



December 2010  
Newsletter

*Oakton, VA*

Inquiries or Suggestions? -- write [FriendsOfOaktonLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfOaktonLibrary@gmail.com)

## Annual Meeting on January 18th

All paid-up Friends of Oakton Library (FOL) members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting set for Tuesday evening, January 18th. Besides electing officers for 2011, the Friends will decide on the first Bylaws alterations in the organization's decade-long history.

"Bylaws" defined (as a noun): "A standing rule governing the regulation of a corporation's or society's internal affairs."

At that January 18th meeting, commencing in the library's large meeting room at 7:30 p.m., current FOL members will vote on Board nominees and Bylaws adjustments.

Do you need to renew? You can do so right at the January meeting. You'll also find a "clip & mail" form on page four of this newsletter.

Are you unsure about whether to renew? *To arrive at renew, you might want to review* (with apologies to the late Johnnie Cochran). Review what? The 2010 Accomplishments of Friends of Oakton Library, through the end of November, arrayed on pages three and four.

It's pretty simple, folks: Libraries provide more civic and intellectual value, per county tax dollar, than almost any governmental activity you can name. Which is why we welcome your help in any way, shape or form you can render it, tender it, or vendor it.

## The Winter Holiday Open House

On Saturday, December 11th, FOL's end-of-year event takes place at -- where else? -- the Oakton Library, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tables will be set up so that local citizens -- especially parents accompanying their children -- can write messages as part of this year's "cards for the troops" theme.

FOL is working with **Germaine Broussard**, known as "the Cookie Lady." She has prepared cookies (100,000+) and other treats to send to U.S. military personnel abroad since 2003 and was featured in Supervisor Linda Smith's most recent newsletter.

But -- don't come to the Winter Holiday Open House with baked goods, or expecting free cookies. Rather, Broussard is helping us find the best LOCATIONS to mail the cards to.

The cards are designed to say hello, express support, and generally brighten the spirits of servicepeople who can't be with their families this holiday season. Blank cards and envelopes will be provided, and of course we'll take care of postage. We hope you'll stop by on the 11th.

## So When is the Next Book Sale?

Save the date(s) -- March 24-25-26, 2011. It's a Thursday-to-Saturday set-up, like the expanded format we used in September to good effect.

September's Used-Book Sale was written up by new FOL member **Kelly Clayton**. Where? On "Oakton Patch," the new on-line platform for interactive area news, sports and commentary. Her story explained:

"Thousands of books are donated throughout the year for the sale at Oakton Library, and FOL members sort them into categories ranging from religion to pets to history. The prices range from 25 cents for mass-market paperbacks to \$4 for books in the Premium Book Room. Because the sale included premium books and an extra day for customers to shop, the sale generated more money this year than it has in the past, [Friends President Tooley] Milstead said."

NOTE: A few books in that new "premium" room went for considerably more than four bucks. This is part of an ongoing experiment, and FOL thanks **Kaplan Cohen**, of TM Estate Sales, for identifying rare specimens that don't look rare.

You can't judge a special and rare book by its cover -- which means you also can't properly PRICE it. But FOL's book-sale organizers are beginning to learn how to price those "gems."

[Clayton's Patch article](#) said something we don't say enough. Even though accepting your used-book donations for 49 out of 52 weeks each year, we can't resell "abused, dirty or torn books." The same goes for ones that are marked-up. So -- please do a little sorting before assembling that box of books to leave at the library.

We open the door extra wide to your no-longer-needed CHILDREN's books that are in reasonable shape. (That lemonade stain on page 36 is not necessarily a disqualifier for resale.) By all means, let us have a look.

And FOL welcomes **Nicole Trifone**, editor of Oakton Patch -- <http://oakton.patch.com> -- to the northern Virginia publishing scene. The Patch business model and related foundation -- [www.Patch.org](http://www.Patch.org) -- are a welcome departure

from the shrillness and polarization that are common to the on-line world. By investing time and creativity in our own local Patch, you'll keep classic journalistic values alive.

## On Patrol, for Seven Decades

"In July 1940, the Fairfax County Police Department was created, and the first five decades of that department are RE-created in a new coffee table-style book written and compiled by a group of retired Fairfax officers and recently released by Fairfax publisher History4All."

We're quoting from a September 9th story in the *Washington Post*: "In addition to a history starting in 1921, 19 years before the department's creation, there are hundreds of photographs documenting every step of growth for Virginia's largest police department. The book serves as a pocket history of Fairfax County through 1990 as well."

The title? *History of the Fairfax County Police Department, 1921-1990*. It has been flying off the shelves of the Oakton Library. (In a library, though, the books get to fly back.)

From a well-placed source: "This new book has proven VERY popular in Oakton... Every time it comes back and we place it on display in the NEW MATERIALS section, it goes right out again within 24 hours. It is owned in every branch, so if you place a Hold for the title, a copy should arrive for you in Oakton without a long wait." And, for the full *Post* write-up, use [this URL that's way too long](#) to show in print.

## Winter Events, Oakton Library

On Tuesday, January 25th, at 7:30 p.m. -- **Ariel Steinberg** of Capital Hospice presents "Hospice and End-of-Life Decisions."

On Thursday, February 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. -- Mystery writer **Sandra Parshall** discusses her latest book, *Broken Pieces*. Includes a book-signing opportunity.

# Friends of Oakton Library

## **Accomplishments in 2010 (through 11/30)**

### The Twice-per-year Book Sale

Multi-day used-book sales, in March and September, backed up by an enhanced ONGOING book sale that has gained in popularity. Without the resulting revenues, FOL could not do most of what follows...

### Enhancing the Library's Collection

Big books for "Storytimes" (15 titles to start)  
\$8,000 to the Fairfax County Public Library system  
\$2,000 via the Fairfax Library Foundation fundraiser

### Periodical and Newspaper Subscriptions for calendar 2011

\$1,500 to retain subscriptions slated for cancellation due to County budget cuts

### Indoor Furniture and Fixtures

Acrylic display bins and shelf storage	Alpha markers for picture book shelving
Countertop wood bookrack	Big-book storage/easel/cart
Wall-mounted coat-rack/hooks (2)	One set of phonics squares
Baskets for holiday boardbooks	Replacement games and puzzle pieces
Sony CD player with detachable speakers and iPod docking station	
Folding table for the Summer Reading Program volunteers	

### Plant- and Garden-Related

Provide regular maintenance of the library's indoor plants  
Provide spring and fall plantings in two outdoor planters near the memorial bench

### Programs

Easy Readers -- materials, books and prizes  
Performers for five children/family programs

### Various and Sundry

Participation in, and notes, from Volunteer Fairfax workshop in Reston  
Small donations to three FCPL branches at the time of their re-openings  
Donation for newspaper ads to minimize FCPL budget cuts by the County  
Six Saturday-morning coffees, two hours each, March to November,  
as a way to explain FOL to library patrons coming and going

## Accomplishments of 2010, continued from page three

### Special Events

Volunteer-Appreciation Night -- Friday,  
May 6th

Winter Holiday Open House -- *set for  
Saturday, December 11th*

### FOL's Author Evenings

**Jan Elvin**, author of *The Box From  
Braunau: In Search of My Father's War*

**Jamie MacVicar**, author of *The Advance  
Man: A Journey into the World of the  
Circus*

**Bob Wallace** on his *Spycraft: The Secret  
History of the CIA's Spyspechs from  
Communism to Al-Qaeda*

## The Oakton Library: *Fast Facts*

Opened on September 29, 2007

Address: 10304 Lynnhaven Place

Branch Manager: Jerilyn Polson

Square feet: 17,034

Parking spaces: 121 (five of them reserved  
for the handicapped)

Seating capacity, main meeting room(s): 85

Computer workstations for public use: 24

Staff count: 9.0 FTE (full-time equivalents)  
as opposed to 17.5 three years ago

Collection: Approximately 90,000 items  
now (versus 70,000 three years ago)

## Yes, Count Me as a Friend

Not too early to renew your membership for 2011

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New? \_\_\_\_ Membership Renewal? \_\_\_\_

Here's My Annual Membership Donation

\$10 Individual \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Family \_\_\_\_\_

Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to volunteer

my talents to help the Friends of Oakton Library.

Kindly check one or more:

- Book Sales
- Volunteer at the Library
- Friends Programs / Special Events
- Hospitality / Floral Displays
- Horticulture / Outdoor Habitat
- Expanding our Membership
- Occasional Assistance

Please make your check payable to

**Friends of Oakton Library**

and then mail to

Friends of Oakton Library  
10304 Lynnhaven Place  
Oakton, VA 22124-1785

FOL is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization.  
Your donation is tax-deductible.

***Thank you!***