

Meet the new Librarian Jessica Jones!

Greetings! I am finally here in Takoma Park after moving from Texas! I'm looking forward to meeting everyone here and continuing a healthy and productive relationship with the Friends on behalf of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

I thought I would take this opportunity to talk a little bit about what Friends organizations mean to me. In my previous position with the Bryant College Station Public Library System in central Texas, our official budgets did not actually fund any programs at all; every program we put on, and even many of the databases to which we provided access, came from our Friends group. This is unfortunately not unusual in Texas, and it affects the dynamics between the Friends and their respective libraries in a way that can sometimes feel complicated.

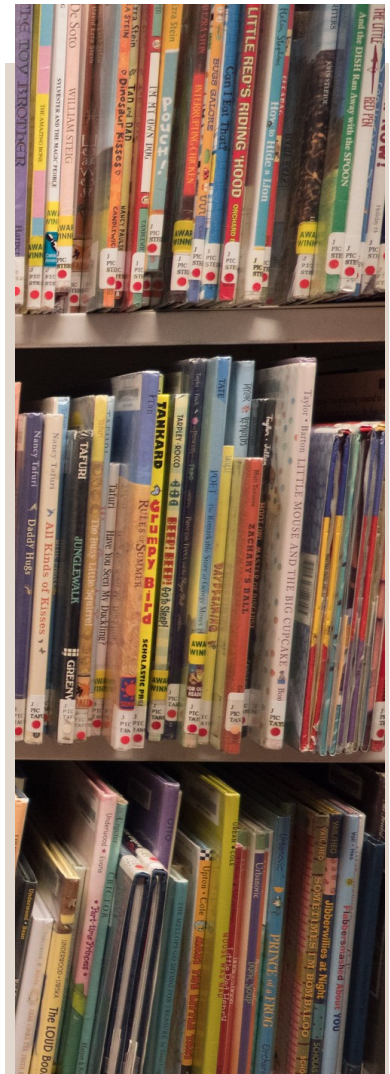
You can imagine the relief I felt when I learned that this is not the case in Takoma Park. I think it speaks volumes about the Friends' commitment to our local library when they support and advocate for it out of a sense of investment, rather than one of obligation. It is a pleasure to work with you as Friends and as lovers of libraries, and I am very hopeful for our future working together.

I am starting work with this library at an auspicious time! Not only are the

staff continuing to serve our community through a pandemic, but also through a major construction project. The Library staff and I are talking about all of the ways that we can serve people both before and after we make a brand new building our home.

This is actually my third major library construction project in a leadership role, and I know a bit about what we are in for. It's not easy to "take the show on the road," but there is so much to be optimistic about: vaccinations, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding possibilities, a precedent for programs across multiple media, and the support of our Friends.

Thank you for your time, talents, goodwill, contributions, creativity, and every other thing that you do as Friends. You are a vital part of a community institution, and I am thrilled to be here.



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SummerQuest Sign up



**Sneak
preview at
the Spring
Book Sale**

**Zoom
SummerQuest
Kick-off Monday
June 21, 7:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 918
3130 2597**

Passcode: 936990



Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Book Sale is BACK! Here is what you need to know:

When: Father's Day, Sunday, June 20th from 10am to 3pm

Where: The Library lawn, with carefully spaced and distanced tables

Who: You and your family!

This year every child attending will receive a coupon good for one free book of their choosing, thanks to several generous FTPML members. Coupons will be issued upon entry (in other words, kids can show up, get their coupon, and go shopping).

Why: FTPML book sale proceeds help support library programs we know and love, as well as launch new initiatives when good ideas come along. Funding from FTPML has established the Spanish and French Circle Time programs, and WinterQuest and SummerQuest reading programs, and much more. Proceeds from the Spring Book Sale will help the library continue to grow with our community.

How: This is an outdoor, masks-on event! About one in five people, including children under 12, is not yet eligible for a Covid vaccine, and we want everyone to feel safe and comfortable shopping the sale. Masks will be available if you forget yours.

Enjoy a delicious bake sale co-sponsored by the Piney Branch PTA!

Book prices will be \$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for hardcovers

FTPML is accepting donations of children's books and recent (2015+) adult fiction, to complement our current book sale inventory. Browse in advance at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FTPML>

Plus! Meet the new Library Director **Jessica Jones**.



FTPML President's Report / Results of Annual Meeting

By Ariel Woods



Our virtual Annual Meeting, on March 16th, found us tentatively stepping out into a brave new spring. We are gearing up for our Spring Book Sale, in person once again. The ESOL book club is choosing its next books now, and SummerQuest is a go. Two board members were re-elected for new terms, Gina Lam-bright, and Walter Mulbry. And one new member was elected, Amy Wajda. A short bio and picture of the newest member appears below. Over the last few months we've lost two members, Wendy Turman, and Deborah Nelson. They will be missed, but the pandemic affected all of our schedules. It has been a challenge recruiting new board members during this time. If interested, please contact me. We'd love a diverse representation from our community.

The Takoma Park Maryland librarians and staff continued to step up and out into the community in a remarkable way, offering curbside check-out, Zoom story time (including the Spanish circle times, sponsored by the Friends), virtual book clubs, sketch clubs, and more. In February of this year, they launched Books to You, a pilot program for book delivery. Throughout the year, Takoma Park residents working remotely, applying for benefits, searching for jobs, and participating in remote learning came to the library grounds for WiFi services.

As for the Friends, we look forward to opening up again, with the return of the Spring Book Sale on the library lawn, June 20, 10-3. Many of you shopped the Fall/Holiday Book Sale from the comfort of your homes! We raised enough money in this unconventional sale to cover the costs of WinterQuest.

This year put a spotlight on the long-awaited and much-needed library renovation. It is a significant investment in our community's future.

We said farewell to long time librarian, Ellen Arnold-Robbins and are now saluting Karen MacPherson, as she retires in June. Her inspiring leadership in the children's room and hosting authors will be missed. And we welcome a new library director, Jessica Jones, well experienced in library rebuilds.

We have new programs on the horizon (reading buddies) and are on the lookout for new board members to bring new ideas. We have several open spots! And you don't need to be a board member to get involved or launch a project! Please consider joining the Friends, or renewing your membership if it has lapsed. There is so much we can do, and as I have learned in my first year with the Board, so much help is available to make ideas blossom into reality.

Wishing everyone good health and hope to see all our members at the spring live book sale!!!

Amy Wajda, Newest FTPML Board Member:

I'm a graphic designer and have lived in Takoma Park since 2000. I love libraries! As a kid I served as my family's de facto librarian, tasked with running up and down the basement stairs to fetch whichever volume of the World Book encyclopedia was relevant to that night's dinner-table discussion. In college I worked in two different music libraries and learned how important — and wonderful — it is to have libraries that serve relatively small communities: the music library was the heart of the entire music department, just as the TPM Library is a vital hub in Takoma Park. After college, I spent hours as a patron at the Library of Congress, thumbing through card catalogues, putting in request slips, and in general marveling at the magnificence of libraries at the largest scale. I have a special passion for using data for social good, and believe libraries are the linchpin of our shared quest for the truth.



Photo by Lissa Gotwals

“Ms. Karen” MacPherson, Library Manager for Children and Young Adults to Retire after 15 years!

By Jennifer Ruark



Karen MacPherson, the library’s manager for children and young adult services, will retire June 30 after 15 years in the role. Known by kids as “Ms. Karen,” MacPherson is beloved for the toddlers’ circle time she holds each week, author visits she coordinates, and library sessions with school kids that tie in to what they’re learning in Language Arts.

Before becoming a librarian, MacPherson worked for 30 years as a reporter — mostly in Washington D.C. — covering political and general news. She was reporting for the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* when the September 11 terrorist attacks made her reconsider her career.

“9/11 had a big impact on me,” she said. “Both Peter [Hardin, her husband and fellow journalist] and I had to go in to work, and a neighbor took the kids and turned the TV off so they wouldn’t see those images over and over again.” The next day, she was detailed to go to the Pentagon. “As I was going through the parking lot, all these people were coming in the other direction, saying the Pentagon might be under attack again.” MacPherson decided it was time to start planning for a new career.

“I really always wanted to be a children’s librarian,” she said. “Those were my two goals as a child: to be a reporter and a children’s librarian.” For years she’d been writing book reviews, first of mysteries and then a weekly syndicated column about children’s books. She remembers having a lovely luncheon interview with the late author/illustrator Eric Carle, famous for “*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*”, at which he spoke of his excitement about the upcoming opening of his new museum of picture book art. It’s come full circle: MacPherson’s daughter Sally will have her wedding celebration at the museum in September.

MacPherson earned a master’s degree in library science from the University of Maryland, pursuing it part-time while continuing to work as a reporter and raising her two children with Hardin. “When I graduated five-

and-a-half years later I held the record of taking the longest time to get the degree,” she said.

She kept up the children’s book column for 23 years, until the syndicate, Scripps Howard News Service, shut down in 2013. Right away she started her own blog, *Children’s Corner*. She has continued to influence the children’s book world beyond Takoma Park by writing reviews for *The Washington Post*, volunteering for the Association for Library Service to Children, and serving in 2016 as a Caldecott jurist, for which she had to read hundreds of books. (The winner that year was Sophie Blackall, for illustrating Lindsay Mattick’s *Finding Winnie*.)

MacPherson is an award-winner herself: In 2009 she shared the American Library Association Immroth Award, given for furthering intellectual freedom, with Alanna Natanson, then a middle-school student, who had worked with her to start a Banned Books Club for teenagers.

On her last day at TPML she’ll be running Circle Time. “I’ve done hundreds and hundreds of them,” she said, “and it’s always fun. Even on Zoom, you can see people are having a good time.” Ms. Karen’s fans will miss her, but they’re sure to run into her — she lives just blocks from the library — and their parents can continue to read *Children’s Corner*. Check it out at <http://childrenscornerkm.blogspot.com/>



Programs at the Library

By Karen MacPherson

For children

“Our building is closed, but the Library is open!!”

That’s been the mantra for Library staff since the pandemic forced us to close our doors to the public on Friday, March 13, 2020. But we immediately began working on ways to keep the Library’s functions accessible to the public, beginning with our programs for kids and teens. Since then, our public outreach has grown to include weekly Crafts to Go bags, plus publishing book reviews, written by local teens for service hours, on our Facebook page.

Our first focus was on figuring out how to continue to offer our most popular kids programs online, via Zoom. Later, we were able to add one in-person program for kids – Outdoor Yoga Storytime – that was offered last fall and is now taking place on Sunday mornings this spring at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Ave.

For more information about our kids programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents. Registration isn’t required (except for Outdoor Yoga Storytime), but if you register, you will receive a weekly email reminder, plus emails about any changes or updates such as if the decision is made to re-open the Library building prior to our moving to temporary quarters when our building reconstruction starts in the fall.

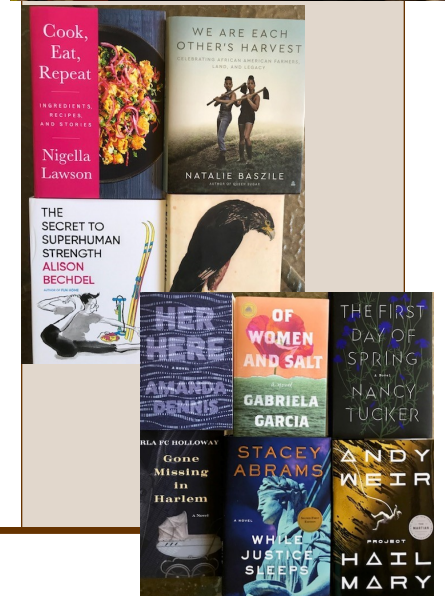
For adults

From the May issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter, “the library staff continue to buy books for all ages....they can be browsed in the library catalog, following these simple steps:

- * Once in the library catalog, go to Advanced Search.
- * Choose the New Book icon.
- * Go to collection and check adult new books.
- * Under publication date, enter 2020-2021.
- * Under sorting choose relevance and click on acquisition date: newest to oldest.
- * Some of the new books include books by bestselling authors Jo Nesbo, Jodi Picoult, Don Delillo, Shubhangi Swarup, and Sanjay Gupta”.

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.



Children's Programming

By Karen MacPherson

These days, we've got quite a robust line-up of kids programs!

WEDNESDAYS:

- ◆ Our program line-up starts with Zoom Circle Time, which is offered each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Circle Time has always been our most popular program, and we continue to attract a good crowd of babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups each Wednesday morning. To add a bit of interactivity to the Zoom version of the program, each week we encourage the grown-ups to pull out a scarf, a sock, a tissue or a table napkin for their children so they can join in doing some "scarf songs," which include "Jack in the Box" and "Popcorn Kernels."
- ◆ On the second Wednesday of most months, Mr. Gabe – the "Pied Piper of Takoma Park" – joins in the Zoom Circle Time fun. Mr. Gabe will continue to do this after I retire on June 30 and Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi takes over Zoom Circle Time.
- ◆ Also, on one Wednesday each month (usually the second Wednesday), Library Associate Dave Burbank presents Zoom Comics Jam, in which he reads and shows some great old and new kids comics, then concludes by taking "drawing requests" from program participants.

THURSDAYS:

- ◆ On Thursdays, the energetic Señora Geiza offers our Zoom Spanish Circle Time at 10:30 a.m. It's a great way for kids and their grown-ups to learn or practice some Spanish by singing songs and rhymes with Señora Geiza "en español."

FRIDAYS:

- ◆ The program week concludes with Zoom Scribbler's Cabal, led by Dave Burbank at 4 p.m. each Friday. At the program, participants work on their own drawings and share as they feel comfortable.

SATURDAYS

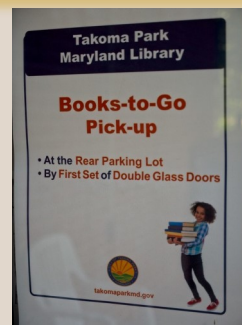
- ◆ In addition to programs, we've also given out hundreds of Crafts to Go bags many Saturdays from 12-2, and that program continues. Kudos for all of this go to Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi, who develops the crafts, tests them out with her kids, and then assembles the materials for the crafts in bags.
- ◆ Each Saturday, Kati puts out 20 Crafts to Go bags on the purple cart near our Books to Go curbside pick-up, where they are available to anyone – while supplies last! Crafts to Go has been hugely popular, and Kati changes up the craft every few weeks.
- ◆ Kati also is our connection with local teens who write book reviews for Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. The teens get one SSL hour for each review, and their work is published on our Facebook page. Check it out for some great reading possibilities for your teen or yourself!

SUNDAYS

- ◆ On Sundays at 10 a.m., Kati leads the Outdoor Yoga Storytime program, which takes place at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. Registration is required; to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents

"Books-to-Go" Curbside Service & "Book-to-you" Delivery

Phone requests can be made by calling 240-507-0229 from 12–6 Monday through Friday.



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!

A new feature: What We're Reading begins with Ada Greenfield's review of children's books, focusing on ages 3-8. Look for reviews for different age groups in future newsletters.

Ada Greenfield Reviews!

A new mom and friend of my parents recently asked for recommendations for "esoteric, hair-raising, delightfully dark and magical, existential, and/or uncanny children's books. Special emphasis on the 0-5 set, and on strong illustrations." I recommended *The Forgotten Crayon*, *Extra Yarn*, and *Grumpy Monkey*.

The Forgotten Crayon - Written and illustrated by Yoko Maruyama

Extra Yarn - Written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen

Grumpy Monkey - Written and illustrated by Norton Juster



Let's start off with *The Forgotten Crayon*, for those who love *The Day the Crayons Quit* and its sequel, *The Day the Crayons Came Home* (both of which I strongly recommend, BTW), this is a lesser known book similar to the style of the before mentioned crayon thrillers with just as much charm and creativity. The thing that sets it apart from other books is its depiction of different ways to make art and see the world. For example, when the box of crayons is taken home by its first owner, all of the crayons get used except the white crayon. After a year when all of the crayons are quite short, they get put out in a yard sale. Then a young girl buys it because it has a white crayon like she's been looking for, and (spoilers!) she uses it with watercolors to create paintings.

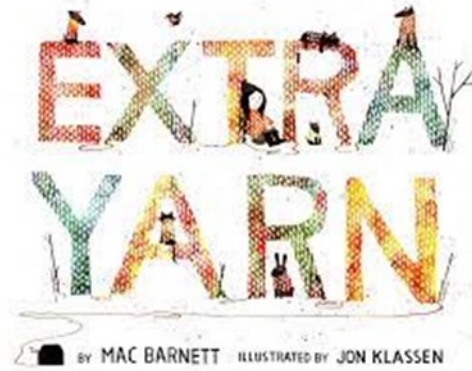
The book has beautiful illustrations and a sweet story that is perfect for younger children and adults alike! It models good values and teaches a new way to use white crayons!

Age range: 3-7

Next is the Caldecott honor-winning story *Extra Yarn*. This is the heart-warming story in which a girl named Annabelle finds extra yarn in a box and starts by making herself a sweater. Soon enough, she's making sweaters for everyone in town and generously knitting for anyone who wants something. Eventually word gets out and a comical bad guy tries to steal the yarn. In the end, generosity triumphs over greed, and kindness over hate.

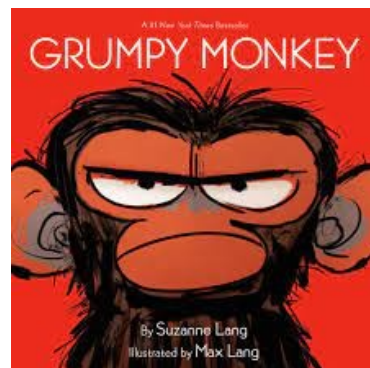
It has a gentle art style and a compelling plot — you will love this book!

Age range: 3-6



If you're trying to teach social emotional learning in a hilarious but genuine way, then *Grumpy Monkey* is for you! The story follows Jim Panzee, who is having a very bad day. His friends point out it's nice out and try to help him not be grumpy, but nothing works and he learns it's OK to be grumpy. It has a great message about how we all have bad days sometimes and they don't always get better, and that's ok. It has drawings realistic to his emotions (ie. messy and outside the lines) and everyone can relate to this story. And if you love it, there are many sequels talking about social anxiety, not getting what you want, managing stress, and more!

Age range: 3-8



Status of Library Renovation

By Jessica Jones

Things are happening! Most especially, refining the design of the building's interior. The Library staff have provided invaluable feedback about what they and the community expect from the new building. Since I am so new and still learning about Takoma Park and how the community uses the Library, I am letting the staff take the lead and lending perspective when things come up where I have experience.

I am really excited about where the staff's feedback is taking us. We've found that the recurring theme — both in how the staff want to feel in their workplace and how our patrons have spoken to us about other local library designs — is coziness. Everyone wants our neighborhood library to be a place where people feel welcome, comfortable, and happy. I definitely see this all coming together as the drawings get more and more refined. You can expect functional spaces, light and room to breathe, and color that reflects the spirit of Takoma Park.

There is also an updated start date for construction: it is expected to begin in November, which means the transition to a temporary Library HQ will be happening this fall. Stay tuned!

Status of Library Opening

Dear Friends: We are currently developing plans to reopen later this summer, and we hope to release a statement as soon as the conditions and dates are formalized with the City. Thank you for your support and patience as we work to welcome you back to a safe and healthy environment. We look forward to seeing you again before the construction starts on the new building later this fall.

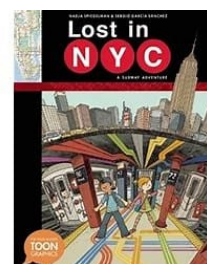
Jessica Jones, Library Director



ESOL Bookclub

By Gina Lambright

On Sunday, May 16, the ESOL Book Club met with librarian Dave Burbank and PBES teacher Rachna Rikhye to discuss the graphic novel, *Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure*, by Nadja Spiegelman and Sergio García Sánchez. The book generated interesting discussion about what it's like to be lost, to live in a new place, and to make new friends. Planning is underway for our next meeting over the summer. Stay tuned!



Membership Update

***April was Poetry
Month— Spring for
Poetry Posters, seen
around the community,
have been sponsored by
FTPML—Your
membership
and donation
helps!***



Spring for Poetry

Mimesis

My daughter
wouldn't hurt a spider
They had nested
Between her bicycle handles
For two weeks
She waited
Until it left of its own accord.
If you tear down the web I said
It will simply know
This isn't a place to call home
And you'd get to go biking
She said that's how others
Become refugees isn't it?

Fady Joudah

Opportunity to serve on the board!

We have several open slots and are eager to create a more diverse board! Interested in bringing your energy and ideas as the library works to continue serving our community. If interested please contact Ariel Woods, woods.ariel@gmail.com, or Francis Nugent, fnugent@gmail.com, President and Vice President of the board.

The Friends has seen both a significant drop in our membership and in donations from fiscal year 2020 to 2021. While not surprising given the circumstances of the past year — with the library's physical closure and our inability to hold book sales inside or outside the library where many new members joined and old members renewed — this could not have come at a worse time.

The Friends' revenue is generated through its three annual book sales (Fall, Holiday, and Spring) along with the donations it receives. We use this revenue to support library programs that would otherwise not be funded by the City's budget or would have to be curtailed. These include the popular SummerQuest, WinterQuest, and Spanish Storytime, among many others. In fiscal year 2020, we had 85 member families or individuals join or renew their membership with donations of \$6396. In fiscal year 2021, this dropped to 67 families or individuals donating \$4516. Because of carryover revenue from prior years, along with continued donations, and the suspension of other spending for programs that took place inside the library building, the Friends was able to continue to support these and other online programs.

Over the past year, the library's staff has done a stellar job with its Books-To-Go program and both continued and even expanded some of its programs online. The staff's hard work has enabled so many of us to read our way through the pandemic and our children to continue to enjoy their favorite programs.

We appeal to our members and all Takoma Park or nearby residents to renew their membership or join the Friends for the first time so our support for the library can continue. Many of you have done just that and have been so generous in making donations. We value all our renewing and new members, whether they are in a position to make a donation large or small. It takes a village to support our library.

Cathy Surace
Membership

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 PayPal. <http://www.ftpml.org>.

Friends Book Clubs — Big Book Club & the Bi-monthly Book Club

The FTPML Board

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

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Francis Nugent, Vice President

Walter Mulbry, Treasurer

Mark Fisher, Secretary

Sawa Kamara, Member at Large

Gina Lambright, Member at Large

Sonya Mallinoff, Member at Large
& Newsletter Editor & Member-
ship

Ruth Polk, Member at Large

Jennifer Ruark, Member at Large

Cathy Surace, Member at Large,
Membership

Amy Wajda, Member at Large

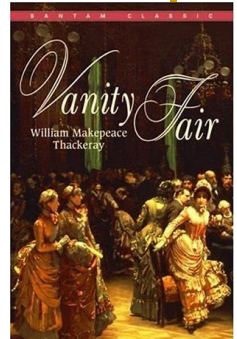
Jessica Jones, Ex-Officio Member,
Director of the Takoma Park Mary-
land Library



The Friends Big Book Club will read and discuss *Vanity Fair: A Novel Without a Hero* by William Makepeace Thackeray this fall following the Big Book Group practice of multiple sessions. The dates for the discussions have yet to be determined.

Probably the best known of Thackeray's novels, *Vanity Fair* satirizes English society in the 1830s and 40s. The novel follows the lives of Becky Sharp, Emmy and her brother, Jos Sedley, Rawdon Crawley, George Osborne, and William Dobbins as they grow to maturity (of a sort) through war, love, and their own scheming.

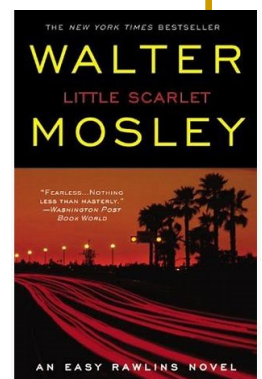
If you are interested in the discussions and you do not receive Big Book Club announcements, write to ftpml-bookgroup@gmail.com for information on how to join.



The Friends Book Group, also known as the bimonthly book group plans to discuss *Little Scarlet* by Walter Mosley online Thursday, July 15 at 7:30.

The ninth of Mosley's Easy Rawlins mysteries, *Little Scarlet* unfolds in the aftermath of the 1965 race riots in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. The novel follows the murder investigation of the titular character by Rawlins who is asked to help by the LAPD.

If you are interested in the discussion and you do not receive Friends Book Group announcements, write to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for information on how to join.



The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Book Sale is BACK!

Father's Day
Sunday, June 20th
10am to 3pm

On the Library lawn, with carefully spaced
and distanced tables

This is an *outdoor, masks-on event!* About one in five people is not yet eligible for a covid vaccine, and we want everyone to feel safe and comfortable shopping the sale.

