

# FOL Newsletter: Winter 2016



## FOL Board Members

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Trish Parkinson

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Lloyd Timberlake

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### Co-Chairmen of the Book

#### Sales

Carole Barlow

Alice Dougherty

### Library Representatives

Michael Blackwell

Laura Boonchaisri

## Whatcha readin' these days?

It's hard to believe that the holidays are approaching and winter is just around the corner. We hope you have plenty of good books to cozy up to the fire with so your mind can go on a grand adventure!

*Snow is falling  
and books are  
calling...*



Need some help finding a good book? Try one of these...

## 5 Good Books Adventure

1. *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan
2. *Stardust* by Neil Gaiman
3. *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared*  
by Jonas Jonasson
4. *Contest* by Matthew Reilly
5. *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

What's  
on the  
horizon?



**Dec. 23-26** = libraries closed

**Jan. 9** = Board Meeting: 5:30 PM at Lexington Park Library

**Jan. 21** = Annual Brunch: 11:00 AM at St. George's Episcopal Church



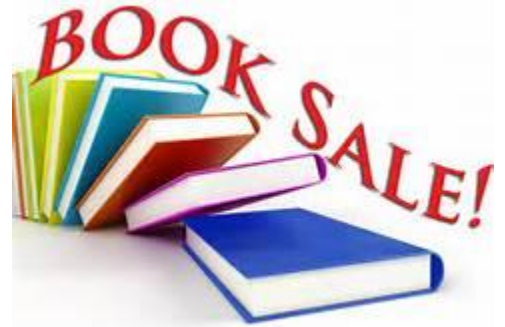
## BOOK SALE UPDATE

Wow, fall has flown by and Christmas is just around the corner! We want to thank everyone who came out to the Fall Book Sale at the Leonardtown Library, and hope you all found some wonderful books. We had fabulous weather for the sale this year and a great turnout. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Spring Book Sale, which will be March 24-26, 2017 at the fairgrounds. We will be moving books from the Leonardtown Library on Saturday, March 18th, and will be looking for volunteers to help out. A big THANK YOU to all who came to help out for the fall sale. We are successful because of the work and help that you all provide.

We hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Carole Barlow and Alice Dougherty

Co-chairmen of the book sales



## FOL Annual Brunch

The Friends of the Library are delighted to have Dr. Julia King, professor of Archaeology at St. Mary's College, as our speaker for the Winter Brunch. Dr. King is the author of several noteworthy books and articles, including *Archaeology, Narrative, and the Politics of the Past: The View from Southern Maryland*; *Still Life with Tobacco: The Archaeological Uses of Dutch Art*; and *Passing for Black in Seventeenth-Century Maryland*. Her project on "Political Development and Virginia's Plantation Landscape" was recently awarded a prestigious Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture/Jamestown Rediscovery Fellowship. This project looks at some of the differences in development between royal colonies, Jamestown, and proprietary, St. Mary's.

The brunch will be held at St. George's Episcopal Church in Valley Lee, MD on January 21 at 11 am. We are fortunate to have Robert Abel returning as our caterer providing a delicious assortment of brunch delectables. Please reserve your brunch spot as soon as possible. Last year we reached capacity before the deadline and you won't want to miss this combination of FOL fellowship, great food, and interesting speaker. See the link below to print the form and sign up for the brunch. Do NOT drop off form and payment to the library. Mail your form and check to:



Friends of St. Mary's County Library  
P.O. Box 165  
Leonardtown, MD 20650



You can also use this as a convenient opportunity to renew your FOL membership. Cost for the brunch is \$24. Deadline for reservations is January 13.

<https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/friends-of-the-library/>

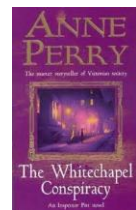
## **President's Perspective**

Thanksgiving has come and gone and I hope you had a great one and enough turkey and pumpkin pie. I didn't, but I am still working on it... The Fall Book Sale was very successful again this year. We extend a big thank you to everyone who came and bought books and all of those who worked so hard to make it such a success. Now we have the rest of the holidays to look forward to and maybe even some cold weather at last! It looks like we are going to have to find those coats and gloves and maybe even those snow boots-- although I have heard some say they wouldn't mind a warm Florida Christmas day like last year. Don't forget to plan for our annual Brunch in January which will be at St. George's Episcopal Church in Valley Lee on January 21st at 11 a.m. Since we always have delicious food and an interesting speaker, please plan to come.

A chilling and frightening book, "The Whitechapel Conspiracy" by Anne Perry that I have just read, is about British politics and intrigue in the late 1890's and really brings home the vast differences in how we are governed and how things are decided and run then and now. We may think we have problems in our government but read this book and you will be glad we live in these times and where we do, with the choices and protections that we have. I do recommend it and her other books. On a lighter note, I also read "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrick Backman for one of my book clubs. It is about a grouchy, old man who has just been "retired" from his job and is besieged by new "too friendly" neighbors and their children. This is an uplifting book that is both funny and sad by a new Swedish author that is definitely worth reading. Enjoy your holidays and try to find some time to relax and read a bit in between all the parties and hustle and bustle!!



*Irish Parkinson, FOL President*



To all members receiving this paper copy of the newsletter: **Please** consider giving us an e-mail address, so you will receive the on-line version of the newsletter. This will take less money away from our libraries and save some trees as well. The e-mailed version of the newsletter looks much like this one, but you can actually click on links and go to the sites that are mentioned in the articles. If you have received this, it means either we don't have any e-mail address for you or the e-mail we have is not correct. **Please** e-mail your correct e-mail address to: [newsletter@folstmaryscounty.org](mailto:newsletter@folstmaryscounty.org). Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

## A Time for Thanks

Though you will be reading this after Thanksgiving is past, I write it as the holiday is approaching. This year, I have ever so much to be thankful for.

I've just celebrated my first year with St. Mary's County Library. I'm thankful for the trust that the Library Trustees and staff have given me, allowing me to be a part of a vital library that is changing with the times to keep fulfilling its traditional mission of bringing information and enjoyable materials to you. The welcome and support that I have been given are tremendous. Our library staff have a wonderful attitude and energy. I have found a home.

I'm thankful for our county's commitment to education and literacy. Recently, the County Commissioners and School Superintendent, James Smith, joined me in pledging to the [ConnectEd Library Challenge](#), an initiative to get every child in our county a library card to get access to books and learning resources. We have developed a special "Kids' Card" to go along with this initiative. Children can get a card that allows them access to print and online digital materials without cost: no fines will be charged. We are working with the schools to get every second grader this card. Over the years, we will get all future second grade classes (and every other class for which we have capacity) this card. A child should always have access to books. This card helps make that happen. Working with our schools to promote reading, we will help produce children who are informed and (a quality we perhaps need more now than ever) empathetic. [Scientific studies](#) are increasingly backing up what our parents and teachers have always told us: reading is good for mind and spirit.

I am thankful to you, The Friends of the Library, for all that you do to help us with our mission. You help us keep our doors open, bring materials and programs to all ages, and promote literacy and reading in the county. We would not be nearly so effective without you. Thank you for your time, efforts, and generosity. I look forward to working with you in 2017 as we break ground for the new Leonardtown Library and offer new materials and services at all our locations. Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Michael Blackwell

Director, St. Mary's County Library



"This Just in": We have just received a virtual 3D Tour of the new Leonardtown Library. You should be able to watch the video on most devices here: <https://www.stmalib.org/new-library-for-st-marys-county> This virtual tour doesn't have many details: none of the beautiful landscaping or interior details that will be in place when the project is done. It will be refined as more design work is done. It gives a good overview of our concept, and it is fun to go "inside" our new library. 2017 will be an exciting year as we finish design work and start to bid on construction!





## **FOL Membership Minute...**



We are seeking your membership for 2017. Membership application for Friends of the St. Mary's County Library (FOL) for 2017 is now available – and in more ways than one. In the past we required you to mail in your membership application form with your dues or to register at our book sale, which will be in March 2017. (Details of the March book sale are elsewhere in this newsletter.)

For this coming year the board has approved the use of credit cards through the PayPal service. You will be able to use AMEX, Discover, MasterCard, VISA or your PayPal account if you have one. We have already set up the FOL access to credit card payment on our web pages on the library website. The link on the library website using a search engine such as Chrome or Internet Explorer is <https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/friends-of-the-library/>. Of course, on the same webpage it gives you a way to print the membership application and send it to us by US Postal Service. Please remember that FOL membership applications do NOT get turned into the library; mail them to:

Friends of St. Mary's County Library

P.O. Box 165

Leonardtown, MD 20650

I hope that this information is a repeat of the email that you should have received from the membership committee, Lloyd Timberlake and Bob Parkinson. By the time this letter is published, we hope to have sent all of you a separate email about the use of credit cards.

At this time we are not yet set up to handle payment for books, brunch and dinner with a credit card. We are trying this for membership this year in hopes that we do not confuse our volunteers and that we can expand into that use of credit cards next year for all our financial transactions.

Should you want to discuss and/or have suggestions for membership, please contact me at [bobparkinson@hughes.net](mailto:bobparkinson@hughes.net).

Bob Parkinson, Membership Chair



## **Future Libraries**

What do you want your library to do?

St. Mary's Country libraries already do a lot more than lend books, and a lot more than you might know about if you have not visited recently or checked the libraries' website ([www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org)).

Available to library users are public PCs running Windows 7 with a variety of browsers and software; free Wi-Fi; laptops available for checkout for in-library use; scanners; black and white and color laser printers, fax machine and copier, and in the meeting rooms, audio/video teleconferencing (at Lexington Park) and a high definition projection system. A lot of computer education courses are offered for all ages in various disciplines, as well as an assortment of other occasional courses.

But these are just the beginning. The whole concept of libraries and the way people read are changing, around Maryland, around our country, and the world.

What, for example, does the accelerating use of e-books and e-reading mean for libraries? In St. Mary's libraries, you can already download books, movies, music, and magazines through Hoopla, Zinio for Libraries and OneClickdigital, and a new app for these activities is coming in 2017.

But to what extent does the prevalence of digital content mean that libraries should offer fewer paper books, freeing up space for other activities and other forms of learning? The idea of fewer books will horrify a lot of library card holders who love the intimacy of curling up with words on paper. It is a debate likely to play for years.

But change is coming. Some members of the FOL board attended the October meeting of the statewide Citizens for Maryland's Libraries organization and returned with reports of brave new libraries around the state.

Harford, Baltimore City and Calvert public libraries are launching a program to teach children 3-6 robotics – a chance to experiment with both the basics of programming logic and algorithms, and spatial orientation by playing with a robot.

Maryland's Department of Education Division of Library Education and Services (DLDS) has purchased 20 virtual reality headsets and development kits for public library use. Prince George's County Memorial Library System was the first county to pilot VR classes and programs.

Playing computer games is often a child's entry into computer science, and one of the most popular games in Minecraft. However, Minecraft Edu is fun for all ages, can be played individually or in groups of any size and – most important – can be customized by using novice-level coding techniques. Every library in the state can offer this service to its customers.

And new forms of communications offer better ways of linking libraries with schools and other institutions. High tech companies in our country also may have expertise and technology to offer.

Michael Blackwell, who took over as director of St. Mary's libraries in November 2015, and who has a deep interest in digital content, told the Citizens of Maryland Libraries newsletter: "In St. Mary's, we have a great many community partnerships and opportunities for increasing library service. If pressed to name only one, our biggest project now is building the new Leonardtown Library, which will share a lobby with a senior activities center. It is located near an elementary school, with a middle school soon to be built. It's an amazing opportunity to create a community hub for all ages that honors our past with traditional building materials while offering an innovative and airy design which provides a vision of our engaged, sustainable and informed future."

The new library will also have a room devoted to technology, such as, perhaps, 3D printing and robotics.

Which brings us to the point of the article: a lot is possible, but choices will have to be made by all stakeholders in the country's libraries. Key stakeholders include the Friends of the St. Mary's County Library. What would you like to see in YOUR libraries? What should they be doing better to serve the country residents? Make your voices and opinions heard. Feel free to contact the FOL board at: [newsletter@folstmaryscounty.org](mailto:newsletter@folstmaryscounty.org).

Lloyd Timberlake, board member

