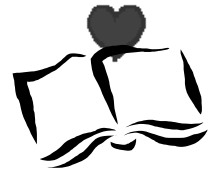


FRIENDS of the LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY
NORTHUMBERLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT—*Jay Walker*

Let's call this: Adventures from the Super Raffle, Part II. When we last left our stalwart volunteers, they were closing in on the goal for the year of \$6,000. The scene is the east side door of the Heathsville Food Lion. Eve Jordan and I are going through the raffle-selling routine. (Need I mention that it was very hot?)

One of the store's bag boys is sitting behind us on his break. Suddenly he hops up and starts selling tickets, He's really good, so Eve and I sit back and watch. Finally, his break is over, but he goes back to bagging and telling everyone to be sure to buy raffle tickets on the way out. Later we see him helping people stow their bags in their cars, all the while talking away about the raffle to shoppers on their way into the super market.

What a great kid!

Now the scene shifts to the Reedville Fishermen's Museum's Antique Boat Show and Nautical Flea Market. One of the volunteers is Mary Lynn Slaughter, who also volunteers for the library reading program and has sold raffle tickets on her own. I tell her about the young man who joined our mission at Food Lion.

"Oh, that would be my son," she says. "When I told him I was going to help sell library raffle tickets, he said he had already done that at work. But I didn't believe him. Thanks for confirming his story."

Now when we call for help for our Friends projects, I hope you think about Mary Lynn's son, who volunteered without being asked.

That ends my tales from the raffle. I promise.

So what else is new? Read inside about our successful launch of Songs Alive at the annual English Tea. The combination was so successful, that we decided to do an encore on Sunday, October 28 starting at 3 p.m. Harpist Susan Anthony-Tolbert has agreed to return to play more of her compositions. Tickets are \$10 per person on sale at the library.

If you want to hear a sample of Susan's performance, one of her CDs is available to play at the library. It was a very classy event worth repeating.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct 23 Books Alive
- Oct 26 Library Mass Mailing
- Oct 28 English Tea
- Nov 18 Wine & Cheese,
Silent Auction,
Raffle Drawing
- Nov 27 Books Alive

THE BOOK REVIEW CORNER—*Bob Lindsey*

It's About Our Response

You may have heard that our government's response to 9/11 has been guided by the "One Percent Doctrine" developed by Vice President Cheney. Ron Suskind's book of that title, aptly subtitled "Deep Inside America's Pursuit of Its Enemies Since 9/11," relates how Cheney's doctrine rationalized the use of torture, corrupted intelligence analysis, and silenced planners who urged caution.

Perhaps the most interesting revelation in the book is this: An al Qaeda plot to attack the New York Subway with hydrogen cyanide in early 2003 was called off by Osama bin Laden's chief strategist, Ayman al-Zawahiri. It may be that the reason our homeland has not been attacked since 9/11 is that al Qaeda has determined it is not in its strategic interest to do so, as many analysts have concluded, Suskind reports.

Whether you believe that President Bush was right about Iraq from the start, or that U.S. conduct of the "War on Terror" is a story of the Keystone Cops from Hell, you should read *The One Percent Doctrine*. It is full of carefully researched information about the shadowy world of counterterrorism, well-told by a skilled reporter who has a Pulitzer Prize winner reputation to uphold.

Drama in the (Indian) Tidewater Country

My road trip audiobook in September was *The Hungry Tide*, by Amitav Ghosh, a sweeping novel set in the Sunderbans, a cluster of mangrove-forested islands off the eastern coast of India. Not since hearing Joseph Conrad's *Victory* have I enjoyed words that carried so vividly the feel and flavor of the tropics.

The Hungry Tide begins with a chance meeting on a train of two travelers to the Sunderbans. One, a successful businessman from New Delhi, is returning to the place where he was sent by his parents as a punishment in childhood, but became for him a home full of affection and life lessons. The second is a beautiful Indian-American field biologist on her way to research Asian river dolphins in the tide country waters; there she will also confront the Indian heritage her emigrant father had sought to repress.

Ghosh weaves the story of the developing relationship between these two into a vivid portrayal of the social, cultural, historical, and environmental tapestry of this isolated area of India, similar to the Northern Neck in the sense that you need not travel through it to get somewhere else.

Life in the "tide country" proceeds at the pace that silt is deposited by its many-channeled estuary, occasionally punctuated by devastating storms, both ocean-born and social (think Katrina at the Mississippi delta). And always shadowing everyone's mind except that of the newcomer, is the threat of attack by a creature so fearsome that no one dares speak its name.

The drama in the story is not the edge-of-your-seat variety---well, except for the murderous storm and the tiger attack---but the encounters between city and country, present and past, revolution and evolution, and the tugs of (oh, yes) impossible love grip the listener's attention.

The lightly accented voice of Firdous Bamji reading Ghosh's sensitively composed native dialogue brings the characters in *The Hungry Tide* to life with ringing authenticity

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—*Eve Jordan, Chairperson*

Volunteers who have given time to the Friends of the Library on Saturdays as we sold tickets for the Super Raffle have made a wonderful difference in our fund raising efforts. Thanks to them, we are within “spittin’ distance” of our goal of \$6,000. We have had fun and welcome anyone who is interested in having fun while working for our library to join us. To volunteer simply email Eve at:

volunteerlib@yahoo.com

We want to thank the following volunteers—Roger Anderson, Sandra Blackwell, Ane Belanger, Patricia Bella, Connie deBordenave, Carolyn Costello, Edgar Dolman, Joan Fereday, Nancy Gates, Joan Gillions, Lien Groenwold, Karolyn Handrahan, Frances Harvey, John Locke, Jay Walker, Laura Peters and Robert Wilson. Ya’all come join us when you can!



Pictured are Lien Groenwold, Jay Walker and Eve Jordan

WAYS AND MEANS—*Lien Groenwold, Chairperson*

While some people, who had purchased tickets to the “Afternoon Tea”, apparently preferred to take advantage of the beautiful weather and go sailing instead, those who did come did not sail, they soared. They soared on the sound coming from that instrument of angels, the harp, so skillfully played by our local harpist Susan Anthony Tolbert. Our guests let her music envelop them while satisfying their more earthly needs with heavenly tasting scones, sandwiches and divine treats. Definitely an afternoon to relish and to remember.

For those of you who were too late to purchase tickets there is another chance. On Sunday, October 28 we will have a second tea. As before, seating is limited, so get your tickets early this time. They are for sale at the library. Susan has agreed to play for us again and our volunteers will again provide the tea and the food.

Remember that this was, at the same time, the kickoff of a new program started by our very capable “Books Alive” chair, Earline Walker. I am always surprised to see what Earline comes up with next. “Songs Alive” really started off with a bang.

On another note...the super raffle is doing great. We have a couple of selling opportunities left so we hope to reach our target. We are really close. And then on November 18 we will finally find out who is going to be able to claim any of the fabulous prizes. As we mentioned before, besides our customary “wine and cheese” we will have a silent auction. It should be a lot of fun.

I look forward to seeing those of you who missed this one and those of you who want an “encore” at the “English Afternoon Tea” in October and then again in November for the raffle drawing.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING—September 25, 2007

The meeting was opened at 11 a.m. by FOL President Jay Walker. In attendance were Vice President Lien Groenwold, Treasurer Phil Landry, Secretary Bob Lindsey, Ann Raikes, Earline Walker, Rita Johnson, and Jayne McQuade representing the library.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Phil Landry presented the Treasurer's Report which was accepted.

After brief discussion, the Board agreed that Super Raffle tickets may be sold at the entrance to wine and cheese event before the drawing.

Reading of Minutes

The minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Ways and Means Committee Report

Super Raffle Ticket Sales --- Lien reported the next Super Raffle setup is scheduled for Callao Day on Sept. 29, and expressed the hope that Eve would summon the excellent volunteers who had staffed the setup at the previous Heathsville Farmers Market.

English Tea --- Lien reported the English Tea scheduled for Sept. 30, and featuring music by harper Susan Anthony Tolbert was sold out. Unfortunately, Lien further reported, she was still getting requests for tickets. The Board decided to sponsor an encore English Tea and Harp Concert, if Ms. Tolbert agreed, on October 28 (tentative). The Board also agreed to present Ms. Tolbert an honorarium for the encore recital.

Super Raffle Drawing --- The date set for the Wine and Cheese Raffle Drawing is Nov. 18. Phil Landry suggested that those who had arranged for the 9 prizes should contact the suppliers to remind them of the event and confirm the arrangement.

Phil Landry reviewed the drawing procedure for contacting winners. [Reader may contact any officer of the FOL for details.] Mr. Landry agreed to invite Athena Winery to sponsor the wine provisions for the event.

The Board agreed to limit the silent auction segment of the Wine and Cheese to 10 items, and set the time for bidding to take place from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Volunteer Appreciation --- The Board agreed to hold an event in February to express appreciation for the work done by the library's volunteer.

Membership Committee --- The Membership Committee will meet at 10 am, Oct. 1, at the library.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

FROM THE DIRECTOR—*Jayne McQuade*

“THE BOOK IS DEAD AND READING IS OUT”

You’ve probably seen headlines like this. I’ve seen them everywhere from newspapers to library journals. Try telling this to the thousands of people who attended the seventh annual National Book Festival September 29 on the Mall in Washington, D.C. There were World War II vets, tiny babies, hundreds of tots in strollers, teens, parents, grandparents, couples and tweens, all excitedly listening to authors and talking about books. It did my book lover’s heart good!

Exiting the crowded Metro train at the Smithsonian stop, I ran smack into dozens of yellow-shirted volunteers handing out tote bags, bottled water, posters and 45-page programs describing the events of the day. I grabbed a souvenir pen and started circling the names of the authors I wanted to see—Rosemary Wells of children’s book fame, Edward P. Jones, Jodi Picoult, David Baldacci, Daniel Silva, poet Jack Prelutsky, Judith Martin (aka Miss Manners), Joyce Carol Oates, Ken Burns...oops, need a couple of body doubles to do all this! Plus, there were giant tents featuring the Library of Congress and its program The Veterans History Project, the Pavilion of the States featuring literary programs and traditions of each state and US territory, C-Span’s BookTV, PBS, and corporate sponsors like Target, The Washington Post, and USAirways. The Festival’s over-all sponsors are First Lady Laura Bush (a former school librarian) and the Library of Congress.

I wandered happily from tent to tent, and couldn’t find an empty chair in any of them. Authors spoke for 20 minutes or so about their writing lives and then took questions. Young adult author Jennifer L. Holm excitedly told about the breakfast she’d just eaten at the White House. They served cookies for breakfast! With pink frosting! Miss Manners spoke about her love affair with the city of Venice, and Jodi Picoult spoke passionately about the effects of school bullying. Lines were long to purchase featured books, and even longer to wait for authors to autograph copies but time flew in the lines as people chatted with their neighbors about books they loved, their book clubs, bookstores, and libraries back home in Ohio, Delaware, Florida, near and far parts of Virginia and elsewhere.

By the end of the day I had two yellow tote bags full of books, bookmarks, and posters to drag back onto the Metro. I was so engrossed in a conversation with my seatmate about our book clubs and the books we’d read, I nearly missed my stop and had to scramble for the door.

THE BOOK IS NOT DEAD! LONG LIVE THE BOOK!

BOOKS ALIVE—*Earline Walker, Chairperson*

It is said that variety is the spice of life and **Books Alive!** continues to satisfy your needs for different and interesting programs. On October 23, Jill Winkowski will review her book, *The Third Rail*. This novel tells the story of two young idealists from very different backgrounds. One is from rural Virginia and the other from Africa’s Cote d’Ivoire. Winkowski tells what happens when they meet in France and of the unexpected consequences once they return to their native lands.

On November 27, award-winning mystery writer Robert Bailey will review his series featuring private investigator Art Hardin, a retired counter-intelligence officer. The Library Journal reports that Robert Bailey’s mystery, *Private Heat*, shows "Clever plotting, crisp prose, and thrilling action."

Plan to attend both of these presentations at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Library. For more information call Earline Walker at 804-529-9362

RECORDED BOOKS—*Jayne McQuade*

I'll confess right up front. I'm an audio book addict and my habit is mostly confined to listening while driving. I get nervous if I'm on the last tape or CD and haven't got a back-up book in the car. I have been known to listen to my book while driving all the way from the library to the Food Lion—a distance of ¼ mile.

Our library has a great collection of audio books on tape and CD. I know they're used by drivers on their way to school, work, and shopping. Library patrons have told me they listen while quilting, knitting, doing housework, and mowing the lawn. When choosing books to borrow, check both the children's and adult collections. Harry Potter is great on audio. Narrator Jim Dale is fantastic, using as many as 100 different voices for the characters. The Strange Case of Baby H by Kathryn Reiss tells a story of the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906, aimed at kids, but fascinating to adults too. There's a baby on the doorstep of Clara Curfman's house after the quake. Who is he? Was he orphaned? How can Clara find out in the chaos of the burning city?

In the adult section, there are classics like The Scarlet Letter and Jane Eyre; contemporary classics such as Roots and To Kill a Mockingbird; and books by popular authors like Janet Evanovich, Faye Kellerman, John Grisham, James Patterson and Robert Parker. Alexander McCall Smith's series on Botswana, beginning with The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, is read by Lisett Lecat, who has a delightful South African accent. Another of my current favorites is Empire of Blue Water by Stephan Talty which recounts the adventures of Henry Morgan, fearsome pirate of the Caribbean. It's full of rip-roaring battles, untold wealth won and lost, hurricanes, alligators and larger-than-life characters.

Try an audio book today.

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