



FRIENDS

OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

January 2010

Volume 28, Number 1

Fellow Friends of the Mathews Library,

At this time of year, we're seeing temperatures in the teens at night and barely above freezing during the day. Old Man Winter is in for sure! I hope you're keeping warm.

We are monitoring the situation with the Library budget. As you have no doubt heard, the near-term future looks bad. At the time of writing, we haven't yet gotten a report from Bette Dillehay, the Library's Director about the situation for the second half of the current fiscal year or for the next year. Bette will be at the General Membership meeting this month and we can expect to hear more. The situation makes what the Friends do even more important in keeping up the quality of our Library and its services.

We have an election of officers for the coming year at the General Membership meeting on Tuesday, January 19th at 10 AM in the John Warren Cooke room of the library. It is important for as many of you as possible to be there because of the election. We must have a quorum of 15 members or more to vote in the officers. Please make it if you can.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

IMPORTANT

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

10 A.M.

***MATHEWS MEMORIAL
LIBRARY***

We have two issues before the Executive Committee that are important internal matters. The first is to decide whether to make the Friends a corporation. There are lots of reasons to do so and the process is fairly easy. The Executive Committee will discuss and decide whether to recommend this step at its next meeting on January 13th. Then, if recommended, we'll need a vote of the membership at the General Membership meeting, so there's another reason to attend.

A second and related matter is the review and rewrite of our by-laws. Over time, by-laws drift out of conformance with what is actually being done. This happens more not necessarily because we are doing anything that conflicts with the by-laws, but rather doing things that the by-laws don't address. They neither allow nor disallow them. A good example is the use of email. That allows the Committee to take actions that need timely action in unusual cases – the equivalent of a special meeting. We try to not decide important matters in this way, but the need arises sometimes to take timely action. Rather than call a meeting, which inconveniences everyone, it is far easier to discuss and make decisions using email. Also, our committee structure needs reviewing, and if we do incorporate, there may be changes required by the new organizational form.

We have tentatively scheduled a discussion of the by-laws and a decision on the revisions for the February meeting of the Executive Committee.

Hope to see you at the General Membership meeting on January 19th.

Neil Webre, President

FROM THE LIBRARY

"Thinking Outside the Box"

Contemporary management gurus urge business tycoons to "think outside the box" if they wish to be successful. As they define it: "Thinking outside the box is to think differently, unconventionally or from a new perspective." This phrase often refers to novel, creative and smart thinking. Libraries are not

usually thought of as places where a great deal of time and effort is spent "thinking outside the box." This is no reflection on libraries or librarians, but rather reflects the deeply ingrained traditional nature of the mission of the world's libraries; i.e., to make it possible for people to have access to information from a multiplicity of resources for a multiplicity of purposes.

Several years ago, the staff of the Mathews Memorial Library decided to take a serious look at "thinking outside the box," with the goal of enhancing the role of the library in the community. While we are certainly not the first library to engage in such an activity, we are quite likely among a limited number of those who have pursued it with such vigor.

A quick review of activities over the past several years reveals the degree to which we have adopted the precepts of out of the box thinking. Let's start with youth programs. The July Summer Program for young people brings new vision and wider horizons through learning, doing and seeing while "Fantasy Trips" taken each April shower young participants with information about far away lands. Adults, also, have the opportunity of participating in new and different library experiences. While many libraries have book clubs, few have summer adult reading programs that culminate in a cruise party, complete with the chance of winning a real cruise, and even fewer schedule tea dances or music programs such as the "Lessons in Pleasure" led by Tom Steel. Thinking outside the box is not enough to make possible such programs, however. Without skilled staff and volunteers and the generosity

of the Friends of the Library, creativity would be wasted. Fortunately, all of these resources are available to the Mathews Memorial Library.

But, what about results? Has creativity paid off? A recent summary report provided to the Library of Virginia contains a myriad of statistics. We'll let you, our sponsors and Friends, decide if you think it is a good investment. Current patron count is over 8,100; daily visits average 150; items borrowed during a month usually exceed 2,000; and, not surprisingly, library computer users average over 1,500 per month. But, what about programs? In 2009, there were 2,053 recorded youth program attendees and 1,464 adults who attended library sponsored programs.

What do you think? We invite you to join us "outside the box" in 2010.

Bette Dillehay, Library Director

ORRELL BLDG. USED BOOK STORE

Open the first Saturday of each month
January 2, February 6, March 6,
April 3, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Orrell Building was open to the public for used book sales for 47 days during 2009. It was a very good year; we sold approximately 11,000 books of all kinds and sizes. 17 friends volunteered throughout the year to assist in the many jobs including sorting, shelving, pricing, cleaning, etc., etc., etc. At least 575 hours of service was completed.

We thank all the volunteers, and thank all those who donated the books. We also want to thank the staff and

volunteers in the library who accepted donations and made them available in the Orrell Building. Working together has made the used book sales a success. Our sale days are becoming very popular and we anticipate higher sales during 2010.

Jane & David Abbott

BRICKS AND PATIO

2009 was another good year for the Friends Walkway & Patio, with 12 new bricks added to the over 400 already there. This past quarter saw donated bricks honoring a retiring Board of Trustees president and a major civic organization noted for its charitable activities, and memorializing a giant of the community and other friends and family members who passed away recently.

As mentioned in previous newsletters and at the Friends general meeting, the donation for an 8 x 8 brick is now just \$150, down from the previous \$225. This is worth noting again as some of the old brick donation forms, which still show the \$225, are being used by new donors. New forms are available at the Library and in the Friends Orrell Book Store, conveniently located behind the Library and Walkway & Patio. In addition to the donation being tax free, donors receive an attractive certificate detailing the brick inscription and a gift certificate for books at the Orrell Book Store (\$10 for the \$100 donation and \$15 for \$150 donation). Let's make 2010 a banner year for the Walkway & Patio by continuing the pace of, or increasing, the donations, all of which contribute to the Friends support of the best library in the country.

Roger Gamble

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Nancy Lindgren and Doreen Folzenlogen has submitted the following proposed slate of candidates for service during 2010. The election will take place at the January membership meeting and there will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

President: Neil Webre
Vice-President: Norma von Brock
Treasurer: Jim Hutchins
Recording Secretary: Pam Viens
Corres. Secretary: Nancy Lindgren

HELP WANTED

The Friends are in need of help for the following committees. These volunteers would become part of our executive committee, the group which makes decisions for the Friends and now consists of eleven officers and chairpersons. If you are interested in serving, please contact Neil Webre at nwebre@gmail.com or 725-4125.

Fund-raising: This person would be in charge of any fund-raising efforts of the Friends.

Hospitality: This person would help arrange refreshments for any functions of the Friends of the Library or the Library itself, if requested.

Newsletter: This person would edit the Friends newsletter four times a year and also arrange for the printing and mailing.

Programs: This person would be in charge of arranging programs for the membership meetings, as requested.

Publicity: This person would write articles and take pictures of Friends activities for the newspaper.

Volunteer Coordinator: This person would call people when the Library Director needs help with a project.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Do you have "2009" on your address label? It's time to renew your membership in the Friends. Maybe this is the time for you to upgrade to "LIFE" status. The majority of our members are at this level. An application is on the back of this newsletter. We continue to send our newsletters to Life members who move out of the County. If there is anyone outside the County who is no longer interested in receiving the newsletters, please let us know through our membership chairman, Millie Montgomery, at davemil@visi.net, through our address at P.O. Box 127, Mathews, VA 23109, or through our answering machine at 804-725-0808.

WELCOME

Welcome to new members, Ken Winebrenner and Linda Thornton. We are happy to add you to the list of supporters of our library.

THANK YOU

Carol Fitzgerald has taken care of landscaping at our Pam Machen Memorial Garden at the Orrell Building for almost three years now and has done a wonderful job. The area always looks good. Carol will be moving soon and we want to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her help and support.

The Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2009

		2009 Budget
Building Fund		
Balance, January 1, 2009		\$ 57,290.67
Interest Earned thru 11/30/09		887.10
Bricks, Decal Sales		1,469.00
Total Building Fund Balance		\$ 59,646.77
Reserves/Investments		
Balance, January 1, 2009		\$ 92,201.95
Interest Earned thru 11/30/09		743.10
Investment Accounts Balance		\$ 92,945.05
Checking Account		
Balance January 1, 2009		\$ 17,515.29
Income		
Book Sales	10,770.20	8,000.00
Tote Sales	160.00	
Contributions & Grants	132,588.44	20,000.00
Memberships	660.00	400.00
Bricks and Decals	-	
Total Income		\$ 144,178.64
Operating Expenses		
Lease	(12.00)	(12.00)
Telephone	(502.44)	(500.00)
Sales Taxes	(566.05)	(500.00)
Postage	(461.48)	(500.00)
Subscriptions	(65.00)	(65.00)
Newsletter	(390.00)	(450.00)
Pavers	(243.37)	(500.00)
Insurance	(699.00)	(513.00)
Advertising	-	(125.00)
Misc.	(71.28)	(200.00)
Stationery, Office Supplies	-	(535.00)
Total Operating Expenses	(3,010.62)	(3,900.00)
Library Support		
Programs	(8,170.03)	
Books, Audio Tapes	(1,723.28)	
Furnishings, Flooring	(5,445.26)	
Computers, Software	(15,373.00)	
Total Library Support		\$ (30,711.57)
Total Expenses		\$ (33,722.19)
Change in Checking Acct.		\$ 110,456.45
Unaudited Check Book Balance, 12/31/09		\$ 127,971.74
Bookstore Change Fund		\$ 64.00
Total		\$ 280,627.56

Restricted Funds (Included above)	
Accelerated Reader	50.17
Treakle Foundation	6,287.44
Hollerith Archives Fund	5,162.91
Homebound Project	125.00
Literacy Program	232.71
Building Expansion	100,000.00
Owens Foundation	1,500.00
Owens Foundation - Grant Writing	1,209.77
Total Restricted Funds	\$ 114,568.00

* Interest earned on funds invested with Davenport is 100% credited to building fund.

Note: Recent contribution of \$100,000 is restricted for the purchase of additional space for the library.

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

Date: _____

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

E-mail Address

Post Office

State

Zip

*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.*