



Officers' Letter

Note: L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald, President of the Friends of Duncan Library and usually the author of this column, was out of town for much of the summer. In his absence, the other Friends Officers wrote the column.

Friends of Duncan Library is in real need of members who can become more active in the various pursuits our group does to support the library. We currently have 174 donors, so we think our membership **MUST** have enough people who can volunteer beyond the regular book sale needs and your annual financial donations!

Our Vice President & E-Communication officer recently resigned due to an added life challenge. This is our most urgent need. We also have several committees with no chair. In addition, our Treasurer, who has been serving as an officer for over seven years, wants to pass on the role to someone else. Here's the list of vacant positions:

- **Vice President & E-Communications** (description available)
- **Beautification/Landscape Chair** (description available)
- **Literary Programs Chair** (Author Talks or creation of some other type of adult books programs; description available)
- **Teen Programs Chair** (looking for someone to "create/make" this his/her own)
- **Social Activities Chair** (looking for someone to "create/make" this his/her own)
- **Treasurer-in-Training**

Please, please give serious thought to volunteering for one of these positions. If you are interested in becoming a more active Friend please contact one of the officers:

President: Lcharles.FitzGerald@gmail.com

Secretary: linda.morefield@gmail.com

Treasurer: cdharris3@gmail.com

Membership Chair: gay_hurst@yahoo.com

Newsletter Contents

Officer's Letter	1
Books By My Bedside	2-3
Don't Forget!	3
Library News and Notes	4
Friends Funds at Work	5
More Volunteers Needed	5
News for the Children	6
Summer Quest 2012 Photos	7
Duncan Friends' Membership	8

Duncan Library's Fall Book Sale!!

The Book Sale starts with the Friends Preview: First Chance Night on Wednesday, October 17, from 7-9 PM.

It is open to the public on:
Thursday, October 18, from 10 am to 7 pm
Friday, October 19, from 10 am to 6 pm, and
Saturday, October 20, from 10 am to 3 pm

Friends, we need your help! Watch for the email requesting that you sign up for 1 or more shifts on VolunteerSpot. You'll have fun and your library and community will benefit!

Books by My Bedside

*This column features books that Duncan Staff and Duncan Friends are currently reading or have recently read. Let us know if you have a book that you'd like to write about! **Anyone is welcome to submit a summary of a book—we'd love to have your review included here.** If you are interested in submitting something for a future newsletter, please contact newsletter editor Polly Morrison (pollyjmo@verizon.net).*

From Carolyn Harris, Treasurer, Duncan Friends

A Hundred Flowers by Gail Tsukiyama is another excellent story by one of my favorite authors. The title refers to encouragement by Chairman Mao for a new "openness," to let 100 flowers bloom. The story focuses on the everyday life of a family who suffers from the subterfuge underlying Mao's statement.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (originally Those Foolish Things and renamed after the movie release) by Deborah Moggach is an entertaining read. I saw the movie and wanted to compare it to the book; they are quite different but both engaging. Basically, the story is about British adult children who decide to start a retirement home in India, as a way to move their aging parents out of day-to-day life. I found this an interesting character study and look at how elders deal with abandonment and living in a culture very different from the one they knew for most of their lives.

From L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald, President, Duncan Friends

Thomas Beckett: Warrior, Priest, Rebel by John Guy

A brilliant yet readable history of the life of Thomas Beckett, a complex Archbishop of Canterbury. Once an intimate friend and advisor to England's Henry II, Beckett was ultimately assassinated for challenging the monarch on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church and its right to retain its economic powers.

In One Person by John Irving

A novel of desire, secrecy and sexual identity, this story of unfulfilled love is an impassioned plea for understanding and accepting our sexual differences. If the reader is not an avid fan of Mr. Irving's novels, then skip this, his most recent book.

The Borgias and Their Enemies by Christopher Hillbert

After following the TV series on Showtime for two seasons, I wanted to move beyond the myths surrounding this extraordinary family in order to better understand its notorious reputation. The fascinating Borgia dynasty rose from Spanish roots to occupy the highest position in Renaissance society. A well written, thoroughly researched and gripping tale.

From Polly Morrison, Friends of Duncan Library Newsletter Editor

Listed: Dispatches from America's Endangered Species Act by Joe Roman

The author makes the story of how the Endangered Species Act came to be an entertaining one. The book doesn't just focus on species saved and why that is important for conservation though (although that is definitely included). It also talks about the value of all species to human well-being and what we all lose when a species goes extinct.

Books By My Bedside, Continued from pg. 2

From Diane Wood, Friends of Duncan Library Member

In addition to his popular book about Steve Jobs, Walter Issaccson wrote **Benjamin Franklin: An American Life**. Franklin was a tireless advocate of religious tolerance. When he was too ill to attend a parade celebrating July 4 at the end of his life, ministers of all faiths and rabbis joined arms for the first time to march by Franklin's window. We have much to learn from Franklin.

Kofi Annan was recently in DC to introduce his new book, **Interventions: A Life in War and Peace**. So many young people in the audience will take on leadership roles in the future and Annan is an elegant and realistic speaker. His book and events of our current times remind me of the dangers of diplomatic service. Reading a first-person account of the events that we have followed in the news is fascinating.

Avoid the Rush on Friends' Preview: First Chance Night at the Fall Book Sale!

By Gay Hurst, Membership Chair

It's Membership Renewal Time! Avoid the rush on First Chance Night at the Fall Book Sale and get those membership renewals in now. Just drop by the Duncan Library, fill out an application, give us your check and, PRESTO, you are renewed for the next year.

Your membership donations have enabled the Friends to help in ways both big and small this past year, from buying rolling carts to updating the projection system in the meeting room. The projection system has just been completed, and we all await the first Film Noir film we'll get to see with the new set-up. It should be a real treat.

More importantly, by supporting our library, you enable us to advocate in your name with the City of Alexandria. The greater our number, the louder our voice will be heard. The city must listen to a lot of voices. We want ours to be one of the strongest.

You don't have to be told how important libraries are. There are some, believe it or not, who think of libraries as only warehouses for books!?! How little they know of how modern libraries can put us in touch with other libraries and data bases around the world. Our library is used for its computers, copy machine, Internet connection, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers, special programs for young and older, and for books, too, of course. We mustn't leave out the importance of our Reference Desk. These uses are just some of the more obvious ones. Many of you could name more.

Public access to information is more important in today's world than it ever has been. So, tell your friends, your family, and anyone else who will listen how much we need libraries. If each of our almost 200 members could get just one additional Friend to donate and join with our voices, well, who knows what great things might be accomplished.

If you have renewed or joined in the last three months, your membership is good for the upcoming First Chance Night at the Fall Book Sale.

Library News and Notes

By Kyle Maier, Acting Branch Manager

If you came to the library on Saturday, Sept. 8, hoping for a quiet place to work, you picked the wrong place that day. It was the day chosen to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Alexandria Library, and all the branches had special events as part of the festivities. With a nod to all the young families in the Del Ray neighborhood, we had a visit from Engine 209 from the Potomac Yards station of the Alexandria City Fire Department. It was not only the children who were interested in the workings of the engine, as I heard quite a few parents (and myself) asking questions about various switches, gadgets and operations of a fire engine. Inside the library we had impromptu dancing to the wonderful music of the **Irish Breakfast Band**, a perennial favorite. Later in the day we had Shazam Magic entertain us with magical feats although the magicians were almost upstaged several times by the young volunteers from the audience.

We have several new staff at Duncan Library so please welcome them and say "Hi!" when you see them. Sandra Mwroka is working part-time at the Circulation Desk, Colleen Hickey is shelving adult books, and Marianne Schecker is shelving in the Children's section.

The Film Noir series, run by Duncan Friend, Walter Gross, is a huge hit. The films are shown on the first Wednesday of each month and begin at 6:45 PM. A discussion follows at St. Elmo's. Regulars have learned to come early to be sure that they have a seat. Please pick up a schedule at the library.

Thanks to the Friends, Duncan Library has installed updated audio-visual equipment, which includes a receiver, speakers, and an automatic screen. This should enable us to enhance our programs in the future.

We are planning additional adult programs for the upcoming months, so please check our calendar for more details.

The Friends also support many other endeavors of the library in terms of programs, supplies, and support for the staff. Won't you become a Friend?



Friends Funds at Work

By Carolyn Harris, Treasurer

Here's a summary of income for January through August 2012 and how the Friends have used funds thus far in 2012 to support Duncan Library:

Income		Expenses	
Membership Donations	1,240	Adult Programs (Film Series)	427
Other Donations	270	Author Talks	81
Book Sales	7,308	All Alexandria Reads	233
iGive	26	Summer Quest	3,499
Bank Interest	224	Staff Development (ALA & PLA)	341
		Staff Recognition/Hospitality	131
		Newsletter	101
		Library Requested Materials	
		Children's	823
		Equipment	2,860
		Specific Item Requests	614
		Operating/Fundraising Expenses	1,116
		Total	\$10,226
	Total		
	\$9,068		

More Volunteers Needed!

Greetings Friends! We are looking for several people to help with two jobs year-round:

1) Box acquisition (2-4 people)

We constantly need boxes to process and store our generous book donations. The best boxes are wine boxes (Trader Joe's is a good source) or boxes that held copy paper (we have one source)--the boxes must have lids or flaps that can be folded shut. Demand varies, but we can use 20-30 boxes a week. There is no heavy lifting, and you don't need a huge car, as long as you can fit 10-15 boxes a trip. The boxes could be delivered to Duncan anytime the library is open. This is a fairly easy job that is really Critical! The workload will depend on how many people volunteer.

2) Book sorting (2-4 people)

We try to keep up with sorting and boxing donations as they come in. The donations are left inside the door facing the parking lot, on a

cart if they fit, or on the floor in bags and boxes--which can be heavy and awkward to move. Those of us who are not particularly strong can find workarounds, like unloading the bags and boxes a few books at a time onto a cart, but keep in mind, books are heavy. The books are moved to the donation room (across from the restrooms) to be sorted onto shelves by category, scanned, and eventually boxed for storage.

Volunteers should generally work in 2-3 hour shifts, once or twice a week, anytime the library is open. There are guidelines for sorting and people to help you get started. This can be a very interesting job for people who like books. As with acquiring boxes, The workload will depend on how many people volunteer.

If you are interested in either of these jobs (or both!), please contact Peggy Sweeney at dlsweeney@comcast.net.

News for the Children

By Kyle Maier, Acting Branch Manager

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Friends for all they do to support the Children's Department at the Duncan Library. Without you, we would not be such a colorful or fun-filled department. Not only do you support our activities with craft supplies and our programs with professional performers, but you also contribute to the decorations with which we "spiff" up the Library.

Regular story times have begun for the 0-5 age residents of Del Ray and surrounding areas. They are usually quite full so we ask that people arrive on time and attend the one that is age-appropriate for their child. Please pick up paper calendars at the library or check online at the library's website.

We are always trying new ways to attract older age children, both through continuing programs and also by trying new ideas. For elementary students we offer, on a fairly regular basis, visits from The Animal Shelter—a shelter employee brings an animal and talks about the animal and its care and training. Don't worry as no animal is allowed to be taken home by a child! Even longer running is a regular visit from a naturalist from the Buddie Ford Nature Center who uses props, artifacts, and animals to engage the children in learning about nature and habitats here in Alexandria. Last year we began visits from a Deputy Sheriff and his K-9 partner. The deputy discusses what he does and how his partner is trained; he is very willing to answer questions from the children. The deputy alternates monthly visits between those aimed at elementary students and those aimed at middle and high school students. In October we are planning to initiate a monthly after-school movie for teens. We also offer Paws to Read for students in grades 1-6, which offers an opportunity to practice reading aloud to specially certified dogs. For dates for all these events and more, please check the calendar for the Children's Department.

The summer was packed full of events at Duncan Library. The Friends support the performances for the students and also assisted this year with the preschool events. This year the library had online registration for the reading programs as well as the capability to keep track of books read; it was very successful and enabled us to track participation better than in the past. Attendance at the programs was high and many were filled to capacity; over 1700 patrons attended Summer Quest Junior, which is for ages 0-5 and their adults, and 450 attended Summer Quest programs for ages 6-12 (see photos below for just some of what was offered at Summer Quest). All the programs received great support from our patrons, children and adults alike. Many asked if the performers could return **before** next summer. Our thanks go out to the Friends for supporting these activities that help keep children interested in reading and learning during their school vacations.



Summer Quest
2012!!



More Summer Quest 2012 Photos



Duncan Library

2501 Commonwealth Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-746-1705

Friends of Duncan Library Officers:

President: Friar FitzGerald;
Lcharles.FitzGerald@gmail.com

Vice-President: vacant

Secretary: Linda Morefield
linda.morefield@gmail.com

Treasurer: Carolyn Harris
cdharris3@gmail.com

Membership: Gay Hurst
Gay_hurst@yahoo.com

For more information:

Email:
duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com

Friends of Duncan Library Newsletter

Editor: Polly Morrison,
pollyjmo@verizon.net



We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://duncanlibraryfriends.intuitwebsites.com>

Friends of Duncan Library Membership

By Gay Hurst, Membership Chair

TOP 10 REASONS FOR BEING A FRIEND OF DUNCAN LIBRARY

10. My contribution is tax-deductible.
9. Books, CDs, DVDs, and more are available for loan, saving me more money.
8. Special programs like the Film Noir Series, Story Time, and Summer Reading enrich our community.
7. I can use the computer there.
6. I can make copies.
5. The research desk helps me gather information.
4. The library staff is friendly and helpful.
3. I get to search through the Book Sale before the general public gets in.
2. Libraries are necessary for our democracy to flourish. Everyone needs access to information.

AND, MY NUMBER ONE REASON
I LOVE LIBRARIES!!

Duncan Library
2501 Commonwealth Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

