



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Danielle Robinson, President, Friends of Duncan Library

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When Mark Twain wrote, "Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life," he could have been talking about being a part of Friends of Duncan Library. Over the years, FODL members have been good friends of Duncan Library and the City of Alexandria by supporting programs like Paws to Read and undertaking the creation of the award-winning Butterfly Garden. Longtime Friend, Carolyn Harris, is stepping down from the FODL board after 11 years of service, and I thank her for her contributions. She, along with a small group of committed individuals, saw a need in our community, and worked many years to provide Duncan with support that we all have benefitted from. A true friend is one who helps without being asked, and is an "ideal" friend to have.

If books are key to an ideal life, then our new Book Sale Chairperson, Sally Abby, must live a charmed existence, as she will soon receive the thousands of book donations FODL has received over the course of the past few months! Planning has begun in earnest for the Fall Book Sale, and former Chairperson, Peggy Sweeney, along with Don Walsh, continue to be a great help in supporting the Book Sale and managing our book inventory during the "offseason." There will be tons of books to organize and buy, so whether you are already living an ideal life or not, please consider volunteering and/or joining us at the Fall Book Sale, November 4-7.

The "sleepy conscience" is often interpreted as meaning free from guilt. As we live increasingly hectic lives, many of us often feel guilty that we do not have time to give back. By just being a member of FODL, you already support library programs through payment of your membership dues. However, there are a number of other ways to do

more, even with a busy schedule. Need some outdoor time after being in the office all day? Volunteer to water the Butterfly Garden in the evening! Had a wild and crazy Friday night? Spend a calm Saturday afternoon organizing books for the Book Sale! Need a project for when the kids are in school? Chair a committee! Visit the friendsofduncanlibrary.org to learn about available volunteer opportunities. And if you are just too tired to volunteer, then come relax and laugh with us (guilt free!) during the Screwball Film Series organized by Walter Gross, held the first Wednesday of every month.

As we continue to grow, it is my hope that FODL can be a part of your "ideal life," by honoring the legacy fostered by Carolyn and the founders, and remaining a place where people who appreciate books, Duncan Library, and the City of Alexandria can come together.

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall is here...which means our Book Sale is Coming Up!

By Sally Abby, Book Sale Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

Get Ready for the Duncan Library Fall 2015 Book Sale! The Fall 2015 Book Sale is right around the corner! Come check out the huge collection of quality books, CDs, and DVDs that have been donated in the last six months!

Wednesday, November 4, 7 PM-8:45 PM *Friends First Chance Night****

Friends of Duncan Library members only, but others can join that night to get first dibs, too

Thursday, November 5 10 AM-6:45 PM - Regular Sale
Friday, November 6 10 AM-5:45 PM - Regular Sale
Saturday, November 7 10 AM-3 PM - Regular Sale **1-3 PM Bag Sale wraps up the sale!**

As usual, it is your help that makes our book sales a success! Watch for the email from *VolunteerSpot* (the scheduling service we use) requesting that you sign up for one or more shifts. Or if you prefer, you can sign up in person at the library. Volunteers earn a FREE BOOK for every shift worked!

Each shift is only 2 hours! While we'd be glad to have you sign up for as many as you like, please know that even one shift is appreciated. Help needed varies from sale setup starting Friday, October 30, to Tuesday, November 3, and sales and keeping books in order during the sale.

You'll have fun, and your library, community--and bookshelf--will benefit. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Abbey at duncanbooksale@gmail.com.

Spread the word, and tell your friends that they do not need to be Duncan Library Friends to volunteer!



See you at the Book Sale!

LANDSCAPING & BEATIFICATION

By Elaina Palincsar, Landscape Chair

On September 28 I accepted the Alexandria Beautification Award for the Phase One landscaping at the Commonwealth Entrance. This was an award for a public building located in the central part of Alexandria. There were 24 awards given for residences, businesses, public buildings located in the East, Central and West parts of the city. The criteria for the awards is as follows:

- Judging is limited to property visible from the public right-of-way
- Interesting plant colors, textures and forms
- Good proportion
- Creative landscaping accents and elements
- Maintenance excellence
- Overall appearance in relation to the surrounding neighborhood
- Noticeable improvement



Be a Friend. Volunteers are welcome to assist in a variety of projects that support Duncan Library. For more information, contact duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com or drop by the library for a membership form.

We also met the criteria for the city's Adopt-A-Garden program by including native plants.

It was very gratifying to be included among the other award winners, which we saw as slides with a narrated description. There are many beautiful properties with outstanding landscaping in Alexandria and we are proud to have done our part to beautify the city, thanks to the funding by Friends of the Duncan Library and support of the City Horticulturalist John Walsh and Library Administration.

Butterfly Garden Update

The Butterfly Garden is thriving and we're planning some new additions this fall. We'll be moving cone flowers from the stone signage area to the sides of the Butterfly Garden and hope to plant evergreens beside the stone sign instead. The fall rain is especially welcome after nearly a month of drought. It will help prepare the soil for the transplanting which we'll be doing October 10th and 12th starting at 10 AM. Bring your trowel and join us.

Family Program

There will be a family program for teens and adults, with children 8-12 welcome if accompanied by an adult. It will be held at the library on **Saturday October 17th from 10 AM to 12 PM**. The featured presenter is Margaret Wohler, a seasonal naturalist at Huntley Meadows, who has also worked as an illustrator for the Fairfax County Park Authority. Her passion is combining art and nature. The program at Duncan is called "Butterfly Nature Journaling." Enhance your observation skills and learn all about butterfly biology through drawing.

FRIENDS FUNDS AT WORK

By Carolyn Harris, Treasurer, Friends of Duncan Library

Friends Funds at Work

By Carolyn Harris, Treasurer, Duncan Friends

Here's a third-quarter (January-September) summary of income and how the Friends used the funds through 2015 thus far to support Duncan Library:



2015 Income

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Membership Donations | 3,295 |
| General Donations | 67 |
| Dedicated Donations | 4,147 |
| Book Sales | 7,949 |
| Online Book Sales | 4,054 |
| Sale of Goods (T-shirts) | 20 |
| iGive & AmazonSmile | 72 |
| State Grant | 300 |
| Bank Interest (checking & CD) | 385 |
| Total | \$20,289 |

2015 Expenses

| | |
|---|----------|
| Adult Programs (Film, Poetry & Authors) | 677 |
| Young Adult Programs (Writing, Movies) | 642 |
| Summer Reading Programs | 2,860 |
| Beautification & Landscape | 147 |
| Staff Recognition/Hospitality | 201 |
| Newsletter | 450 |
| Library Requested Materials | |
| Youth Services (Books & Materials) | 5,471 |
| Supplies & One-Time Needs | 178 |
| Use of Dedicated Donations | 4,147 |
| Operating/Fundraising Expenses | 1,224 |
| Total | \$15,997 |

CINEMA CLUB AT DUNCAN

By Walter Gross, Chair, Adult Programs Committee, Friends of Duncan Library

In September and October, the Cinema Club continued screenings of its screwball comedy series at the library with *The Lady Eve* and *My Man Godfrey*. *Eve* was viewed by a near capacity crowd of enthusiastic movie lovers who laughed long and loud at the witty, fast-paced dialog, sexy love scenes, and the principal characters' antics and pratfalls typical of the genre. Screwball films will continue into early summer of next year with several more classic movies from the Thirties and Forties yet to be screened.



On Monday, November 9, *The Awful Truth* with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne is scheduled followed on December 2 by *Libeled Lady* with William Powell, Myrna Loy, Spencer Tracy, and Jean Harlow, and on January 6, *His Girl Friday* starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell.

In *The Awful Truth*, Cary Grant and Irene Dunne play a married couple and each of them is suspicious of the other's fidelity. Suspicion leads to an acrimonious divorce where the couple fights for custody of their pet dog. Each of them takes up with a new partner which leads to mutual jealousy and realization that they still love each other. How they come to this conclusion and how they resolve it is the source of the wit, wackiness, and confusion that ensues.

Both *Libeled Lady* and *His Girl Friday* are set in the world of tabloid newspapers and the cutthroat competition for scoops and scandals. There is never a dull moment in either film portraying the battle of the sexes as hilarious, witty, and often frantic competitions that culminate in the joining of equals.

Except for the movie in November, all screenings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the library meeting room.

The Cinema Club is open to all. There are no fees to join, but members are encouraged to become Friends.

Interested in joining and receiving more information about the films and movies in general? Email me at wgross3@comcast.net.

THE FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY PRESENT
SCREWBALL COMEDY
 SCREENING AT 6:30 PM ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
 EXCEPT NOVEMBER*

JULY 1 The Thin Man
August 5 20th Century
September 2 The Lady Eve
October 7 My Man Godfrey
***November 9 The Philadelphia Story**
December 2 Libeled Lady
January 6 His Girl Friday
February 3 The More the Merrier
March 2 The Awful Truth
April 6 The Palm Beach Story

SCREENING AT DUNCAN LIBRARY 2501 COMMONWEALTH AVE. IN DEL. AVE

FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Like us on Facebook: Friends of Duncan Library



Follow us on Twitter: @DuncanFriends

For detailed information visit: www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org

Be a Friend. Volunteers are welcome to assist in a variety of projects that support Duncan Library. For more information, contact duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com or drop by the library for a membership form.

SHOP TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDS AND DUNCAN!!!

Did you know that every time you buy something at Amazon you could support Friends of Duncan Library? Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases to Friends of Duncan Library whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.



1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Select "Friends of Duncan Library" as your preferred charity
3. Shop!

iGive is another opportunity to support Friends of Duncan Library. Sign up at the [iGive.com website](https://www.igive.com) and select FODL as your charity of choice!



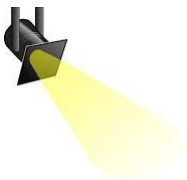
WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY

Sally Abbey
Desi Cooper & Daniel Alderman
James Apple
Emily Baker & Tom Heil
Joy Buhler
George & Margie Chadwick
Anne Grant
Sharon Beth Kristal

Eric & Meghan Knott
Jessi McLeod
Elisabeth Murray
Tom & Edith Nardone
Peter D. Relic
Gayle Reuter
Chris & Cori Woods

As of publication, the Friends of Duncan Library has 136 members. Please join us in supporting our branch. You may join online at www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org or pick up a membership form across from the circulation desk at Duncan.

FRIENDS SPOTLIGHT: Danielle Robinson, President



Where are you from?

Atlanta is "home," but I am originally from Miami, and also spent several years of my childhood in Phoenix.

Who are your favorite authors? Favorite characters/genres? Why do you love them?

My favorite authors are Donna Tart, John Irving, John Greene and Jonathan Franzen. I like stories with humor, and characters who are weirdos and bad at life. We humans are constantly making a mess of things, in ways big and small, and reading about fictionalized failure is a good reminder that, even when we are blowing it, we are mostly doing the best we can.

What are you reading currently?

I am currently reading at least six books, which are laying about all over my house, or tucked in various purses. However, the two I am most interested in are "Fates and Furies" by Lauren Groff and "Purity" by Jonathan Franzen. I am also listening to the audiobook of "The Good Girl" by Mary Kubica.

What do you do professionally?

I am an attorney for a media company. I am also a certified mediator.

What are your outside interests?

I love to read, and am currently learning calligraphy.

When did you join the Friends of Duncan Library?

I can't remember when I joined for the first time, but I am sure it was at a Friends' Book Sale preview day.

What aspect of the Duncan Library do you think is particularly laudable?

It may not be the biggest or fanciest library, but there never seems to be shortage of people of there – even when it's closed! There is often a line out the door in the morning, or people working on the steps after hours. Also, the librarians are great!

Do you have any suggestions about how the community could make Duncan a better library?

Join Friends of Duncan Library!

BOOKS BY MY BEDSIDE

This column features books that Duncan Staff and Duncan Friends are currently reading or have recently read. If you'd like to contribute to a future newsletter issue, please email: duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com

Fatal Distraction by Diane Capri

Reviewed by Jill Murphy, Membership Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

This was an easy to read, easy to forget mystery. Set in central Florida, where the governor lives with her disabled husband on her family ranch. Her son has recently been killed in a car accident, with his best friend, however the governor thinks it is murder and while considering a run for Senate, is out to find the killer. She finds an unlikely ally with a reporter, who lost her son and together they look for clues and closure. The story rolls along at a regular pace with a twist or turn sporadically. Ultimately it is predictable and you can guess whodunit.

Hamilton by Ron Chernow

Reviewed by Lisa Giambruno, Secretary, Friends of Duncan Library

I was inspired to read this 2004 biography of Alexander Hamilton when my husband surprised me with tickets to the Broadway musical 'Hamilton' this summer. Lin-Manual Miranda's exuberant and not-to-be-missed production is based on this Chernow biography and I wanted the backstory before I participated in the theatrical event. The book details Hamilton's transformation from West Indies orphan to the ultimate New Yorker. 'Hamilton' is the fascinating and inspirational story of an immigrant's rise through education and relentless work to the highest levels of government. While Hamilton is mostly remembered for his creation of a financial system that is still in place today, he was also one of the most ardent and influential interpreters and promoters of the new U.S. Constitution. The sheer volume of work he produced in his short life is staggering. His life also included a juicy scandal and an infamous death. I am still marveling that Miranda's imagination turned this scholarly, though entertaining, biography into a rap musical. There are actually lines taken directly from the book. Read the book, see the show, and understand Alexander Hamilton in a whole new way.

The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

Review by Carolyn Harris, Outgoing Treasurer, Friends of Duncan Library

This is a very funny novel about awkward social relationships—what is considered mainstream and what is not, the pull between emotion and logic and between love and friendship, and what it's like to try to change one's behavior. It's never really stated that Don has Asperger's, but his behavior definitely seems along the spectrum. He's a professor of genetics at an Australian university, who decides it's time to get married. So, he embarks on the Wife Project. You can probably imagine what ensues as he hands a 15-page questionnaire to prospective candidates. Rosie does not fit his profile at all, but....

This book was recommended by two males, who said they couldn't stop laughing. When I started I thought, "Oh, no, I really don't like this arrogant guy." However, then I realized that his behavior was different from arrogance; he really didn't understand many social behaviors. It is laugh-out-loud funny, and amazing to glimpse the mind of someone so different in their thinking about how to approach a situation and solve a problem. I enjoyed the read and decided to move forward with the second novel, *The Rosie Effect*.

***The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion**

Review by Carolyn Harris, Outgoing Treasurer, Friends of Duncan Library

I did not like *The Rosie Effect* as well as the first book, *The Rosie Project*. Don and Rosie have married and moved to New York, where he is a professor at Columbia, and she is completing her Ph.D. There isn't as much story devoted to Rosie, and Don's actions seemed over the top to me, in spite of his quirkiness. I finished the book, but it just wasn't as satisfying.

Have you read a great book? Tell us about it!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Brack Stovall, Branch Manager, Duncan Library

It is that time of year where we look back and forward at the same moment. Harvest is the time when all the efforts, energy, and work dedicated throughout the year comes to a fruition. We gather our accomplishments into baskets and store the fruits of labor to sustain us in the times to come. At Duncan we are proud of the dedication the Friends have blanketed on the library. The fruits of labor at Elaina Palincsar's efforts resulted in a beautification award for Duncan Library. And we are in good company, the awards on Monday, September 28th were presented to households and businesses in the City of Alexandria that demonstrated outstanding works of horticultural and artistic creations.

Come meet Robin Sofge, our new Youth Services Manager. Robin comes from the Prince William Library System, but before her time there, Robin worked in the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria in Children Services where she started a very successful Lego Program. She is bringing fresh energy to the strong Children's services at Duncan and we look forward to a long and productive relationship in the Duncan Branch Library community.

October is Diversity Month at the Alexandria Library and Duncan Library along with the sibling branches in the library system will have many programs for children and adults alike celebrating the diverse cultures available in our community. Among the author presentations this month, Duncan is pleased to host the book launching of a collection of poems by Sass Brown, on Monday October 19th at 7 PM. Sass Brown is an alumni staff of the Alexandria Library System and her book of poems, *USA-1000* offers views of the absurdity and isolation of twenty-something apartment living. Come join us for what will prove to be an exciting fresh evening. The following afternoon, Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30, come watch a demonstration of diverse African and American hairstyles, presented by local stylist, Tsehay GebreMedhin of Sunny Salon in Alexandria. Saturday, the 24th of October is going to prove to be a very exciting day, as the third Le Tour d'Alexandria, a two hour bicycle tour beginning at the Beatley Central Library on Duke Street, stopping along the route at Barrett Library, where they will tour both the library and the Local History Library. Next the tour will head over to Duncan Library where the bicycle participants plan to take a tour of Duncan and snack down on some refreshments provided by the Friends of Duncan donations. The tour will then head up hill to Burke Library and end at Beatley, where prizes will be distributed for the riders. But head on back to Duncan for an afternoon of creepy stories for adults and young adults. If the air doesn't get you, these stories will put a chill up your spine.

The last week in October, Duncan will host a display of diverse items, bric-a-brac, contributed by the staff of the Alexandria Library System celebrating the diversity of the library community. In addition, on Wednesday October 28th come to the Duncan Branch Library for a live jazz concert from the Daniel Bennett Group, performing in the library for a pre-Halloween treat, no tricks here, we promise!

Friends of Duncan Library Officers:

President: Danielle Robinson

Vice-President: Mansi Kothari

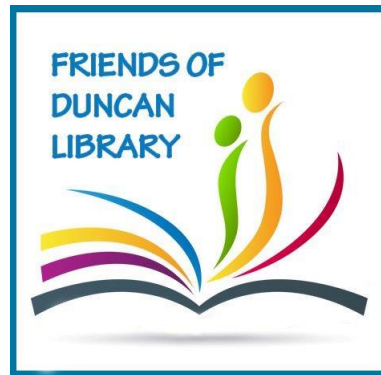
Secretary: Lisa Giambruno

Treasurer: Mary Ann Bier

Membership: Jill Murphy

Want to volunteer? Email us!

duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com



Friends online!

www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org

to learn about Upcoming Events at the Duncan Library! Please Like our Facebook page. Follow us on Twitter **@DuncanFriends**

Friends of Duncan Library
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Alexandria, VA 22301
