

FROM THE PRESIDENT—Jay Walker

Any body got a case of “post-holidays blahs?” You know, that’s the let down after the Christmas and the New Year celebrations when the family has departed and the television screen is full of ads for home exercise machines and/or diet plans.

Well, the Friends of the Library has a cure: Check out the activities at the Library, starting with two events this month. On January 19, 2006, there’s the semi-annual Membership Meeting in the Meeting Room starting at 11.00 AM. This will be an easy way to find out what the Friends of the Library plans for the next six months. Other reports in this issue provide some details. And there is an official announcement of the meeting as a reminder.

One of the regular events scheduled for this month is Books Alive. However, we are doing something different for the winter program. The Board has decided to move the book reviews to an evening hour. There were a few reasons for the change. First, is the constant conflict of meetings and volunteer projects during the daytime that have caused even the most ardent supporters of Books Alive to miss the reviews. Second, is our

desire to attract a new audience – people who work full time, but would like to attend the reviews. Third, is the idea that an evening event is a lot more relaxing, no looking at the clock to rush off to another event.

What about the famous eats? Not to worry. There will be refreshments as usual prepared by Ginny Estelle. (We often suspect that people attend Books Alive just to enjoy Ginny’s goodies.) The first Books Alive of the winter program will be Tuesday, January 24, at 7.00 PM in the Library Meeting Room. By the way, that’s another change. Books Alive reviews will be the fourth Tuesday of the month. You’ll find more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

So mark your January calendar to be at the Library on the 19th and the 24th.

This is the third Friends Newsletter edited and prepared by Rita Johnson. We are fortunate to have Rita’s computer know-how and her eye for graphics appeal. Many thanks to the very busy Rita.

You will also note in the minutes of the December Board meeting,

that we voted to fund the purchase of an outdoor board to be installed in front of the Library. As President of the Library Trustees Bill Estelle has wanted a bulletin board for some time. Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the Friends, the Library will have an attractive way to attract passers by. Of course, the Friends will have regular use of this bulletin board as well. It’s another fine example of how the Friends of the Library works hand in hand with the Trustees.

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Welcome to “New” Lifetime Members

Three new Life Members of the Friends of the Library have a common view of why they decided to join the Friends and why they decided to do so as Life Members. Essentially, they were so impressed with the friendliness and attentiveness of the staff as well as the resources available, that they wanted to give to a good cause. Though they came to the Library for different reasons, they all came to the same conclusion.

Janet and Robert Price followed a familiar path from week-enders in Lottsburg to full-time retirees. Janet was buying a lot of her favorites – mysteries – when Robert suggested that they visit the Library before they ran out of shelf space at home.

“Even though I was buying paper-backs, I was out of room,” Janet said. “So we both joined and we’re very pleased. They even got me a couple of books I requested.”

For their part, Ginger and Philip Landry liked all of the services and saw the Library as a real community resource. In addition the Landrys live in Betz Landing in Heathsville where there are three other Life Member families.

“When we went to get our library cards, Jane McQuade leaned over and jokingly whispered that the Betz Landing covenant says that you have to volunteer at the Library. We knew that she was joking, but the fact that our neighbors recommended that we join the Friends made the decision that much easier,” Ginger recalls.

They moved to Heathsville after retiring in New Hampshire.

FINANCIAL REPORT—Greg Haugan, Treasurer



The Friends treasury is in good shape even though we have not yet started our 2006 campaign. However, we have been crediting members with their 2006 dues since October and will continue to do so through our upcoming funding drive. In the past we have solicited memberships in the November-December time period but this conflicted with the Library fund-raising and was confusing.

We made a profit of \$2,953.00 on the quilt auction, made money on the English Tea, and the bake sale. We also have 8 new Lifetime Members so far this fiscal year bringing our total to 22. We only use 10% of the total Lifetime Membership fees each year for operating expenses including our donations to the Library. We also are in the black on the sales of the beautiful Library book bags. We have recovered our investment about 6 bag sales ago.

The total cash balance is \$7,984.00 and the amount available for donation to the Library is currently \$5,014.00. At the Board meeting on December 9, the Board voted to provide \$3,000.00 of this toward the acquisition and installation of a lighted outdoor announcement board. It will be placed near the curb to advertise the upcoming programs at the Library. The Library Board of Trustees President, Mr. Bill Estell has taken the lead in making it happen and expressed his appreciation for the gift on behalf of the Library.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2005

The Friends of the Library board of directors met on December 9, 2005, at 11:00 am. Members present were Jay Walker, Greg Haugan, Bob Lindsey, Bill Estell, Lien Groenwold, Earline Walker, and Rita Johnson; President Jay Walker presiding.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greg Haugan reported a cash balance of \$7,404.09 in the FOL treasury, of which \$4,569.09 is available to donate to the Library.

Fundraising Report

Fundraising Chair Lien Groenwold reported that FOL fundraising activities during FY 2005 netted \$3,451.29.

During the discussion about 2006 fundraising, Bill Estell suggested that the raffle quilt be smaller, the same size as the 2004 quilt. Also discussed were the availability of venues for holding an author-centered event, such as the Northumberland Historical Society, which could be linked to dinner at The Tavern. Venues mentioned were St. Stephen's Church and, in the event of a "big draw" author, the High School. Action on venues to be determined by character of the event.

Books Alive

Special Projects Chair Earline Walker reported that for the Fall 2005 Books Alive program, attractive flyers announcing the fall program were sent to all FOL members, and reminder cards were sent to the membership prior to each event. Despite these efforts, turnout was somewhat disappointing for the October and November events, especially since the latter topic, featuring Nancy Webster reviewing children's books for Christmas gifts, was thought to be both relevant and timely.

The suggestion to include a request for Books Alive subject recommendations in the next membership renewal notice was raised, discussed, and approved.

New Business

Earline announced that Books Alive events will be held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the hope more people will be drawn to evening programs. Scheduled for the first quarter of 2006 are the following: Dr. John Harding will discuss his book *The Reluctant Rebel* on January 24, Peggy Evans Garland will

discuss her book of collected legal advice columns on February 28, and Robert Crown, book title TBA, will speak on Mar. 28.

Jay Walker and Jayne McQuade will coordinate with the Northumberland public schools to bring back BluesWorks for a musical fundraiser in February. Local businesses will be solicited to sponsor the event, and the board agreed that ticket prices would be \$15 general admission, \$12 for seniors, and free for FOL life members (which will require that we institute a Life Member Card). Publicity for the BluesWorks event will include Northern Neck and Essex County media PSAs and posters at post offices, banks, and stores throughout the Neck.

Membership renewal notice will be sent to FOL members by March 15. Solicitation for new members will be sent to nonmembers who have made contributions directly to the library.

Bill Estell offered two major library projects for FOL to sponsor: (1) installation of a study carrel to house county documents and (2) construction of a weather-proof, permanent message board in front of the library. After discussion of the cost of the message board illustrated in the catalog shown by Bill, the board voted to proceed with the message board project. With approval by the board, Greg committed \$2,000 from the FOL treasury to initiate the project.

Also suggested was an FOL donation to increase the size of the library's collection of DVDs and books on CD, but the measure was not brought up for a vote.

Lien expressed her desire to organize a "big author" fundraiser for April. Andrew Levy (*The First Emancipator*) was suggested as a candidate for the event.

Earline and Jay volunteered to research options for charter boat ride and lunch as an FOL fundraiser in May, 2006.

The next FOL semi-annual membership meeting will be held Friday, January 20; the June meeting, date to be announced, will include the nomination and election of officers.

BOOK REVIEW: A More Elaborate Veil—*Bob Lindsey*

Have you discovered how a good book on tape or disc can relieve commuter's tedium? Good! You should know that our dear library has a quite respectable collection of them, including, "Chronicles: Volume One", Bob Dylan's first installment of autobiography.

As a big fan of early Dylan, I put "Chronicles" high on my list of "must reads" when it came out last year, and regretted the time it remained unread, so I was quite happy to see it at the library, and checked it out. I could drive and absorb the book at the same time. Multitasking the easy way!

In "Chronicles", Dylan reveals his genuinely profound love of American folk music, and how it informed his song writing. There can no longer be any doubt that he deserves to be considered a member of the folk music family, having written songs in the tradition but in an idiom of the Sixties, and touching the souls of those folks, even if they couldn't explain the lyrics.

There are some great stories of his life as a performer in the "basket joints" of Greenwich Village, who he hung out with and played music with, the contents of his first apartment. It's interesting to hear what he thought of contemporary musicians, like Frank Sinatra, Roy Orbison, the Kingston Trio, and others. He vividly conveys the excitement he felt when listening to old records of folk and blues musicians he had not previously heard, like Robert Johnson; and his respect and affection for Woody Guthrie.

Also revealing is what he felt about his fame. "Chronicles" has a chapter of how badly he was harassed at his home in Woodstock, N.Y. by the riff-raff of the sixties counter-culture, and how disturbed he was by the iconic status imposed by of that segment of society. He hated being thought of a spokesman for a generation whom he says he didn't understand. Therein lies a crucial contradiction: His songs derived from folk music, but what folk was he writing for, if not the counter-culture of the Sixties?

Although avid fans of Dylan will find much to enjoy in "Chronicles", there is much that disappoints. You might be surprised to hear him praise the work of Thucydides and Clausewitz, pleased that he even read them. Later, you may wonder if he was only parroting something he heard in late-night bull sessions with Greenwich Village intellectuals.

Do you remember the long tour and storied relationship between Bob Dylan and Joan Baez? The only comments about her is that he admired her artistry when she first hit the scene, and resented her later public call for him to come out of his period of retreat from fame to again assume leadership of his generation. Not that we'd want to hear the "juicy stuff" but surely there is something of significance in his memory of their shared experiences.

Especially frustrating are accounts of changes in the direction of his music. Those changes astonished the music world at the time, and greatly upset his fans. He speaks of those times with long strings of short hyperbolic sentences that grab your attention, but carry little of substance beyond a facility with hyperbole. Result? You're all stirred up, but you still don't know what happened. When the disc ended, I realized he hadn't said more than a few words about the culture-shaking songs he had written!

It was both fun to listen to "Chronicles" while driving here and there, and puzzling. Dylan removed some veils, but only brocaded those that remain. I'm glad I didn't invest the money in buying the book, or the time in reading it.



- Earline Walker

Books Alive IS alive and well but at a different date and time. In order to alleviate day-time conflicts, the reviews will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Different time, different date but the same great place - the meeting room at the library. The winter schedule is varied and exciting, beginning with:

January 24 - **Ask Peggy** reviewed by author Peggy Garland. Covering such topics as Real Estate, Contracts and Judgments, and Divorce and Custody, this is a book of free legal advice for Virginians. As it states on the cover, "Sooner or later you will need this book! Ms Garland will answer individual questions at the end of the review so come ready to "Ask Peggy"!"

February 28 - **The First Emancipator** by Andrew Levy and Israel on the Appomattox by Melvin Patrick Ely reviewed by Robert Crown. Dr. Crown will examine the conflicting interpretations and conclusions generated from these two books about the conditions surrounding emancipation of slaves in Virginia during this turbulent period.

March 28 - **A Reluctant Rebel** by John H. Harding, Jr. Dr. Harding will tell of his research that culminated in his book about life, culture and history in Virginia long ago and particularly his ancestor who lived at Springfield in Heathsville.

Informal discussion will follow the reviews. Desserts will be available after and during reviews.

Friends members should watch for the reminder cards that will be sent before each session and mark their calendars. Also, be sure to pick up a bookmark listing the winter schedule at the Library front desk.

Following each review, presenters will have a book of their choice donated to the Library in their name.

Attention All FOL Members!

Please be advised that pursuant to the By-Laws of the Friends of the Library, the semi-annual meeting of the Friends will take place on Thursday, January 19, 2006, at 11.00 AM in the Meeting Room of the Library in Heathsville, VA.

The meeting will consider the following:

- Minutes of the membership meeting, June 2005
- Reports from officers and committees
- Plans for winter and spring of 2006

See you there!

LIBRARY QUILT WINNER CLAIMS HER PRIZE



All the way from Pittsburgh, PA, to Heathsville, Judy Jim (far right) came to the Northumberland Public Library on New Years Eve to claim the quilt she won in the Friends of the Library raffle. Her winning ticket was chosen at a drawing in November. Ms. Jim purchased the ticket at the Irvington Farmers Market last summer during a visit to her sister who lives in Whitestone. She took the quilt back to Pittsburgh. Holding up the quilt are Jayne McQuade, Library Director, (left) and Lien Groenwold, vice president of the Friends of the Library and chair of the volunteer quilt-makers, called, "Ladies of the Night." Said Groenwold, "This is the first time the quilt will go off the Northern Neck. It's hard to give it up." The quilt was designed by Nancy Brannon.

New Books in the Library (Check the "new book" section in the Library for the complete selection)

1. A breath of snow and ashes /, Gabaldon, Diana. The latest episode in Gabaldon's epic Scotland/America/time travel series. Also on CD, 48 disks!
2. The camel club /, Baldacci, David. His latest!
3. Chesapeake Bay blues : science, politics, and the struggle to save the bay /, Ernst, Howard R., 333.95 ERN A topic that should concern all of us.
4. Chocolate : a bittersweet saga of dark and light /, Rosenblum, Mort. 641.3 ROS Yum!
5. Demystifying grant seeking : what you really need to do to get grants /, Brown, Larissa Golden ; Brown, Martin John 658.15 BRO A good guide book
6. Dining at Monticello : in good taste and abundance /, Fowler, Damon Lee. 641.5973 DIN Beautiful and a good cookbook too.
7. Fiddlers : a novel of the 87th Precinct /, McBain, Ed. The last one, as even the ghost writer has passed on.
8. Healthy aging : a lifelong guide to your physical and spiritual well-being, Weil, Andrew. 612.67 WEI
9. Locked rooms : a Mary Russell novel /, King, Laurie R. New in the series about Sherlock Holmes and his young wife. Set in San Francisco after the earthquake.
10. Marley & me : life and love with the world's worst dog /, Grogan, John. 636.752 GRO If you've ever been owned by a yellow lab, this is a book for you!
11. No country for old men /, McCarthy, Cormac.
12. Roofing, flashing & waterproofing, 695 ROF From the editors of Fine Homebuilding.
13. S is for silence /, Grafton, Sue. Only seven more books to go.
14. Saving fish from drowning /, Tan, Amy.
15. The shame of the nation : the restoration of apartheid schooling in America /, Kozol, Jonathan. 379.2 KOZ
16. Talk to the hand and making the cat laugh. [Sound Recording], Truss, Lynne. ; Landor, Rosalyn, AUD 395 TRU Audio book from the author of "Eats shoots and leaves."
17. The world is flat : a brief history of the twenty-first century /, Friedman, Thomas L. 303.48 FRI
18. The year of magical thinking /, Didion, Joan., B DIDION Written after her husband's sudden death.

FROM THE DIRECTOR—*Jayne McQuade*

Do you make New Year's Resolutions? I'm not a very good resolver, myself, but I was intrigued by a list of resolutions for library users sent to me by a colleague. I've recorded some of them here.

Resolutions for Library Users

1. I will reread a book I loved as a child.
2. I will reread a book I just didn't "get" when I was eighteen. (Should I keep this one, the book would be Vanity Fair. Couldn't stand it!)
3. I will spend an hour in aimless browsing at a library.
4. I will create a journal and keep notes about the books and magazines I have read. (OK, this one I could really use!)
5. I will read a book to a child.
6. I will read a book written from a political point of view totally opposite my own.
7. I will find a book of poetry and read some aloud.
8. I will read a book on the history of my town ('course, you may have to write it first!)
9. I will read a book about a place I've never been.
10. I will read a book written in the year I was born.

Which of these might you keep?

Do you know the library offers interlibrary loan (ILL) service? For a mere dollar per request, we'll search for a book you need but which we do not own and try to borrow it from another library for your use.

Porter Kier has been volunteering as our ILL specialist for years and is an expert searcher.

He comes in at least once a week and logs onto a service called OCLC. It's best described as a huge card catalog in the sky. Based in Dublin, Ohio, near Columbus, it started as an online union catalog for universities in Ohio back in the pioneer days of computers. Now it's an international resource and even includes records in non-Roman alphabets. It recently added its one billionth bibliographic record! Most any book you'd want is listed in it.

Porter finds the book, checks to see which libraries own it and posts requests to borrow the item. He generally chooses 5 libraries which will be asked in turn for the book. The first library in the list which has the book in hand then sends it to us for your use. The lending library gets to set the rules—how long you can have the book; whether or not the loan can be extended; if it has to be used in the library or you can take it home; if you can copy pages from the book. We'll call you when the book comes in, charge you one dollar and remind you to return the book directly to the front desk.

There are some restrictions. Generally we can't borrow a very new book, say within 6 to 12 months of publication. Almost no libraries loan recorded books or videos. Libraries will usually copy articles from magazines but not loan the magazine issues. Because of the type of membership we have in OCLC, we're generally restricted to borrowing from libraries in the South East US, but we can sometimes get permission to borrow from outside the area.

Remember interlibrary loan when you think of the services of the library!

Board Members

President: Jay Walker
Vice President: Lien Groenwold
Treasurer: Greg Haugan
Secretary: Bob Lindsey

Publicity: Bob Lindsey
Ways and Means: Lien Groenwold
Books Alive: Earline Walker
Ginny Estell-Hospitality
Membership: Ann Raikes

Newsletter Editor— Rita Johnson
Photographer—Tom Ryals

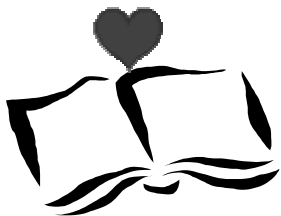
Wine and Cheese Party



Members of Friends of the Library enjoy wine and cheese while waiting for the winning raffle ticket to be drawn.

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