

# COVER TO COVER

## Friends of the St. Mary's County Library

## THANK YOU!



Fall 2015



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#### Library Representatives

Mary Anne Bowman

Laura Boonchaisri

### What's on the horizon?



Oct. 9 = FOL board meeting; 5:30 PM  
Charlotte Hall Library

Nov. 1 = Book Sale at Leonardtown Library from 11 AM to 3 PM

Nov. 9 = FOL board meeting; 5:30 PM



### Inside this issue:

Message from our presidents	2
News from the library	3
Book Sale	4
A welcome and a goodbye	5

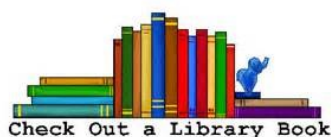
After 43 years of working in public libraries, effective September 5, 2015, I became one of their most faithful customers! The last 12 years of my career, working with the St. Mary's County Library staff and community, were some of the most rewarding. One of my favorite memories will always be the annual Friends of the Library Book Sale which grew and grew until we took over 4+ buildings at the County Fair Grounds! It was always so rewarding to wander through those buildings, seeing and hearing the excitement of people re-discovering their favorite title or discovering a new one. THANK YOU for the hard work and countless hours of volunteer service which is required to make this happen! Not only is this a grand community celebration of reading and books, it also raises a significant sum of money which has enabled us to provide our customers with more materials to check out, new furniture and display fixtures and, most recently, a new digital service called Hoopla!

It has been a pleasure to share with you our passion for libraries and, specifically, the St. Mary's County Library system. As you know, I leave behind the BEST library staff any library director or community could wish for.....thank you for continuing to support them and their most important mission to help our community

LEARN, DISCOVER, RELAX!

See you at the ribbon cutting for the new Library!

Kathleen Reif  
St. Mary's County  
Library Director,  
2003 – 2015

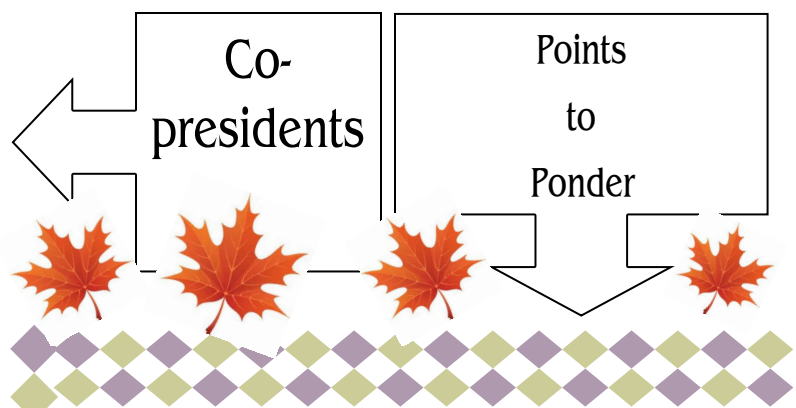


Check Out a Library Book

Another summer has come and gone and with it we have seen a lot of changes and progress. One big change is the retirement of Kathleen Reif and many of us were at her Retirement aloha party to say farewell. It was fun and great food with many words of thanks and appreciation to Kathleen. We all will miss her very much. And as the Leonardtown Library site has been settled, we can rest and move forward on that now. Additionally, I hope you had time to read some good books over the past months as I certainly did. I finally was able to check out and read "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown and I highly recommend it. It is about crewing/rowing at the University of Washington and their winning the Olympics in the 1936 in Berlin when Hitler was first in power in Germany. It also is about the beauty of the Northwest and the Great Depression and how determination and teamwork beat the odds. Also, it is now the choice for "One Maryland, One Book" starting in September so you will see it displayed in the libraries and hopefully more available for everyone. Another one to definitely read if you can get it is Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman" which was different than expected but very interesting. It's set in the mid-1950's when integration issues were just beginning in the south. There's a lot of controversy over it so read it and see what you think. Harper Lee never intended for it to be published but her family did publish it for the money and the story is going around. Another very funny and interesting book that you might enjoy is "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson about the Appalachian Trail and rediscovering America by hiking it. It has been made into a movie with Robert Redford and Nick Nolte which Bob and I just went to see. It was really good and hilarious in some place, definitely worth seeing - and I usually don't like funny movies - some bad language, however. Don't take the children. Coming up in the fall, we will be having our small book sale. Come out and join us and buy books at a very low price for yourself and family and to put away for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers. Many of the books are like "new" and "never used", especially the hardbacks. Hope to see you there! Also, bring the books you've read to donate for our sales - in good condition please. Thanks for your tremendous support and help!! We really appreciate it!!



Trish Parkinson,  
FOL Co-President



### Fall Greetings to All FOL Members!

This Fall is proving to be a time of change for St. Mary's County Libraries. Kathleen Reif, our dynamic director for the past twelve years, is "sailing" into a well-earned retirement. We wish her well and thank her for insuring that all citizens in this county have access to the best possible library services. We welcome Mary Anne Bowman, the Assistant Director, as Acting Director, while the Library Board of Trustees conducts a search for the next Library Director.

Have you read *Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown yet? This Depression Era book has been chosen as this year's *One Maryland One Book*, and the title aptly hints at the intimate account of nine working-class boys from the American West, who row their way to glory against incredible odds. Multiple copies are available at all libraries.

Mark your calendar for the annual mini book sale, which will take place Sunday, November 1, from 11 to 3, in front of the Leonardtown library. Recent donations, in the best condition, for book lovers of all ages and interests, will once again be featured at low prices.

The FOL appreciates all volunteers for book sorting and assisting with the book sales. We'd love to welcome you as a new volunteer this Fall! Signing up is as easy as contacting Jill Zitnick; just email [stmarysfol@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysfol@gmail.com).

Sue Gibbs

FOL Co-President



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## Director's Message

### News & Notes from the Library



If a book is well  
written, I always find  
it too short.

—Jane Austen

Hello FOL Members,

I'm excited to be in this new position and looking forward to working with all of you more closely! I became Acting Director on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and it's going great!

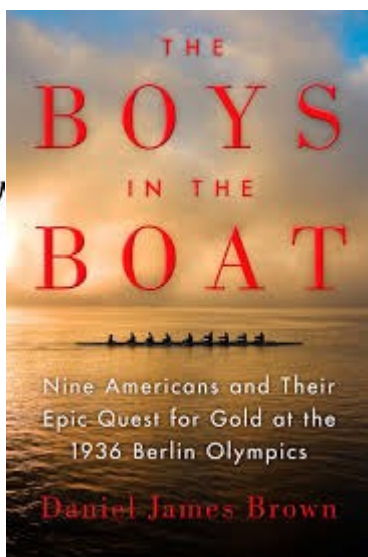
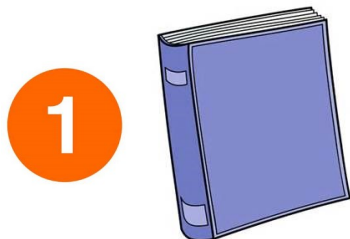
I'm happy to report that on August 18<sup>th</sup> the solicitation for the selection of an architect for the new Leonardtown Library and Garvey Senior Center was approved and released by county government. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a pre-proposal conference in which architects gathered to ask questions about the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Proposals are due to county government by September 24<sup>th</sup>. We are ahead of schedule which is very promising! If you are on Facebook, please "Like" the St. Mary's County Leonardtown Library Replacement Project Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/leonardtownlibraryreplacement](http://www.facebook.com/leonardtownlibraryreplacement)

to get updates.

Keep up the good work advocating for your library! We continue to be very busy and a popular destination for all. Our fiscal year ended in July and the statistics are once again AMAZING! Our staff deserve a huge thank you for all their hard work! We had 4% increase in our circulation overall. And a 64% increase (WOW!) in our digital circulation! Thanks to the FOL for giving us the money to buy HOOPLA. It is very popular!

Mary Anne Bowman,  
Acting Director



The 2015 Summer Reading programs were all a SUPER success! Over 2,000 customers of all ages from babies to adults participated. The branches were really busy all summer with Lexington Park setting a new visitor count of 1665 in one day!

The One Maryland One Book title for 2015 is 'The Boys in the Boat' by Daniel James Brown. The story tells of nine Americans and their quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Pick up a copy at any branch or download as an audio or eBook and then plan to join us for a discussion of the book at Charlotte Hall on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. or Leonardtown on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. Wandering Books are already 'wandering' all over – 150 copies of 'The Boys in the Boat' are wandering Maryland with 10 here in St. Mary's County. If you find one of these books, register it at [bookcrossing.com](http://bookcrossing.com), read it, review and release it somewhere public for the next reader to find.

A variety of programs for children, teens and adults are planned for this fall: story times, science programs, and holiday programs for children; steampunk, teen tech space, and a fabulous Mockingjay Part 2 party for teens; and craft afternoons, book discussions and computer classes for adults. Computer classes geared for businesses such as Facebook for Business, Excel for Business and Publisher for Business will be held at Leonardtown, registration is required. Pick up a brochure today or visit our website, [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org) to find out what is happening in a branch near you!

Laura Boonchaisri  
Library Publicity, Outreach,  
and Programming  
Coordinator





"The beautiful <sup>part</sup> of  
WRITING  
is that you don't  
have to get it  
right  
the **FIRST** time,  
unlike, say, a  
**brain surgeon.**"  
BY ROBERT CORMIER

# Book Sale



## NOVEMBER BOOK SALE

Our fall mini sale is fast approaching. We will have our annual sidewalk sale at the Leonardtown Library on Sunday, November 1, 2015 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (rain date will be on Sunday, November 8th). We welcome any volunteers who would like to join us. Set up will begin at 9 a.m. To volunteer, please contact Jill at [stmarysfol@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysfol@gmail.com). Other inquiries can be made to Carole at [barlowkc@md.metrocast.net](mailto:barlowkc@md.metrocast.net).

## 5 GOOD BOOKS:

### To Make You Smile

1. Etta and Otto and Russell and James  
by Emma Hooper
2. A Man Called Ove  
by Fredrik Backman
3. Small Blessings: A Novel  
by Martha Woodroof
4. A Good American  
by Alex George
5. Where'd You Go, Bernadette  
by Maria Semple



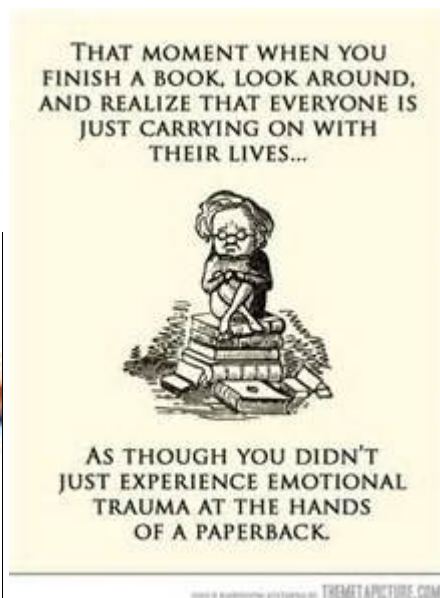
## SPRING BOOK SALE

For our annual spring sale, please be aware that the dates will be later than in previous years. The 2016 spring sale will be held at the county fairgrounds APRIL 22-24. More information will follow at a later date.



**We need YOU!!!**

Do you love books? Do you have a bit of spare time to share? Then the FOL needs you! Please help us sort books and work at the book sales. It's fun and brings together a lot of great people! For more information or to volunteer e-mail the FOL board at [stmarysfol@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysfol@gmail.com)



### **Kathleen Reif - Thanks & Farewell!!**

Kathleen Reif, director of the St. Mary's County Library system for the past 12 years, retired from her position September 4<sup>th</sup>, after a 40-year library career. She took the job as director of the St. Mary's County Library in 2003, and accomplished a great deal during her tenure.

Under Kathleen's leadership, the St. Mary's County Library system has moved from sixth in the state for per-capitacirculation to fourth. The library system also has the highest circulation and number of registered borrowers (83,000 library card holders!) in Southern Maryland.

The number of computers in the three library branches at Leonardtown, Lexington Park and Charlotte Hall has quadrupled during her tenure. The St. Mary's County Library system was the first in the state to be connected to broadband Internet through county government's information technology office.

A new library will now be built on county-owned property off Leonard's Grant Parkway, and Kathleen will be there when it's ready to open.

Kathleen has worked closely with the Friends of the Library, supporting its annual book sales and channeling Friends of the Library donated funds to new and creative library materials and services for the county.

The library board of trustees has hired a consultant to search for the next director, which will take about three months. Kathleen's professionalism and enthusiasm will be missed, and we thank her for bringing our library into the future and wish her all the best in her retirement.

## **WELCOME TO ACTING DIRECTOR, MARY ANNE BOWMAN**

The FOL would like to extend a very special welcome and congratulations to Mary Anne Bowman, who has been appointed as the Acting Director of the St. Mary's County Library. As she will be meeting with us on the FOL Board starting with the September meeting and until a new permanent Director is selected and in place, we look forward to working with her and getting to know her. Mary Anne has been with St. Mary's County Library since 1998 when she began as a Reference Supervisor. She worked her way up to Branch Manager of Charlotte Hall branch and then Branch Manager of Lexington Park branch and Staff Development Coordinator. She was appointed Deputy Director in 2014. Welcome aboard Mary Anne!!



Someone asked me, if  
I were stranded on a  
desert island what  
book would I bring...  
'How to Build a Boat.'

—Steven Wright



FOL Newsletter Editor  
St. Mary's County Library  
PO Box 165  
Leonardtown, Md. 20650



**Bookworms will rule the world...once we finish one more chapter.**



The FOL is always looking for volunteers. We would love to have some more book sorters and book sale workers. Please contact us at [stmarysfol@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysfol@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer. We hope to see you soon!!

November Book Sale  
Nov. 1, 2015  
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
at the Leonardtown Library



BOOK  
SALE

Thank you Kathleen Reif for all your hard work and dedication! A very happy retirement to you!!

Welcome and congratulations, Mary Anne Bowman, for becoming the acting library director!!