

FTPML ANNUAL MEETING KEVIN BLACKISTONE FEATURED SPEAKER

by Francis Nugent



National sports columnist Kevin Blackistone will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library's annual membership meeting. The annual meeting will take place Tuesday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Children's Room at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. The event is free and open to the public. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A, refreshments, and board elections.

Kevin is a sports columnist for *The Washington Post*, a visiting professor at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, a panelist on ESPN's "*Around the Horn*," a sports roundtable television show, and a regular contributor to National Public Radio. Kevin has written thought-provoking columns and journal articles about the intersection of race, sports, and the media. Featuring a local literary talent at the annual meeting is a long-time FTPML tradition, and the Friends are excited to have Kevin continue the tradition this year.

After the presentation, there will be a very brief membership meeting to hold elections for board positions. This year, the following positions are up for reelection: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Members-At-Large. Additionally, there are five vacant board positions. Any member of the Friends whose dues are current may be a candidate for office and may vote. Members interested in joining the board should send an email and brief bio to FTPMLnominatingcommittee@gmail.com. Nominations also will be taken from the floor at the annual meeting.



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FTPML has been active in fundraising and advocacy for the library since 1994. For information about activities sponsored by the Friends and the many programs we support, visit <http://www.ftpml.org>.

Library Fundraiser



Headlined by local band and 80s pop music powerhouse - the Airport 77s - the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library hosted a fundraiser on February 8th at the Takoma Park VFW full of music, dancing, and friends. The Friends exceeded their initial goal of raising \$1200 to fund the Takoma Park Library's 2020 SummerQuest event, raising over \$2300.

SummerQuest is a unique summer reading adventure game that the Library hosts every summer. Each year, Takoma Park librarian, Dave Burbank, develops a one-of-a-kind whimsical reading program that encourages Takoma Park youth to read and to imagine over the summer months. The surplus from the fundraiser will allow the Friends to not only fully pay for SummerQuest, but also fund additional Library programs and help the Library develop innovative projects that meet community needs.

The event would not have been possible without the generous support from volunteers and donors. The Friends received raffle donations from Ace Hardware, The Girl and The Vine, Yoga Heights, TPSS Co-op, MAD Fitness, Takoma Bev Co., and Olive Lounge & Grill. Cheros Grill kindly donated towards the fundraiser. Azalea Award Winning artist and

Takoma Park resident Todd Carter donated artwork from his latest novel, *Stealing the Scream*. Middle school volunteers, Ada and Stella, created a reusable fundraising thermometer, which incorporated artwork from SummerQuest. Thanks to these innovative and talented volunteers, the Friends will be able to use it for future events. The VFW, which prides itself as a community gathering space, generously donated the venue. Lastly, the Airport 77s kept the music going and the crowd dancing all night.

The event marked the first fundraiser thrown by the Friends in several years. Historically, the Friends have predominantly raised money through membership dues and our Spring, Fall, and Winter Book Sales. This past year, the library's budget was cut. Given the cut, the Friends decided to take a more proactive and creative fundraising approach to ensure that the library can maintain its robust array of programming. Plus, the event allowed enthusiastic supporters of the Library and members of the Friends to have fun and socialize, while also raising money for an important cause.

by Francis Nugent



Our Young Volunteers!

by Ada P. Greenfield

Does going to a fundraiser improve self-esteem? Yes, it does. The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland SummerQuest Fundraiser was a really great night and helped a really important cause. The adults at the event encouraged all of the kids attending to participate and gave them freedom, and the kids enjoyed it and had a good time.

A few days before the event, I helped create an unconventional thermometer to show the amount of money we had raised. The thermometer was illustrated with the original art from the SummerQuest programs, drawn by the creator of SummerQuest, Dave Burbank. My friend Stella Lesnick and I set up the thermometer right next to the Airport 77s, which was the band for the night. They did a great job getting everyone to dance and have a great time with their music. I only knew two of their songs, but everyone else seemed to know them very easily.

the Friends of the Takoma Park Library board, made a speech. He introduced all the sponsors and explained all the raffle tickets and the purpose of the fundraiser. He explained it was to fund another year of SummerQuest. At the end of the speech, Stella and I told him how much money we had made. We had made around \$250 dollars. Our target goal for the whole night was \$1,200. But at the end of the night we had made a grand total of over \$2,300 dollars. Everyone was so happy when we made our grand total, and it showed how important SummerQuest is to everyone.

It made me feel happy to be part of this great event. I think the reason all these adults and parents and people in general came to support this, they want to make sure the next generation has this program and encourages reading. It shows them a whole new world of books and stories.

Before the music had begun, Francis Nugent, the head of

Status of Library Renovation

By Mark Fisher

On February 26, Greg Lukmire, RR/MM Lukmire Architects, gave a presentation to the City Council on the current status of the Library Renovation, now planned as a replacement Library. The presentation centered around three main points:

Flood Plain effects: The big news is that the currently proposed construction footprint will NOT affect the current floodplain arrangements. The floor level will be set slightly above the level of the current Civic Center. Entrances will be a step above grade, and the main entrance will be on the parking lot side of the building.

Cost Estimate: A formal costing report on the “hard construction” developed. This does not include furniture, moving & temporary operation, or other general project costs. Existing Community Center power and HVAC systems will be adequate to support the new construction. It found that the overall hard construction cost with a 10% contingency pad added, would bring the total estimate to \$8,339,190. About \$500,000 of that is attributed to renovation of the Recreation Department offices and the nearby toilet rooms.

Design developments: The interior floor plan has stabilized. Entrances to the library would be from the parking lot side and via a straight corridor from the existing Community Center. It features a separated children’s room on the parking lot side with a program room opening on the main entrance and the children’s room. The computer rooms are within the Library, and there is an added young adult space. The existing mosaic will be preserved, and there will be a small ‘plaza’ for gathering, between the Library and Philadelphia Avenue.

Exterior Treatments: Mr. Lukmire finished with a presentation of three exterior treatments. All featured a large curved window wall in the main room, and an emphasis on the flat roof. I found “Option 3” interesting, with a raised clerestory roof plan reaching across the building over the entrance and circulation desk.

The exterior options may be found on the City Web Site in the Project Directory. See “Current Status” and the link to “updated exteriors 2020-01-30”.

As the Council deliberates on these options and further revised costs, there will be avenues for public comment.



Children's Programs at the Library

Spring & Summer Programming



By Karen MacPherson

It's shaping up to be a busy spring in the Children's Room! From author programs to school visits, from Circle Time to Comics Jam, there's a lot going on this season.

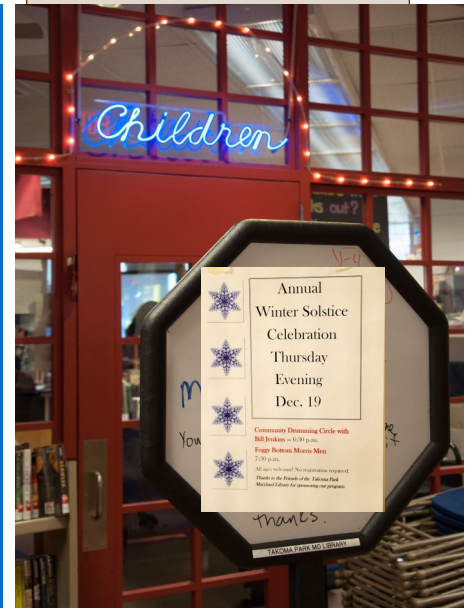
As always, we have our two core weekly programs: Circle Time on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., which I lead, and Spanish Circle Time on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., led by Senora Geiza. Both Spanish Circle Time and our Petites Chansons/ French Circle Time, led one Saturday a month by Madame Marie, are funded by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. We are grateful for the Friends' support, which allows us to expand our reach to Spanish and French speakers (as well as those who are learning those languages!).

In addition, we offer our weekly Wednesday morning Early Literacy programs from 11-11:30 a.m. We alternate between Babytime one month (ages birth-18 months) and Toddler Time (18-36 months) the next month, then back to Babytime the following month, etc. Led by Ms. Kati, these registration-only programs are filled with rhymes,

songs and stories, with a craft for the older children. Over the years, the Friends have funded multiple copies of books used in the program, giving us enough copies so that each participant can have their own book to follow along as Ms. Kati reads.

Our monthly programs also are popular with patrons. These programs include our LEGO Club, which usually takes place on the first Sunday of the month, Kids Art, usually on the third Sunday of the month, Comics Jam, which is offered on the second Tuesday of the month, and our Caldecott Club, scheduled for a Monday evening each month.

We also have regular visits from local preschools and the two elementary schools right next door. Ms. Kati does programs on Monday mornings for two local preschools, while Mr. Dave and I offer programs most Fridays for the 4th graders at Piney Branch Elementary; the programs are linked to their language arts curriculum. In addition, we do seasonal programs for the kindergarten, first and second grades at Takoma Park Elementary.



CONTINUING EVENTS IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM AT THE LIBRARY!

**EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS
WEDNESDAY MORNING 11-11:30**

**CIRCLE TIME — TUESDAY
MORNING 10:30**

**SPANISH CIRCLE TIME — THURSDAY
MORNING @ 10:30**

**FRENCH CIRCLE TIME — ONCE A
MONTH ON A SATURDAY
MORNING @ 10:30**

**SEE PAGE 5 OR GO TO THE
LIBRARY WEBSITE OR FACE-
BOOK FOR ALL THE MANY OTHER
EVENTS IN THE CHILDREN'S
ROOM!**



Photographs by Maurice Belanger

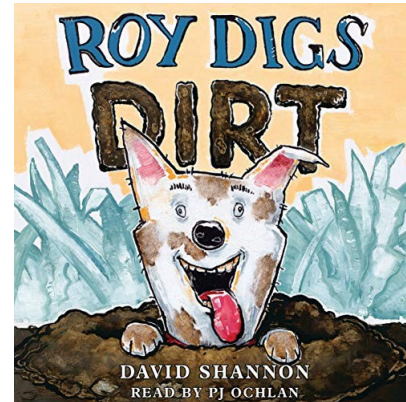
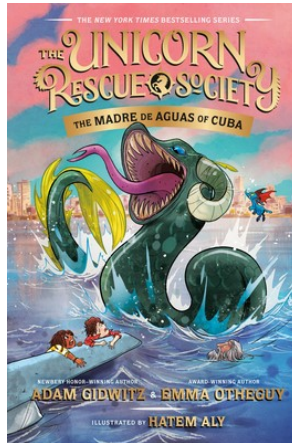
Become a member of the Friends! Your donations mean so much! They go towards funding so many activities in the Children's room, from the two circle times — Spanish & French — Summer and Winter Quest, Story-telling, and many many others. If you're considering giving to your community, please remember your local library. Follow this link to donate using credit cards or pay pal. The pictures shown here of the Winter Solstice program in December is one of the many programs at the Library! <http://www.ftpml.org>.

Award Winning Children's Authors at TPML

Get Ready for Summer Quest

by Karen MacPherson

Our partnership with Politics & Prose Bookstore allows us to present programs featuring top-notch authors and illustrators for children. On April 7 at 7 p.m., we'll welcome Caldecott Honor picture book creator David Shannon, who will talk about his hilarious new book, *Roy Digs Dirt*. Then, on May 12 at 7:30 p.m., Newbery Honor author Adam Gidwitz will discuss the latest book in his *Unicorn Rescue Society* series, *The Madre De Aguas of Cuba*. As always, these programs are free, and no book purchase is required.



We'll wrap-up spring by kicking off our 2020 SummerQuest reading program, which is funded by the Friends and created each year by Mr. Dave. We'll launch this year's SummerQuest on Monday, June 8 at 7 p.m. and conclude with a party on Monday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m.



Tuesday, April 7 at 7 pm, Caldecott Honor picture book creator David Shannon, *Roy Digs Dirt*.

Tuesday May 12 at 7:30 pm, Newbery Honor author Adam Gidwitz discusses his latest book in the *Unicorn Rescue Series*

Monday, June 8 at 7 pm, Summer Quest kick-off

Monday, September 14 at 7:30 pm, Summer Quest concluding party.



FRIENDS BOOK CLUB

by Tim Rahn

The Friends Book Group will discuss *The Winter Soldier* a novel about Vienna and the Eastern Front of World War I by Daniel Mason on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

Although broad in sweep, *The Winter Soldier* is unlike other war novels that describe epic battles. The story focuses on a young Polish medical student, Lucius Krzelewski posted from Vienna to an almost forgotten field hospital on the eastern flanks of the Carpathian Mountains. There Margarete, a gun-toting nun and the only remaining member of the hospital staff, greets him and introduces him to the rigors of battlefield medicine.

Mason drives the novel's narrative with intricate storytelling and powerful descriptions. Whether describing the sunlight on snowdrifts, the clash of cultures, or the amputation of a limb, his prose leads the reader to understand the trauma of war. As might be expected, the narrative also tells a love story between Lucius and Margarete that blooms amidst the horrors they face.

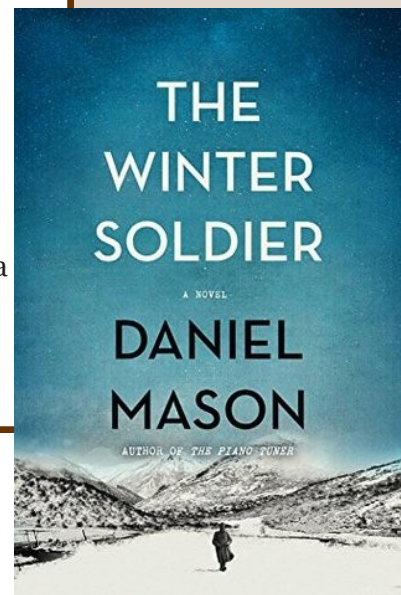
"*The Winter Soldier*," wrote Anthony Marra wrote in his *New York Times* review, "brims with improbable narrative pleasures. Mason is a practitioner of storytelling backhandedly praised as 'old-fashioned.' In fact, it's timeless."

Dates to Remember for Book Groups:

March 25, Wednesday, 7:30 pm: *Beloved*, opening lecture @ Historic Takoma

March 31, Tuesday, 7:30 pm: *The Winter Soldier*, Hydrangea Room

April 1, 15, 29 7:30 pm, continuing discussion of *Beloved* @ TP Community Center



BIG BOOK CLUB

by Phil Schewe

Big Book Club to discuss Toni Morrison's *Beloved* with Phil Schewe

The Takoma Park Big Book Club resumes its deliberations this spring with Toni Morrison's novel "Beloved." As usual, we'll begin with a lecture by a noted expert on the book, in this case Dr. Augustus Durham of the University of Maryland. We'll follow this with three discussion sessions. The schedule all at 7:30 p.m. is as follows:

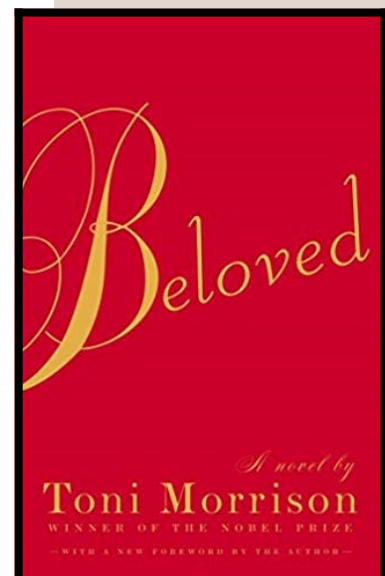
March 25---lecture at Historic Takoma

April 1---discussion at Community Center, Hydrangea Rm

April 15---discussion at Community Center, Azalea Rm

April 29---discussion at Community Center, Azalea Rm

Remember, you don't have to have read the book to attend the lecture. All events are free and newcomers are welcome. Copies of *Beloved* are available at the Takoma Park Maryland Library





The next Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library book sale will take place Saturday, May 16, from 10 am to 3 pm on the lawn outside the library – or, if raining, inside the community center.

Please consider donating and buying books. All proceeds go to support programs at the library – such as Spanish and French Circle Times, SummerQuest, author appearances and book clubs.

Book donations may be dropped at the library by May 11. They should be in very good condition and of general interest. If you have more than three cartons, please make an appointment before bringing them in. (301) 891-7259

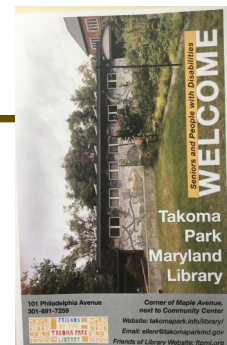
We also are looking for volunteers for setup, sales table and cleanup on the day of the sale. If you can help, contact Francis Nugent at fjnugent@gmail.com.

Senior Outreach

By Cathy Surace

The Friends have launched an outreach campaign to seniors and people with disabilities living in Takoma Park to encourage their use of the library and to explain its resources and programs. We also seek to inform people about the free transportation offered by The Village of Takoma Park volunteers that enables Village members to visit the library, and about the offerings of other libraries and programs in the metropolitan area of particular interest to seniors and persons with disabilities. As a first step, we prepared a new brochure about the library and other area libraries and resources of interest. Brochures are available in the library.

On January 2, 2020, we spoke to residents of Victory Tower about the library's resources and programs and distributed the new brochure. We are seeking other opportunities to reach seniors and people with disabilities in Takoma Park. Anyone who would like a copy of the brochure, or who has ideas for effective outreach to this population or for programs of particular interest that the library might offer, should contact Cathy Surace at cssurace@gmail.com.



Volunteers Needed!
Contact Francis
Nugent for information.
fjnugent@gmail.com

Visit the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library website at ftpml.org to learn about upcoming FTPML events. On the website, you can donate and become a member of FTPML. You can also read about our recent events, and find information about our book clubs, book sales, and library programs for children and adults that are made possible by your membership donation.

For news articles related to TPML's holding and initiatives as well as announcements of FTPML programs and book groups, follow FTPML on Facebook!

Community Forklift (Edmonston, MD) is a non-profit reuse center for home improvement supplies. Through their Community Building Blocks Program, they issued a mini-grant of store credit to FTPML that was used for material to make new frames for our Spring for Poetry Posters and new doors for little libraries. Thanks Community Forklift!

In walks around Takoma Park visit the Little Free Libraries & Spring for Poetry Posters! All Sponsored by FTPML with your Donations!

Five seats on the board are open for the election at the annual meeting. You must be a member to vote. Three board members are leaving: Anand Parikh, Sylvie Shaffer, and Rebekah Zanditon. Thank you for your service to the community!

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

www.cityoftakomapark.org/library

Visit the Friends at www.ftpml.org

FTPML Board Members

Francis Nugent, President

Deborah Nelson, Vice President

Walter Mulbry, Treasurer

Mark Fisher, Secretary

Gina Lambright, Member at Large

Sonya Mallinoff, Member-at-Large & Newsletter Editor & Membership

Anand Parikh, Member-at-Large

Ruth Polk, Member at Large

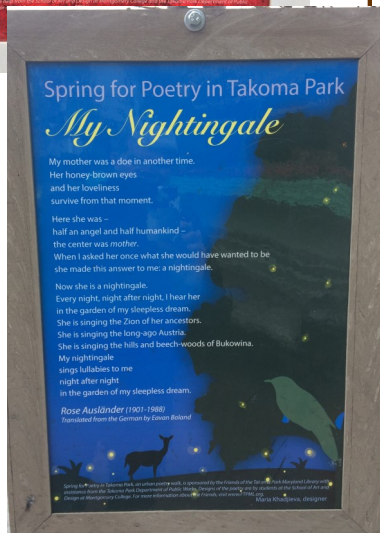
Sylvie Shaffer, Member-at-Large

Cathy Surace, Member at Large, Membership

Wendy Turman, Member at Large

Rebekah Zanditon, Member-at-Large

Ellen Arnold-Robbins, Ex-Officio Member, Director of the Takoma Park Maryland Library



Three posters as part of the Spring for Poetry, an urban poetry walk, sponsored by FTPML.

Rose Auslander, *My Nightingale*

Alice Walker, *Women*

William Blake, *The Tyger*