

## FOL Newsletter: Winter 2017-2018

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Snow is falling  
and books are  
calling ...



### Ready or not...

"Oh, the weather outside is  
frightful, but the fire is so  
delightful and since there's no  
place to go; let it snow, let it  
snow, let it snow..."

And read a good book!!!!

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Trish Parkinson



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Carole Barlow

**Library Representatives**

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**How can we best support  
our awesome libraries?**



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Friends of the Library Brunch and Guest Speaker, Rick Snider

Location: Olde Breton Inn, 21890 Society Hill Rd, Leonardtown, MD

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018

Time: 11am - 1:30pm

Menu: Casseroles, Potatoes, Muffins, Fruit Salad, Juices, Coffee, Tea, Water

Cost: \$25 per person. Registration and pay in advance by January 20.

Speaker: Rick Snider, journalist, author, historian, grandfather

Donation Awarded to our St Mary's County Public Libraries

#### Short Biography about Rick Snider

Rick Snider is a University of Maryland alum and proud to be called a Terp. He is a Washington DC sportswriter. After starting with the Maryland Independent in 1978, he has since spent 33 years working for Washington daily newspapers covering the Washington Redskins and other pro teams as well as horse racing, Olympics, and World Cup. Rick was voted Washington's top sportswriter in 2010. He currently writes for The Washington Post Express and CBS Radio. Rick has written eight books, including *The Final Form of Love*, his first fiction book, which takes place in Southern Maryland. He is also a Washington, DC tour guide and lives in Waldorf.

Mail in: RESERVATION FORM

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### President's Perspective

**The FOL Fall Book Sale was very successful this year even though we had to hold it inside the Leonardtown Library. There definitely were a lot of customers who came, and we appreciate the support from everyone who purchased books and especially from all the volunteers who worked to make it a success. Also, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I had a great November week-end up in New York State with snow!! Don't know if we will**

get any soon here but the holidays and Christmas are coming very quickly. I hope you are more prepared than I am. I am getting a slow start this year so I hope to get my cards done and my presents sent before January 2018 gets here.

Our next big event will be the Winter Brunch on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 A.M. It will be at Breton Bay Inn this year and we are looking forward to a wonderful brunch and great speaker, Rich Snider, a sport and fiction writer as well as a tour guide in Washington, DC. See more details and how to sign up in this newsletter. Please do come as it promises to be the best one yet. Now you can sign up and pay on-line by clicking [HERE](#) or you can use this [FORM](#) and mail it in with your check.

A very interesting and unusual book that I read recently is "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles that deals with the Russian Revolution and the life-altering effect it has on one of the former aristocracy. He is sentenced not to death but to live the rest of his life confined to an old, luxurious hotel that he has been living in since the revolution, but not to his present suite but to a tiny attic room. He becomes a different and more mature, caring person as his life intertwines with the hotel staff and a young girl staying in the hotel. I won't say any more as it would spoil the book for you, but do consider reading it. A lighter but enjoyable book is "The Dog Who Came for Christmas" by Sue Pethick. The main characters are a young boy with behavioral problems, a threatening bully at school and a runaway dog.

Hope to see you at the FOL Brunch in January!!

*Trish Parkinson, FOL Co-President*



Snow flurries began to fall and they swirled around people's legs like house cats. It was magical, this snow globe world."

— Sarah Addison Allen, The Sugar Queen

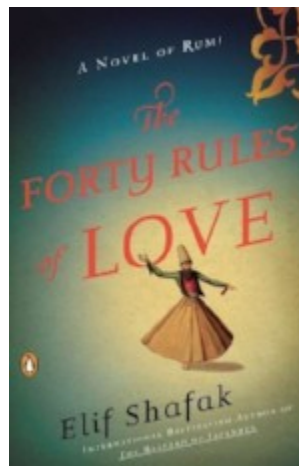


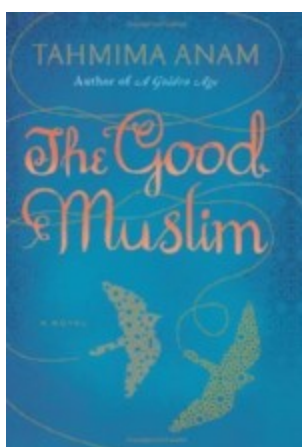
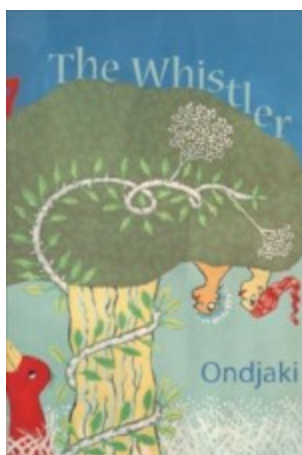
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## 5 Good Books

### Books from Different Countries

1. The Year of the Hare by Arto Paasilinna (Finland)
2. The Forty Rules of Love by Elif Shafak (Turkey)
3. The Whistler by Ondjaki (Angola)
4. Jamilia by Chingiz Aitmatov (Kyrgyzstan)
5. The Good Muslim by Tahmima Anam (Bangladesh)





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A big THANK YOU to all who came out and volunteered at the fall book sale. And a big THANK YOU to all who came out to buy books at the sale. Despite the rainy weather, we had a very successful sale this year.

Just a reminder that the spring sale will be Friday, April 13 (members only), Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15, 2018; and that we will be moving the books from the library to the fairgrounds on Saturday, April 7. Let us know if you would like



to help!

I hope everyone has a joyful and happy holiday season!

Carole Barlow, Chairman of the Book Sale



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## Classic Books

What makes a book a classic? So far in my high school English classes, the popular opinion seems to be that classics are old and tedious to read. The former is statistically true, and the latter a matter of opinion that switches sides based on what generation you were born in. In general, it seems that the consensus by older generations is that classics are books that the world never loses interest in, even with the passing of many years. Italo Calvino would agree, citing a list of fourteen points that make a book a classic. His points are all relatively similar, as said best in point four, "A classic is a book which with each rereading offers as much of a sense of discovery as the first reading". See also Richard J Smith's biography, which details what he believes to be the makings of a classic. He believes a classic "must focus on matters of great importance", must be written in "beautiful, moving, and memorable ways", and must require "careful and repeated study in order to yield its deepest secrets and greatest wisdom". Here you see how the men differ, with Italo placing emphasis on the enjoyment one receives reading a book and Richard J Smith holding to classics containing deep symbolism and hidden knowledge relevant to the world today. However you describe them, classics are books we remember years after their creation, and chances are I won't enjoy reading them in English class.

Nicholas Ashenfelter, Youth Rep.



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### Membership Minute

Last year we started using PayPal for online membership registration, and it worked very well. We also used the same approach for the Annual Meeting in the Spring. This year we will include the Winter Brunch. The link for registration is already on the FOL web page, just click [HERE](#) or print out this [COPY](#) and mail it to the FOL.

Join or renew now!

Lloyd Timberlake, Membership Chair







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## Director's Discussion

Greetings, Friends!

It is hard to believe that another December has rolled around. At this most festive time, my mood is certainly brightened by contemplating the excellent year that both the Friends and

the library have had. The book sales have been well-attended and successful. As always, thanks so very much for all the hard work and careful organization that goes into having the sales run smoothly! The library has also seen growth this year and has many delighted users, as testified in our October Customer Satisfaction Survey, in which 95% were pleased or very pleased with our offerings. The main thing people want is, well, more . . . more titles, more spaces, more programs. Of course, the biggest news is that our new Leonardtown Library is out-to-bid. We did have to make some minor changes, including a slight reduction in square footage, to ensure that bids would come in on budget. We lost no functional space, however, and I am thrilled with how we could make changes while keeping the design concept and space intact. By mid-January, we'll know if we have bids on the project. The County Commissioners may be able to award a contract on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The library has been a long time coming. It will be a beautiful and very much-needed space, with more room for children and teens, programming, study rooms, a drive-through book drop/pickup for convenience, a computer lab, and a Maker Space. That it will be in the same building as the New Garvey Senior Activities Center is of course a plus. The building will be a delight and life enhancement to county citizens for years to come. Expect an announcement of a celebration as soon as a contract is awarded. In the meantime, I wish all a most wonderful holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to 2018 as another great year of partnership between library and you, our best Friends!

Michael Blackwell, Director, St. Mary's County Library



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## **Books, Coffee and Community** **by Lloyd Timberlake**

As important as libraries are, there are alternative book sources, and St. Mary's County recently got a unique and cozy one, a coffee shop chock full of books.

In mid-October, Catherine Grube, who had been roasting and selling coffee at farmers' markets for some time, opened St. Inie's Coffee at 46915 S. Shangri La Drive, Lexington Park, coincidentally near the library. Its 3,000 square feet offer a "Living Room" and a "Family Room," the former full of comfortable chairs, sofas and tables, the latter full of kid-friendly furniture.

More important for the purposes of this newsletter, the Living Room contains shelves of books for grown-ups - fiction and non-fiction – while the Family Room is full of children's books, all carefully organized by Susan Lambert by reading levels and themes. Susan also organizes the Living Room books.

People can come in and donate books, and each donation is rewarded with a free cup of coffee or tea.

"Many people have been very generous, and of course many people are thrilled to get rid of their old books," said Catherine. "We are trying to create a vibrant flow of books going in and out."

St. Inie's also stocks up at the two Friends of the Library book sales each year, and then recycles some slow-moving books there.

"The books cost customers one, two or three dollars each, with special books having special price tags. Then there are 'bargain books' – strange things like old textbooks that people can simply make us an offer on," said Catherine.

Oh, and the coffee is great. Catherine sources from a New Jersey distributor of 'green' (unroasted) coffee beans and roasts them herself. Beans come from Central and South America, Africa (Ethiopia, Congo, Zambia) and Asia (Java and Bali in Indonesia). Different coffees are available at different times depending on harvest times in the source country. You can buy 16-ounce bags, ground or unground, and of course cups of pour-over coffee, and tea, and snacks.

Some of the coffee is certified organic, and some is organic by default, the farmers being too poor to use pesticides or herbicides. Some is certified 'sustainable' by international certifiers such as Fair Trade and Rainforest Alliance.

Most important it tastes good. As one AARP reviewer wrote online: "Finally! So many so-called coffee shops fail to focus on the coffee. St. Inie's offers a wide selection of

hand-roasted coffee from various regions around the world, and brews using the pour-over method. Make time to enjoy a mug in the comfortable, living-room like atmosphere.”

Catherine says people have been making time: “Business has been great, our busiest time being 9 to noon. We are open 6 am to 2 pm every day but Sunday, and I thought we’d be busiest before 9, but people have liked to meet up and chat and drink coffee later in the mornings.”



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