



FRIENDS of the TOWSON LIBRARY

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Seeking Donations for the 16TH Annual Book Sale

The Friends of the Towson Library are accepting donations of nearly new or gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and videos through March 31, 2010. Haul in your own donations and encourage your neighbors, co-workers, relatives, and others to donate their media to this worthy cause.

The 16th Annual Book Sale will be held in April 2010. The event is important because it is the Friends' primary fundraiser each year.

Donate and receive a tax deduction

Bring donations to the borrower services desk at the Towson Library. We do not accept magazines, encyclopedias, Readers Digest condensed books, textbooks, or records.

When you bring in your media, you receive two benefits: The gift of sharing your cherished books *and* a charitable tax deduction! Don't forget to ask the librarian for a receipt when you drop off your books.

For more information, please call 410-887-6616.

Dorothy Fraquelli



Children enjoying the library's recent children's program Mark Jaster's Piccolo's Trunk, part of the FOTL 70th anniversary celebration. (photo by Ruth Schaefer)

Do You Have Some Spare Time? Consider Sorting Books for the Sale!

The Friends have started sorting books for our annual book sale in April 2010. If you have some spare time or know someone who does, we can use the assistance!

WHO: Those willing to volunteer an hour or so
WHAT: Sorting books in preparation for our annual fundraising event. Don't worry—you will not need to lift any heavy boxes
WHERE: The Towson Library
WHY: To help raise funds for the activities that made the library a vibrant place

Contact Dorothy Fraquelli at 410-828-1711 or email her at fraquelli@verizon.net to arrange a training session.

LETTER FROM THE TOWSON LIBRARY MANAGER

Greetings to everyone,

It has been invigorating to reconnect with the Friends Board after their summer meeting hiatus and to meet our new Board members in their 71st year. It is humbling, once again, to witness and benefit significantly from their dedicated work on our behalf. If you missed the Friends' 70th celebrations, please visit the Bridge to see the wall of citations and the beautiful commemorative plaque.

Our field conditions since the Cockeysville Library renovation began, in early October, have kept us on our toes, as some Cockeysville customers have rediscovered the Towson Library while Cockeysville's has reduced services. We had a 30% increase in circulation of materials in October 2009 over October 2008 (to 95,828), a 24% increase in door count (to 54,706), and a 12% increase in computer usage (to 9,267), with 71% of that computer usage being unique log-ins on any given day (not repeat customers).

We also absorbed more than 40,000 items from Cockeysville's shelves, which certainly helped October circulation figures. Our most creative merchandising skills have been exercised as we've found more and more ways to display our wonderfully plentiful collection. So come and get it!

Please watch for our Calendar of Events in January which will include details about our early 2010 national touring Lincoln Exhibit.

Best regards,
Jennifer C. Haire



Children go step-by-step around the dragon maze in the reading garden.
(photo by Ruth Schaefer)

Thanks to Local Businesses and Community Associations for their Continued Support

The Friends of the Towson Library are very grateful for the continued support of local businesses and community associations. Recent membership renewals include Knollwood-Donnybrook, Ruxton-Riderwood, and Aigburth Manor community associations, as well as, Daft McCune Walker Inc., Pollard's Towing Company, and Taubman Properties LLC.

Please favor these businesses with your patronage and thank your community association for their continued commitment to our library and our community!

Daniel Puzio

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE TOWSON LIBRARY PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Towson Library,

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends and the Towson Library. Your generosity has made possible many enhancements to the library, including a flat screen TV in the Bridge Cafe, the children's castle, plantings, new seating inside the library, and the complete restoration of the "dragon pond" on the north side of the building.

Last April, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of our founding with a display of historic photos in the library, a Saturday afternoon of children's fun, and a Sunday afternoon reception that ended with the unveiling of a beautiful walnut plaque marking the occasion. The plaque can be seen in the Bridge Cafe.

Our 15th Annual Book Sale was also held in April, and we are now busy sorting and boxing books for the next sale in April 2010. The book sale is our major fundraiser.

More than 50 people attended our annual meeting in May to hear noted military historian Joseph Balkoski speak about his latest book, *From Beachhead to Brittany: The 29th Infantry at Brest*. Our next annual meeting will be on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the Towson Meeting Room on the first floor of the library. All are welcome.

You can also support the library by inviting a friend to join the Towson Friends. Just email your name and contact information to towsonfriends@gmail.com for a membership application. If you have any questions about the Friends of the Towson Library (FOTL), we would enjoy hearing from you.

Our board meets the first Tuesday of the month from October to May at 7 p.m. in the Wilson Room on the first floor of the library. Please join us and learn about our plans and activities for the year.

Sincerely,
Arthur Lynch

FOTL Board Members

Edith B. Blum

Katherine Buchanan

Tasia Cavas

Amelia Citerone

Fay Citerone

Sue Cornish

Charles A. Cottrell

Patricia Fraher

Dorothy Fraquelli

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James Ransom, *Secretary*

Clarence Reisler

Dorothy Seim

Robert Stefan

Eleanor Wilbur

Jennifer Haire, *Manager of
Towson Library*

Watch Your Mail in January for the Friends of the Towson Library Renewal Letter

This January you will receive a notice in your mail from the Friends of the Towson Library. We shifted our membership cycle to match the calendar year so your membership will be valid for the entire year.

You are a valued member of the Friends of the Towson Library. With the help of your generous contributions, we underwrite many fine programs and special projects at the Towson branch. Please encourage your friends and family to consider joining the Friends of the Towson Library to support programs, such as those we recently helped to fund:

- Café area improvements including a flat screen TV, flooring and window shades
- Professional indoor landscaping and maintenance for over 30 plants inside the library
- New computer, archival software and documents for the Towson History Room
- Three new computer workstations for Teen Central on the mezzanine level, and also a new rug and furniture nearby
- Additions to the Kid's Kingdom, including new booths and shelving; and the addition of interactive "early literacy activity centers," which we helped to support
- Ongoing learning programs for children and adults
- The "Dragon Circle" playable art feature in the Reading Garden to replace the faux fish pond. Volunteers have really spruced up this area this year. Stop by and enjoy the garden.

Fay Citerone



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Art Lynch, President
Marta Mills, Newsletter editor

Our mission: To increase and improve the services, facilities, and resources of the Towson Library.