

# FRIENDS of the LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 1

Winter 2007



FRIENDS of the LIBRARY  
NORTHUMBERLAND

## FROM THE PRESIDENT—*Jay Walker*

All across the country in meetings and on interoffice memos, someone will say, “Now that the holidays are over, . . .” The implication is clear: Let’s get back into action.

That’s what the Friends of the Library are doing now that the holidays are over. At the FOL board meeting in December, we outlined activities for 2007 and will now get to work on carrying out the plan. (See the minutes inside.)

We have already completed our first plan. The Friends board has agreed unanimously to fund the purchase of an entrance mat to be installed outside the main doors. It will be a high-tech mat in bright blue with the library name and logo or just the name in white. According to best estimates, this mat should last at least twenty years. And it will be nice to replace that old rag rug at the entrance with a classy mat. So as you enter the library, consider it as a welcome mat from the Friends of the Library. (We like to do high profile purchases, like the sign installed last year.)

We have other important news from the Books Alive program. We are joining forces with the RH/HT Foundation at the Tavern to co-sponsor a unique presentation related to the 2007 Jamestown Anniversary celebration. Historian Edward Wright Haile will be the presenter at the January 17 event to be held at the new Transportation Museum located behind the Tavern. Haile had previously published the experiences of the Jamestown settlers in a 915-page book, titled “Jamestown Narratives: Eyewitness Accounts of the Virginia Colony.” He has now condensed the impressions of that book into a 64-page poem covering the decade from Sir Christopher Newport’s landing at Cape Henry in 1607 to the death of Pocahontas in 1617. (See inside for more details and be sure to attend.)

Also in the works for this year is an enhanced raffle. In addition, we have a couple of irons in the fire for a major fund-raiser in the spring. These programs will be in addition to our established activities, including the English Tea and Books Alive.

So, now that the holidays are over, the Friends of the Library are very busy.

Oh, did I mention that we are launching an active volunteer recruiting program? Please, no hiding under the bed. We need your help. (see membership form insert)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
IN MEMORIAM	1
THE BOOK REVIEW CORNER	2
BOOKMOBILE PROPOSED	2
MEMBERSHIP FORM	3
HONOR ROLL	4
MINUTES—SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING	4
BOOKS ALIVE	5
FINANCIAL REPORT	5
BOARD MEMBERS	6
FROM THE DIRECTOR	6

## IN MEMORIAM

Friends of the Library were saddened to learn of the death of Adele Failmezger last November. She was a Life Member of Friends and an avid reader. Adele was 70 years old. She will be missed at the Library.

## THE BOOK REVIEW CORNER

### *The Iraq Study Group Report: Formula to Prove a Fate Foretold—Bob Lindsey*

Will the Iraq Study Group (ISG) Report turn out to be one of those best sellers that nobody reads? You know, like Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* (can't understand a word!), and the *9/11 Report* (too big!).

It shouldn't. For anyone who hasn't kept up with the news, or who mistrusts the biases of reporters, Part I of the ISG report is probably the most complete, concise, nonpartisan printed survey of the current situation in Iraq. Only 40 pages long, the "Assessment" succinctly describes the military, political, demographic, and economic conditions, supporting its conclusion that "stability in Iraq remains elusive and the situation is deteriorating. The ability of the United States to shape outcomes is diminishing. Time is running out."

After the assessment, the report predicts grim consequences "if the situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate": growing sectarian violence involving all the countries surrounding Iraq in an Islamic civil war, and diminished global standing of the United States. Significantly, the report does not include among its list of consequences "The terrorists will follow us home if we leave."

The ISG points out critical flaws in four notable alternative courses in Iraq --- (1) Precipitous Withdrawal, (2) Staying the Course, (3) More Troops for Iraq, (4) Devolution to Three Regions --- then introduces Part II, 79 recommendations for achieving an Iraq that can (quoting President Bush) "govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself."

Whatever the value of the many well-considered recommendations addressed to American policymakers, Part II of the ISG Report takes on a kind of "magic wand" quality with milestones it suggests the Iraq Government achieve in national reconciliation, military and police performance, and governance. The whole structure of the "Way Forward" depends entirely upon the hopelessly corrupt and bitterly divided society from which the managerial middle class has largely fled. What comes to mind is a dotty old professor pointing to a gap in an elaborate equation on the blackboard, saying, "Here a miracle occurs!"

The ISG Report is an undeniably brilliant, nonpartisan exercise. It will no doubt supply most of the components of whatever strategy the Bush administration assembles to continue its conduct of the Iraq War, and it will provide structure for public and congressional debate on war policy and conduct. Those who read the report will be better able to distinguish sensible commentary on the war from the idiotic.

## We Must Hear From You First!

If you knew that the Northumberland Public Library bookmobile would visit your area once a week, would you use it?

The board of Friends of the Library has been talking about buying a book mobile or, more likely, an enclosed trailer to deliver library resources to Callao, Burgess, Reedville, Wicomico Church or Mt. Olive, and the Northumberland County Community Center. It could also visit preschool and day-care centers.

You could reserve books, video tapes, DVDs, or CDs, and have them delivered by the mobile library on its next weekly visit. Returns would be handled the same way. If you are a browser, you could request several titles to look at before you select the ones you wish to check out.

We need to hear from you before we commit to this project. Please call Bob Lindsey at 529-5775 and let him know your opinion.

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007  
FRIENDS OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Like all libraries across the country, the Northumberland Public Library has a support group: FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY. Our mission is to help this great library grow as a community asset.

One obvious goal is to fund special Library projects such as purchasing up-to-date audio/visual equipment, computers, and DVDs. But the Friends of the Library also runs programs that augment what the Library does. For example, we sponsor a book review series, called Books Alive, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from September to June. In addition, at least once a year we sponsor a major fund-raising event designed to entertain or enrich the community.

Membership is open to all. You will receive our quarterly Newsletter. A Friends-only bulletin board mounted at the Library will keep you up-to-date on all events. Finally, special mailings will alert you to our planned activities. **BE SURE TO CHECK THE VOLUNTEER INTEREST LISTING BELOW.**

Your Library needs your support to continue its great work. How can you join in this mission? **JOIN FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY.** And please consider making your membership a Lifetime Membership.

**Leave this membership form at the Library desk with your dues or mail it to the address on page 6 of this newsletter. Gift membership is also available.**



**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

New membership       Renewing membership       Gift membership

Single Annual Membership \$10.00

Family Annual Membership \$15.00

Lifetime Membership \$150.00

Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Library.

**VOLUNTEER INTEREST:** Please check activities to help lend a hand.

Raffle sales       Fund raising       Special events       Public relations

## HONOR ROLL: LIFETIME MEMBERS IN 2006

Friends of the Library is pleased to recognize the Life members who joined in 2006. A great big cheer for the following:

Carl and Patricia Bellas	Sonny and Charlotte Hayman	Ralph and S. Isabel Rose
Ralph and Audrey Brainard	Bryna (Brennan) Levinson	Warren and Ann Stansbury
Edgar and Donna Dolman, Jr.	Donald Pumroy	Joe Thompson
Walter and Joan Gillions		

## MINUTES: SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING—*Bob Lindsey , Secretary*

December 15, 2006

**Plans for 2007**—President Walker announced the theme of the meeting, with a nod to James Bond: “Planning for 007”

**Fundraising**—Lien reported uncertainty about whether the “Ladies of the Night” would continue as a group, or whether another group would agree to create quilts in the future for FOL fundraising. She also expressed frustration at the dearth of volunteers to assist in FOL fundraising efforts --- a sentiment with which all present expressed concurrence.

Barbara Shine volunteered to recruit a coordinator to work on augmenting the pool of FOL volunteers.

Bob Lindsey suggested a Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament, similar to the Volunteer Fire Department’s Casino Night fundraisers. Bob agreed to research the legal and financial details of holding such a tournament fundraiser.

Regarding Phil Landry’s previous suggestion for an alternative raffle of items appealing to men, Jay and Lien agreed to meet with Phil to develop male interest raffle proposal.

Jay proposed that the Fundraiser for 2007 be a picnic, serving a catered box lunch, at the George Washington Birthplace (GWBP). Jay described the beautiful grounds, the nature trail that would appeal to birders and naturalists, and the heritage plants available to gardeners, as well as the possibility of a special tour available to participants. Jay also asserted that the GWBP Association would waive the fee for use of the pavilion, thereby minimizing the impact of rain on the event. It was suggested that the Fundraiser Picnic be held before school is out, when the GWBP schedule is less crowded.

**Books Alive**—Earline Walker reported that attendance at Books Alive had dramatically increased over the previous year. She attributed the growth in attendance to (1) the variety of speakers and authors, (2) subject matter that appealed to the community, (3) the shift to evening presentations from mid-day, (4) the number ‘regulars,’ who have come to expect an interesting program from Books Alive, whatever the scheduled sub-

ject, and (5) the appeal of B. Shine’s graphics in Books Alive promotional flyers and cards.

Earline announced Books Alive collaboration with the Tavern Foundation’s Food for Thought program in January, 2007.

Books Alive will begin its 2007 schedule in February with Nancy Wright Beasley reading from her book, “Izzy’s Fire: Finding Humanity in the Holocaust.”

**Proposed Library Purchase**—Jay Walker submitted a request by Jayne McQuade for a new floor mat for the library entryway. He suggested the board await more details before acting on the request.

**English Tea**—Lien Groenwald announced that her red Swiss sugar pot and silver spoon had disappeared during the last English Tea. She proposed that FOL purchase a tea set dedicated to the English Tea event, and agreed to research the cost. Lien noted that the last English Tea raised \$269, and suggested the popularity of the event warranted holding it more than once a year.

**Bookmobile**— Bob Lindsey reported that purchase and conversion of even a used step van (like a UPS truck) would be too expensive --- in the tens of thousands of dollars. He suggested that an enclosed 6 ft. X 12 ft. Carry On trailer would likely serve the purpose and cost about \$3,500 to buy and customize. After short discussion, Bob agreed to do a marketing study of the need for a mobile branch of the library and seek grant funding.

**Gift Membership**—Barbara Shine suggestion that gift memberships could be a source of revenue was generally favored, but no one moved to take action on the suggestion.

## BOOKS ALIVE—*Earline Walker, Chairperson*

Noted historian, scholar, author, and poet Edward Wright Haile will be the featured speaker for the Books Alive/ Food for Thought program on January 17. The presentation, sponsored jointly by Friends of the Northumberland Public Library and Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern Foundation, Inc. will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Transportation Museum Building behind the Tavern in Heathsville.



Jayne McQuade and Earline Walker introduce a partner program between "Food for Thought" and "Books Alive".

Mr. Haile's latest book, a 64-page poem entitled, *where None Before Hath Stood: A Poem of Jamestown*, covers the decade following Christopher Newport's landing at Cape Henry in 1607. The story in verse presents a theme that dominated life in the time of the Jamestown Colony: The settlers from England and the Indians already living here tried, with disastrous results, to understand one another's culture by viewing it through the lens of their own values.

Author K. K. Bruno, a speaker at Books Alive in September 2006, is one of those who has benefited from Mr. Haile's work "The 'Narratives' gives a thorough accounting of Jamestown's first 10 years. I couldn't have written my book without it. Mr. Haile's masterful scholarship makes 'Jamestown Narratives' a treasure for all, not just for historians."

The RHHT Foundation and Friends of the Library are opening Mr. Haile's lecture to students at no cost. Tickets for adults (college age and up) will be \$10; reservations are not required. A wine and cheese reception will follow the program, and copies of Mr. Haile's books will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact Earline Walker at 804-529-9362

Books Alive will resume its usual schedule in February. Books Alive meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Library meeting room.

## FINANCIAL REPORT—*Phil Landry, Treasurer*



As reported in the previous newsletter, we have realigned our fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year - hence January 1, 2007 is the beginning of our fiscal 2007. This change simplifies our reporting and financial tracking along with making it easier on our supporters. No more trying to remember if your donation in February is on time for this fiscal year or late for the last one.

The results that follow are for only six months (result of changing FY). We have a strong financial beginning for the fiscal year and are in the process of planning our library assistance donations.

We started the FY (July) with a cash balance of \$9,928.58 and ended on 12/11/06 with \$13,280.90.

176 members renewed their memberships with 142 still outstanding (new FY structure should help here).

Our quilt raffle yielded \$3,217.14 profit as the result of many long hours effort of the ticket sales volunteers. We will be looking for active assistance from members of the Friends to help with our 07 Super-Raffle. If you have any interest in helping with our primary fund raising activity, please send an email message to [friends@netscape.com](mailto:friends@netscape.com) and we will contact you to discuss how you could best help. Thank you.

A few additional items from the financials: English tea \$270 profit, Wine & Cheese loss of \$114, Bag sales profit of \$126

Full financial report is available, merely send email to [friends@netscape.com](mailto:friends@netscape.com) and we will send it to you.



FRIENDS of the LIBRARY  
NORTHUMBERLAND

### FOL Board Members

President: Jay Walker  
Vice President: Lien Groenwold  
Treasurer: Phil Landry  
Secretary: Bob Lindsey

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

Northumberland Public Library  
FRIENDS of the LIBRARY  
7204 Northumberland Highway  
Heathsville, VA 22471

## FROM THE DIRECTOR—*Jayne McQuade*

### **BIG READ IS COMING! YOU CAN HELP!**

The library has been chosen by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities to participate in The Big Read. It's an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. A big goal, but what more important to libraries? The Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest also support the program.

We'll be reading and discussing The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. We'll get a direct grant of \$500 to spend on books, speakers and publicity. Plus, there will be teacher's guides, printed and audio readers' guides and support for publicity including copies of posters, banner and bookmarks and the opportunity to produce our own public service announcements for radio broadcast.

The Virginia Foundation, located in Charlottesville, and Susan Coleman, head of the Foundation's Center for the Book, will help provide speakers. These might include a Fitzgerald scholar, or a historian of the Jazz Age, or (and I'm very excited about this!) an appearance by Zelda Fitzgerald! A re-enactor, of course, but she comes highly recommended and could be accompanied by music and dance of the era.

Plans are just beginning to be made, and the events will take place during April. Here's the pitch! We're looking for a few good volunteers who would like to be involved in this exciting program. Give me a call at the library (580-5051) and let me know if you're willing to help. And I hope you'll come to the programs too.

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 41  
HEATHSVILLE VA  
22471