Friends of the St. Mary’s County

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Amy Harvey
Spring Book Sale Co-Chair
Julia Nichols
Library Liaison
Laura Boonchaisri
Library Director & Advisor to FOL
Michael Blackwell

FOL Calendar

DEC. 9th - WINTER BOOK SALE
MEMBERS ONLY: 10am - 12pm
OPEN to PUBLIC: 12pm - 3pm
at the NEW Leonardtown Library Meeting Room

FEB 3, 2024 - Winter Brunch
(details to follow)

MAY 17 - 19, 2024 - Spring BOOK SALE
SMC Fairgrounds
(details to follow)

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Visit our Online BOOK Sale!
New books added frequently!!
https://folstmarys.com/

ACCEPTING BOOK DONATIONS!
Accepting good condition books, audio books on CD, music CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles—no smoke, water or mold damage please. And, no encyclopedias or magazines. Thank you!

Fall Drop off: W, F & SAT
10am -2pm behind the new St. Mary’s County Board of Elections offices.
23250 Hollywood Rd. Leonardtown, MD

Hello Fall
Hello Friends:

These are exciting times for the library!!

I know. I know. There will be cynics out there who will claim that this is a contradiction in terms, an oxymoron. The words ‘exciting’ and ‘library’ should not appear in the same sentence. But surely there are no Friends of the Library (FOL) included in that jaded crowd? Absolutely not, Friends are excited by libraries, so excited that we read a lot of books, become wise and articulate, and eventually bandy about words like ‘oxymoron.’

The excitement at the library is legion, and elements of this are covered in more detail elsewhere in the newsletter.

The biggest news is that due to the book-loving folks in the county, the FOL will have managed to donate over $100,000 to the library over the course of 2023, a record-breaking amount, a lot of it earned through the successful on-line sales. Thank you, and congratulations to all FOL members.

The new mobile library has been built, is actually in the state of Maryland and will be officially launched early next year. (We have not decided whether to christen it by breaking the spine of a book, rather than a bottle of champagne, over its hood.) I was telling an elderly (my age) county native this news and she said, “Oh, we used to have one when I was a little girl. Its arrivals down near Ridge where we lived were the hits of our growing up.”

So, we've come full circle, except that this new version will have Wi-Fi connectivity.

There is a fundraiser to help get ‘The Word on the Street’ through the mobile library at the Leonardtown Library on November 10 where archeologist Travis Parno will regal us with the latest developments and discoveries around the digs at the fort site in Historic St. Mary’s City.

Our one-day Winter BOOK Sale is Saturday, December 9th at the Leonardtown Library, with an early members-only buying session, the books on offer all being gift-worthy.

Our annual winter brunch will be February 3, 2024, back at St. Andrews Episcopal Church to enjoy their scrumptious home cooking. There will be a SURPRISE SPEAKER!! (We have not found a speaker yet, so she or he is bound to be a surprise.)

Every year we negotiate with the very friendly folks at the Fairgrounds to schedule the week needed for our spring book sale: four days setting up in the five vast buildings and three days of the sale itself. The 2024 sale will be Fri. May 17th - Sun. May 19th. That is much later than usual, but in this case later is better, in that the weather should be better with more people getting out and about.

Speaking of age and excitement, those of us members of the FOL board who are elderly are having a hard time simply handling all the adrenalin being generated. You younger folks please come join us in managing books, selling books, being on the board, etc. It is all great fun.

Lloyd Timberlake, President
Winter BOOK Sale

FOL volunteers have been busy packing books, games, puzzles, DVDs and Music CDs for our annual Winter Sale. These items were set aside for this sale because they are all in like-new condition so join us and get some gifts for family, friends, and most importantly, you! We will also have a special sale section of holiday books, DVDs and Music CDs in the lobby – everything 3 for $1.00.

Check our Facebook page closer to the sale – we will have sneak previews of the merchandise!

What Day? Saturday, December 9

What Time? From 10AM – Noon is early shopping for FOL Members only. From Noon -3PM we are open to all!

Where? Leonardtown Library, Meeting Rooms 1 and 2.

We will start checking in members, taking renewals and processing new memberships starting at 9:30 AM. Memberships begin at $15 and are a wonderful way to support our libraries while also giving you early shopping opportunities at the Winter and Spring Sales. Join or renew online here!

See you at the Winter BOOK Sale!

Spring Book Sale 2024

It looks like April showers bring May flowers and books in 2024. Mark your calendars! Our Annual Spring Book Sale will be Friday, May 17th (Member’s Day), Saturday May 18th, & Sunday May 19th (Bargain Day) at the St. Mary’s County Fairgrounds.

Volunteers

Currently, the Friends of the Library has a full team of volunteers manning the Sorting Room.

We are, however, looking for volunteers to join the Spring Book Sale Committee. Our Spring Sale is huge and we need help with planning, coordination, and advertising. We are also looking for someone to work with us this year that is interested in running the sale next year. Committee meetings will start in January.

If interested, please contact Amy at folstmarys@gmail.com

Winter Break

Our volunteers have been hard at work all year long and it is time for our annual winter break. We will close to donations and book order pick-up from December 13th – January 2nd, 2024. We will reopen on January 3rd. During that time, you may place orders on our Shopify site but they can’t be picked-up until we reopen in January. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Amy Harvey, Sorting Room & Book Sales Chair
Library Lowdown

Mobile Library FUN draiser - November 10th

Join the Library Foundation for a FUN draiser to benefit the Mobile Library on Friday, November 10th, 6 - 8PM, at the Leonardtown Library! Come on out and help St. Mary's County Library to get the "Word on the Street." For more info go to:
St. Mary’s County Library Foundation (stmalib.org)

Library offers excellent Tech help

Are you having technology trouble? Looking to learn some new computer skills? Then look no further--the library can help! Computer and technology classes are available at all branches and they offer one-on-one appointments as well with their very knowledgeable staff.

Class schedules, technology topics of instruction, and info for registration (highly recommended) can be found online at Computer And Technology Instruction (stmalib.org)

One-on-one appointments may be scheduled by submitting an appointment request form or visiting or calling your library.
Facebook Page Keeps on Growing

Many, many thanks to all our followers for helping FOL’s Facebook page and social media presence continue to grow! Your page likes and shares are invaluable. With that said, we have just over 900 followers to date and hope to reach 1000 before the years end!

Social media continues to be a viable means of promoting our mission as a non-profit organization to help support St. Mary’s County Library with additional funding. Our Facebook page provides FOL with a continuous platform to not only promote our Winter and Spring Book Sales, but also to advertise our Online Book Store and appeal for Book donations--24/7 year-round.

If you have a Facebook account and have not already done so, please like, follow us and consider sharing our new posts with your friends at every opportunity. Here is a link to our page: (2) Facebook

If you are not on Facebook, you may still be able to access a limited view of our page using a google search for: “Friends of the St. Mary’s County Library - FOL Facebook page”

And you can still access all the current FOL happenings and news on our website at Friends of the St. Mary's County Library - Home (wildapricot.org)

Mary Rossi, Facebook Administrator

Book Bits

Book Review

“Happiness Falls” by Angie Kim
(published by Hogarth, August 29, 2023)

This novel is so many things, it is hard to describe. From the very chapter, I was so drawn into this page-turner that I grew increasingly irritated by every life obstacle (work, husband, the need to eat and sleep) that forced me to put this book down, and I wasn’t at peace until I could get absorbed back into the story again. But it isn’t merely a plot-driven thriller.

It is also a character-driven family drama. Our narrator Mia has multiple identities: she is a college student, biracial, a twin, and older sister to a non-speaking teenage brother with a double diagnosis of autism and Angelman syndrome. Mia is also the daughter of a man who has just gone missing when the novel begins. Mia, her twin, and their mother must follow the clue he has left behind while protecting her brother, who becomes a suspect in the disappearance.

Finally, this is a philosophical novel that ruminates on the nature of happiness and how society misunderstands those with different verbal abilities, from non-English speakers to non-speakers. These are very important ideas that will stick with me for a long time. But the narrator is not overly didactic, at least not any more than your average smarty-pants college student.

Review by Lilyanne Ohanesian
Membership

It is Time to Renew!

Your Friends of the St. Mary’s County Library (FOL) membership will expire December 31, 2023. Renewals processed now will be good through Dec 31, 2024. You can renew online (or by check and mail). To renew online — click here, and then click on the Join or Renew tab or wait for the automated renewal notice that will be coming out mid-November. To renew by check and mail just use the form found on page 7. Questions? Contact us at folstmalib@gmail.com.

Why Should You Renew?

Memberships help run and fund the Friends of the St. Mary’s County Library. Public book sales happen at least twice a year. The Board and Committees continue to put in countless hours of work supporting our book sorting room year around. Your membership helps to ensure the money earned at the book sales is given to our wonderful Library!

Another membership benefit is early access to the books at our Spring and Fall Book Sales. Our Fall Book Sale will be on December 9. Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter. As a member, you will also receive our amazing e-newsletter 4 times a year with all the news and events to include invitations to our Spring Brunch and Annual Dinner.

Notice About Non-Renewals

If you choose not to renew your Friends of the St. Mary’s County Library membership, we will archive your membership on April 30, 2024. If you decide to renew your membership, you can rejoin the Friends and we will be happy to welcome you back! You will not receive newsletters, notices, or emails until you rejoin.

Jon Baake, Membership
Date: _____________________                                  New Member _______ Renewal _______

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________________________

Alt Email: ______________________________________________________________________________

Contact Phone: __________________________________________________________________________

Annual Memberships (January-December):

__________ $ 15 Single/Family Membership (list immediate family members below) 
__________ $ 25 Good Friend Membership                                  ____________ $100  Special Friend Membership
__________ $200 Corporate Membership                                         _____________ Additional donation to help the library

Immediate Family Members: ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

FOL Participation:

__________ I want to help with the book sale.                                   ____________ I want to help sort books.

__________ I’m interested in serving on the Board.                             ____________ I’m interested in joining a committee.

SAVE A TREE AND A STAMP—RENEW ONLINE

Register online at https://folstmalib.wildapricot.org/

or

Send with your check payable to:
Friends of St. Mary’s County Library
P.O. Box 165
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Hello Friends,

In this newsletter, you’ll see information about an upcoming fundraiser at the Leonardtown Library, “The Word on the Street.” It is sponsored by the St. Mary’s County Library Foundation and benefits our new mobile library. The library itself is now in Maryland, being finished. It should be rolling to various stops by mid-December. The word will take to the streets, literally.

The fundraiser is on November 10. It begins at 6 pm and will end by 8 pm. Catering is by Quality Street. Port of Leonardtown Winery will pour some delicious wines. Travis Parno from Historic St. Mary’s City will present on recent archeological finds and the history of the area and share artifacts.

As supporters of the Friends, you already do so very much to help the library, but this event may be of interest to you. Tickets are $40 per person or $75 for two. You may mail a check to the following address or visit the website: https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/st-marys-county-library-foundation/

St. Mary’s County Library Foundation
23630 Hayden Farm Lane
Leonardtown MD 20650

The Foundation is an all-volunteer 501-C-3 and all proceeds benefit the library.

I hope to see you there for an entertaining and informative evening.

Michael Blackwell, Library Director & Advisor to FOL
“Horse-Riding Librarians Were the Great Depression’s Bookmobiles. During the Great Depression, a New Deal program brought books to Kentuckians living in remote areas,” states author Eliza McGraw in an interesting article written for Smithsonian Magazine.

In the late 1930s librarians rode up into the Kentucky mountains, their saddlebags stuffed with books, doling out reading material to isolated rural people. The Great Depression had plunged the nation into poverty, and Kentucky—a poor state made even poorer by a paralyzed national economy—was among the hardest hit.

The Pack Horse Library initiative, which sent librarians deep into Appalachia, was one of the New Deal’s most unique plans. The project distributed reading material to the people who lived in the craggy, 10,000-square-mile portion of eastern Kentucky. The state already trailed its neighbors in electricity and highways. And during the Depression, food, education and economic opportunity were even scarcer for Appalachians.

They also lacked books: In 1930, up to 31 percent of people in eastern Kentucky couldn’t read. Residents wanted to learn, notes historian Donald C. Boyd. Coal and railroads, poised to industrialize eastern Kentucky, loomed large in the minds of many Appalachians who were ready to take part in the hoped prosperity that would bring. “Workers viewed the sudden economic changes as a threat to their survival and literacy as a means of escape from a vicious economic trap,” writes Boyd.

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This presented a challenge: In 1935, Kentucky only circulated one book per capita compared to the American Library Association standard of five to ten, writes historian Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer. It was "a distressing picture of library conditions and needs in Kentucky," wrote Lena Nofcier, who chaired library services for the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers at the time.

There had been previous attempts to get books into the remote region but they all faltered. Now, unlike many New Deal projects, the packhorse plan required help from locals. "Libraries" were housed any in facility that would step up, from churches to post offices. Librarians manned these outposts, giving books to carriers who then climbed aboard their mules or horses, panniers loaded with books, and headed into the hills. They took their job as seriously as mail carriers and crossed streams in wintry conditions, feet frozen in the stirrups.

Carriers rode out at least twice a month, with each route covering 100 to 120 miles a week. Riders used their own horses or mules or leased them from neighbors. They earned $28 a month—around $495 in modern dollars.

The books and magazines they carried usually came from outside donations. People in more affluent and accessible regions helped their fellow Kentuckians. She asked for everything: books, magazines, Sunday school materials, textbooks. Soon, word of the campaign spread, and books came from half of the states in the country.

"The mountain people loved Mark Twain," says Kathi Appelt, who co-wrote a middle-grade book about the librarians with Schmitzer, in a 2002 radio interview. "One of the most popular books…was Robinson Crusoe." Since so many adults could not read, she noted, illustrated books were among the most beloved. Illiterate adults relied on their literate children to help decipher them.

The system had some challenges, Schmitzer writes: Roads could be impassable, and one librarian had to hike her 18-mile route when her mule died.

The Pack Horse Library ended in 1943. The new war effort was putting people back to work. That marked the end of horse-delivered books in Kentucky, but by 1946, motorized bookmobiles were on the move. Once again, books rode into the mountains.

And our libraries are getting a brand-new bookmobile shortly – no horses required! Follow the library website for updates. Mobile Library and Outreach Services (stmalib.org)

For the full article and more pictures, see McGraw, E. (2017, June 21). Horse-Riding librarians were the Great Depression's bookmobiles. Smithsonian Magazine, History, n.p. https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/horse-riding-librarians-were-great-depression-bookmobiles-180963786/
WHAT’S COOKING!

FOL Board Member Carolyn Guy shares a favorite recipe!

Chocolate Crack

Ingredients:

- 40 saltine crackers
- 1 cup butter (not margarine)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 12 oz. chocolate chips
- ½ cup finely chopped almonds

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Cover bottom and sides of cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Place 40 crackers side-by-side.

Melt butter; add sugar. Bring to a rolling boil. Boil exactly 3 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat and immediately pour gently over saltines.

Bake 5 – 7 minutes (till bubbly brown).

Sprinkle chocolate chips over crackers and spread as they melt. Sprinkle on nuts. Refrigerate 2 hours.

Break into pieces. Store tightly covered, if you have any left.