

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

What a Difference Friends Make!

Library Director Ellen Arnold-Robbins Reviews the Friends History of Support

Friends in Action

The current incarnation of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library was started in 1994. Early on, an ad-hoc committee of its members advocated for state funding for the Library — an effort that ultimately failed. They were successful, however, in securing Montgomery County’s agreement to continue its ‘in lieu of’ payment to Takoma Park for Library service. These initiatives brought many City Library supporters together — and established the Friends as a savvy, hard-working and committed group of people who were eager to promote the Library and reinforce its role in the community.

...a savvy, hard-working and committed group of people



Initiatives

The Friends purchased the first public Internet computers for the Library in 1995. This pilot project with Useful of Canada was a successful model of a turn-key system that continues in the Library’s Computer Center to this day. Free e-books were first made available on the Library website as a test project by the Friends. Demand convinced the City to include this service at the Library.

A successful partnership with Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) led to the Takoma Park

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The Friends support of Library programs and services include poetry readings, learning/craft activities, author visits, the afterhours book drop box, books for the after school program at the New Hampshire Recreation Center, and more. Your Friends of the Library membership fees serve our community through these programs.



Please check the date on your address label to find out if it is time to renew your annual membership donation. Invite your friends to join too!

What a Difference Friends Make!

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Film Festival. Another partnership with the English Department of Columbia Union College began the Favorite Poem Evening, which continues with the Friends support.

Funding

Established as a nonprofit, the Friends have established a primary role in fundraising for the Library — through memberships, book sales, and other events and efforts. A partnership with ‘friends of Michael Morrissey’ raised substantial donations to the Library from 2002 to 2011 through annual golf tournaments. Funds were also raised for several years with a silent auction. Personal checks sometimes simply arrive as gifts to support the Friends work for the Library.



Friends provide services thanks to members dues and gifts and the Spring and Fall Book Sales. A Holiday Book Sale in December supplements income to provide library special events.



A Record of Enrichment

Readings by local authors and journalists were originally held at the homes of Board members — and later at annual meetings at the Library. Special events have included an evening performance designed by resident artist Celeste Miller of the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. She worked with Library staff and turned the Library into a venue for specially choreographed dances where staff members climbed book shelves, spun around poles, leaped over the circulation desk, and cavorted on tables.

Since 2005, we have enjoyed two successful book clubs. Outdoor poetry posters for Spring for Poetry Walk have been the result of a partnership with Montgomery College graphic design students. These are only a few of the many, many unique, community driven programs the Friends have initiated.

What a Library! And what Friends we have! As I consider the Friends’ activities over the past 20 years, what strikes me more than the funds they raised for the Library — are the ways in which they stimulated our imaginations — thus expanding our reach and our capacity — revealing what was possible for a small, community library to accomplish. Through their foresight and energy the Friends have truly inspired us — and enabled us to realize our potential as a vital part of the Takoma Park community.

Spring for Poetry

By Merrill Leffler

Every Spring for the last decade, Carroll Avenue, our city parks and library, and the Community Center have blossomed with poetry — strikingly-designed posters that have become part of Takoma Park’s city-scape. In a unique collaboration between the library’s Friends and Department of Visual & Performing Arts at the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College, second-year graphic arts students have been designing posters for poems. Selected by a committee of Takoma Park writers, the poems range widely and have included ancient Greek, Hebrew, and Islamic poets, nineteenth and twentieth century English language poets — from Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman to Langston

Hughes, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Irish poet Seamus Heaney — and poems by Spanish, Russian, Italian, German, and Israeli poets. A great bounty — from spring until fall, Takoma Park becomes a garden of poetry.

The posters are all on the Friends website and downloadable as PDFs: <http://ftpml.org/poetry/PoetryWalk.htm>. Also on the website is a video that gives an inside look at the creation of the poetry walk, beginning with the selection of poems through the design process, including compelling interviews with student designers. Check it out! And watch for new posters in Spring 2017, the eleventh year of the Takoma Park distinctive poetry walk.

Children's Programs

By Karen MacPherson

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, our library is able to offer unique programs for young people. These programs — among the many the Friends support — include:

♥ Summer Quest

Now in its second decade, the Summer Quest summer reading program is a “read-to-advance” game, with both art and a story created by Dave Burbank. We are the only library in the state to offer its own summer reading program, and more than 200 young readers participate each summer.

♥ Spanish Circle Time program.

This weekly program, led by the energetic Senora Geiza, is so popular that we now are offering two sessions each Thursday morning to accommodate the crowds.

♥ Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Led by Madame Marie, this monthly Saturday morning program is one of the few free French programs for very young children in the DC metro area. Thanks to sponsorship from the Friends, we currently are working to create a second monthly French program, geared to preschoolers and early elementary-aged children.

♥ In addition, the Friends' support has allowed us to buy multiple copies of books that are used in our weekly **Early Literacy** programs on Wednesday mornings. Having everyone read the same book is an important way to help model best literacy practices for parents and caregivers.

♥ The Friends also recently purchased books that were presented to English as a Second Language families at Takoma Park Elementary School as a way of welcoming them into our Library community. The book presentation was made as part of the Library's participation in a “**Books & Breakfast**” program at TPES for ESOL families.



Connected!

By Pat Hanrahan

Wonder what's going on at the Takoma Park MD Library? Ever miss a Library event you wanted to attend? Here is how to stay in-the-know about the library's many educational and entertaining happenings:

- ★ **Friends of Takoma Park Maryland Library Facebook Page** lists events with a focus on those sponsored by the FTPML. “Like” us on Facebook to receive announcements on your FB feed.
- ★ **Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Website (www.ftpml.org)** contains a Calendar of Events, Newsletters, Reading Groups updates and other information.
- ★ **@takoma is the Library's Twitter account** maintained by librarian Rebecca Brown.
- ★ **Takoma Park Maryland Library Facebook Page** will inform you about programs with a special emphasis on those for children. Here are announcements about the rare Library closings and other Library happenings. “Like” this FB page to be kept current.
- ★ **City of Takoma Park Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov>)** under the heading “Government” contains a link to the “Library.” Once inside, you will find general information about hours, the proposed renovation project, and library resources. Above the section “Computer Center,” there is a link to “The Takoma Park Maryland Library” which provides links to the staff blogs (teen book buzz, book comments...), e-books, on-line resources (for adults and kids), and — you knew it was coming — events.

Now you'll never miss another Friends program! See you at the Library....

Friends Reading Groups

By Merrill Leffler

Promoting reading, literacy, and literature is what the Friends are about.



On the left, Tim Rahn and Merrill Leffler lead the book group discussions with Phillip Schewe (not shown)—leading the Big Book Group.



While supporting a variety of Library programs for youth and teens, for more than ten years the Friends of the Library have also supported adult book clubs.

A bi-monthly discussion group has been meeting since 2005 reading books that have ranged widely over American and international literatures.

Beginning in 2009, the Big Book Group began taking on classics of world literature, one book each in spring and fall. Beginning with a lecture by a university professor, we meet three or four more times more — “a literary support group,” one long time participant has said, for such

works as *War and Peace*, *Les Miserables*, *Don Quixote*, and James Joyce’s *Ulysses*.

(For the complete list of books the two groups have read, see <http://ftpml.org/PDF/BooksReadSept2016.pdf>)

Everyone is welcome to join our discussions — you only have to show up! Details about dates, time, and location are on the Friends website www.FTPML.org.

Share Your Favorite Poem

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library invites everyone in the area — all ages! — to come read or listen to your favorite poems in April 2017. Watch the Friends website for the date. Simply select a poem by a published poet and send the title and author for inclusion in a program that library director Ellen Robbins will prepare: ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov.

The Favorite Poem evening was originally conceived as a national event by Robert Pinsky when he was U.S. Poet Laureate — 2017 marks the twentieth year we have been gathering in Takoma Park. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.



101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.

Visit the Friends at www.ftpml.org

Friends of the FTPML Board Members

as of March, 2016

Tim Rahn, *President*

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Ellen Arnold-Robbins, *Ex-Officio Member,*
Director of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

with the help of Clair Garman, *webmaster*

Photographs by Maurice Belanger
and Michele Morgan

Become a Friend...



Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
www.ftpml.org

To become a Friend for one year please fill out this form and send it with your member contribution to:

FTPML
101 Philadelphia Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Name/s _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

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Please circle (above) where you prefer to be contacted, and indicate any restrictions on the day or time. _____

Join e-mail list? Yes No

The e-mail list is for announcements only, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

You will receive no more than 1-2 messages per month.

Please mark the donation you wish to give.

- | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$ 25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer | \$ 50.00 | |
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Make your payment out to **Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Inc.**

FTPML is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift is greatly appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution.

If you're interested in donating time and/or expertise, please let us know:

- Book Sales (semi-annual or mini-sales)
- Publicity Committee (newsletter, flyers, printing, mailings, etc.)
- Table Staffing (staffing a table at the Farmers' Market or other event)
- Board of Directors or Committee Chair

May we include your name if we exchange our list of members with other Takoma Park community not-for-profit organizations? Yes No

To find out more about the Friends please visit us at www.ftpml.org. webNL11/16

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

Take home great bargains that help support library programs at our special...



Holiday Book Sale



Saturday, Dec. 10
10am-3pm

At the Takoma Park
Holiday Art and Craft Sale
in the Community Center

FEATURING

New Books for Children, Teens,
and Adults! Perfect for gifts!

New and Used
Books at
Reasonable Prices



 You'll find the
books in the
Computer Center
Rotunda

For more information contact the Takoma Park Maryland Library at 301-891-7259.