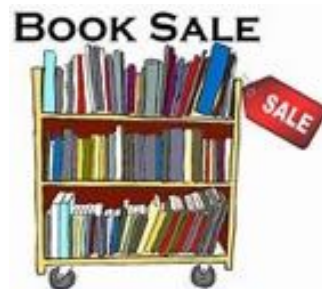


COVER TO COVER

Friends of the St. Mary's County Library

Hello Winter! 2023



FOL Board Members

President

Lloyd Timberlake

Vice President

Rebecca Vanecko

Secretary

Ellyne Brice Davis

Treasurer

Louie Pectol

Membership

Jon Baake

Dave McGowan

Newsletter

Mary Rossi

Facebook

Mary Rossi

Carolyn Guy

Sorting Room & Book Sales Chair

Amy Harvey

Spring Book Sale Co-Chair

Julia Nichols

Other Board Members

Fred Millhiser

Library Liaison

Laura Boonchaisri

Library Director & Advisor to FOL

Michael Blackwell

FOL Calendar

Annual Spring BOOK SALE

APRIL 14 - APRIL 16

at St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

Fri, April 14 : 12 - 8 pm
(Members only! Join at the door or
online at folstmalib.wildapricot.org)

Sat, April 15 : 10 am - 5 pm

Sun, April 16 : 12 - 4 pm
(Bag Sale Day!)

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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!

Drop off: M, W, F & SAT 10am - 2pm *behind* the new St. Mary's County Board of Elections offices.

23250 Hollywood Rd.
Leonardtown, MD



← **President's
Points to Ponder**

In December, I attended a meeting of the St. Mary's County Commissioners and watched as they unanimously voted to grant the Friends of the Library (FOL) a three-year lease for our book sorting room in what is now the Board of Elections. We pay \$1 a year rent, and have the possibility of two one-year extensions.

I thanked them then. I wrote to thank them, and I am using this opportunity to thank them yet again. It was a friendly session, whereas the previous slate of commissioners had not been so well-disposed to the library or the FOL.

Thus the budget of our county library has fallen well behind the budgets of the libraries of the (far less literate!) counties of Charles and Calvert. Rising minimum wages in Maryland, the rising cost of books, furniture, utilities etc., as well as the competitive job market and a nearly 40% turnover in library staff over the past 2 years, mean the library needs a large increase to its budget for fiscal year 2024.

The library is requesting additional funding to pay for a salary scale adjustment for its wonderful, dedicated staff and four new positions that will help keep our libraries open the current hours, continue to offer an amazing collection of both print and digital items, get the new Mobile Library out on the road, and continue to provide excellent programs and events for all ages, free of charge.

So, I am asking ALL OUR MEMBERS please to drop the commissioners a line (letter, postcard, email...) asking them to support the library's fiscal '24 budget request. Or just tell them how much the library means to you. Mail letters to **Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Post Office Box 653, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650** or email all the commissioners at csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Speaking of money, the FOL netted a record \$7,500 from its December book sale. Thank you.

And hoping for even more money, we have scheduled our Spring Sale at the Fairgrounds for April 14-15-16. You know the drill: members only on Friday but you can renew/join at the door. Or, avoid the crowd and join online at [Friends of the St. Mary's County Library - Join or Renew \(wildapricot.org\)](http://Friends of the St. Mary's County Library - Join or Renew (wildapricot.org)) (We now have over 500 members, another record!)

The only complaint the Commissioners had about the Friends (and this was jovial) was that we encouraged them to buy too many books at our sales. So be like a commissioner and come out and buy too many books. And please keep buying on-line.

See you at the fairgrounds!

Lloyd Timberlake, President



**Annual Spring
BOOK SALE
APRIL 14 - APRIL 16**

Fri, April 14 : 12 - 8 pm
(Members only! Join at the door or online at
folstmalib.wildapricot.org)

Sat, April 15 : 10 am - 5 pm
Sun, April 16 : 12 - 4 pm
(Bag Sale Day!)

Library Lowdown



Special Appeal of Participation from St. Mary's County Library

If you are available to come and speak on the Library's behalf, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a public forum on Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30, Chopticon High School Please save the date! The St. Mary's County Library will send out additional information closer to the date of the public forum.

Laura Boonchaisri, Library Liaison

But Where Does All That Money Go?!

Almost all the money raised through FOL sales and dues goes to the library. Our overheads are low. Our annual dinner and brunch generally just about break even. In the past we have even persuaded volunteers (many with trucks) to manage the back-breaking task of moving books to the Fairgrounds and setting them up. This year, due to scheduling complexities, we'll be using a moving company.

FOL donations helped furnish the new Leonardtown Library and refurbish the Lexington Park branch.

Since then, we have settled down to funding ongoing expenses and other items. In 2022, for example, we put in \$40,000 for Hoopla Digital (ebooks, audiobooks, streaming movies and music). Our money purchased a new server for hosting the library network (\$21,513.55) and provided additional funds to upgrade the print collection to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) checkout, in which you simply lay your books on a checkout platform (\$7,993.77).

"There are other small expenses, but those are the major ones," said library director Michael Blackwell. "They have been essential for providing content, making sure our network is safe and reliable and our materials circulate in the most economic and efficient way."

Lloyd Timberlake, President

Wowbrary Will "WOW" You!

What if you could see the latest titles as they come out, broken down by genre, media type, and more? And what if it came in your email each week, so you could browse the selections and get on hold lists? What if I told you, you can do it now!

Wowbrary is a feature that you can sign up for through the library, and you will receive an email each week with the latest books, audiobooks, DVDs, ebooks, etc. that are available for you to check out. Even if you don't normally get into, say, biographies, you can see what new items are available; and maybe you just click to see what they have? I've gotten items out in genres that I would not normally have looked at, because they are right there to see. Not only does it give me access to new titles, but at least for me, it has broadened my reading horizons a bit.

Check out Wowbrary; it will not disappoint! [Wowbrary Sign Up](#)

Carolyn Guy, Facebook Co-chair



Sorting Room Sensations

News From the Sorting Room

Wow! Our BIG Spring Book Sale is right around the corner – April 14-16. We know it's true because we have been very busy packing boxes and our storage areas are filling up. The book stacks are a constant reminder of the great event ahead so please mark your calendars and join us that weekend. Better yet, amble over to your bookshelves, find a few of your book friends that you would like to share with us, and make space on those shelves for the new books you are going to find at the sale. So yes, please donate books now and right up to the sale. We want those 5 buildings at the Fairgrounds full of choices for all of our shoppers. Give your books a new home while supporting your county libraries.

Our sales are, as always, fully powered by volunteers. If you love books and have the time, please join us for set-up at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. We have included lots of information about volunteering in this newsletter so please check it out.

Let's Review:

1. **Mark your calendar** – the one hanging on the wall or the one on your phone. You are now going to be busy April 14-16!
2. **Check those bookshelves** – tidy-up and make room! Or not – books stack nicely and fit in all kinds of nooks and crannies.
3. **Donate books at our Sorting Room** – M,W,F and Saturday from 10-2.
4. **Dust** those spaces on your bookshelves so your new books will be comfy when you bring them home in April.
5. **Sign-up to volunteer** to help us set-up and run the sale.

Amy Harvey, Sorting Room and Book Sale Chair



Looking For Some Specific Volunteers to help us sort and organize book and media categories at the Spring Book Sale....please do consider joining us!

- 1) Looking for movie buffs – there are hundreds of DVDs to organize!
- 2) Searching for Science Fiction and Fantasy fans that can help us make those popular sections shoppable.
- 3) The Religion and Spirituality section needs some organization.
- 4) Love Biographies? Then please help with that ever-growing area.

If interested in helping with any of these specific tasks during the volunteer times listed in the newsletter, please contact Amy at folstmarys@gmail.com. Thanks!



Volunteer for the FOL Spring Book Sale!



We have been sorting and packing books since the day after last year's sale, and now, as we near the final stages of preparation, we need to gather a mighty crew of volunteers to make it all come together.

Join us at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds as we set-up books in 5 different buildings. (Young Adult/Graphics-Comics-Manga; Children's; Adult Non-Fiction; Adult Fiction; and Media/Special Books, which includes Rare/Unusual Books, DVDs, Puzzles/Games, book sets, and other special items).

We are looking for:

- many able-bodied, strong individuals who can help us move heavy boxes of books and do the set-up and take-down of the sale rooms. This is an active, physically intense job that happens at the very beginning of the set-up week and right after the sale has ended.
- many individuals to help us unpack boxes and organize books in each of our 5 sale rooms
- individuals with a willing, flexible attitude who can offer up some time and energy to a great cause!

Volunteer shifts are set up in 2-hour blocks - and we are eager to have you help, whether you have only a little time to give, or a lot!

We ask that volunteers sign up in advance via our online Sign-Up Genius form, just so that we can better plan around the help we have. If your plans change and you need to change your sign-up, you are welcome to do so via the Sign-Up Genius form. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BA9A628A3F8C52-volunteer1>

An overview of the work and our needs:

Moving days/physical work/heavy lifting days:

Tuesday April 4, 10am-4pm

Wednesday April 5, 10am-4pm

Sunday April 16, 4:30pm-7pm

Monday April 17, 9am-12pm (final clean up)

Days of unpacking boxes, organizing books, general sales prep:

Thursday April 6, 10am-4pm

Monday April 10, 10am-4pm

Tuesday April 11, 10am-4pm

Wednesday April 12, 10am-4pm

Help DURING the Sale - Helping with Shoppers/Directing traffic/etc.:

Friday April 14 12pm-8pm (Members-only sale day)

Saturday April 15 10am-5pm

Sunday April 16 12pm-4 (Bag sale day)



Spread the word. The more, the merrier!! If you know of others who might want to volunteer, please pass along the newsletter info and the direct link to the Sign Up Genius form.

Last, thank you to all those who have helped FOL in the past - and thank you in advance if you're able to help us out this year! This sale is an enormous community effort and we are grateful for all your time, energy, and good will.

Susan Bisson-Lambert, Volunteer Coordinator for Spring Book Sale



Annual Spring Book Sale

Friday, April 14 - Sunday, April 16

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds



Friday, April 14

12 - 8 p.m.

Members Only! Join at the door.

Saturday, April 15

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 16

12 - 4 p.m.

Bag Sale!

Cash/Checks/Credit Cards

Memberships are available online

(<https://folstmalib.wildapricot.org>) or at the door



Help Us Advertise: Please help us get the word out about our Spring Sale by sharing our flyer with co-workers, friends, and family. Please also consider printing a few and posting them where you spend your time. Let's get those community bulletin boards covered with book sale information. Our books need new homes! Thank you!

Director's Details

Hello Friends,

I typically like to use the space I am so graciously allotted tell you about all the great things that are happening at your St. Mary's County Library. Many fun new programs are in fact happening, and circulation is getting back up to pre-pandemic levels. Our meeting and study rooms have never been busier. Unfortunately, I'm compelled to write about a more troubling topic.

For many years, library funding has lagged behind that of many other county entities. For example, if one factors in all the cost-of-living and merit increases that have been given to county employees and to library employees—incidentally, we are not officially either county or state employees—we lag seriously behind. Since 2015, county employee rates of pay have risen 59%. Library employee rates have risen 31%--a little more than half. The library is funded in part with state money. Each year, on average, we get about \$30,000 more from the state. All increases are of course gratefully accepted. But the state increases have not been enough for us to match county amounts, especially since we must also plan for cost increases in utilities, furnishings, computer and network equipment, with large increases for materials, especially digital materials. If we didn't have your wonderful support, in fact, we wouldn't be able to offer one of our most popular digital platforms, Hoopla.

Given rising costs, especially in the past year, we are no longer able to offer as much in materials and programming as we once were. The same amount of money no longer goes as far.

We are therefore making a large budget request to the county commissioners this year. We are asking for an additional \$1.3 million—about a 40% increase.

That percentage is certainly large. But that amount doesn't quite make up the funding gap that has arisen in salaries alone. And we wish to provide more materials and programs, and not simply pay better—though we have seen 40% staff turnover in the last year. Our employees love working at the library, but it is hard for many to stay when our starting frontline salaries are less per hour than what McDonald's is paying.

This is where you come in. I hope that you will draft a letter to our commissioners asking that the library request be fully funded. It doesn't have to be a long letter. You can simply make the basic request to fully fund us and then give an example or two of how the library helps you or the community. You may send your response to this email address for the commissioners: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov

Please be respectful and positive. We are not in an adversarial relationship with our county. They have many more requests for funding than money to give and have difficult choices to make. We respect their situation. We simply hope to catch up for some years in which we were not given what would have funded the library services that you want and deserve.

Thank you for considering our request and for your support of St. Mary's County Library and of our wonderful Friends!

Michael Blackwell, Director, St. Mary's County Library

FOL now on Facebook

“Friends of the St. Mary’s County Library – FOL” Facebook page has grown to over 500 likes! It continues to prove a very successful way for FOL to connect with our community and aid in supporting St. Mary’s County libraries. Along with all our pertinent organizational information, frequent posts advertising our online merchandise and in person Book Sale events, the page also features a “Shop on Website” link that will take you directly to the FOL’s online Book Sale at <https://folstmarys.com>

Be sure to stay tuned in to our Facebook Page for all of our upcoming Spring BOOK SALE 2023 info and details!

Many thanks to all our followers for helping FOL’s Facebook page and social media presence continue grow! 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. 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”.

Mary Rossi, Facebook Administrator

Book Recommendation for Nonfiction Lovers

“The Warmth of Other Suns” by Isabel Wilkerson

ISBN 9780679444329. Published by Penguin Random House, copyright 2011.

This book is a history of the Great Migration of Black southerners who migrated from former Confederate States from 1915 to 1970s.

Its author is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalists whose parents were part of the Great Migration. She interviewed over 1000 Black southerners who left the south and relocated in Northern, Midwest and Western States, and selected three to tell their stories. One migrated from Louisiana to California, one from Mississippi to Chicago and one from Florida to Harlem. In addition to telling their stories, the author describes the conditions that the migrants left and what they experienced in their new locations over their lifetimes.

By Fred Millhiser, Board Member

Winter BOOK SALE 2022 a Super Success!

Thank you to all who helped make our Winter BOOK SALE held on Dec. 10th at the Leonardtown Library such a super success! It was a near sell-out and we netted a record \$7,500 to help support our libraries! Again, many thanks to our Friends, volunteers and our customers. We couldn’t do this without all of you!



Noteworthy News (cont.)

FOL Brunch a Huge Success!

The St. Mary's County Friends of the Library held its Annual Winter Brunch January 21 at St. Andrew's Church in California, MD.

Opening remarks were given by FOL Vice-President Rebecca Vanecko who proudly reported that membership now stands at 500 – a new record.

She introduced Guest Speaker Calvert Marine Museum Curator of Paleontology Stephen Godfrey, who held his audience transfixed during his talk on fossils.

Godfrey believes each fossil tells a story, and he refers to himself as a forensic paleontologist.

He described how scientists use the width of a fossil shark tooth to calculate the size of the shark it came from; a 5-inch tooth means that it came from a 50-foot shark.

He mentioned that February 22 is Universal Coprolite Day and he displayed an actual coprolite sample. (This year, however, the celebration takes place on February 20, which is –coincidentally - also Presidents' Day.) Coprolites are fossilized poop of animals that lived millions of years ago. They are known as trace fossils as opposed to body fossils, meaning *not* the animal's actual body.

Ellyne Davis, Secretary



Some Friend's of the Library Board Members--past and present.



Guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Godfrey, Curator of Paleontology at the Calvert Marine Museum.



Membership is strong!

FOL membership is strong with 530 members, 211 active (fully paid) and 319 lapsed (renewals overdue). Many members choose to renew at the Spring Book Sale, but we encourage you to do so now. Friday, April 14 is Members Only Day where only active members will be admitted into the book sale. Active members will be admitted to the sale with minimal processing. Lapsed and new members will have to renew or join onsite before they will be admitted.

Why Should You Renew?

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

Besides early access to the books at our Book Sales, another membership benefit is our amazing e-newsletter 4 times a year with all the news and events to include invitations to our Spring Brunch and Annual Dinner.

Renew now!

You can renew online (or by check and mail). To renew online – [click here](#) and then click on the Join or Renew tab. To renew by check and mail use the form just below. Questions? Contact us at folstmalib@gmail.com.

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 16, 2023. If you decide to renew your membership later, you can rejoin the Friends and we will be happy to welcome you back! You will not receive notices or emails until you rejoin.



Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Membership 2023



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 Corporate Membership

_____ \$100 Special Friend Membership

_____ Additional donation to help the library

Family Members Names included in Membership _____

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



What's Cooking

Mother Pectol's Crab Dip Recipe

FOL Treasurer, Louie Pectol, shares a treasured family favorite recipe.

Ingredients:

- 8 oz Cream Cheese
- 1 TBSP Sour Cream
- 1 TBSP Milk
- 1/4 tsp Cayenne Pepper
- 2 TBSP Dry Sherry
- 2 TBSP Finely Grated Onion
- 5 oz Crab Meat

Directions:

Mix all of the above together. Gently fold in 5 ounces of crab meat. Cover with parmesan cheese.

Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 30 minutes.

Serve with crackers or scoop style Fritos.

Louie's notes:

1. I always make a double batch. For a double batch, I use 15 oz. crab meat. I don't use the more expensive lump crabmeat, just the kind that has the claw and regular crab meat mixed together.
2. 2. Light sour cream is fine but I have had mixed results using the light cream cheese - it can make the dip too runny. Also, don't use whipped cream cheese, again it bakes up too runny.
3. 3. If you are transporting the dip to a party, you can make it ahead and transport unbaked. If you do this, add the parmesan cheese just before you put it in the oven.

