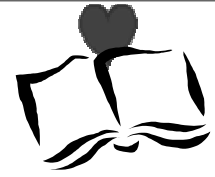


# FRIENDS of the LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Issue 3

July 2005



FRIENDS of the LIBRARY  
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

## FROM THE PRESIDENT—*Jay Walker*

The new Friends of the Library Board got off to a strong start at the July 12th planning meeting. It was an informal get together with lunch at my home in Callao. (I'm smart enough to know that my wife's lunches will easily attract 100 percent attendance.)

The board members and their responsibilities appear elsewhere in this newsletter. But I want to acknowledge thanks to Ann Brown for her commitment to the Library as president. And I am very, very happy to have Lien and Greg returning as vice-president and treasurer respectively. In addition, I welcome Bob Lindsey as secretary and publicity chair and Earline Walker (see lunch reference above) as special projects chair, which includes Books Alive. This is an outstanding team determined to move the Friends forward in its support of the Library.

What did we discuss at the meeting? I listed the following objectives on the agenda:

- Increase FOL membership headed by a very enthusiastic Ann Raikes.
- Boost attendance for Books Alive under the lead of Earline.
- Continue fund raising efforts. Do I need to mention Lien in this regard?
- Link promotion to all FOL pro-

grams headed by Bob.

- Review the look and content of the Friends Newsletter edited by Rita Johnson.
- Set a budget and stick to it. Need I mention Greg's role here?

Even in two and a half hours, we were not able to air all of the ideas related to these objectives. Lunch, by the way, consisted of cold cucumber soup, mixed sandwiches, and a really yummy chocolate mousse. (Board membership has its rewards.)

The main accomplishment was that we are off and running. For example, less than two hours after leaving my house, Greg emailed a proposed budget to me. (I don't know what took him so long. He must have stopped at the market on the way home.)

By the time we have our first official board meeting in September a number of initiatives coming out of this meeting will be under way.

And that leads to something that you, as a member, can do for Friends. One of the best ways to increase membership is by word of mouth. Is there a newcomer or a week-ender in your neighborhood who should join? We all belong to various community organizations.

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How about talking up Friends membership at these meetings?

Communication is a big issue. We plan to install a new, Friends-only bulletin board inside the Library to keep people up to date on our activities. In addition, we will put Friends membership forms at the three Library book drops in the county.

Finally, I will launch a monthly Memo to Members to describe Friends projects and solicit ideas for fund-raising events or fun-raising events. We'll be getting our message out via the monthly Memo to Members, the quarterly Newsletter, and the Library bulletin board. Meanwhile, you can help spread the word for new members.

## BOOK REVIEW: - *Bob Lindsey*

### A Great Event Forgotten

Lovers of Northern Neck history, rejoice! A new book is out -- and it's a bell-ringer -- about a historically significant action little noted until now. Moreover, this action was that of a man who may have been a disappointment to his family and many of his contemporaries, among them the Virginian founding fathers of our nation, but who surpassed them all in one respect.

Robert Carter III, a grandson of Robert "King" Carter, was neighbor and kin to the Washingtons and Lees and a friend of Thomas Jefferson and George Mason. He owned thousands of acres of forest and farmland and hundreds of slaves, but in 1791 he signed his name to what he called his "Deed of Gift," a legal document that declared his intent to free nearly 500 slaves, an intent realized over subsequent years. It was an act that Washington and Jefferson, among other slave owners, had wished but failed to accomplish in their lifetimes; it was the largest single act of manumission before the Emancipation Proclamation.

In *The First Emancipator: The Forgotten Story of Robert Carter*, Andrew Levy not only reveals this astonishing event to us, but also presents us with a vivid picture of political, economic, and social life in

the Northern Neck in the time of Revolution. Mr. Levy's presentation is occasionally awkward but always well researched, as documented in the introduction, bibliography, and in the user-friendly notes.

The *First Emancipator*, now available at the library, fills a gap in our historical knowledge that most of us are not aware of, and those of you who enjoyed the "Journal and Letters of Phillip Vickers Fithian, 1773-1774," covering Fithian's term as tutor to Robert Carter's children, will find it an especially enjoyable read. As an introduction to the Northern Neck's history, Levy's work will no doubt pique your interest in reading more.

*The First Emancipator: The Forgotten Story of Robert Carter, the Founding Father Who Freed His Slaves* by Andrew Levy. Random House. 295 pp.

- THE BOOK REVIEW CORNER is a regular column in the NEWSLETTER. All FOL are welcome to send "Reviews" for possible publication in future issues to the Editor, Rita Johnson at [pjrj@crosslink.net](mailto:pjrj@crosslink.net).

## BOOKS ALIVE SETS FALL SCHEDULE—*Earline Walker*

The Books Alive program resumes on Thursday, September 15 at 11:00. This is a return to the original meeting date and time for this monthly program. Once again the program features a variety of topics intended to accommodate a variety of interests.

It is important to note that Books Alive is a review of books or topics, not a discussion. You don't have to read the book to enjoy these interesting and informative presentations. However, after the presentation and the informal question and answer period, you may want to read the book.

The fall schedule is as follows:

- September 15 - Collapse by Jared Diamond, reviewed by Dr. G. T. Haugan—The author examines how societies choose to fail or succeed.
- October 20 - After Silence by Nancy Venable Raine reviewed by Barbara Shine—The author describes the ten-year aftermath of a sexual assault and illustrates the truth that a trauma does not end when the victim finds herself alive.
- November 17 - Northumberland Library's Children's Librarian, Nancy Webster, will review children's, juvenile and young adult books suggested for Christmas giving.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2005—*Bob Lindsey, Secretary*

President Ann Brown called the meeting to order.

### Election of New Officers and Committee Chairpersons

Jay Walker will serve as President. Lien Groenwald will continue to serve as Vice President. Greg Haugen will continue to serve as Treasurer. Bob Lindsey was elected Secretary. Ann Raikes was elected to chair the Membership Committee. Earline Walker was elected to chair "Books Alive". Lien Groenwald will continue to chair the Ways and Means Committee. Rita Johnson will continue to edit the newsletter.

### New President's Report

Objectives:

- Increase membership. To that end Jay recommends attending meetings of other groups to learn methods of others; launch a membership growth program; create a progress chart; publish the name of

each new member in the newsletter; engage Lancaster Library in a "Membership Growth" competition; encourage members to recruit.

- Reinvigorate Books Alive program. Research whether the day and time of "Books Alive" should be changed; investigate how Lancaster Library runs their speaker program; mail out monthly reminders.
- Fundraising. Various ideas, new and old, should be explored.
- Jay praised Ann Brown's and Mervin Withers' performances of their duties as FOL President and Chair, respectively, of "Books Alive".
- 

### Board of Trustees Report

Bill Estell, speaking for the Library Board of Trustees, congratulated the Board of Friends of the Library for their activities over the past year.

### Meeting adjourned

## PUBLICITY—*Jay Walker*



Fund Raiser: Press releases for the March 20 fund-raiser, BluesWorks, went to all of the Northern Neck papers and the Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star. There was extensive pick up by all of the Northern Neck papers, including use of the promotion photos. Pick up by the Free-Lance Star is unknown, since I do not get the paper. In addition, PSAs went out to the local radio stations.

Books Alive: Previews of all of the Books Alive reviews went to the Echo and the Record. Both papers used all of the announcements, except the Echo failed to publish the April preview.



## FINANCIAL REPORT—*Greg Haugan, Treasurer*

Our fiscal year ends June 30, so we have started our new fiscal year. Our carryover from last year was \$4,837.40 which was left after our donation of \$2,842.80 to the Library to add items to the Friends-sponsored DVD collection. We have a larger carryover than prior years because of the 17 Lifetime members and we are donating \$800.00 this month to the Library for the new laptop computer. We limit the amount available for current expenses and gifts to the Library to 10% of the amount in the Lifetime Member account.

We are thinking about changing the official "membership year" so as to more clearly distinguish our program from the most important Library fund drive. This will be discussed in our next Newsletter.

Our funds are used to pay for this newsletter, provide front end cash for fund raising activities, for our programs and their expenses, but primarily to provide extra items for the Library that they can not fit into their budget in order to add a qualitative dimension to the Library services.

So far, we are starting the year strong with sales of approximately \$1,000 for tickets for the Quilt Raffle to be held in November.

## WAYS AND MEANS

- *Lien Groenwold*

As you have probably already seen at the Farmers Market and at other locations, the Ways and Means Committee is out and about, selling raffle tickets for another beautiful quilt. This one was created by the two bees that meet in the community room of the library, under the leadership of our Nancy Brennan. What would we do without her!

We are actually doing quite well and have sold over \$1000 in tickets. We hope to do as well, or if possible, better than last year. Proceeds go to the library for extras, that the library could not have obtained without these gifts thanks to your generosity. So please open your purse strings again and buy a chance to win this year's quilt at the win at the wine and cheese party on November 20, 2005.

We are planning another bake sale and hope to have better weather than we had last year. We will be calling you for your contributions, which in the past you have so graciously baked and given.

Remember last year's afternoon tea? We thought you might like that again. So we are planning to have one in September. We will have tickets for sale in the library. Last year's event was very well attended, so to make sure that

you can go, I would urge you to buy your tickets early. Look forward to seeing you all.



Quilt to be raffled on November 20, 2005



Ann Brown, FOL President, presents a check for \$800 to Jayne McQuade, librarian for a new lap top computer.  
Pictured left to right: Bill Estell, Library Board President, Jayne McQuade, Ann Brown and Jay Walker, new FOL President

## FROM THE DIRECTOR—*Jayne McQuade*

### HOT TIMES AT THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chicago was the place, and the hottest thing in town, after the presence of 27,800 librarians, library supporters and exhibitors, was the weather, which set new records. I didn't let that keep me from a great conference; I just plunked on my hat and sunscreen and set off to enjoy and learn.

We were welcomed to the city by colorful and enthusiastic Mayor Richard M. Daley, and then Barack Obama, US Senator from Illinois, addressed a cheering crowd of over 8000 at the opening general session. Obama, an impressive speaker, discussed the need to protect reader privacy and the need for literacy and education in a global society.

I attended sessions on how to be a good director in a rural library, fundraising and the latest developments from OCLC (a cataloging/bibliographic service). I heard Henry Winkler (The Fonz!) talk about his amazing work with children and his books for young readers featuring Hank Zipzer, the world's best underachiever. Winkler himself suffers from dyslexia and was class clown and a "not-best" underachiever throughout school.

Hundreds of vendors packed the exhibit hall with books, computers, novelties, periodicals, information systems, architectural services, jobber services, cataloging services...even T shirts. It's always fun to roam the floor, picking up freebies (great book bags!) and chatting with authors, illustrators and sales reps.

I also go to conferences to get recharged; to remember one of the reasons I became a librarian—the love of books and the desire to help people connect with books they love and books they need. I'm an author junkie, so I went to two out-

standing author programs. The first featured Chicago writers—Alex Kotlowitz, author of a wrenching book about the Chicago projects, There Are No Children Here; Sara Paretsky, author of the V. I. Warshawsky mysteries and a keen observer of her city; and finally Studs Terkel, oral historian, raconteur and all round fascinating guy. Best thought from this program: Look at the best-seller list. Ranting on the left; ranting on the right. No one is going to be convinced to change his mind by reading one of these. What's needed is something that defines the problem. Look at John Hersey's Hiroshima. A powerful anti-war book which says nothing overt about war.

The Friends of Libraries USA sponsored a Gala Author Tea, complete with chocolate covered strawberries, in the elegant Moulin Rouge room of the Fairmont Hotel. Two of my favorite authors, Tess Gerritsen and Laura Lippman were there. Someone I think will become a favorite, Lisa See, spoke about her new book Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, a novel concerning a (real) secret written language used by Chinese concubines. Ilene Beckerman, who started her literary career at 60, talked about Makeovers at the Beauty Counter of Happiness, a book about her 50<sup>th</sup> grade school reunion. "Sometimes," she says, "I feel like Grandma Moses—but I try not to look like her." The only male on the program was Arthur Frommer of travel guide fame. He recounted how, while stationed with the Army in Germany, he began with a list of things to do while on leave and turned it into a multi-million dollar publishing empire.

Meeting old friends, seeing a beautiful city, learning new things and remembering why you do what you do—what more could you ask of a conference?

**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

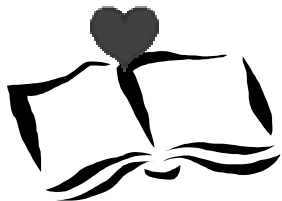
Ginny Estell-Hospitality  
Membership: Ann Raikes

Newsletter Editor and Photographer:  
Rita Johnson



FOL Board members: Back row—Bob Lindsey, Greg Haugan, Jay Walker  
Front row—Earline Walker, Lien Groenwold, Ann Raikes

**Northumberland Public Library**  
**FRIENDS of the LIBRARY**  
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Heathsville, VA 22473



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