each Saturday of that month -- first come, first served -- and are placed on a purple cart near our "Books-to-Go" pick-up spot on the side of the Library parking lot. We first offered the bags in September, and will offer them again, with a different craft, beginning Nov. 7.



PROGRAMS:

To participate, go to <https://zoom.us/> and click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in the Meeting ID and Meeting Password listed with each program. You can find information of each program at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.



Photographs by Maurice Belanger

Children's Corner Blog: <http://childrenscornerkm.blogspot.com/>

New Normal at the Takoma Park Library

By Karen MacPherson

The library building may be closed, but library services and programs continue! We're presenting some of our most popular kids programs each week on Zoom, and patrons can check out books via our "Books-to-Go" curbside service. In addition, we continue to offer a robust selection of digital resources with something for everyone. Here's a closer look:

"Books-to-Go" Curbside Service

We're delighted to offer curbside service! Here are the basics:

To check out books, all overdue books on your library card first must be returned! So, if possible, check the due dates in your account online before you request books.

Note: Once you return your books in the book drop, they are quarantined for four days, so they will still appear on your account for a few days after you've put them in the book drop. (Remember that there are no fines).

Before requesting books, **please check our catalog** to see if we have the book, and if it is available. If it is checked out, you will see "checked out." Actually click on the title to open up the catalog record. You will not only see much more information, but also if you scroll down you can check on the actual status.

Patrons are limited to 5 books per order. When you request books, by email or phone, we will need your name plus either your birthday or the last 4 digits of your library card number so we can call up the correct account, and ensure you get the books you order. If this is an email request, this information should go in the subject line, along with an indication as to whether you are asking for adult books or children's/teen books.

Once we have fetched your books, we'll give you a pick-up window. Regular pick-up times will be Mondays and Wednesdays, 12-2 and 6-8, and Saturdays, 12-3. Note we will fulfill the requests in the order received, and it may take a few days before we

get to yours. We are less busy on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, so those may be the best times to send your email or call.

Call when you get to the library - 301-580-0085. We'll bring out your books and leave them on a table in back of the library for you to pick up.

If you are having problems with your library account, need a card replacement or renewal, or need us to validate a new card, **please register here:**

tinyurl.com/tkpklibrarycard

Note: we are regularly adding new books for kids, teens and adults to our shelves. Because patrons can't browse to see what's new, we're highlighting new titles in the city's weekly email, The Takoma Insider as well as in the monthly city newsletter, and on our Facebook page. New books for kids and teens also are spotlighted in the Children's Corner blog, maintained by Children's Coordinator Karen MacPherson: <http://childrenscornerkm.blogspot.com/>

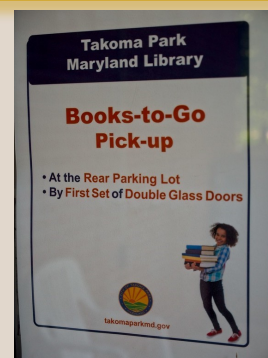
Digital Resources:

We have some wonderful digital resources for all ages. Some of the resources are streaming, while others can be downloaded to your phone or other devices. Also, some resources may require you to enter your library card number, so have it handy.



"Books-to-Go" Curbside Service

We take book orders by email (strongly preferred) and phone. Emails can be sent any time, of course, to librarytakomapark@gmail.com. Phone requests can be made Mondays and Wednesdays 10-12 and 4-6, and Saturdays, 10-12. To request children's or teen books, call: 301-580-0085. To request adult books, call: 240-507-0229.

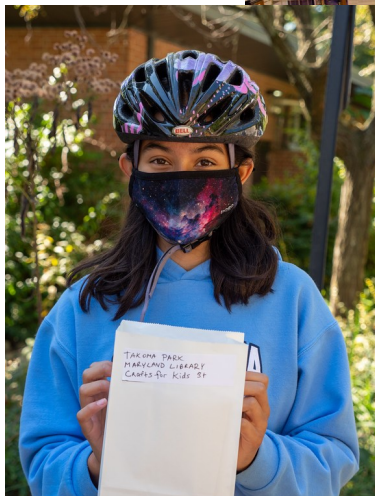
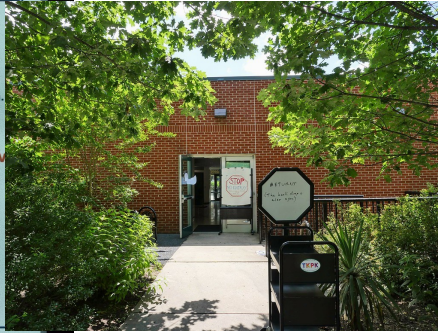


Digital Resources:

To get to our digital resources, go to: <http://www.takomapark.info/library/>

Click on the "ebooks" or "online" button at the top of the page and you can have fun exploring our great collection of digital resources!

Programs at the Takoma Park Library



PROGRAMS:

To participate, go to <https://zoom.us/> and click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in the Meeting ID and Meeting Password listed with each program. You can find information of each program at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents. Be sure to look for the Zoom version of each program.

Zoom Circle Time Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting ID is 995 4901 8825 and Meeting Password is 178851

Zoom Comics Jam Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m.

Meeting ID is: 734-913-6285

Zoom Spanish Circle Time Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting ID is: 966-2757-5745 and the Meeting Password is: 437375.

Zoom Sketch Club/ Scribbler's Cabal Friday afternoons at 4 p.m.

Meeting ID is: 734-9136285 (same as for Comics Jam)

We're also offering one in-person program, Outdoor Yoga Storytime, for kids ages 3 up. Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi will lead the program on Saturdays at 9 a.m. through Nov. 7, weather permitting. The program takes place on the lawn by the Takoma Park Recreation Center at 7315 New Hampshire Ave. Spaces are limited to ensure social distancing, so registration is required; to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents and scroll down to find Outdoor Yoga Storytime. (Note: there is no program Oct. 17, 24 or 31).

Candidates Discussion

Position on Library Renovation

By Francis Nugent

This spring, the Takoma Park City Council voted unanimously to authorize funding for the second stage of the Takoma Park Maryland Library renovation project design and construction estimate, which will be presented to the City Council in the fall of 2020. As we near a critical juncture in the library's future, the Friends found it especially important to speak with Mayor Kate Stewart and mayoral candidate Roger Schle-

gel about their positions on the library renovation and the library's future. We have summarized our conversations. We encourage members and readers alike to reach out to both mayoral candidates to express your continued support of the project. For more information, resources, and status updates on the project, the City's [Library Renovation](#) website is a valuable resource.

MAYOR KATE STEWART

Mayor Stewart highlighted the vital role that the library plays as the centerpiece of the Takoma Park community, noting that the space routinely provides accessible community programming in multiple languages, creates a safe refuge and safety net for vulnerable neighbors, serves people of all ages and abilities, and brings authors from around the world into our backyard. Even though the Library's doors are currently closed due to the pandemic, Mayor Stewart stressed the important role that the Library has played in providing valuable resources to aid residents' mental and emotional health.

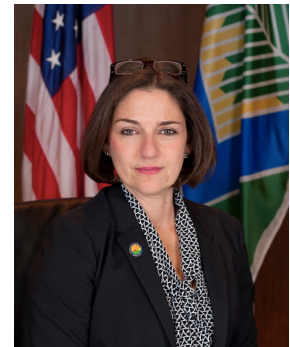
When asked specifically about how the renovation project would serve the needs of the City, Mayor Stewart stressed that the Library building is in urgent need of help and that the facility is barely being held together with "duct-tape and love." Mayor Stewart emphasized her role as a champion for the project ever since she joined the City Council five years ago in 2015, and expressed significant concern about the future of the library if the Council does not move forward with the project. Mayor Stewart also noted that when the City conducted a needs assessment for the Library in 2014, the assessment found that even then, the Library was not ADA compliant, the library's HVAC system was on its last legs, there was not enough room for programming, and that a renovation of the library was essential.

Mayor Stewart described the library renovation project as a key investment in the City and its residents' future. She is entirely committed to using the full \$7 mil-

lion bond for the project. Mayor Stewart also explained that when the City Council secured the bond money, they understood that the bond would not necessarily cover the full cost of the renovation, and that the amount was based on how much the City believed it could

take on in debt when considering repaying the bond over the 30-year life of the loan. Mayor Stewart also highlighted that other sources of funding for the project would include approximately \$2.5 million in City Cable Grant funds plus \$300,000 that the City secured in Maryland Capital Grants. In light of the many challenges facing the city under COVID-19, Mayor Stewart noted that the 2008 recession can provide valuable lessons, including the fact that when local governments cut back on capital projects and staff it contributed to prolonging the recession, and that community projects such as the library are the type of projects necessary to continue at this time to help recover more quickly.

Mayor Stewart concluded our conversation asking the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library to continue to support the project, to educate the community about the project, and to engage in outreach to harder to reach segments of the community.



Candidates Position—Library Renovation

ROGER SCHLEGEL

Mayoral candidate, Roger Schlegel, described Takoma Park as a City with significant divides, especially in areas of race, economics, and age, and that he viewed the library project as central piece to bringing Takoma Park together for the first time. He views the Library as a central community space for the exchange of ideas, serves as a source of discourse and dialogue, and offers a gathering place for children who want to learn or be safe.

Prior to running for Mayor of Takoma Park, Mr. Schlegel described an evolving thought process about the project. He acknowledged that he had previously explored the idea of scaling back the library renovation project, to include reallocating the library bond money to other projects. After researching the issue more as a candidate and speaking with community members, Mr. Schlegel has determined that the City needs the renovation project, and he provided assurances that he believes the full bond funding should be applied to the library. Mr. Schlegel expressed significant concerns that the City Manager may try to use bond money for other changes to the community center.

When asked specifically about how the renovation project would serve the needs of the City, Mr. Schlegel was excited about the prospect of addressing the current cramped facilities, developing improved programming space, and providing safety for kids and teens. Mr. Schlegel also discussed interest in potentially developing current space in the community center, such as meeting rooms, to serve as library facilities.

In moving forward with the project, Mr. Schlegel would explore cost-cutting measures in a number of areas, including flood mitigation, the number of windows in the new design, room size, and assessing whether additional space in the community center could be repurposed for library functions. Ultimately, Mr. Schlegel stressed the importance of community consensus about the project, noting that a lack of confidence from residents risked putting the project on hold.



Status of Library Renovation

RR/MM Lukmire Architects is currently working on a final design and construction estimate for a new Library building to present to the incoming City Council in November of 2020.

The final design of the library exterior will be based on architectural elements presented in a July 2020 public survey. 577 people voted in the survey, choosing between three different options. Public feedback centered around three main themes: Cost effectiveness in the midst of a pandemic and economic recession; energy efficiency, that is – the costs of heating and cooling with glass facades; architectural consistency with the Community Center; and the possibility of blending elements between the three options.

The results of the public survey were presented to the Council during the July 8 Council hearing. Subsequently, Council voted their preference for Option 2, the flat roof design – projected to be the least costly of the three options. Based on Council feedback and public comments, the site plan was further revised to include a pedestrian route from Philadelphia Avenue to the front entrance, more brick sections interspersed in the glass exterior, and lettering on the side of the building.

Design development steps taken since the July presentation include a review of the HVAC/Mechanical system design with Public Works staff, and a presentation of the updated

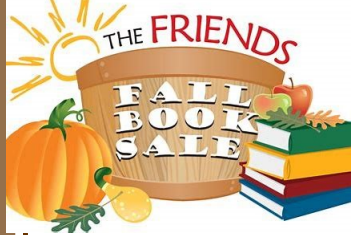
design to the Montgomery County Planning Board on September 15 for a pre-mandatory referral meeting. The architect's construction team also completed an extensive walk-through and Building Code analysis of the Library and Community Center and geotechnical borings for the building foundation technical specifications.

On September 24, Lukmire Architects presented to the City's Committee on the Environment (COE). Their presentation emphasized the green aspects of the design, and outlined factors impacting the LEED scorecard. The goal was to obtain COE feedback and benefit from COE members' expertise before finalizing the LEED scorecard draft. Many of the LEED elements are still being researched as to cost and feasibility, in order to obtain the highest certification possible within budget.

Next steps will include completion of the design and development phase, a baseline construction cost estimate, updates to the LEED scorecard, and a presentation to the newly elected City Council, after the November election.

Ellen Arnold-Robbins 9/30/20

Online Book Sale



Although the pandemic has prevented our semi-annual booksales, we are organizing for an FTPML online booksale later this fall. We anticipate that the booksale will be open only to FTPML members in the first iteration, so urge your bookloving friends to join FTPML! Look for updates on our website and in your mailbox.

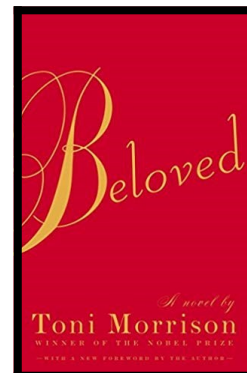
Walter Mulbry



Ada Greenfield with boxes of donated books for the virtual sale.

BIG BOOK CLUB

Big Book Club to discuss Toni Morrison's *Beloved* with Phil Schewe



The Takoma Park Big Book Club returns in October with a lecture and subsequent discussions—all online—focused on "Beloved," a novel by Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature.

A lecture took place on Wednesday, Oct. 7 via Zoom, given by I. Augustus Durham, assistant professor of English at Lehman College and a specialist in African-American literature. Subsequent discussions—moderated by Phil Schewe, the club's organizer—will also be on Zoom on 2 or 3 of the following Wednesday nights: October 14, 21, and 28. You may have missed the opening lecture and discussion, but it's not too late to join the discussion!

First published in 1987, "Beloved" is once again back on the New York Times bestseller list for paperback fiction. In its review of the book, Publishers Weekly noted: "As a record of white brutality mitigated by rare acts of decency and compassion, and as a testament to the courageous lives of a tormented people, this novel is a milestone in the chronicling of the black experience in America. It is Morrison writing at the height of her considerable powers, and it should not be missed."

The Big Book Club is supported through the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. All are welcome to attend the lecture and discussions. To receive information to participate via Zoom, please register here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2ftkaa9>. The Zoom information will be sent out a few days before a discussion.

Copies of "Beloved" are available at the library, and may be checked out through our Books-to-Go program. Just email your request to librarytakomapark@gmail.com; please check our catalog first to be sure a copy of the book is available.

Built by Walter Mulbry, FTPML Board Member



LittleFree



The Little Free Libraries have been installed in areas of Takoma Park where residents didn't have access to nearby little libraries to get free books.

The City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division commissioned local artists Samantha Contrino and Katie Macyshyn to paint the little libraries that were built by Walter Mulbry, a local volunteer who has built more than 20 Little Free Libraries. (From <https://takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/little-free-library-project-highlights-female-authors/>)

Senior Outreach

Continuing with our outreach to Takoma Park residents who are seniors or have disabilities, FTPML's Cathy Surace reached out to Victory Tower's recreation coordinator in September about the curbside pick-up of books now available at the library. We are preparing a flyer that Victory Tower has agreed to distribute to all residents about the program. We have asked Victory Tower to assist residents to request and pick-up books, or if they are unable, to contact FTPML for assistance.



LIBRARY BOOKS-TO-GO

TAKOMA PARK MARYLAND LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR CURBSIDE PICK-UP OF BOOKS

Library cardholders can email the library at librarytakomapark@gmail.com or call 240-507-0229 to request a book by title.

Pick-up your book outside the library next to the parking lot on Monday, Wednesday or Saturday after being notified it is ready. Call 301-580-0085 when you arrive to pick-up your book.

For details please go to <http://www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html>.

Ask Victory Tower Staff for assistance or contact Cathy Surace of the Friends of Takoma Park Maryland Library at: cssurace@gmail.com



For General Books call 240-507-0229

For Children's Books call 301-580-0085