



# FRIENDS

## OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

July 2008

Volume 26, Number 3

Fellow Friends of the Library,

As I write this, the temperature outside is letting me know that high summer has arrived. As you know, our bookstore in the Orrell Building has shifted into summer mode and is now open Fridays and Saturdays. It remains a very popular attraction and an excellent source of income for the Friends. Mildred Stillman, after years of stellar service, either has already moved down to Williamsburg, or will shortly, and the bookstore is now in the excellent care of Jane and Dave Abbott.

Clement Dickey served eight years on the Library Board of Trustees and his term has just ended. His seat is being taken by our own Doreen Folzenlogen. Doreen is a very active long-time member of the Friends, including years as our newsletter editor, executive committee member, and president. She is very knowledgeable about library affairs and our activities. There could hardly be a better appointment to the Trustees. She will retain her current duties as newsletter editor and executive committee member, thereby strengthening our contact with the Trustees. Our congratulations to her on the appointment.

On June 14, Janice Phillips was notified that our grant application to the Treakle Foundation had been funded in the amount of \$17,000. That is very good news indeed. This foundation has treated us very well in the past, and continues to do so with its valuable grants. This allows us to continue supporting the library. In a recent action, the executive committee transferred funds to underwrite the library's summer programs. Programs of that kind are among the things that make our library stand out.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**JULY 15  
10 A.M.**

**ORRELL BUILDING  
(NOTE LOCATION)**

**FIND OUT WHAT THE FRIENDS  
AND THE LIBRARY  
ARE ACHIEVING**

Remember, volunteer your services, contribute funds, donate used books, and participate both in FOL activities and in library events.

*Neil Webre, President  
Friends of Mathews Memorial Library*

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Michael Cannon, a new member since the April newsletter. Also, a special thanks to Marcia Benouameur, Arthur Gregory, and Christine Ulrich, who have all moved up from yearly memberships to Life memberships. We appreciate your support in helping us do all we can for our library.

**Resolution Honoring and Commending  
Captain Jack and Mildred Stillman for their  
service to the Mathews Memorial Library**

WHEREAS, Captain Jack and Mildred Stillman have served the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library with distinction for many years; and

WHEREAS, they were among the first members of the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library and have championed the role of the library in Mathews County; and

WHEREAS, they have demonstrated their love of the Mathews Memorial Library through the generous contribution of their time and resources; and

WHEREAS, they have been outspoken advocates for expanding library services to include all citizens; and

WHEREAS, their keen observations and precise analysis of budgets and willingness to speak openly have been invaluable to the library; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the community will miss their enthusiasm, their genuine and giving spirit, and their deep commitment to the citizens of Mathews.

WHEREAS, Mathews County, Virginia, is a better place because of Captain Jack and Mildred.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for the Mathews Memorial Library, does hereby honor and thank Captain Jack and Mildred Stillman for their outstanding service to the Mathews Memorial Library and the people of Mathews County.

Jean Owens, Chairman  
Board of Trustees,  
Mathews Memorial Library

**ORRELL BUILDING—USED BOOK STORE**

The Orrell Building will be open for book sales July and August, each Friday and Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm. We will also be open on Market Days weekend, September 5 & 6. There are over a thousand hardback fiction books, more than 1500 paperbacks, over 300 trade and oversize paperbacks, children's books, and over a thousand history, biography, and cookbooks. We have something for everyone. The back room is full of books for \$1.00/bag. Bring your friends and guests for a fun and inexpensive shopping trip.

True friends of FOL, Mildred and Jack Stillman will be moving to Williamsburg this July. Mildred has been with us from the early days of book sales from the library attic (before the remodeling), caboose bookmobile, sales from the back room (during remodeling), and the final set-up for the sales in the Orrell Building. Her many volunteer hours have made us the best library used book store in the state (according to our patrons). It has been a pleasure to volunteer under her guidance. We will miss Mildred very much, and hope that she will be a frequent visitor.

*The book store always needs book donations, also plastic and paper bags and boxes.* We are all trying to recycle, so bags are getting scarce.

Many thanks to all the volunteers for the Orrell Building. A special thanks to Carol Fitzgerald, who has followed Pam Machen and who made the flower garden stay beautiful with lots of color.

*David & Jane Abbott, Co-Chairs*

**HELP NEEDED**

The Friends were always grateful to Pam Machen for keeping the area around the Orrell Building looking so nice. Now Carol Fitzgerald has taken over the job as a tribute to her friend, Pam. The area looks as nice as ever. Thank you Carol. Thanks, too, to Linda and David Moorman who have also helped with some of the weeding and planting.

Carol would like to have a few Friends volunteer to be in charge of watering the area once a week. Of course, if it rains that week no watering needs to be done. If you can help with this job, please call Carol at 725-3545.

## PAM MACHEN MEMORIAL FUND

A memorial fund honoring the legacy of Pamela Machen (a long-time Friend of the Library) has been established at the Mathews Community Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to support, in perpetuity, causes that enhance the beautification of our county. As we all know, Pam was very generous with her time, her talents and her plants, and she cared deeply about the aesthetic appeal of Mathews County. The advisors to this fund are John L. Machen, Sr. and John L. Machen, Jr., who will advise the Foundation with respect to the charitable giving.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, checks may be sent to Mathews Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1037, Mathews, VA 23109. Please note that the contribution should be directed to the Pamela Bond Machen Memorial Fund.

## BRICK WALKWAY AND PATIO

Summertime is always a good time for a casual stroll in Mathews. Be certain to include in that stroll our fabulous Library, then exit the back door to appreciate the also fabulous Brick Walkway & Patio. Find your names and those of your friends, enjoy some of the witty inscriptions about people and/or their pets, then consider how many additional bricks you may want to donate for both living and deceased loved ones. Notwithstanding the almost obscene increase in prices in about everything you are purchasing these days, the donor cost of the bricks remains the same - \$100 for a 4 x 8 and \$225 for an 8x8 one. *And, thanks to our Orrell Book Store, you will receive a \$10 gift certificate for books there for each 4x8 brick and a \$25 one for each 8x8 brick.* Still all is tax exempt for the donor. Is that a good deal or what?

*Roger Gamble, Chair*

[www.friendsofmathewslibrary.org](http://www.friendsofmathewslibrary.org)



*Mildred Stillman, surrounded by Friends, points out the new brick in her and Captain Jack's honor that has been placed in the brick courtyard outside the Library.*

## BOOKS FOR THE TROOPS

The Friends sent 82 books to 9 service personnel in January and 50 books to 6 service personnel in April. This has long been a special project of Mildred Stillman. She has carefully checked the lists provided by Operation Paperback, picked out the type of books chosen, and then packed and mailed them off to the troops. The Friends often get thank you notes saying how much these books are appreciated.

## THE FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

We now have 307 members,  
of which 256 are Life members,  
43 renew yearly, and  
8 are Auxiliary members.

## REGIONAL FRIENDS MEETING

Norma von Brock and Nancy Lindgren attended a regional Friends of the Library meeting in Newport News on June 11, 2008 that was intended as a forum for groups to compare, discuss and offer suggestions to each other.

We in Mathews are fortunate to have an entire building available to use for meetings and book sales! Others have been given a room within their libraries, or meet elsewhere .For instance, the Newport News Book Store is in the library, smaller than our area, and subject to open hours of the library.

The biggest challenge for all the groups is increasing their membership and, more importantly, the core group of "workers" who give time and energy and "spread the workload." Some organizations had YOUNG members(!) so looking to retirees was suggested. Space was also a problem, especially for collecting and sorting books for sales. One group had only 5 members, space, but NO BOOKS!

Outlets for over abundance of books was shared, and Jane and Dave Abbott are aware. Our experience of sending books to troops, local Indian tribes, and libraries following Hurricane Katrina were mentioned. Dealers were used by other FOLs for information as well as selling to them, and the internet is a viable sales opportunity. The book sales are the largest fund raising efforts and Mathews FOL's pricing seems average, though some charged more. The times of sales ranged from weekly to monthly to twice yearly.

Money provided the library also varied, with special programs requiring the most--most had summer programs and visiting authors that the groups supported. Some of the FOL groups went into schools, did "breakfast with Santa/photo ops," and gave coupons for books to new residents.

The assembled group felt this session was worth while and voted to have an annual meeting, versus every two years, which we supported.

*Nancy Lindgren*

### **SUMMER 2008 EVENTS MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Excitement and adventure await young and old at the Mathews Memorial Library, where a fun-filled series of activities, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, will take place from June through August.

Mathews young people attending the library's summer program, Nautical Neighbors, will sail into a month full of nautical adventures. Belinda Blowfish will be their tour guide during this year's July program. Their voyage of fun and discovery, led by scientists and other experts, will include diving into stories of the watery deep and the fantastic and strange creatures that live there. Tales of the adventures of sailors who navigated the oceans to explore new lands will intrigue young landlubbers who dream of going to sea. Trips to museums and an aquarium will immerse participants in the real world of the ocean planet.

The Library is also offering a nautical experience for adults who join the crew of the SS Pearl and sail through the straits of the Mathews Memorial Library on a literary adventure cruise. Crew members will read stories suited for all types of cruises, making them eligible for weekly prizes from local shops, including Dilly Dally, Maggie's, Cattail's, Porcelain by Jane and Southwind, along with Middlesex merchants, Nauti Nell's, West Marine and Coffman's. In addition, there will be an exciting grand prize awarded. Many pleasures are promised for those who join the Nautical Notes Adult Summer Literary Cruise, including a calypso party at the conclusion of this fun-filled cruise in late August.

For additional information about programs, visit the Library online at [www.mathewslibrary.org](http://www.mathewslibrary.org) or contact the library at 804.725.5747.

*Bette Dillehay  
Library Director*

#### **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOOTHIN' SUMMER SOUNDS AT THE LIBRARY**

Blues & Jazz Guitar  
Jazzin' Jay Jarvis  
Tuesday, July 8th, 7 pm

A Magical Musical Conversation  
Jennifer Kirkland and Bert Carlson (vocals & guitar)  
Jazz arrangements of American popular music from favorite standards to the Blues, the Beatles and beyond.  
Thursday, August 7th, 7 pm

Swingin' Sunday Soiree  
The Art Muroff Trio  
Come dance to the music of Jazz Royalty!  
Sunday, August 17th, 3 pm

## A TRIBUTE TO MILDRED & CAPT. JACK



*Mildred and Jack Stillman*

Mathews County is losing a real treasure in the name of Stillman.

Both Jack and Mildred are Mathews natives. At age 16 Jack left to go to sea on the ships of the Maritime Service, also called the Wartime Shipping Administration. Still under the Maritime Service he worked for the Ford Motor Company and also Standard Oil of New Jersey (Exxon). He rose to the level of Master during his 40 years of service.

Mildred left Mathews for business school in Richmond, graduating in 1949. She then worked for a wholesale drug company. In 1951 she married Jack. They first lived in New Orleans when Jack was in the military service during the Korean War. They came back to Mathews, left for Hampton, back to Mathews and then to Richmond where they raised their family. Finally they came back to Mathews again when Jack retired in 1986.

Jack became a member of the Friends of the Library in 1983 along with two other Captains, Mason South and Jack Ward. The Friends of the Library had just been re-organized in 1982. The two Jacks traded off as President and Vice President of the Friends for a number of years beginning in 1990 when Jack Stillman became President. Capt. Jack also served as Building and Maintenance person, using his skill as a woodworker to build shelves for the children's wing and shelves and doors for the genealogy materials.

Jack has been the Building Fund Treasurer since 1998 when the library renovation plans began. The final report in 2003 showed that the total

amount raised for the project was \$748,369. Only .001 percent of this was used for fund-raising expenses. Jack has also been filling out the tax forms for the Friends for all these years.

Mildred didn't join the Friends when Jack did. Like Jack, she wasn't satisfied to be just a member. She wanted to actively contribute. So in 2000 Mildred joined the Friends and took over the Treasurer's office and remained as Treasurer until December of 2005. Her real love, however, has always been the Friends bookstore in the Orrell Building. You will find her there almost every day it is open and many, many days when it is not open. Mildred is in there sorting and shelving books.

The first Friends book sale in 1986 was held in front of the library and \$490 worth of paperbacks were sold during Market Days. The book sales then moved to the old Lee-Jackson school and then to a couple of old stores in Mathews. Jack built the book mobile in 1999, with help from his grandson. This was parked at Lee-Jackson school every Saturday until the Orrell Building opened. Books were then sold in the back of the Orrell Building with the temporary library set up in the front portion. The book mobile was also moved, with great difficulty, to various festivals in the County. Mildred and Jack were very involved in these sales.

The Friends of the Library still benefit from Jack's work with Exxon. Exxon has an Involvement Fund for employees and their spouses. For every 20 hours of volunteer service each quarter of the year, a check for \$500 is sent to the organization of choice. Each year since 2000, \$2000 has come to the Friends from Exxon because of Mildred's and Jack's volunteer work.

The Stillmans will be leaving our area this July and will be moving to WindsorMeade in Williamsburg. Their new address is: Capt. Jack and Mildred Stillman, 3900 Windsor Hall Drive, Apartment A-115, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Phone (757)229-3059 and email at [hond6@verizon.net](mailto:hond6@verizon.net)

They will be sorely missed in their native Mathews. Luckily, they still have a cottage here and will be returning from time to time. And we all know that their interest in the Friends and the library will continue.