

Cover to Cover

Friends of the St. Mary's County Library
Fall 2016



Welcome to the all new, St. Mary's County Friends of the Library, e-mail newsletter. Please give us time to work out the kinks as we strive to save trees and put more money towards our wonderful libraries and less into printing costs. We hope you enjoy this new edition!



Now that summer is over and cooler temperatures are coming, it is time to start thinking about our book sales. The Fall Book Sale this year will be on **Sunday, October 23rd, from 11a.m.-3 p.m., at the Leonardtown Library (rain or shine)**. We will need volunteers to help set up (beginning at 9 a.m.), assist during the sale, and help to clear up afterwards. If anyone has questions or needs more information, please contact Carole at: barlowkc@md.metrocast.net. Also, now is the time to mark your calendars for the Spring Book Sale at the Fairgrounds: March 24-26, 2017.

Carole Barlow, Book Sale Coordinator



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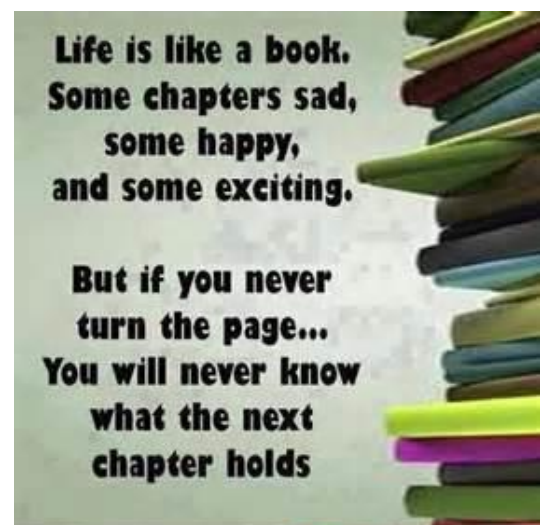
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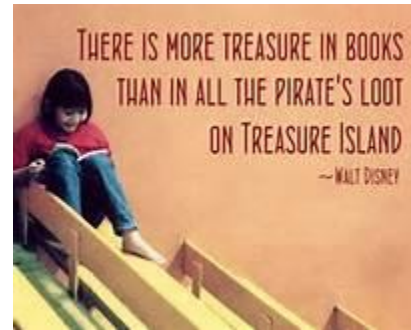


President's Perspective

Our record scorching hot summer has finally wound down and cooled off a little bit and now we are left wondering what the fall and winter have in store for us. Hopefully, we will have “kinder and more gentle” weather than we had most of this summer. One thing to look forward to in the fall will be our small book sale on Sunday, October 23rd, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Be sure to come to the Leonardtown Library front lawn and buy books at a very low price for yourself and family or to put away for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers as many of the books are like “new”. Also, bring the books you’ve read to donate for our sales (in good condition please). We are looking forward also to the new library being built in a few years but are still unsure where we will be then to store and sort the enormous amounts of donated books that we receive constantly for the book sales, especially the Spring Book Sale. The St. Mary’s County Commissioners have pledged to help us find a location to move to when the new library is built but so far we are unsure as to where that will be. But we have our hopes up and our sights out for a place that is good for both our volunteers to work and for those that give so generously to drop off their donations. Hopefully, you had time to read some over the summer and even go to the beach and cool off. I read and really enjoyed “All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr and I highly recommend it. It is an amazing account of a young German boy who grows up in an orphanage in Nazi Germany and whose brilliance with mechanics and electronics leads him to France during WWII. It is also about a young blind girl who grows up with her father in a famous Paris museum until they are forced by the war to evacuate Paris and reside with her great uncle in the walled citadel of Saint-Malo. Their lives intertwine in the last days of the war as they struggle to survive. This is a deeply moving and powerfully written book full of love, fear, kindness, fate and history all woven together throughout the entire novel. I also read “Sarah’s Key” by Tatiana De Rosnay that tells about the horrifying time of Nazi-occupied Paris in July 1942 when French policemen rounded up thousands of French Jewish citizens and their children and placed them into the Vel’ d’Hiv’ in Paris for days. They had little food or water and no sleeping or bathroom facilities while they were there. They were then herded onto empty train cars and eventually ended up in Auschwitz. Few escaped to tell their story. It’s an intense and riveting book that deals with a dark chapter in the history of France. Another good read is the choice for “One Maryland, One Book” that is available now in the libraries. It is “All

American Boys” by Jason Reynolds and deals with very current and hard issues in play today. Hope to see you soon!

Trish Parkinson, FOL President



In Remembrance

The Friends of the Library mourned the passing of Joan B. Marsh, a long time friend and supporter of the St. Mary’s County Library, who died at the age of 84 on August 24, 2015.

One of the significant ways Joan supported the St. Mary’s County Library was her long time membership in the Friends of the Library, where she served in various elected positions over the years. In memory of this particular service to the St. Mary’s County Library, a memorial plaque was installed this past May in the landscaped circle at the entrance to the Lexington Park library.

We thank all those whose gifts made this plaque possible, and invite everyone to visit this memorial and take a moment to honor Joan’s memory now that the plaque has been installed.

Sue Gibbs, board member





Membership News

FOL is coming aboard the modern internet methods of doing business. On 1 November 2016 you will be able to register online for your membership. The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library webpage, <https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/friends-of-the-library/>, on the St. Mary's County Library website, <https://www.stmalib.org/>. This does not mean you have to register online, we will always take a printed form with a check attached and provide all the benefits of membership that you are entitled to. Send form and check to:

Friends of St. Mary's County Library

P.O. Box 165

Leonardtown, MD 20650

For those who want to register after 1 November, please go to our webpage on the library website and register. It is through PayPal but you can use American Express, Discover, Master Card or VISA. Use the new alternative of registering to join the FOL!

Bob Parkinson, Membership



Director's Discussion

Hi, Friends!

Time does fly. This week, I'm celebrating my 9th month as Library Director. Thanks to the efforts of our great staff and your generous support, I'm happy to report the library is thriving.

We have completed a very successful Summer Reading Program. Thousands of kids and teens read even more thousands of books, helping to keep their minds and skills sharp over the summer. We're delighted: participation in summer reading may not result in increasing reading levels—though it certainly doesn't hurt—but we know that it helps prevent a "summer slump" in which reading skills can decline while out of school. Adults also posted hundreds of "Good Reads" reviews. This summer didn't have the reading "blockbuster" that several past years have had, but reading is still a joy.

We are experiencing double-digit percentage growth in the use of digital resources, as more and more users discover our streaming (or downloadable) books, music, movies, television shows, magazines, and audiobooks. The Hoopla service is growing especially quickly, and we owe a special debt to you. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. If you haven't tried it yet, it is well worth a look. Titles are always available—there is no wait. Ask a librarian if you want help learning it!

Plans for the new Leonardtown Library are rolling along. An initial concept has been approved by the county and Leonardtown governments, and the architects are working closely with us to bring you a beautiful facility with more room, more services, and lovely views: the perfect place to learn, discover, and relax.

We couldn't do it without you and your generous support. Together, we are helping to make St Mary's County a great place to live, work, make friends, and raise families. In a 21st Century Information Economy, the library still plays a vital role. Thanks for your advocacy and help!

Michael Blackwell, Director





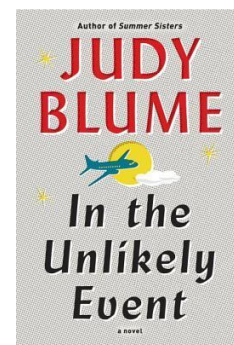
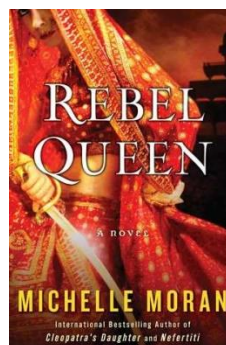
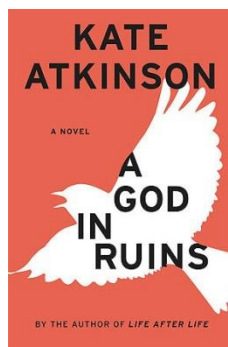
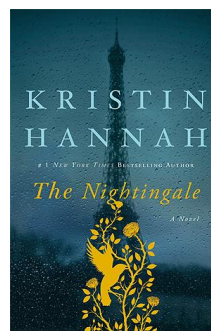
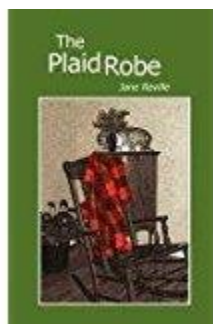
Annual Dinner

The annual FOL Spring Dinner meeting was held at Elements restaurant. The large turn-out of members seemed to appreciate the new venue, which offered an interesting change in menu and beverages. The speaker for the evening was Jane Reville, a children's author who combines historical fact with fiction in her works. Mrs. Reville entertained the audience with the story of her journey from idea to published book. The author also brought her illustrator with her—her husband Marty Reville. Mr. Reville showed the audience a series of drawings he created for the latest Reville creation, *Ravens of Time Heap Havoc on the War of 1812*.

The FOL were delighted to have included at the dinner several members of the St Mary's County Commission. The Commissioners were able to join with us as we awarded the St Mary's County Library proceeds from this year's book sale.

The dinner was also the occasion to thank some amazing people for their donation of their time and effort. Sue Gibbs was acknowledged as out-going co-president and thanked for her help in leading the FOL through a rather challenging period when we thought the loss of the sorting room was imminent. The dinner attendees were also told of the hard work of Carole Barlow, Amy Harvey, and Sara Fischer for their above-and-beyond dedication in managing the book sorting room and set up of the online book sales.

Rebecca Vanecko, Vice President



5 Good Books Historical Fiction

1. *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
2. *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson
3. *At the Water's Edge* by Sara Gruen
4. *Rebel Queen* by Michelle Moran
5. *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume





News and Notes from the Library

The One Maryland One Book title for 2016 is 'All American Boys' by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension. 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. 3 at 6:45 p.m. or Leonardtown on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. Two teen book discussion groups will be held as well; Lexington Park on Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. and Leonardtown on Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. Both teen programs require registration.

Are you ready for Lexi Con? This will be St. Mary's County Library's first ever Comic Con! To be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Lexington Park Library. Come dressed as your favorite character, learn about the comic book art and podcast industries, play games, make crafts and more!

October also will be Uketoberfest – a ukulele program for teens and adults! Take a beginner class for ukulele (Oct. 8), learn how to write a song (Oct. 15), or just participate in a Family Jam (Oct. 29)! All programs have registration that opens two weeks before the event. A variety of programs for children, teens and adults are planned for this fall: storytimes, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home programs, and holiday programs for children; college preparedness, voting, teen tech space, and a Zombie Apocalypse for teens; and craft afternoons, book discussions and computer classes for adults. A special Veterans Day program, Ready to Serve: World War I Nurses' Unknown Stories will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Lexington Park Library. This program is recommended for ages 13 and older. Pick up a brochure today or visit our website, www.stmalib.org to find out what is happening in a branch near you!

Laura Boonchaisri, Library Publicity, Outreach and Programming Coordinator

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By sending our newsletters via e-mail, we are saving over \$2000 in printing and mailing fees per year. I believe that money would be better spent on our libraries. Don't you agree?

Thank you!

