



President's Letter

Winter is upon us; the holidays have come and gone; New Year's resolutions were made - and if I'm any indication - already broken. We've again fallen into the seasonal doldrums that each of us promised we wouldn't.

Not at the Duncan Library, however. There are lots of new, interesting people and programs for your enjoyment and, in many cases, as a direct result of your unwavering support of the library.

Before I continue, I want to thank Kyle Maier, our former Acting Branch Manager. She was a wonderful support for the Friends Board and her promotion to Branch Manager at Burke is well deserved. She won't be that far away, so visits are encouraged.

Losing no time, Duncan's new Branch Manager, Stephanie J. Clark is already on board, promising to become a very active community-oriented librarian. The Board is very pleased that she joined the Duncan library in this most important of community positions. Please stop by the library to welcome her and offer your support.

Last year, the Friends Board, as a significant result of your generous contributions, was able to augment the budget-challenged Alexandria library system. In conjunction with city managers, we purchased and installed an audio visual system in the meeting room, allowing adult Program Chair, Walter Gross, to bring us the wonderful film noir series which will continue through the spring of this year. Walter plans to expand the film offerings to include Alfred Hitchcock and Scandinavian noir films. For many of us, the best part of the current series is the opportunity to meet at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub directly following the movie to discuss the film. Saturday matinees are in the works as well (see related article).

Duncan's vastly improved audio-visual capability allowed Kyle to begin a monthly, after school teen movie program. Under her guidance, the

Continued on page 2

Newsletter Contents

President's Letter	1-2
Books By My Bedside	3
News from the Library	4
Welcome Stephanie Clark & Farewell Kyle	5
Friends Funds at Work	6
News for the Children	7
Film Noir Program	8
Poetry Appreciation Society	9
Friends' Membership	9
Top 10 Reasons for Becoming a Friends' Member	10

Please join the Friends of the Duncan Library to celebrate new Branch Managers:

-- Stephanie Clark joins Duncan
-- Kyle Maier moves to Burke

Monday, January 28 7:00-8:00 PM Duncan Library

President's Letter – continued from page 1

participating teenagers got to pick the upcoming selection and had the opportunity to critique the movie they had just watched. Refreshments were available during the shows and, as we all know, teens can eat more and faster than any other group of people. Let's hope the new children's librarian continues this wonderful program.

February kicks off our newly established Poetry Appreciation Society that will meet quarterly to discuss the works of established poets along with poems written by the participants. In preparation for this exciting program, the Friends increased the current poetry collection by buying works and anthologies that the collection lacks. If you wish to suggest poets we may have missed, we will be pleased to add them to the collection. Many thanks go to Reverend David Glade, an Episcopalian priest and poet himself, who will lead the discussions. For more information, contact Walter Gross at wgross3@comcast.net of 703-549-4036.

Peggy Sweeney continues to chair our book sales program. In addition to the major sales held in the library during May and October, Peggy plans to continue the very successful, once-a-month sidewalk book sale at the Show of Hands located on Commonwealth Avenue, practically adjacent to the Del Ray Farmers Market. Details can be found on our web site, friendsofduncanlibrary.org/. Warning: we can only continue these sales if we have sufficient volunteers. We know you're out there, so please contact Peggy at 703-577-0561 and lend a hand.

The Friends purchased several dozen books to enlarge the Spanish and German language collections in the library. If there are additional specific titles that you would like to recommend, please contact our new Branch Manager, Stephanie Clark.

Last but not least, the Friends purchased tables and chairs for the children's area. We also purchased a number of other library items that will aid the staff in providing a wonderful experience for all patrons.

Before signing off, I especially want to thank each and every member of the Friends of Duncan Library. Your membership is essential. Without your financial support and willingness to volunteer your time, the Duncan Library would not be the wonderful community institution it is.

Thank you.

L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald

President, 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. 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

On Clipped Wings by Jameela Alter

This is the selection for Duncan's January Book Club, at which the author, Jameela Alter, was present. Do yourself a favor; read this book. The Friends purchased a copy for the Duncan collection, and it will be available for checkout. Two passages really stayed with me:

Pp. 281-282—A prayer created by Scott and Komali in anticipation of becoming new parents provides an interesting presentation and questioning of various religious beliefs and traditions. I found it very moving and would suggest it be read by everyone.

P. 294—Komali's response to Tusneem following her harsh comment on Komali's giving 500 rupees to a beggar woman: "...good memories make people do good things. Who knows what she will do for someone some day, now that she can believe in little miracles."

From Jim Harris, Friends of Duncan Library Member

Seward—Lincoln's Indispensable Man by Walter Stahr

Make no mistake, he was just that. Lincoln confided in Seward on all matters in his administration, and Seward provided input on seemingly every major decision that Lincoln made. This book is particularly timely, given the release of the movie *Lincoln*, which tells the story of the passage of the 13th amendment, outlawing slavery. *Seward* provides more nuance around some of the more disturbing aspects, from a political ethics perspective. This is a good read; very enjoyable and entertaining.

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

Zoobiquity: What Animals Can Teach Us About Health and the Science of Healing by Barbara Natterson-Horowitz

Although co-written by a cardiologist, this book, full of fascinating case studies, addresses the intersection between human and non-human medicine for the "non" doctor readers among us. Dr. Natterson-Horowitz deftly describes how much humans are a part of the animal kingdom as she illustrates how human medicine would be better if veterinarians were part of the equation. It's a novel perspective on understanding human disease and health by looking at similarities and differences found in animals, from family pets to those only found in the wild. I can't think of anyone who wouldn't benefit from reading this book, and it should be required reading in every medical school.

Capital: A Novel by John Lanchester

Engagingly written, this sweeping social novel captures many of the obsessions of our time just as the recent financial meltdown is beginning. Set in the Britain of today, this 577 page book develops 10 very separate plot lines affecting 20 different characters, all of whom have only one thing in common: the South London street on which they live or make their living. Divided into short, very readable chapters, this novel is recommended for anyone who loves a good read and has sufficient time in his or her daily lives just for that purpose.

News from the Library

By Kyle Maier, Former Children's Librarian and Acting Branch Manager

Duncan Library continues to be a hub of the Del Ray neighborhood; it is almost always busy.

In mid-December we had the annual Duncan Holiday Open House to engage the community. The Irish Breakfast Band provided wonderful music once again; by now, they should be considered the library's house band. With financial support from the Friends of Duncan Library, the food was catered by a local restaurant, Mancini's. A combination of seasonal decorations, conviviality, food and music all added up to a lovely evening. It was so nice to see the library's patrons come out in support and, if people were unaware of the party, they had a nice surprise when they arrived at the library.

Please watch the calendar for adult programs at Duncan. There are eBook Training classes as well as the ongoing Book Discussion Group. In February there will be a special program on *Aging Well in Alexandria*, offered by Senior Services of Alexandria and the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

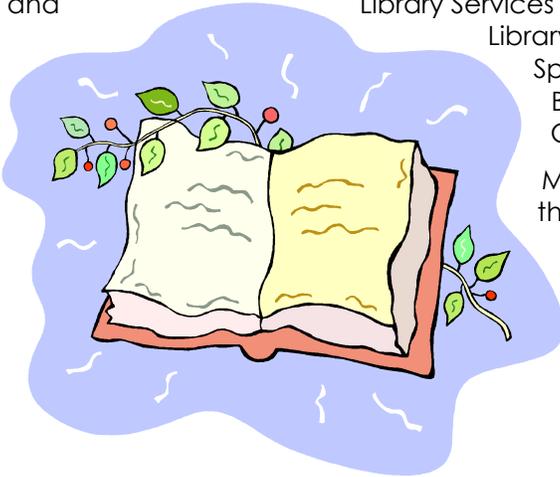
Thank you to the Friends for all the wonderful support they provide to Duncan Library. Their support is not limited to items that are easily pointed out to patrons; they also support library staff with scholarships and supplies. Recent purchases have included materials to assist in library displays, books dedicated to Baby Story Time, and adult books on CD. Won't you become a Friend also?

2012 Holiday Open House at Duncan Library



Welcome Stephanie Clark

Ms. Stephanie J. Clark was selected as Branch Manager of the Duncan Branch Library and came on board on January 7, 2013. Ms. Clark was formerly the Director of Planning and Assessment for Georgetown University. Prior to working at Georgetown, she served as Senior Program Officer for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and managed grants, including Laura Bush's 21st Century



Library Program. Ms. Clark has also worked in numerous positions at the Spartanburg County Public Library System, in Spartanburg, SC.

Besides a B.A. in History and an MLS from the University of South Carolina, she is working on a Masters in Public Administration.

Ms. Clark, originally from the American South, is a current resident of the City, together with her husband. She loves to—and does—travel. The Friends of Duncan Library extend to her our warmest welcome; we look forward to supporting her and the library.

Farewell Kyle

Kyle, it is with mixed emotions that we bid you farewell from Duncan. Huge congratulations on your promotion to Branch Manager of the Burke Library.

We think the Duncan community will enjoy knowing that you started your career at the Department of Justice, Law Library. A famous story is that John F. Kennedy came to town after law school for a summer internship and visited the Law Library. EVERYONE already knew who he was, but in carrying out your duties, you required him to produce an ID!

Motherhood (of Emily) may have changed your career perspective a bit, and after maternity leave you continued your career with the Alexandria Library System. You started at Burke, but when it was closed and staff reassigned, you went to the Barrett Branch. It was in 2007 that you came to Duncan as the Children's Librarian.

Among your talents is a keen ability to work with older kids—the preteens to teens. A heartwarming story is very telling. A boy, who came into Duncan with his tutor, told you he hated to read. This is just the kind of challenge you relish, and you worked with tenacity to find books at the boy's reading level and of interest that would inspire him to read. Over the years he brought in his report cards to show that his grades and reading level had gone up—about two grade levels. He also brought little thank you gifts. He is a teenager now and continues to stay in touch on a weekly basis. He is just one of many youngsters grateful for your thoughtful, caring attention.

We know that your passion for books and reading will provide you with a sound basis for your new duties at Burke. We wish you the greatest success and we will miss you.

News for the Children

By Kyle Maier, Former Children's Librarian and Acting Branch Manager

I would really like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Duncan Friends for all the support and friendship they have given me over my time here and that they have given to the Children's Department. The Friends have been very generous to Children's in terms of financial support. The programs we offer as part of the summer reading program are funded by the Friends. We use puppets in our preschool programs and these were purchased by the Friends (the puppets are a huge hit with the kids and the adults alike). The decorations that you see scattered around the library, for the most part, came from the Friends; we do try to change them seasonally and we reuse them for several years.



Another big area of support is craft supplies which we have a lot of fun using with the older kids. I have been told that the crafts we do are "more fun" than crafts that are frequently done in either preschool or elementary school. In fact, we just purchased a lot of cool new craft items that I will never get to use. Boo-hoo! The turkeys that the elementary students made pre-Thanksgiving were a bigger hit than we ever anticipated and many parents who saw our samples on display asked for directions so that their kids could make them at home. Two families asked for something of similar appeal for the winter holidays when it was too late to keep up turkeys; we were told that we had dressed up their homes. We are afraid that we have now set up

extremely high expectations. The great part of these programs is just talking with the kids as they make their crafts; we get to know the kids and they get to know us. The crafts that I do for the 3-5 year olds in the weekly storytimes keep the refrigerators in those homes well-decorated and usually generate conversations about what we did in the programs.

I am positive that there are many other ways in which the Friends support the Children's Department even if I can't remember them all now or want to delineate them all. What I can say is that, without the Friends' support, Duncan Children's Department would not be what it is today, a lively and bustling department. Thank you very much.

I can't believe that I am leaving my Duncan family. Actually I am only leaving my workplace but I will still be a part of the Duncan community and library family. Thank you for some of the best times of my life and for becoming such good friends. Please come visit me at Burke Library which is not too far away on Seminary Road.

Film Program Concludes Its First Year and Moves to a Second Year with New Series and a Cinema Club

By Walter Gross, Adult Programs Committee Chairman

In June of 2012 the Friends launched a monthly series of classic movies in the film noir genre ("Noir at Duncan") which is free and open to the public. The Friends' Board also purchased a motorized dropdown screen and a ceiling mounted sound system for the library to complement the state-of-the-art DVD projector that the City library administration had provided. These improvements have substantially enhanced the viewing experience of movie fans.

Each screening in the series is accompanied by a 10-15 minute introduction of the movie and a post-screening discussion hosted by St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. Response to the series has been enthusiastic with attendance ranging from more than 30 to slightly less than 20. The Noir at Duncan series continues on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:45 PM through June 2013. Films remaining in the series are *In a Lonely Place*, *The Big Heat*, *Kiss Me Deadly*, and *Touch of Evil*. June's screening will be a "mystery movie" (title withheld) to conclude the noir series. A new series featuring four or five movies directed by Alfred Hitchcock is scheduled to launch in July.

Starting in February, the Friends will launch another series, "Saturday Matinees at Duncan." This series will feature a variety of films from westerns to slapstick comedies, romantic comedies to classic drama, and sci fi to war movies. The first presentation on February 9 will recreate the Saturday afternoon matinee experience of the forties and fifties with a double-feature consisting of a Tarzan movie and an Abbott and Costello movie, as well as a Three Stooges "one reeler" and a classic cartoon.

Finally, Friends will have the opportunity to participate in the new Duncan Cinema Club. Friends who sign up for club membership will receive advance information of upcoming films, links to articles and critics' reviews and other news and information of interest to movie buffs. Friends interested in any of these events should email Walter Gross at wagross3@comcast.net.



Friends Launch New Discussion Group dedicated to Poets and Poetry

By Walter Gross, Adult Programs Committee Chairman

On Monday February 11 at 7:00 PM, admirers of poetry will meet at the library at 7:00 PM to inaugurate the new Poetry Appreciation Society that the Friends are sponsoring to promote "The Power of Poetry." Poets, poetry enthusiasts, poetry readers—anyone who recognizes poetry either as a valued literary art form, or as an entertaining diversion (or who may only be curious as to the reasons for poetry's appeal) are invited to share their interests and enthusiasms with others.

At the first meeting, the sonnet will be focus of attention. Attendees can share their own favorite sonnets with others and discuss why the sonnet is such an enduring poetic form. Special attention will be given to the sonnets of Shakespeare.

Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of alternating months. In April, the Poets of the Beat Generation will be the primary topic of discussion. Each session will not only focus on a particular poet or school of poets and readings from their works, but will also provide time for members to share some of their own poems with the others. In addition, guest poets in the area will be invited to read from their works. Assisting in moderating these sessions along with me will be my friend and neighbor, the Reverend David Glade and my new friend, and local Alexandria poet, Margaret Ingraham. Anyone interested in becoming a charter member of the group or in learning more about it should email Walter Gross at wgross3@comcast.net.

Friends of Duncan Library Membership Report

By Gay Hurst, Membership

Since May 1, 2012, 219 donations have been made to Friends of Duncan Library (FoDL). These donations represent renewing and new members. We are grateful to those of you who renewed and delighted to welcome those who are new. Even a conservative estimate of two people per donation shows that we have over 400 members. Of course, some donations represent families and some individuals. It's wonderful that so many of the citizens of the Duncan Library community recognize the importance of the library to all of us and are willing to support it with financial contributions. With so many donations, what more could we ask? We need time, energy, and ideas from our members.

We've been so very fortunate to have Peggy Sweeney organize and hold our book sales, not only the big ones in the spring and fall but the smaller Saturday ones. The Saturday ones remind people of our library more than they actually bring in revenue. This awareness is important to the library's ability to interact with the community. This area is one that needs your time as well as your no-longer-needed books.

There are other areas that need your involvement. What fancies your interests? Could it be working with the library to improve its landscaping? Perhaps you would help by writing an article for the newsletter. We also would welcome someone with tech knowledge to join the board as the vice-president keeping the community alerted to the many library and Friends activities. The new Film Noir series and the Poetry group were started by those with whom these areas were interesting. We will all profit from these. Perhaps you have a hobby or an interest you'd like to present to the community. Please let us know what your interests are. We'll help any way we can.

We need your input for what our library can do or what it needs. These ideas will help us tailor what we do to the desires of the community. So, volunteer with FoDL! You'll be glad you did and we will all benefit.

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

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, Poetry Appreciation Society, 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

