

Friends of Duncan Library

Summer 2015



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

By L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald

Summer arrived very early and with a vengeance. Who expected hazy, hot and humid weather in April? The unseasonable weather did, however, push forward the schedule to install an extension to the library's sprinkler system. The work was completed just in time to plant a butterfly garden. A brochure explaining the importance of butterflies and the plants that nurture them is being written and will soon be available.

For those who would like to have a place to sit outdoors, new sturdy, City-approved benches are coming soon. Trash cans have already been strategically placed and have become a real asset in keeping Duncan building's exterior free of litter.



While the beautification of the grounds is important, your Friends board has not been neglecting to support the main reason the library exists - its collections in both printed and digital formats. Thanks to your contributions, Duncan is also expanding its CD and DVD collections.

May ushered in a resoundingly successful book sale. We owe a huge vote of thanks to Book Sale Chair Peggy Sweeney and her terrific group of volunteers. Their combined talents and hard work produced a truly significant amount of money to help the library meet its goals for our community.

Also in May, the Duncan staff and the Friends welcomed new Branch Manager Brack Stovall. Brack comes to us from Radford, Virginia and has a wealth of library experience there and in Texas. When you're next in the library, please stop by to say hello.

This issue of the newsletter spotlights Renee DiPilato, Deputy Director of Alexandria Libraries. Many of you will remember Renee as the Duncan Branch Manager just a few years ago. Duncan is very lucky to have Renee in her current position because she continues to have a special place in her heart for Duncan and the Del Ray community.

The newsletter also places the spotlight on the indefatigable Elaina Palincsar, Chair of the Friends Landscape Committee. Without Elaina's dedication and tireless efforts, Duncan would not have won the 2015 Beautification Award from the City of Alexandria. Thank you, Elaina.

The column *Books By My Bedside*, which appears in the newsletter, is now available online in archival format at www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org. We hope to continue our recent tradition of book reviews written by Friends and Duncan staff being published in the newsletter, space allowing, while all reviews will appear on the website.

Sadly, we are saying good-bye to our Children's Librarian Extraordinaire Elisabeth Murray as well as Reference Librarian Leo Baca, both having departed to fulfill family obligations. Additionally, Friends Vice President Linda Walker recently received her library degree (Congratulations Linda!) and is relocating to North Carolina. And last, but certainly not least, Book Sale Chair Peggy Sweeney is stepping down. However, Peggy, who has overseen numerous Duncan book sales, has agreed to continue to oversee the administrative details of upcoming book sales as we search for her successor.

Our need for volunteers is ongoing. Therefore, if you or someone you know is interested in discussing these upcoming vacancies, please contact Friends Treasurer Carolyn Harris by e-mail at duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com or directly at cdharris3@gmail.com.

And, finally, my wife and I are moving to Whidbey Island this summer after living in Alexandria for 33 years. Thus, this is my final message to the Friends of Duncan Library. I have very much enjoyed my involvement with the library staff and the many generous folks who support the Friends program. I want to thank each of you for your continued support and remind you to remain a real Friend. Please keep volunteering. It's so very important for Duncan to know that an active group of Friends is helping to support their mission.

Have a great summer!

Friar

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR

By Vivian Nuñez

When I first signed up to serve on the Friends of Duncan Library team as its new editor, I received a call from its President, L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald.

Friar kindly invited me for coffee. We learned more about each other and our



passion for helping the library and serving our community by way of our common mission at the Friends of Duncan Library.

We met at the iconic St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. We spoke for over two hours. I learned about Friar's passion for his community and our neighborhood library. I learned that Friar's spirit and commitment were a big part of what drove the success of our mission. His dedication was evident and impressive.

Since assuming the position of editor, Friar has been kind enough to provide me steadfast support. He has been keen in his guidance. And I am very thankful.

Unfortunately for all of us, but fortunate for Friar, we must wish him good luck. Friar is stepping down as President of the Friends of Duncan. He will have more time for family and friends, but we will have to fill some big shoes.

Please join me, and the entire Friends of Duncan team, in wishing Friar the best of luck in his new adventures.

Thank you, Friar, for your service and friendship.

Cuando decidí ser voluntaria como editora del boletín de Los Amigos de la Biblioteca Duncan, recibí una llamada de su Presidente, L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald.

Friar muy amablemente me invitó a tomarme un café. Lo conocí un poco más, aprendí que teníamos una misión en común; ayudar a la biblioteca y servir a la comunidad a través de Los Amigos de la Biblioteca Duncan.

Nos encontramos en el icónico Café St.Elmos. Hablamos por más de dos horas. Vi la pasión de Friar por su comunidad y nuestra biblioteca comunitaria. Aprendí que su espíritu y dedicación eran y son gran parte de nuestro éxito. Su dedicación era evidente e impresionante.

Desde que asumí la posición de editora, Friar ha sido muy amable en guiarme y apoyarme. Sus consejos han sido vitales. Estoy muy agradecida.

Pero desafortunadamente para todos nosotros, pero no para Friar, debemos desearle buena suerte. Friar se retira como Presidente de Los Amigos de la Biblioteca Duncan. Él tendrá mas tiempo para su familia y amigos, y nosotros tendremos un reto muy grande en buscar quien tomará su lugar.

Por favor únense a mi, y a todo el equipo de Los Amigos de la Biblioteca Duncan, en desearle a Friar la mejor de las suertes en esta nueva aventura.

Gracias Friar por tu servicio y amistad.

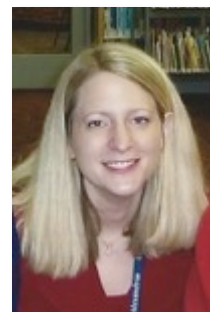
Get to Know Your Librarian Renee DiPilato Deputy Director of Libraries, Alexandria Library System

Are you from Alexandria?

I was born and raised in Virginia Beach, VA. My husband and I moved to Alexandria in 2006.

Who are your favorite authors?

Like many librarians, I have almost too many to name and my reading interests are eclectic. Some of my favorite writers include John Fowles, Dennis Lehane, Gregory Maguire, Armistead Maupin and J.K. Rowling. Yes, I was heartbroken when Harry Potter ended!



What are you currently reading?

I am currently writing my dissertation to complete my Ph.D. in Leadership Studies. While I have no time for any fun reading, I do have a huge list of books waiting for me when I graduate.

What was the first book you ever read on your own?

Probably a book about dogs! *Harry the Dirty Dog* was a favorite, along with *Corduroy*. I also loved Nancy Drew books when I was young.

What book do you wish you had written?

The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson...but it is really tough to pick just one!

Do you speak any languages other than English?

I studied German extensively through high school and college. My speaking skills are rusty, but I can still read fluently.

What are your outside interests?

World Team Tennis, my dogs, travel. I am trying to visit all 50 states.

How long have you been at the Duncan Library?

I just celebrated ten years with the Alexandria Library. I was the Duncan Branch Manager from 2006-2011 and, even though I moved to another location, Duncan will always be a special place for me. I was the Central Library Manager from 2011-2014 and was promoted to the Deputy Director position last year.

What gives you the most satisfaction as a library worker?

I started my public library work at the Virginia Beach Public Library and immediately knew that I had found the right career. There is no better feeling than connecting a person with the information they need. Whether that comes in the form of a book, DVD, or even a workshop, it is wonderful to see people of all ages excited when they discover something unexpected at their library.

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

During my tenure, we placed a strong emphasis on youth services and that has grown immensely. Of course, the Del Ray neighborhood has changed over the years, with more families moving into the area. At the same time, I have enjoyed staying in touch with my long-time Duncan customers and loyal library users.

How does entertainment fit into the mission of libraries?

Entertainment is certainly important, but it is just one component of our services. We want people to have good experiences in our libraries and that often intersects with events, such as a music concert or a film screening. It's amazing how many skills we can learn while meeting our neighbors and taking advantage of what the library offers. I often hear from customers that they have learned something new by attending at a library program and, by the way, "it was so much fun!"

And finally, what would you choose?

Amazon or Brick & Mortar?

Brick and mortar as much as possible.

Bookmark or Dogear?

Dogear, but not with my library books--I bookmark those!

Keep, throw away or sell?

Neither. If I don't keep a book or DVD, I donate the items to the Library.

Buy or borrow?

Borrow! If the Alexandria Library doesn't have a title I need, I use our interlibrary loan service.

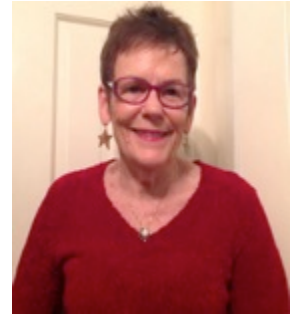
Paper or e-book?

Both! I still like to read some books in print, especially non-fiction titles. I read magazines on my tablet via the Library's Zinio service.

Friends Funds at Work

By Carolyn Harris, Treasurer, Duncan Friends

Here's a 2015 mid-year summary of income and how the Friends used the funds throughout the first half of 2015 to support Duncan Library:



2015 Income		2015 Expenses	
Membership Donations	\$2,584	Adult Programs (Film, Poetry & Authors)	\$477
General Donations	\$62	Young Adult Programs (Writing, Movies)	\$400
Dedicated Donations	\$1,000	Summer Reading Programs	\$60
Book Sales	\$7,949	Staff Recognition/Hospitality	\$174
Online Book Sales	\$2,571	Beautification/Landscaping	\$3,294
Sale of Goods (T-shirts)	\$20	Newsletter	\$300
iGive & AmazonSmile	\$37	Library Requested Materials - Youth Services (Books & Materials)	\$5,121
Bank Interest (checking & CD)	\$211	Use of Dedicated Donations	\$1,000
		Operating/Fundraising Expenses	\$698
TOTAL	\$14,434	TOTAL	\$11,524

BUTTERFLY GARDEN COMING TO DUNCAN!

By Elaina Palincsar, Beautification Committee Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

Duncan's Library Butterfly Garden

We asked two gardeners who planned the Duncan Library's Butterfly Garden to share their convictions as to why it's such an important idea and how it can serve the library and ecology.

By Veneeta Anand
Volunteer, Adopt-A-Garden

Several years ago, I discovered the Wings of Fancy exhibit of live butterflies at the Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. As an amateur nature photographer, I loved watching and photographing the butterflies there for hours every summer.



So, when a neighbor encouraged residents of the Rosemont/Del Ray/Beverly Hills to plant Swamp Milkweed seedlings to support the dwindling population of Monarch butterflies, how could I say no?

That was back in 2007. After a few years, the Monarch Waystation in my Rosemont home grew to the point where I was giving away dozens of milkweed seedlings to neighbors every spring and summer and reminding them of the precarious status of the beautiful Monarch butterflies.

I learned to identify the Monarch eggs and caterpillars on the Milkweed in my garden, and rear Monarchs indoors and then release them to journey south to Mexico. Last year, I raised more than 25 Monarchs on my "Monarch nursery" in bug cages on my dining table.

I was hooked on Monarchs!

I started dreaming. Wouldn't it be lovely if the Rosemont/Del Ray/Beverly Hills neighborhoods could host hundreds, maybe even thousands, of egg-laying Monarch butterflies on their remarkable journey from Canada to Mexico each summer and fall?

I looked for areas in the neighborhood that would be ideal for creating a large Monarch Waystation and also attract the attention of the public. I approached Alexandria City Councilman Justin Wilson, who lives in Del Ray, about the idea, and getting the city to sponsor such a project. He connected me with Oscar Mendoza, division chief of Park Operations in the city's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. I asked Sue Tate, a friend and fellow gardener who had also developed an interest in saving the Monarchs, if she would like to accompany me. We talked about the possibility of creating a Monarch Waystation in the Duncan Library garden. Sue knew Elaina Palincsar, who helped develop the existing garden at the library. Elaina was keen on the idea and said she would seek the board's approval.

That was in February. Today, that dream has become a reality. The new pollinator garden on the north end of the library is filling up with Swamp and Common Milkweed, and dozens of other plants that will attract other butterflies, bees and birds. The garden would not have happened without Elaina and Sue's hard work. We hope that in time the library will offer workshops, classes and information about Monarchs that will encourage others in the neighborhood to create their own Monarch Waystations.

By Sue Tate

Volunteer, Adopt-A-Garden

The Duncan Library welcomed my family with open arms when we arrived in 1980 with two little girls and all our worldly possessions in a U-Haul Truck. In this spirit, which has made the Duncan a vibrant center of our community, the idea of a pollinator garden at the library was met with enthusiasm.

Elaina Palincsar from Friends of the Library is a long time gardener and has, over the years, worked to transform the library grounds into the lovely space we see today. She has worked with Vineeta Anand and me to plan the new pollinator garden, dig it up, plant it and water it. Without her, there would be no garden.

As a retired biology teacher and longtime gardener, I hope that the garden will inspire those walking by to ask questions: *what is that plant with the purple flowers?; could I grow it in my garden?; what is a pollinator?; why are pollinators getting so much attention these days?; could I plant a pollinator garden in my yard?*

I hope the resources of the library can be used to offer workshops, classes, and demonstrations which will answer questions like these and many more. I hope the garden will become a place of beauty, a place where butterflies and bees will find sustenance and neighbors will feel joy to witness it.

CINEMA CLUB PRE-CODE FIM SERIES CONTINUES

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



The screening of Dinner at Eight on June 3 marked not only the conclusion of the series, “Films of the Pre-Code Era,” but also the third anniversary of the Duncan film program itself. Since the beginning of the program 2011, audiences have viewed and discussed films noir, Hitchcock movies, and films of the pre-Code era. Next month we will inaugurate a 10-month series, “Screwball Comedies of the Thirties and Forties.”

Screwball comedies are a unique type of romantic films that usually feature a competition, or battle of the sexes, between a man and a woman who are opposite personality types.

The man is usually a serious, relatively humorless, goal-oriented character; often middle class or blue collar. The woman can be calculating and unpredictable or flighty and self-centered, and usually comes from a wealthy, often eccentric family in which she has become spoiled and oblivious to the problems of the working class. “Madcap” is often used to describe her. Their confrontation is marked by fast-paced, witty dialog containing numerous barbs and zingers passing between them. In the end, their differences are reconciled and they have become mutually attracted to each other with marriage, or the promise of it, as the ultimate outcome.

Of course there are variations on this theme. Sometimes the couples start off married to each other and differences drive them apart – temporarily. Other films may feature a relatively sensible couple in a stable marriage but surrounded by madcap characters and confusion. “Screwball” and “romantic” are always the appropriate adjectives for such films, however.

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. RAY

NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

Ruth Hailu

Reference Librarian, James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch

Come November 2015 the Duncan Book Discussion Group will be 10 years old!

The group celebrated its 5th year in the meeting room on November 2010 with pizza and cold drinks provided by the Friends of the Duncan Library.

This library building reopened in October 2005. A month later, I made a flyer inviting the community to start a book club at Duncan Library. I suggested the first meeting to take place on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, at 6: 30pm, to discuss how we wanted the club to work.

I was nervously waiting to see how many people will show up. Six people came in and we had our first books-centered meeting on that evening. We were a happy crowd enthusiastically deciding on what kind of books we would want to read, how often we should read and how we should communicate with each other. We all agreed, that Duncan's book club should, as most book clubs do, make the group more knowledgeable and cohesive.

In reply to the group's questions regarding the date of our next meeting and the title of the book we would discuss, I, suggested December 15, 2005 and, I guess feeling November's chills, I came up with Rosamunde Pilcher's "Voices in Summer." The rest, as they say, is history! Apparently, Duncan's Book Discussion Group is seen as one of the best in the area, and has become one of the prides of the Alexandria Public Library!

For the next six months the discussion group had selected the following titles.

July 15	Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman
August 19	Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline
September 16	This is a Story of a Happy Marriage by Ann Patchett
October 21	A Spy Among Friends: Kim Philby and The Great Betrayal by Ben McIntyre
November 18	The Bad Girl by Mario Vargase Llosa
December 16	The Perfect Gentleman by Imran Ahmad

FRIENDS SPOTLIGHT:

Elaina Palinscar, Beautification Committee Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

Where are you from?

Beacon New York, a small city in the Hudson River Valley

Who are your favorite authors?

Terry Pratchett, Francisco Stork, Dorothy Sayers, Lindsey Davis, Jacqueline Woodson, Charles Dickens, etc.

Favorite characters/genres?

Children's books, YA, mysteries, realistic novels.

Why do you love them?

I enjoy reading children's books to children - the feedback is so much fun. I read YA because I have a 14 year old granddaughter and I like to know what's out there for her. I like realistic novels and mysteries to learn more about people's relationships and interactions with life's slings and arrows.

What are you currently reading?

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

Name a movie that in your opinion is better than the book.

I've never seen a movie that was better than the book but I thought the movie made from Joseph Krumgold's book *And Now Miguel* was very fine - true to the book and the landscape in which it was set near the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Although the book is beautifully illustrated, the movie gave a better sense of the landscape.

Has there ever been a character you would like to be best friends with?

Aunt Elner in *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg

Your 'what the heck did just happen' moment from a book...

No, but I've read some books for my YA book club that made me wonder why they got written and how they got published!

What do you do professionally?

I'm retired. I was the Center Coordinator at a hospital based preschool.

What are your outside interests?

I like gardening, crafts, music, reading

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



It's a friendly library with a helpful staff and an unusually active and effective Friends group

What would you choose?

Amazon or Brick & Mortar? Bricks and Mortar

Bookmark or Dogear? Bookmark

Keep, throw away or sell? Keep some, give some away

Buy or borrow? buy what I can't get from the library, almost never borrow from friends - I'm hard on books, I'm told.

Paper or e-book? Hard bound books

Finally, tell our readers something:

"What wisdom can you find that is better than kindness?" Montaigne

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 vnunezantia@me.com.

***The Most Dangerous Man in America*, by Mark Perry**

Reviewed by L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald, President, Friends of Duncan Library

I was born in New England close to the end of the Second World War. Since I hail from a Northeastern family, the focus of the war for us was Europe, not the Pacific. As a result, I grew up knowing little about Douglas MacArthur or his legacy.

The Most Dangerous Man in America by Mark Perry set me straight. The book is not about MacArthur's politics; rather his military service is the focus of this biography. It's a well-told story of a very complex man who led the U.S. to victory in the Pacific and rebuilt Japan after the war. The book deftly analyzes MacArthur's quixotic relationship with Franklin Roosevelt as well as the considerable inter-service rivalries that determined the direction and outcome of the war in the Pacific.



Mr. Perry also closely addresses the relationship of General MacArthur to his subordinates in addition to praising his assembly of a brilliant and powerful military team that ultimately won the war in the Pacific.

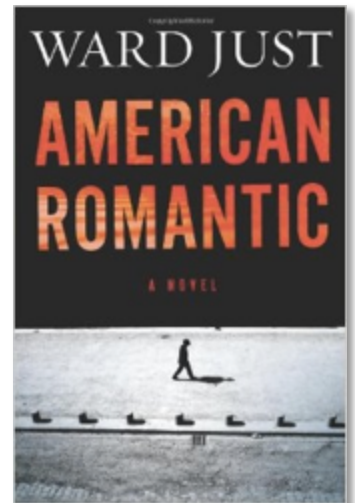
While I enjoyed the author's insight into a whole aspect of WWII that had previously escaped me, there were long, detailed and somewhat tedious sections of the book concerning battles about which I had heard, but held little interest for me and which I skimmed. This biography is intended for those with a serious interest in the Second World War, especially the Southwest Pacific Command and its ultimate triumph.

***American Romantic*, by Ward Just**

Reviewed by L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald, President, Friends of Duncan Library

Ward Just writes what are known as "literary novels." *American Romantic* is no exception. The storyline is rather simple. There are three main characters. While two of them loom large, ultimately they are not really important either to the story or to the reader.

The protagonist, Harry Sanders, is a career U.S. Foreign Service Officer who, during the course of the story, moves from being a young man at the beginning of his career to his retirement as an ambassador, never having been stationed in very significant countries or areas of the world. While Sanders recognizes the shifting realities of his role - and the role of America in the world - he presses on anyway. Perhaps the most salient point of the story is his recognition that diplomacy has little to do with anything other than the agenda of the then-current administration as America forcefully attempts to influence the ideological and financial decisions made by countries of lesser stature.

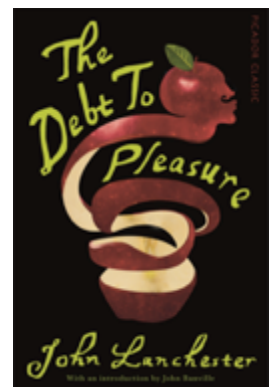


Frankly, I grew tired of Mr. Sanders and his story long before I reached the last page.

***The Debt to Pleasure: A Novel*, by John Lancaster**

Reviewed by Lisa Giambruno, Secretary, Friends of Duncan Library

I thoroughly enjoyed this bitingly funny food novel. Tarquin Winot, the book's pretentious narrator, starts the story by discussing plans for a cookbook. Gradually it spins to something much darker and intriguing. I don't want to say too much about this wicked good tale. I am still marveling at the writer's wit, language, and imagination.

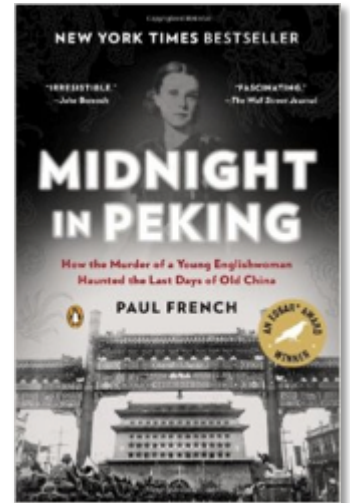


***Midnight in Peking: How the Murder of a Young Englishwoman Haunted the Last Days of Old China*, by Paul French**

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

Midnight in Peking is the true story of a brutally murdered young English woman in 1937 Peking, during the last days of “Old China.” Technically this crime was never solved but through research and interviews, French was able to retrace the last days of Pamela Warner, the adopted daughter of an eccentric British ex-pat diplomat, and come to a conclusion on exactly what happened.

The first part of the book traces the life of the Warners up to the murder, which occurs outside the legation quarter, the area where British law prevails. Then it moves through the investigation of the local police by Han Shih-ching in conjunction with a former Scotland Yard detective, Detective Chief Inspector Richard Dennis, who is assigned by the British Concession to “observe.” After the case is ruled ‘cold’ and ordered closed by the Peking magistrate, Pamela Warner’s father continues his investigation of the course of many years, including the Japanese occupation, internment in a “protection camp” and continued written requests to have the case reopened when he uncovers new evidence that could lead to the perpetrators. It is written like fiction but all fact.



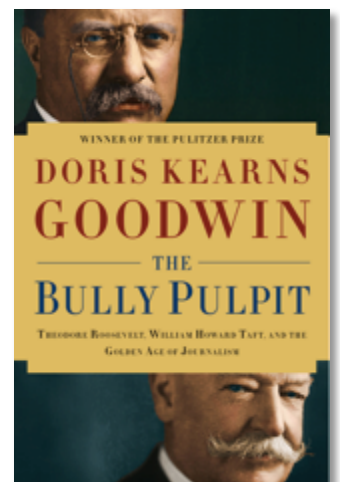
***The Bully Pulpit*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin**

Reviewed by Vivian Nunez, Newsletter Editor, Friends of Duncan Library

This might be a biased book review. I am a big fan of author and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. Let me tell you why I adore Doris. Here is my review of *The Bully Pulpit*.

The Bully Pulpit focuses mainly on the friendship and political relationship between Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt and William Howard Taft and the role of the ‘muckrakers’ or investigative journalists of the day. Doris, once again, uniquely mixes history with engaging storytelling and a style of writing that lures after you pick up the book.

She peppers her pages with what I like to call “gossipy facts.” Doris’ style, intellect, and choice of characters make reading 752 pages a breeze. [Warning: I am also a fan of President Abraham Lincoln, so if you haven’t read Doris’ *Team of Rivals* like I did, I highly recommend it also.]



Teddy Roosevelt, with his brass personality, understood that having an excellent relationship with the top journalists of his time was key in bringing to the public and Congress, issues that were thought as “socialist” or too progressive for the time. President Roosevelt championed issues such as combating political corruption, promoting environmental conservation, and reevaluating tariffs.

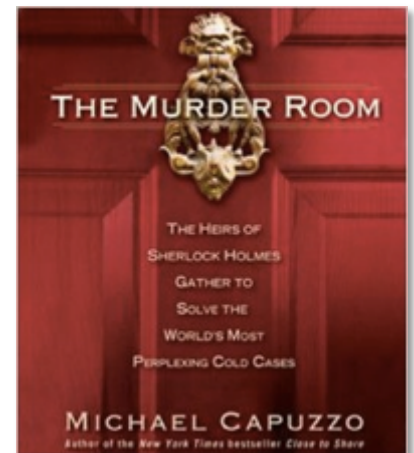
He keenly engaged the public by bringing into his circle renowned journalists including Ida Tardbell, Lincoln Steffens, and William White. All of them worked for the then-notable McClure’s Magazine. This group of journalists was able to help move hearts and minds, and hence Roosevelt was able to further new legislation as a result.

Unfortunately, Doris focuses mainly on President Roosevelt’s relationship with journalists. I would have liked to learn more about President Taft’s relationship with journalists as well. In any case, this was a superb book, which I enjoyed thoroughly. It is surely an engaging read for American history buffs alike.

***The Murder Room: The Heirs of Sherlock Holmes Gather to Solve the World’s Most Perplexing Cold Cases* by Michael Capuzzo**

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

This book tells the story of the Vidocq Society, a team of the world’s best crime investigators who meet for lunch and murder, through some of their most interesting and renowned cases. The group includes profilers, forensics experts, Philadelphia detectives, FBI and Customs agents and a forensic sculptor who has an unusual ability to connect with the dead. He is best known for his more than life-like bust of killer John List who was on the run for 19 years. After his bust appeared on *America’s Most Wanted*, he was caught in 11 days. This is just one of the many known and unknown murders this amazing group has solved. They won’t take a case that isn’t at least two years cold and they have to be ‘invited’ by local law enforcement, but they have an amazing track record.



Capuzzo was granted unprecedented access to the members of the Vidocq Society, their monthly luncheon meetings in an old Victorian setting in Philadelphia and records of their past cases. He has put together an interesting chronicle of this organization, including back stories of many of the main players. I very interesting read if you like true crime. It’s a very interesting read for true-crime lovers.

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

NEW WAYS 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.



Here is what you have to do:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Select "Friends of Duncan Library" as your preferred charity (Be careful...there is more than one Duncan Library!)
3. Shop!

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