



FRIENDS of the TOWSON LIBRARY

December, 2013

Volume 13, Number 1

President's Report



I am pleased to report that the Friends of the Towson Library look forward to an exciting year.

The money from your generous individual and business donations along with proceeds from the annual book sale (photo inset) help pay for seating, special shelving, adult and children's programming.

This year we are pleased to help the Towson Library with community outreach in a new and interesting way. We will provide partial support for 'Turning Pages', a program designed to engage incarcerated fathers and their children in reading. See this newsletter for more details.

If you are a dues paying member of the Friends, do we have a deal for you! We are offering the "BOOK LOVERS Page-A-Day CALENDAR for 2014" at a reduced price of \$10.00. For information about ordering, please see details on page 3.

2014 will mark the 40th year for Towson Library at its present location and the Friends of the Towson Library will have been in existence for 75 years. Stay tuned for information about the commemorations.

The War of 1812 is on the minds of many here in Maryland as we near the 200th anniversary of the end of that conflict. We are delighted to have chosen our speaker for the Friends of the Towson Library Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday May 6th 2014. Burt Kummerow, the President of the Maryland Historical Society, will talk about his highly acclaimed book, **In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake**. Mark your calendars, tell your friends.

And while marking your calendars, write in the annual book sale, April 10, 11, 12 and 13th, 2014.

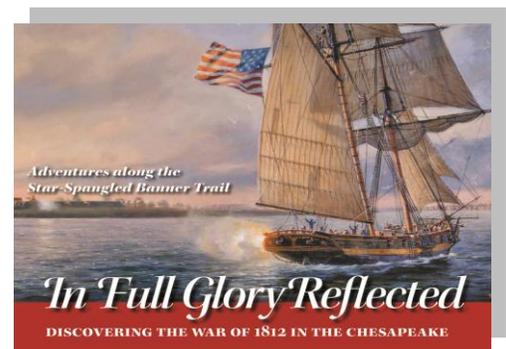
Fay Citerone, president, Friends of the Towson Library

SAVE THE DATE Annual meeting May 6th 2014

We are happy to announce the speaker for our 2014 annual meeting - Burton Kummerow, author of In Full Glory Reflected: discovering the war of 1812 in the Chesapeake, which occurred in our own back yard. Our speaker will be of interest to everyone with a connection to Baltimore and an interest in U.S. history. The Captain's Locker says, "This stunning fully illustrated volume is the very best ever done on the Chesapeake Bay campaigns in both Maryland and Virginia, bar none." Burton Kummerow is the president and CEO of the Maryland Historical Society and president of Historyworks, Inc. Plan now to attend!!

Hanna Pickworth

Photo courtesy of Maryland Historical Society Press



From Jugglers to Poets, Thrilling Programs for All

Hello, good Friends of the Towson Library!

As we begin another year of working together to make the Towson Library an exciting destination for readers of all ages, plans are underway to provide a slate of programs that are fun and interesting for all of the family. While our programs for children, especially babies and preschoolers, have been tremendously successful, we are trying to reach a wider audience in the community. With the assistance of funding donated to the Towson Library through the hard work and generosity of the Friends of the Towson Library, we are able to provide materials, snacks, and appearances by talented performers so that our customers can enjoy programs that are both educational and entertaining.

Last June, for the kickoff program to Summer Reading 2013, we had a fantastic Circus Night at the Library, featuring acrobats and jugglers—with flaming batons! The main floor of the library became the Big Top for one night, as more than 300 people attended, one of our biggest programs ever. The kids joined in the fun, learning to juggle with bean bags and were treated to cookies and punch.

This Fall, we have begun a series of “Teen Open Mic” nights. The first one drew more than 27 people. Teens loved the opportunity to showcase their singing,

ukulele-playing, rapping, and dancing talents. They couldn’t wait to tell their friends to come to the next one! Pizza and soft drinks were a smash hit, courtesy of the Friends of the Towson Library.

Craft programs for school-age children are always a hit, and offer kids the opportunity to express their creativity. This month, they created fall-themed felt banners while listening to stories of the season. On December 7, the ever-popular “Build a Gingerbread House” will feature candy and holiday tales. In February, children can create their own take-home snowman, with no mittens required. Craft materials and treats for the children are all provided through the generosity of the Friends.

For all members of the family, we have two performers coming to enthrall with their impersonation of famous historical figures. On January 16, Ben Franklin will be discussing his numerous inventions, and on April 17, Emily Dickinson will be reading aloud some of her favorite poems, in celebration of National Poetry Month.

All of these exciting activities enliven the offerings of the Towson Library, providing amusement, learning, and family togetherness—thanks to the Friends of the Towson Library.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday!

Lisa Hughes, Manager, Towson Library

Donations of books are needed for the Annual Book Sale to be held April 10 - 13, 2014. Hardbacks and paperbacks, fiction and non-fiction, children's and adults, videos, CDs, DVDs, boxed puzzles, but no magazines, please. Bring them to the accounts desk on the main floor of the Towson Library; ask for a receipt for your tax purposes.



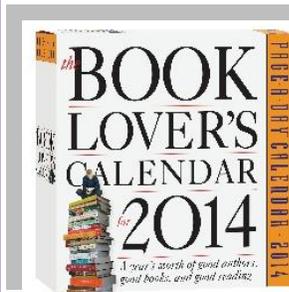
Friends of the Towson Library is pleased to assist the Towson Branch in its work with Turning Pages

The *Turning Pages Family Reading Club* is a special contact visiting time for inmates of the Baltimore County Detention Center to read to and do literacy activities with their children. Children take the books and activities home with them to keep. The families meet four times over eight weeks at visitation facilities of the BCDC.

Inmates are invited to participate on the basis of good behavior, an interview, commitment to the Turning Pages contract, a cooperative caregiver, and possibly a lottery. The children are between the ages of 4 and 12 (or 6th grade). Caregivers make this possible by bringing the children and participating. The leaders are experienced, professional educators.

In preparatory workshops, inmates learn how to help their children become great readers, pick books to read and plan an activity. Fathers and children will read together, do a book-related activity and participate in a family activity. Caregivers gather to chat about supporting their children in school and raising successful readers. A professional educator leads.

Special Offer to Friends Members: 2014 Book Lover's Page-A-Day Calendar



If you are a dues-paying member of the Friends of the Towson Library you may purchase this lovely Book Lover's Page-A-Day Calendar for 2014 for only \$10.00 each. It includes the latest literary fiction discoveries, offbeat nonfiction finds such as *Soldier Dogs: The Untold Story of America's Canine Heroes*, classics to reread, fascinating biographies, and meaty historical reads, including *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*.

These sell in the stores for \$12.99 plus. We will make arrangements for you to pick up your calendars at the library.

Send your check made out to 'Friends of the Towson Library'. Put **Calendar** in the memo. There is a limit of two calendars per member. Mail to: Friends of the Towson Library, 320 York Rd, Towson, MD 21204-5121



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FoTL Mission: To increase and improve the services, facilities, and resources of the Towson Library.

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- + The Friends will **save nearly \$300 in annual postage fees**, if everyone received the newsletter by email, which helps the Towson Library.



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REMINDERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Towson Library meets at 7:00 pm the first Tuesday of the month, October through May, in the Wilson Room of the Towson Library.

The Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 7:00 pm. All members of the Friends are invited to attend.