

FRIENDS of the LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY
NORTHUMBERLAND

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT—*Jay Walker*

Welcome to this Special Membership Drive Issue of the Friends of the Library Newsletter. We are using this Special Issue to launch a membership drive with the nautical theme, “GET ON BOARD.”

Inside you will find the Membership Form and a letter outlining Friends activities and why it is important for supporters of the Library to “GET ON BOARD” For one thing, joining Friends is a way to give something back to our wonderful Library.

As noted in the covering letter, there has been some confusion in the past about joining Friends of the Library. Clarification is worth repeating.

Each year the Library Trustees mount a mailing to raise funds for the operation of the Library. Remember that the Northumberland Public Library is only one of about 13 libraries in the state that is owned by the community, not the county government, although the county contributes to the annual budget. That is why the Library counts on the community for support.



BluesWorks in Concert

The Friends of the Library is a separate organization with a separate budget and a mandate to support the Library. We support the Library with programs such as Books Alive, The English Tea, and the BluesWorks concert. These are programs that the Library would not ordinarily offer. In addition, Friends acquires items for the Library that are not covered by the Trustees budget. Most notably this year is the purchase of a new outdoor bulletin board that will be installed in front of the Library.

When you “GET ON BOARD” with the Friends you are adding another means of making this Library the best in Virginia. We can match even the big libraries in Northern Virginia. But we need your support by joining Friends of the Library.

Elsewhere in this Special Issue are reports that emphasize the value of joining Friends. This appeal is starting to sound like PBS, so I’ll simply sign off with our theme: “GET ON BOARD.”

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“GET ON BOARD”

TO BECOME A
MEMBER OF
FRIENDS OF THE
LIBRARY
OR
TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
COMPLETE THE
ENCLOSED FORM
AND
RETURN WITH YOUR
CHECK TO THE
ADDRESS PROVIDED.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bill Estell, Board of Trustees President

The Friends of the Library are an integral part of our library and with the Board of Trustees form a vital partnership to ensure the Northumberland Public Library meets the needs of our county. Working closely with the Board and sharing the same goals and aspirations, the Friends have continued to provide funding for critical projects beyond the scope of the Library Trustee budget.

The Books Alive program brings the community closer and provides a venue to enrich our understanding while exploring new ideas in the literary world. The annual quilt raffle each year is a major source of funds for special projects for the library, including this year our out door informational sign in the front of the library. The public programs supported by the Friends such as the annual English Tea Party and the acclaimed "Blues Works" concerts add a special touch to our library that makes it unique.

These efforts and programs can only function with the support and encouragement of members of our community. We need your participation and ideas to make the Friends of the Library a success. Our library is one of the bright gems in our county and touches the lives of the majority of people in Northumberland. On behalf of the Board of Trustees I urge you to join the Friends of the Library and become an active participant in making our library even better.

MINUTES: FOL BOARD MEETING

Bob Lindsey, Secretary

The meeting was opened at 11 a.m. by FOL President Jay Walker. Board members in attendance were Vice President Lien Groenwold, Treasurer Greg Haugan, Ann Raikes, Rita Johnson, Earline Walker, Bob Lindsey, and Bill Estell representing the library board of trustees..

The amount of the FOL donation for the library message board was \$3,000, not \$2,000 as originally reported.

The Treasurer's Report and Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

President's Report/New Business

Jay Walker submitted a draft of the letter for this year's drive (now separated from the Library's fundraising drive) for new and renewing membership. After board members suggested and discussed a few minor changes, they approved the letter.

The board then discussed whether to include the letter as an insert in the next issue of the quarterly Friends of the Library Newsletter or mail it sepa-

ately. At issue was whether a separate mailing would attract enough attention (and generate enough new and renewed memberships) to be worth the added expense. The board unanimously voted to include the letter in the next issue of the Newsletter which will be sent to the Friends of the Library and to the list of donors to the library who are not members of FOL.

Jay Walker recommended that every article written for the FOL Newsletter mention the goal of increasing FOL membership, and reminded the writers of those articles that they should be sent to Rita Johnson no later than Monday, April 3.

Jay announced that the bylaws of FOL require that a nominating committee meet to select a roster of nominees for the election of board members and officers at the June membership meeting. Jay also reminded the board of the 2 three-year term limitation for service as officers of the FOL, and that in June Greg Haugan's and Lien Groenwold's first terms as treasurer and vice president respectively will end.

Books Alive Program Report

Earline Walker stated that attendance at Books Alive has steadily increased, reporting that 30 had attended Peggy Garland's appearance in January, 40 came to hear Robert Crown's presentation in February, and a record-breaking 55 had come to hear Dr. John H. Harding, Jr. in March. Earline also mentioned that the sign up sheet at the Harding event indicated that many people were still confused over the difference between membership in the Library and membership in FOL. Some board members expressed the expectation that the current FOL membership drive will help dispel the confusion.

Fundraising Committee Report

Lien Groenwold reported that the Fundraising Committee will not set up a kiosk at the Northumberland County Farm Market on opening day in April because of a lack of volunteer help, but will try to set up in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

BOOKS ALIVE—*Earline Walker, Chairperson*

Books Alive is on a roll! Attendance is up due to a combination of new time and day and topics. All three reviewers, Peggy Garland, Dr. Robert Crown and Dr. John Harding, drew SRO crowds.

The spring lineup promises more of the same. Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Northumberland public library. Refreshments and discussion to follow.

April 25 - Meatballs and Metaphors: How Food Serves Fiction

Sometimes a fictional meal is created by its author to satisfy more than one appetite. Barbara Shine reviews three novels in which food becomes a crucial element in character, setting, and/or plot: Like Water for Chocolate, Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant, and Babette's Feast. she'll also offer tempting samples from an anthology - a Literary Feast

and several book series that use food to attract and reward readers.

May 23 - Notorious Rascal Takes Over the Hamlet and the Town!

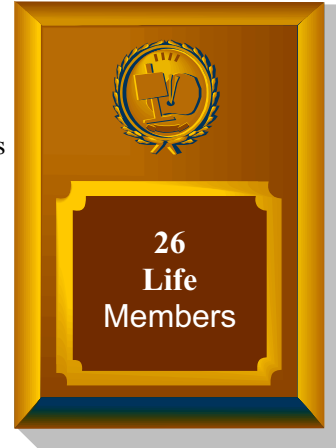
One of the most fabulous families in literature is the Snopes family, led by the notorious, perversely heroic, Flem Snopes, created by William Faulkner. Bob Lindsey will discuss Faulkner's trilogy The Hamlet, The Town and The Mansion, the novels that tell the fable of Flem Snopes' conquest of the village of Frenchman's Bend, and the town of Jefferson, the county seat of Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County.

June 27 - Summer Reading/Vacation Books

Reviewer to be announced.

FINANCIAL REPORT—*Greg Haugan, Treasurer*

Robert Burton (1577-1640) wrote: "*How much are we bound to those munificent Ptolemies, bountiful Maecenates, heroic patrons, divine spirits, that have provided for us so many well-furnished libraries*". Now I don't know much about the Ptolemies or Maecenates, except that they probably bought a lot of lottery tickets for our quilt raffle last year and the "divine spirits" were present in the form of wine and cheese and tea at three of our events. However, our "heroical patrons" including our 26 Lifetime Members, are the ones that enabled us to raise over \$4,500.00 in four events since last July. We have a total of \$8350.00 in our checking account at present of which \$3,000 is pledged to the Library for the new lighted sign to be placed out front to advertise the Library programs during the year and approximately \$3,000.00 is in reserve from our Life Members. We are hoping to raise another \$2,500.00 from family and single memberships this year so as to be able to donate a total of approximately \$6,000 to the Library. As we have reported, our donations and fundraising events go toward special, qualitative items that are not covered in the Library's operating budget.



FOR MEMBERS ONLY: Cruise the Scenic Rappahannock

Keep this date open: Tuesday, June 6. That's the day the Friends of the Library has arranged a boat ride exclusively for members. The "Capt. Thomas" leaves from Tappahannock at 10.00 AM and heads up the river. Highlights include close up views of the many birds that nest along the way, including bald eagles, You'll also see historic steam boat landings pointed out by a narrator.

Lunch is served at the Ingleside Plantation Winery and includes a wine tasting. The boat returns to Tappahannock by about 4.30PM. There is limited occupancy, so you must sign

up by May 6.

Cost is \$25 for adults, \$12 for children. Lunch is \$11 for adults, \$10 for children.

For details and to reserve a place, please call Earline Walker at 804 529 9362.

A discount rate is available for groups of 25 or more. Capacity is limited to 80.

"GET ON BOARD"



**FRIENDS of the LIBRARY
NORTHUMBERLAND**

FOL BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

WAYS AND MEANS—Lien Groenwold, Chairperson

Ways and Means is the committee that was created specifically to raise funds for FOL. The funds we raise allows our library to purchase items that are not provided for in the normal budget.

Our biggest fundraiser these last three years has been the quilt raffle. The first quilt was made and donated by Lein Groenwold to support the library. Nancy Brannon has designed the subsequent quilts and the quilting was completed by a quilting bee. Currently the two quilting bees that use the community room of the library for their meetings are working on a new quilt to raffle this year.. Nancy has named it "A Blooming Good Read". You will understand why, when you see it at the Farmers' Market in May.

The 2005 quilt was won by a lady in Pittsburg,. The previous two actually stayed in Heathsville. I saw the first one again in Ellen Kirby's house yesterday. It was a pleasure to see it hanging in Ellen's new home.

Other fund raising events are:

- English Afternoon Tea (we have had request to make it a bi-annual event)
- Wine and Cheese Party...where the winning ticket is drawn for the quilt (live entertainment is featured at this party)
- BluesWorks Concert
- Bake Sale at the Heathsville Farmers Market.

The Ways and Means Committee has a great time staging these events and we hope that we can look for your support again this year.

**Northumberland Public Library
FRIENDS of the LIBRARY
7204 Northumberland Highway
Heathsville, VA 22473**

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