



FRIENDS

OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

From the President's Corner...

It's been a busy time with the Friends. There is much business news this month, and there are lots of internal changes happening, mostly concerned with transforming the organization into a corporation. At the last membership general meeting in January, a resolution was passed to take this step. There are a number of benefits in doing so, but the downside is a bit more formality and paperwork. While various parts of the process are still in progress, the basic step is done. We have been granted corporation status by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The formal name is *Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library, Inc.*

At the moment, there are two organizations existing side by side – the old Friends organization and the new Friends corporation. The old Friends continue to hold the assets. The reason for this is that we are applying for tax exempt status 501(c)(3) for the corporation. The old Friends has that status already. Once the corporation is granted tax exempt status, our assets will be transferred to the new corporation, and the old organization will be dissolved. Kind of “switching horses in mid-stream.”

All of this takes various resolutions and filings, and we owe a debt of gratitude to Jim Hutchins, our new very busy Treasurer who is working hard and using his long legal experience to good effect. It's hard to know how we would have gotten it all done without his expertise and efforts.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 22, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.

John Warren Cooke Room

Mathews Memorial Library

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From the Library...

CRITICAL CONVICTIONS

Can anyone convey, with a modicum of objectivity, what impact a book will have on those who read it? Do reviews provide the means by which to convey a sense of how a reader will respond? Words, sentences, and paragraphs are dynamic elements that may reach to the depth of an individual's soul to reveal some inner truth or inflame passions that drive them to imprudent action.

The uncomfortable truth is that it falls to public library staff members to reflect upon, and choose, those works of literature that grace the shelves of libraries and thus become accessible to a diverse group of patrons from all walks of life. Guided by policies that are broad and funding that is generally limited, experience and knowledge of community culture and interests become the tools of choice in collection development. Even so, librarians frequently experience moments of discomfort when items in the collection are called into question.

It is, however, a basic tenet that, although frequently under attack, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy. Throughout our history, reading is perceived to be among our greatest freedoms. The written word is the natural medium for new ideas and the preservation of a free society. Further, the freedom to read is guaranteed by the constitution. In light of the importance of this basic right and because of the significant role that libraries play in preserving it, the American Library Association (ALA) has adopted a "Freedom to Read Statement." Included in the seven propositions of the Statement are the following:

It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.

Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.

It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression.

Calendar of Events

Friends Membership Meeting

April 20, 2010 10:00 am
John Warren Cooke Room

Orrell Building Bookstore

open May 1, 15, 28 & 29
open every Friday & Saturday
during June, July & August

Summer Classes:

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher
Digital Cameras

Highland Games:

June

Youth Program:

Follow the Circus - July

Soothin' Summer Sounds:

Jennifer Kirkland - June & July
Tea Dance - August

Authors Forum:

Dean King & Phyllis Theroux

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Critical Convictions continued

The Mathews Memorial Library Collection Development Policy supports the ALA Statement by affirming: “The policy of the Mathews Memorial Library is to acquire materials for the collection that serve the interest and informational needs of Mathews citizens.”

Information policy is a sacred contract between information brokers, stewards and stakeholders. It can be as heady as champagne or as mundane as locally brewed beer. Its origins are as ancient as Greece and as new as tomorrow’s news reports. It is an eternal good, wrapped in the

principles of democracy, yet vulnerable to even the slightest shift in politics. Nonetheless, the freedom to read is likely to remain an eternal good and will, in the end, persevere.

Bette Dillehay
Library Director

From the President’s Corner continued

As many of you know, Norma von Brock, current vice-president and tireless worker and benefactor for many years, is ill. She remains vice-president of the current organization, but it would not be right to burden her with new duties at this time. A new vice-president for the corporation will be announced at the membership meeting this month.

Because of recent unfortunate developments in the county, we public non-profits are more than aware of the need to keep our financial accounts in order. Our new by-laws have a provision for review of the the financial records each year by an outside auditor who is qualified to review the records. Bob Warren has just reviewed our 2009 records and sent me his report. He states that the December 31, 2009 treasurer's report agrees with all financial account records. There are other details and observations, but generally he gives us a clean bill of financial health. Thanks are due to Bob for doing this work.

Our negotiations for purchasing the building next to the Library for Library's use as a new wing are proceeding on track, albeit slower than we would

wish. I hope to be able to report good news on this topic at the membership meeting this month. Recall that we now have only two membership general meetings per year – April and November. This month's meeting is posted elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, Mary Margaret Hutchins has taken over editorship of the Newsletter. Doreen Folzenlogen has done it for 9 years. We were very happy to be able to provide Doreen some relief after that long service. She will remain on the executive committee as an at-large member, so that we don't lose the benefit of her valuable experience. Many thanks to Mary Margaret for volunteering and to Doreen for her long and wonderful service. The Newsletter will continue to be published 4 times a year.

We hope to see you at the meeting.

Neil Webre
President

The State of Electronic Books & Readers

It's enough to make one's head spin and to just buy a good, inexpensive used printed-on-paper book from the Friends used book sale! The world of electronic books and e-book readers has exploded in the last couple of years. This Christmas season, Amazon.com reported that for the first time, sales of electronic copies of books exceeded sales of traditional printed books. It's a brave new book world. Most of us in the Friends being born, shall we say, before a certain date, will never use or be comfortable with e-books and e-readers, but the digitally-oriented young are taking to the idea in droves.

A good review of e-readers one can purchase for reading e-books is on that old standby, Wikipedia. Take a look at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_e-book_readers. There you'll find listed 31 different readers by 16 different providers. One of the latest of the big guys is Barnes & Noble's *Nook* reader. Like Amazon's *Kindle* and Sony's *Reader*, one can download books in a minute or so. You have to either have contact with an AT&T cell phone tower, or be in range of a wireless hot spot such as the Library's. New books and best sellers cost \$9.99, and old titles vary in price and are less. How about *War and Peace* for \$0.99? Barnes & Noble says that thousands of their e-books are free.

The number of books you can have on a *Nook* reader is staggering. It will hold about 1500 average books! That should be plenty to read over a really long vacation! It provides the ultimate in consolidating luggage space when traveling. It is 8" x 5" x 1/2" thick, and weighs under 3/4 pound. Fold an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet in half, and that's about the size.

How about needing a book while you're traveling in Timbuktu? There surely must be a Starbucks

around (aren't they everywhere?) or some other wireless spot that you can use to connect to Barnes and Noble's eBook store. In a minute you've got another book to read if none of the 1500 in your *Nook* appeals to you at the moment.

There's even a way to lend e-books to friends. You can lend a book for up to 14 days, and it will be readable on the friend's reader, but not on yours for the durations of the loan. Actually this concept is broader than B & N's *Nook*. Some libraries are using a similar feature to lend library books to patrons. You check it out and it disappears from the library's e-book "shelves" for the checkout period. The books can be read on your computer, iPhone, or Blackberry, so you're not limited to the *Nook*.

Check it all out at the Wikipedia link above, or look specifically at the *Nook* at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/nook>.

Neil Webre

Membership

Welcome new Life member Maree Morgan and new Annual member Marcia Ray. We appreciate the support you have shown us in our effort to provide funds for the library.

Please note the date on the right side of your mailing label. If your membership expired in 2009, please consider upgrading to a Life membership with your renewal.

Thanks to Membership Chair, Millie Montgomery, for keeping our membership list up to date.

**USED BOOK SALES
ORRELL BUILDING
SPRING AND SUMMER**

We are all looking forward to the beautiful spring and summer weather of Mathews, and the wonderful used book sales which support the library. Invite your friends, relatives, and visitors to browse the extensive and interesting selection in the book store in the Orrell Building. Many books have been donated this winter: cookbooks, history books, current fiction in hardcover and paperback, etc. And the back room is full of books for just \$1.00/bag. (Please donate paper grocery bags, we are almost out)

The book store will be open 9 am – 1 pm

Saturdays May 1 & 15

Friday & Saturday May 28 & 29

Every Friday & Saturday in
June, July, and August

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped at the Orrell Building this past winter: Cheryl Ligon, Joan and Jay Metzger, Barbara Sampson, Sally Howland, Millie Montgomery, Nan Hathaway, and Janice Phillips. And thanks to the library staff and volunteers for sorting the donations that come to the library. And lastly thanks to our many donors. Our shelves are almost full for the beginning of spring and summer sales.

We would not be able to earn money for the library without the support of the many wonderful volunteers and donors.

Jane and David Abbott.

BRICK WALKWAY & PATIO

The doldrums of Winter have passed and Spring is now in full bloom. This time of year witnesses the increased desire to refocus thoughts on ways we can make our community an even better place for all its inhabitants. Continuing to support our excellent Library with its in-house and outreach programs is what the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library is all about. Adding a Brick to the Walkway & Patio is an excellent way both to show your support and to honor or memorialize friends, family members and yourselves. And remember, with a \$100 donation for a 4" x 8" brick you receive a \$10 gift certificate for use at the Friend's Orrell Building Book Store, and with a \$150 donation for the 8" x 8" brick that certificate is pushed up to \$15.

We have had only one new donation this quarter, but it was a very special one. A 4" x 8" brick inscription memorialized a loved one, which was complemented by an 8" x 8" inscription listing several family members who were exceptionally close to the one memorialized. The two bricks were installed together, making a lasting tribute for all to see, admire, and remember.

Roger Gamble

Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
P.O. Box 127
Mathews, VA 23109-0127

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MATHEWS, VA
PERMIT NO. 20

Address Service Requested

I Want to Open/Renew My Membership.

Remittance is enclosed to:

- Open My Lifetime Membership @ \$50 person
- Open My Annual Membership @ \$5 person
- Renew My Annual Membership @ \$5 person

I Want to Support Library Special Projects.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Name Telephone

_____ Address Email Address

_____ City State Zip Code

*Contributions to the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
are tax deductible. Make checks payable to
Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
and mail to P.O. Box 127, Mathews, Virginia 23109-0127.*

www.friendsofmathewslibrary.org