



A Message from Your President

Well, summer didn't take long to arrive in Alexandria. I think it was during May when the thermometer hit some close-to-record highs, and has not really settled down much since. But that's good news. What better time to escape from our routines and read a book. Actually, summer is an especially good time to read or listen to audio books. Many of us have already planned vacations. Take along a book or two. And your books should come from—where else but—Duncan.



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As many of you may be aware, the Alexandria library system took another budget hit this year. Why is it that when Alexandria has been acclaimed as the best read city in America our city council continues to cut the library's budget? The Friends are being called upon yet again to try to make up the shortfall but can only do so from the funds we receive from your membership donations and book sales. So if you know a neighbor or have a friend who is not already a Friend of Duncan Library, please encourage them to join. Membership applications are available online or at the circulation desk.

This issue of the newsletter introduces a new column: Friends Spotlight. Yes, I realize that we are elected by the membership, but hardly anyone knows much about us. For that reason, Membership Chair Jill Murphy is profiled in this issue. Profiles of other members of the Board or chairs of committees will appear in future issues.

Yet again, Book Sale Chair Peggy Sweeney gathered a terrific group of volunteers to help out during the spring book sale. The sale was a resounding success thanks to all of you who bought books, CDs and DVDs - and at the cheapest prices in the area. Your purchases are essential if we are to continue assisting Duncan in meeting its needs from an ever-shrinking city allocation.

There is another way you can support our library. Why not buy one of our great T-shirts? They feature well know people from the world of cinema or famous authors. Take a peek. The shirts are available at every cinema club, poetry club or book discussion group meeting. Remember, all the money generated goes to help augment Duncan's collections.

Sadly, we are saying good-bye to our newsletter editor of 10 years. Polly Morrison is moving to Seattle to be closer to her family. She will be sorely missed. Besides being a really nice person, Polly is a wonderful editor. But, as we all know, no one is irreplaceable, and we have been most fortunate to gain a new editor, Vivan Nuñez, and an associate editor, Maureen Schweers, who will be introduced in the Fall issue.

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News from the Library

By Stephanie Clark, Branch Manager, Duncan Library

It's summer time at the Duncan Branch Library! We're excited about all the great programming we've got planned—Summer Quest Jr, Summer Quest, a Teen Writing Contest, as well as programs for adults. We're going to be busy and hope you'll have a chance to join us! Read more about Summer Quest in Elisabeth Murray's article, and more details about programs for adults in the article by Leo Baca and Walter Gross (see p. 10).



Between June 16 and July 31, we'll be accepting entries to the Teen Writing Contest. The contest is open to middle school and high school students. Submit a short story (fiction or autobiographical) of 750 to 1,750 words in length. First prize is a Kindle HD, second and third prizes are gift cards—generously provided by the Friends of Duncan Library. For more details, visit the Teen page on the Library's website at <http://bit.ly/1tZ76AU>.

The Alexandria Library developed a mobile app just in time for the busy summer travel season! You can manage your library account from your smartphone—search the catalog, find Library events, renew items you have checked out, and manage your holds. The app is compatible with Android, iPhone, and iPod Touch devices. See <http://bit.ly/1hWgyQ6> for more details.

As always, many thanks to the Friends of Duncan Library for all their generous support! We are so happy about and proud of the new landscaping (more details in Elaina Palincsar's article, p. 12), as well as all the great programming for all ages we're able to provide this summer. We truly could not do so much of what we do without the Friends!

Friends' Social Hours



What a terrific opportunity to meet other Friends, chat with some Duncan staff, and share your ideas and suggestions for ways to support our neighborhood library. Please join us on the third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm at the home of Carolyn and Jim Harris on Cameron Mills Road. Watch for an email announcement each month or check the Duncan Friends website (www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org). The summer schedule is July 15, August 19, and September 16.



Hope to see you there!



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

Message from Your President—continued from page 1

We would love to hear from you. Tell us what you like and what needs our attention. Your suggestions are invaluable. Not only do they help us keep on track but they let us know what interests you, our members. Our goal is to ensure that Duncan is the best library in Northern Virginia, one that meets the expectations of the Del Ray community.

Remember, summer is for reading. Enjoy the season and you'll hear from me again in the autumn.

Friar

Hooray for Book Sales!

By Peggy Sweeney, Book Sale Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

As you know, book sales are the Friends' major source of funds—funds that allow us to contribute so much to the Duncan Library community. And it seems that no sooner than a sale ends, we begin working on the next, which is where we are now.

The Spring 2014 Book Sale was a rousing success, raising almost \$6,000, not too far from the Fall 2013 tent sale (\$7,500). The credit goes to many people, people who donate their books, and sale customers who buy them, but a SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES TO THE SALE VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN! We couldn't do it without you.



Next up: The Fall 2014 Book Sale

Friends First Choice Night, Wednesday, November 5

Open to the public November 6, 7, and 8

We've received a continuous stream of donations, so prospects are good!

We are excited to announce a new book sale feature for the fall, suggested by Harriet McGuire. We will sell gift cards for \$1 each in packs of 10, to be used at the book sale. Since the book sale is just past Halloween, the cards can be given to children as Halloween treats (in lieu of or in addition to candy). We are working on marketing plans, and hope to have cards available for sale by September. Purchase of the cards will be a tax-deductible gift to the Friends of the Duncan Library. Make your plans now!

Friends Membership Update

The Friends welcomed 19 new members during the spring book sale this year. Nine previous members renewed their memberships and many others made donations in addition to book purchases - thank you! All memberships are considered donations and are tax deductible as the Friends of Duncan Library is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Proceeds from membership, book sales and donations all go back to support programs at Duncan. Please visit <http://www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org/donations/> to renew or make a donation today!

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 contact our new Newsletter Editor, Vivian Nuñez at vivian@infinitymedia.im.

From Stephanie Clark, Branch Manager, Duncan Library:

White is for Witching by Helen Oyeyemi is about the women of the Silver family, who have a strong connection with the family house. The story follows Miranda, the current woman of the house, shortly after her mother's death. She experiences strange symptoms and occurrences as the house begins to take her over. This is a quick read. I found it hard to put down—but also a little hard to sleep after reading.

The Wicked Years by Gregory Maguire is made up of four titles—*Wicked*, *Son of a Witch*, *A Lion Among Men*, and *Out of Oz*. The first is a prequel to the well-known *Wizard of Oz* and is a fun read to find out more about the Wicked Witch of the East and West and their relationship with Glinda the Good Witch. The next two books follow Liir, the Wicked Witch of the West's son, as he tries to find his place in Oz and Munchkinland. The final book follows Rain, the Wicked Witch's granddaughter, as she and her family attempt to stop a war and reunite Oz. The middle two books could have been combined into one novel—but all the background information in those two is necessary to fully enjoy the final book. Or is it the final book? One question never really resolved in any of the four books is whether the Wicked Witch of the West is really dead.

From Jill Murphy, Membership Chair, Friends of Duncan Library:

Murder On The Home Front: A true story of morgues, murderers and mysteries during the London Blitz is an interesting, yet difficult read. It tells of the true life accounts of Miss Molly Lefebure who worked for renowned forensic pathologist, Dr. Keith Simpson in London during World War II. Miss Lefebure was a reporter with aspirations of being a crime novelist when she was noticed by Dr. Simpson at a crime scene. He saw that she didn't blink at the gory scene and immediately tapped her as his personal secretary. For the next five years they worked side by side, she taking notes and collecting crime scene evidence in small tan envelopes and then at the typewriter as he conducted postmortems on blitz victims, murder victims and all sort of other deaths in and around London. Eventually they created the Department of Forensic Medicine at Guy's Hospital where they were headquartered.

Each chapter is a different adventure in various locales and includes extraneous details of sounds, smells, scene and the people involved. The adjectives almost take away from the story but do give the reader a very vivid picture of each scene. She includes on occasion, the court trial and testimony provided by Dr. Simpson to bring the situation to closure for the reader.

Miss Molly, as she was known, was clearly a woman of intellect, sharp wit and strong stomach and her memoir is worth the read for those interested in crime and the early science of forensics. Originally published in 1955 as *Evidence for the Crown* this book is now the basis for a BBC film under the renamed title. Molly Lefebure became a member of the Royal Society of Literature shortly before her death in 2013.

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Friends Funds at Work

By Carolyn Harris, Treasurer, Friends of Duncan Library

Here is the 2014 2nd Quarter—to June 9th° summary of income and how the Friends used the funds to support Duncan Library:

<u>2014 2nd Quarter Income</u>		<u>2014 2nd Quarter Expenses</u>	
Membership Donations	930	Adult Programs (Film, Poetry & Authors)	907
General Donations	114	Young Adult/Teen Programs	500
Dedicated Donation(annuals)	600	Summer Quest Reading Programs	5,292
Spring Book Sale	5,638	Newsletter	10
Online Book Sale	59	Landscaping	5,000
T-Shirt Sales	180	Library Requested Materials	
Bank Interest	25	Children's (Books & Materials)	889
	Total \$7,546	Supplies (color printer ink)	379
		Speaker Honorarium Request	150
		Fundraising Expenses	413
		Operational Expenses*	192
		Total	\$13,732

Recap: 1st Quarter Total Income=\$333 & Total Expenses=\$3,431

* Includes Annual Virginia State Corporation fee & Registered Agent fee; annual website fee; & PayPal fees

Books by My Bedside, *continued from page 6*

From L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald, President, Friends of Duncan Library:

The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business by Charles Duhigg was a great find, and you need to read it. Duhigg uses extensive scientific research to explain the actual components of habit-forming behavior and how they work, in addition to following up with a guide on how they can be changed. His book comes complete with a number of fascinating real life examples, ranging from how Target tracks our buying habits, to how a military officer in charge of normalizing a village in Iraq did just that; and to how the initially unsuccessful product Febreze later became an essential ingredient in so many of the various cleaning products we use. However, his section on how social change occurs—e.g., the civil rights movement—is somewhat unconvincing. That said, this is not strictly speaking a self-help book; rather it is a fascinating account of how the principle of small victories serves as the basis of habit forming in individuals, organizations and social groups.

God is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything. In this National Book Award finalist selection, author Christopher Hitchens passionately describes the dangerous role that religion (of whatever persuasion) has played throughout human history. The profoundly learned Hitchens is unconcerned with offending anyone as he explores the ways in which religion distorts our origins and the creation of the cosmos in the face of science and reason. However as an avowed, fervid atheist, the late writer's arguments are sometimes flawed; for example, he provides all the reasons to eschew organized religion but remains oblivious to the fact that religious people are doing great things. It is important to note that the author is not attacking god; he is attacking organized religion. Whatever your beliefs, this polemic is well worth reading.

Now celebrate by reading a book!!



Friends Spotlight:

Jill Vanselous Murphy,
Membership Chair



Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Princeton, New Jersey. I moved to Alexandria in 1995 and one of the first places I visited was the Duncan Library to get my library card so I could do research on and understand the Virginia car tax!

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

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Ian Fleming, Michael Connelly, Daniel Silva, Steve Martini and, of course, Janet Evanovich. I read mostly crime/mysteries, political and legal thrillers and history. I love the investigation of a good whodunit. Living and working in the DC area makes me gravitate towards politics and the law. I love when the justice system prevails over corruption, mayhem and murder.

Janet Evanovich's characters are people I "know," having grown up in New Jersey. They just make me laugh! And how do you not love Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson? Conan Doyle was a brilliant writer and so far ahead of his time when it comes to forensics. Then there is the interesting relationship that builds between the two characters over time. I have read every story repeatedly.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Ian Fleming's James Bond. I read all of those books as a kid, long before I was allowed to see the movies. I think the technology is what gets me about those books. All the cool gadgets he used to save the British Empire that didn't really exist when Fleming wrote about them in the 1950s and 60s.

What are you reading currently?

Void Moon by Michael Connelly. I'm working my way through his older books.

What do you do professionally?

I have spent 25 years in the nonprofit world of fundraising/membership, marketing and communications. I currently work for a professional association in Del Ray.

What are your outside interests?

Besides reading? Travel and history, which are intrinsically linked for me. I will read about something that happened and then need to go visit where it happened. Conversely, I will travel somewhere and need to visit as many sites as possible to get a feel for the locale and its history.

When did you join the Friends of Duncan Library?

Our family joined during a book sale in 2011. I joined the Friends board in July 2013.

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

Everything! The Duncan library serves a huge constituency and provides services and programs to meet the needs of as many people as possible on a tiny budget. Support the Friends so we can help Duncan Library and staff meet the needs of everyone in our community.

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



Youth Services SummerQuest Update

By Elisabeth Murray, Youth Services, Duncan Library

The Youth Services Department at the Duncan Branch Library will be booming this summer, and it is not just because our SummerQuest theme this year "Fizz, Boom, Read" is science based. It is an understatement when I write that we will have a lot going on. Talk about kinetic energy!

Chemistry and physics take center stage when we welcome newcomer Mad Science of D.C. In their "Spectacular Science" program, the kids will witness amazing chemical reactions and see bubbling potions, while in "Things that Go Boom!" our youngsters will experience cool sound effects and colorful chemistry.

We will once again host the crowd pleasing Reptile World, and we also welcome back two unbelievable magicians, Joe Romano and Peter Wood. Magician Wood will amaze us at two back-to-back programs. The afternoon show will be just for the kids, while we invite our caregivers to join in for the evening performance. We also welcome back an incredible storyteller Gary Lloyd and mime-juggler-storyteller Chris Fascione. Barefoot Puppets returns with "Trickster Tales!" This show will bring traditional stories from West Africa to life with expressive puppets.

We will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Alexandria Library sit-in with newcomer Atumpan, the Talking Drums. We will be hosting him for several events including an evening program open to families—"Sounds of Freedom." This program celebrates music and stories of Africans in the Dismal Swamp and beyond. In Atumpan's "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing," Our kids will learn to treat each other fairly through hearing fractured fairytales.

This year, the Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host six of our events at their much larger facility. We are thrilled to be working with them. Programs at the recreation center include Mad Science, Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres, Chicago-based Leonardo, Bright Star Theater, Under the Sea, and Atumpan.

In addition to these programs, funded by the Friends of Duncan Library, the Duncan Branch will take advantage of programs that are free for us. We will be welcoming NASA for an outer space program, Ronald McDonald for a fitness and wellness program and our very own Alexandria Fire Department for fire safety and prevention. I will be teaching our youngsters some basic math skills using candy and taking them on a "voyage" into the rain forest. For "Mystery Monday" (most Monday afternoons in July and August) we will surprise our kids with a special event (board games, movie, etc.) and they won't know what it is until they arrive. We really do have something going on every Monday through Thursday afternoon (and some Fridays, too) for our SummerQuest kids.

We also have many great events for our very youngest patrons. Many thanks to the Duncan Foundation for supporting our infant and toddler programs (ages zero to five). We are thrilled to welcome back puppeteers Kaydee Puppets and some great musicians including C. Shells, Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres, Peter McCorry and Bill Jenkins. In addition we are pleased to work with Leonardo, Mad Science and Atumpan for the first time.

In past years, regularly scheduled programming ceased when we kicked off our summer programming, but this year we will be continuing our Babytime on Monday mornings and Storytime (for ages three and

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SummerQuest—continued from page 8

Up on Thursdays. Mother Goose will continue, but with a name change to reflect the high energy nature of the program, "Toddler Rock and Read" (now for one and two year olds). The Kids Book Club will continue to meet and we'll have our monthly craft. Don't forget to sign up for a slot for your 1st through 6th grader for Paws to Read as that continues through the summer months, too.

As you can tell, we have a lot going on this year! Many thanks to the Friends of the Duncan Library for your financial support. You are the reason we can offer these incredible programs. We look forward to an exciting, energetic and educational summer!



Get to Know Your Librarian: Marilyn Doherty, Circulation Manager at Duncan Library

Are you from Alexandria? If not, from where? What drew you to Alexandria?

Not from Alexandria, but have lived here since 1970. Originally from Toronto, Canada; spent a year in India and four years in Memphis TN before moving to Fairlington and then to Del Ray. When we bought our second house in Del Ray, we chose by proximity to the library!

Who are your favorite authors? Favorite books? Why do you love them?

Two of my favorites are Barbara Pym and Angela Thirkell. Not much plot, but they draw quirky and interesting characters in settings that are fun to imagine.

What are you reading currently?

Guns of August, by Barbara Tuchman; *An Unnecessary Woman*, by Rabin Alameddine.

What are your outside interests?

Serving as an election officer, which I have done for almost 20 years.

What influenced you to become a librarian?

A long history of library use and library work, plus a very convincing professor from the University of North Texas MLIS program.

What gives you the most satisfaction as a librarian?

When I recognize exactly what item someone is asking me about (even when the description is vague) and we have it available, and when I help someone with the public computers and see that light go on, and later I see them back using the computers again.

How long have you been at the Duncan Library?

Thirty-one years.

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Get to Know Your Librarian—continued from page 8

What is your particular function at the Duncan Library?

I'm the circulation manager, so in charge of those people who primarily work at the circulation desk. I also make purchase recommendations, primarily in the Biography section, the Large Print area and Spanish language titles.

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

Everyone here is focused on serving the community to the best of our abilities.

What changes have you seen at Duncan since you began working here?

When I started at Duncan the computerized library system was just being introduced, and the branch librarian was busily barcoding books and adding them into the system. We still had card catalogs for a few years after that, just as a backup. The children's collection has grown enormously since then, and not just picture books for toddlers. We have a much bigger circulation among teens and pre-teens now than we did in those days.

Do you believe that libraries primarily serve an educational function? If not, what is the primary function of a library?

Libraries are centers for self-education! We are here to help patrons learn about any subject, they have an interest in, or need for. We can access anything for anyone. Our primary purpose is to provide information without judgment or bias.

How does entertainment fit into the mission of libraries?

A well-rounded library, like a well-rounded person, makes a place for entertainment. Stories are important for our development as individuals and as a community.

What do you think are Duncan's biggest needs?

I would really like to get our Tuesday and Thursday evening hours back, which give needed access for working people. But immediately the biggest concern is our materials budget, which has taken another large hit. It's harder to keep up-to-date, especially in the kinds of materials like medical, financial and travel books, where 5-year-old data are no longer useful. In the long run, we need to be thinking about how best to serve the Potomac Yard population in addition to our current community.

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

Talk about the library to your friends who don't use it, and that includes a lot of the people who make funding decisions. Let them know how you use the library and what resources are available that they might not be aware of. Continue sharing the library website and publicizing events.

Finally, from your observation how much are the public access computers used for functions other than social media or YouTube?

I see quite a bit of work on job applications and résumés from people who are not yet comfortable using a computer. My most recent example is a middle-aged man seeking a dishwasher position, who has been told at the national chain restaurants that he must apply on-line. We had to teach him how to use a mouse. But he is working diligently to master the skills he needs.



Leo Baca

Adult Programs at Duncan

By Leo Baca, Duncan Reference Librarian and Walter Gross, Chair, Adult Programs Committee, Friends of Duncan Library



Walter Gross

Apart from adult programs sponsored by the Friends, Duncan Library staff presents numerous and varied programs of interest to adults, as well. Starting with this newsletter, we will present information about the Library's programs in addition to the usual report referring to the Friends adult programs.

Programs Sponsored by the Friends

Duncan Library Cinema Club: The current series, Films of the Pre Code Era, continues to attract enthusiastic audiences. On June 4, 16 people watched the gangster movie, *The Public Enemy* starring James Cagney and participated in a discussion of Prohibition, the rise of organized crime, and how Pre Code cinema depicted it.

The next film in the series will screen on July 2 at 6:30 PM in the Library's meeting room. It stars Jean Harlow in a provocative and outrageous (but funny) comedy /melodrama. Most writers on the Pre Code era include it among the films that so substantially increased public pressure on the Hollywood studios, it forced them to finally adhere to the principles and restrictions of their own Production Code.

THE FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY AND ST. ELMO'S COFFEE PUB PRESENT

COMING JULY 2 AT 6:30 PM

PRE CODE CINEMA
1930-1934

CLARK GABLE
CLAUDETTE COLBERT
BETTE DAVIS
NORMA SHERRER
JOHN BLONDELL
JAMES CAGNEY
HUMPHREY BOGART
DICK POWELL
BARBARA STANWICK
GEORGE BRETT
GARY COOPER
CHARLES LAUGHTON

★ JEAN HARLOW
AURORA HOPKINS
FREDERICK MARCE
AND MORE

WICKED WOMEN
GENRE

CODE TABOOS
INFIDELITY
KEPT WOMEN
✓ ADULTERY
PROMISCUITY
PROSTITUTION
✓ NUDITY
✓ REVEALING CLOTHES
GLOTTIFYING CRIME
DRUG USE
ALCOHOLISM
GOLD DIGGER
RISQUE DIALOG
✓ ILICIT SEX

CALL 703 746 1705 FOR THE TITLE

SCREENING AT DUNCAN LIBRARY 2501 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
POST SCREENING DISCUSSION AT ST. ELMO'S

St. Elmo's

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Adult Programs at Duncan—continued from page 10

THE FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY AND
ST. ELMOS COFFEE PUB PRESENT

PRE CODE CINEMA
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HUMPHREY BOGART
DICK POWELL
BARBARA STANWICK
GEORGE BRETT
GARY COOPER
CHARLES LAUGHTON
JEAN HARLOW
★ MIRIAM HOPKINS
★ FREDERICK MARCH
AND MORE

COMING WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6 AT 6:30 PM

THE HORROR FILM
GENRE

CALL 703 746 1705
FOR TITLE

SCREENING AT DUNCAN LIBRARY 2501 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
POST SCREENING ROUND TABLE AT ST. ELMOS

CODE TABUS

- ✓ GRAPHIC VIOLENCE
- ✓ EXTRAMARTIAL SEX
- ✓ KEEP WOMEN
- ADULTERY
- PROMISCUITY
- PROSTITUTION
- ✓ RUDITY
- ✓ REVEALING CLOTHES
- GLORIFYING CRIME
- ✓ DRUG USE
- ALCOHOLISM
- GOLD DIGGERS
- RESQUE DIALOGUE
- LEWD DRINKING

The Cinema Club is one of the many projects and programs sponsored by the Friends of Duncan Library.
Be a Friend. Contact duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com or drop by the library for a membership form.

On August 6, the feature film will be a horror/melodrama based upon the classic novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. It stars Frederick March as a scientist obsessed with exploring the dual nature of human personality and Miriam Hopkins as a prostitute who becomes the victim of the doctor's suppressed base nature.

Those interested in viewing either of these films should call the Library at 703.746.1705 for their titles.

Duncan Poetry Society: On Monday, May 12, a standing room only audience enjoyed a presentation by internationally-recognized poet, author, and literary activist, E. Ethelbert Miller, who spoke on *Langston Hughes and the Harlem*

Renaissance. Mr. Miller traced the transformation of African Americans from the 1920s through the Civil Rights Movement, and the influence of the celebrated African American poet and Harlem Renaissance pioneer, [Langston Hughes](#).

Mr. Miller's presentation prompted such an enthusiastic response that it seemed only appropriate that the Poetry Society read and discuss Hughes's poetry at its next meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 14 in the library's meeting room. In addition, to honor the career of the recently deceased Maya Angelou, we invite the public to bring selections from her poetry to share among society members and guests.

Programs Sponsored by the Library

The Duncan Library has implemented adult programming as a new standard for our library services. In April and May we had excellent history programs. Dr. Lopez Matthews from Howard University gave a talk about the history of African American women, and Dr. Suzanne Smith of George Mason University spoke about Black Swan Records, the first black owned recording label of the twentieth century. We had a well-attended fashion history program presented by costume historian Deb Fuller. A Local Del Ray business, Amalgamated Classic Clothing and Dry Goods, provided clothing which was worn by a live model.

In the near future we will have more history programs about women's rights. Upcoming events for July include a visit from the Chief of Police, Earl L. Cook. We will also have Ethiopian music featuring a masinko player. We are working toward implementing a monthly art class. We hope this class will attract all artistic levels in painting and drawing. The class will take place the first Monday of each Month, beginning August 4th at 7pm.

The library has partnered with JobLink to develop a Job fair for our community. In addition to the job fair, the library will offer workshops about interviewing. The job fair will take place in mid-September at Beatley Central Library.

We committed to providing our adult patrons with consistent, unique and interesting programs. As always we are open to ideas, suggestions and collaborations. If you would like to see particular programs at your library please let us know and we will make it happen.

Duncan Library Landscaping

By Elaina Palincsar, Landscaping Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

Most of the first phase of the four phases of the Duncan Library Landscaping Plan has been completed. This project was funded by Friends of the Duncan Library, designed by Samuel Rich of The Greener Side, a local landscaping firm, and approved by the City Horticulturist John Walsh and the Alexandria Library Administration. In the years since the library's renovation in 2005 there has been help and support from many sources, including the city, library system, and many volunteers, in trying to improve the grounds—thanks to all!

The impetus for developing a complete landscaping plan at this time was to satisfy a requirement for inclusion in the City's Adopt-A-Garden program. The program is an excellent fit with the landscaping goals of the library with an emphasis on volunteer and community participation, the choice of native plant materials, and the desire to educate the public as well as to beautify an existing garden.



We sought help from various landscaping firms to secure a plan for all the outside library spaces. As a public building, we felt the library should have a professional plan with an integrated vision for all the outside spaces. Because the library is connected to both the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Library Association, the plan needed to be approved by both agencies to help with consistency. The Greener Side was selected because they could provide a professional plan, do the installation, give maintenance if needed, were willing to work the plan in phases, and had a reputation as a reliable local firm. They were willing to wait for approvals and follow the guidelines given in the Adopt-A-Garden agreement.



Above: "Before" Phase I Landscaping Work:
Commonwealth Avenue view of Duncan Library

The intention was to give the library an outside presence compatible with the neighborhood and its role as a public building. We wanted a more welcoming "residential" effect rather than an institutional one. Its location, near the elementary school and recreation center and right on Commonwealth Avenue makes the building visible by pedestrians as well as from the road, so the design works at a distance and close up. The Duncan Library has a Green Roof which is difficult to get to and not available to patrons for viewing, so we wanted to retain the

Green Roof Demonstration Garden that runs along the building on the Commonwealth side. The Green Roof Garden is meant to provide easy access to the concept of Green Roofs and a visual representation of them. There are already materials available in the library about the Green Roof and the new landscaping.

We decided to begin with the Commonwealth Avenue side entrance, our main entrance. Trees and shrubs and perennials were placed to tie the building to its site and add dimension. Space was left in front of the plantings to allow for the addition of colorful annuals. Because of budget constraints, the plantings don't extend around the building on the left hand side but this area, as part of Phase I, will be addressed as funds

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

Landscaping—continued from page 12

become available. The Circle (juniper) Garden is Phase II. This space, between Commonwealth Avenue and Mount Vernon Community School, will have a variety of shrubs and include park benches for seating. The parking lot entrance is Phase III. Again shrubs will be included to give a welcoming all-season presence to this entrance and a back drop to the bulbs and annuals. The last area, Phase IV, will add a pink crepe myrtle to match the established ones and replace the tree that was previously there. Much of this area is taken up with pavement for parking and sidewalks but as much as possible plantings will be added and rearranged for a pleasant effect. We hope to have a full size landscape drawing with a key to the plant materials on display in the library.



Above: "After" Phase I Landscaping Work: Commonwealth Avenue view of Duncan Library

In the past, Friends paid for the spring bulbs around the library, annuals, hoses, etc. The cost of the Green Roof Garden, which was installed by D.C. Greenworks, was split with the City. We hope that in the future some of the civic organizations would be willing to sponsor other phases or parts of the project. We will need to recruit volunteers to the Adopt-A-Garden program. Maintenance has always been done with volunteers—Friends, their friends, church and scout programs, community service volunteers, etc. Anyone interested in volunteering can let the library staff know or contact me directly at 703-548-1585 or e-mail Palincsar@comcast.net as Landscaping Chair.



Beautiful Blooms Around Duncan

Thanks to a generous dedicated donation from Elaina Palincsar, watch for a bounty of annuals to blossom around the grounds of Duncan. We know you really will enjoy this added beautification to our neighborhood library. Thanks, Elaina!

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org/>

E-Communications

Visit the [Friends of Duncan Library website](#) to learn about Upcoming Events at the Duncan Library! You can also Like our [Facebook page](#) to receive notifications of Upcoming Events on your News Feed.

Membership donations can now be made online via PayPal. Visit our website to [renew your membership!](#)

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