



HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY TO THE FRIENDS

OF THE MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, INC.

From the President...

Dear Friends,

The Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library, Inc. turns 30 in April. To celebrate these years of support for our Library, FOL is holding a 30 Year Celebration at our general membership meeting on Tuesday, April 17 in the John Warren Cooke Room of the Library at 10 a.m. Come and enjoy the program, which will highlight activities, programs, and capital expansion projects over the past 30 years. These 30 years have set the stage for the Friends continued support of the Library's needs today and tomorrow. The men and women who helped to found our organization and to guide it through these years have received a special invitation to attend and will be honored during the program. We look forward to having all of you share a toast, not only to the past but to the future of the FOL. As we go through the coming year, you will see the logo "Friends of the Library, 30 Years of Support, Past, Present, Future .

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The Library Addition Project continues to move ahead. The Campaign Steering Committee is active and has held several meetings. Members of this committee include Dennis and Brenda Baker, Judy Busby, John Dayton, Willie Hubbard, Jim Hutchins, Maree Morgan, Dick Pogue, and Steve Whiteway. A grant proposal has been submitted to a major foundation with a site visit in April. A decision on the grant proposal will be forthcoming around the first of June. Other grant proposals are being prepared for submission this spring,

On Saturday April 14, the FOL will host the Community Tent at the Farmers Market on the Courthouse Green from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. On display will be posters and pictures, printed materials highlighting the activities of our organization. If you are in the area, stop by. The Orrell Building will also be open in support of our presence at the Community Tent.

April is a special month for the FOL, and we look forward to all of you sharing in our celebration of the PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE. See you on the 17th.

Maree Morgan
President

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

April 17, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.

John Warren Cooke Room

Mathews Memorial Library



Thirty Years Ago – A Relative Perspective

“History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time, illumines reality, vitalizes memory, and provides guidance in daily life...”

Marcus Cicero, Pro Publico Sestio

Once upon a time, when the sounds and sights of spring were in the air, the Mathews Memorial Library (only recently moved from its original site on the Court Green to the iconic Farmers Bank of Mathews building on Main Street) hit the jackpot. It acquired a partner – a group of citizens who called themselves “Friends.” The year was 1982, and the Library had been in existence since 1935, even longer if one considers the fact that it had almost become a reality in 1933, but for the small matter of a hurricane which wiped out plans for opening in August 1933.

In 1975, Mildred Sadler Hudgins had replaced Miss Dahlia E. Callis as librarian. Miss Callis, the fourth individual to serve in the post, had bestowed to the county a rich tradition of library service, one which was enhanced by the dedication and love of community that Mildred brought to the position. It was during Mildred’s tenure that the organization, Friends of the Library, became a dynamic force in sustaining and expanding library service in Mathews. The foresight and vision of the leaders of the organization have remained as guiding principles of excellence in service.

Ten years ago in February, 2002, I was privileged to return home to Mathews to become a part of the library family. It was a time of high anticipation as the Friends were about to complete a major renovation of the Library. Accomplishing what few would have thought possible, they had raised over a million dollars and converted the cramped quarters of the old bank building into a spacious, beautifully appointed library facility. Nothing was overlooked or omitted, from the dramatic mezzanine to the brightly painted youth wing. When the staff moved from the temporary library quarters located in the Orrell Building where they had continued to provide excellent service over a two-year period, the Friends reclaimed the building for their headquarters. More importantly, they established a book store which has become one of the most successful of all Virginia public libraries.

From its inception, the organization has demonstrated its support of the Library and its programs. This record of outstanding service translates to the dedication and unselfish giving, both in resources and service, of those who have chosen to become a Friend of the Library. Their commitment was, and is, expressed in a variety of ways, none of which is motivated by a desire for praise or recognition. From story time to music programs, the Friends have established an unblemished record of support. Leadership has changed over time, but not the level of support that is available when needed.

Two years ago, the Friends once again assumed responsibility for a major renovation. With the opportunity to purchase the adjacent building, they did not flinch in committing to undertake the gargantuan task of raising nearly one million dollars at a time of economic uncertainty. Without their vision, the Library would not be able to look forward to serving more members of the community by offering expanded services in an improved and up-to-date setting.

The staff of the Library joins me in saluting and congratulating the Friends of the Library on the occasion of their 30th birthday. Happy Birthday!

Bette Dillehay
Library Director

Upcoming Events at a glance

Pre-School Story Time
Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Career Connect Center
Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

You can visit the Library’s website
for complete descriptions of these and other
upcoming events and for any registration requirements.

www.mathewslibrary.org

The following article was written by the former newsletter editor, Doreen Folzenlogen. As the Friends of the Library have added many new members over the past five years, we felt it appropriate to reprint this article about how it all began.....

25 YEARS OF FRIENDS

(Reprinted from the October 2007 issue of the Friends Newsletter)

The Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library celebrates a quarter century of existence this year, having been organized in 1982 by a group of dedicated, civic-minded Library patrons. As a way to commemorate this occasion 25 years ago, and to celebrate the second annual National Friends of Libraries Week during October 17-21, the Friends are pleased to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to the first President of the Friends, Mary Noah.

Mary Noah was 88 years old when she died on August 14, 2007. She was born in an old house that is the present location of the Port Haywood Post Office. She was a graduate of Mathews schools and came back to teach at New Point, Cobbs Creek, Gwynn's Island, and Lee-Jackson schools. Mary loved to read. Her son, Louis, remembers her always having a book in her hand. A gentleman once reported to librarian Millie Hudgins that just about every book he checked out from the library had been checked out by Mary first.

Mary's wonderful, gentle sense of humor led her to call herself the Mayor of Port Haywood. Every October for her birthday, she would have a picture taken of herself at the sign for Port Haywood with a Mayor of Port Haywood sign in front of her. She and members of the family would go into the post office singing, "You Are My Sunshine" with other patrons joining in. Many people have commented that Mary went about doing things in a firm, but gracious, way. She was a very kind and thoughtful person who lived by the Golden Rule.

When it came time to move the Library from the old sheriff's office to the present bank building, Mary was right there ready to help. She encouraged people to donate money for more books and she arranged for contributions from the state to purchase books through the offices of former long-time Congressman Thomas Downing.

Mary was not only the first President of the Friends, she also was one of its founding members. Joined by and with the support of the other founding members—Elizabeth Bowles, Becky Cooke, Dorothy Gayle, Gladys Hammond, Virginia Hudgins, Clare Jones, Georgianne Laws, Sally Bet Lawson, Marilyn Owens, Virginia Owens, Mary Pulley, Eileen Ripley and Bernice White, Mary laid the foundation for the successes the Friends enjoy today. While each president lends his/her own personality and processes to the job, Mary did this as well as taking on the task of being the first to lead a new organization with no footsteps to follow. We remember her and thank her for her efforts.

Following Mary for the ensuing twenty-five years, the Presidency of the Friends has been held by Capt. Jack Ward, Capt. Mason South, Kenneth Brown, Capt. Jack Stillman, Norma von Brock, Ray Hunley, Doug Wilton, Doreen Folzenlogen, and, presently, John Dayton. They have all taken inspiration from the examples provided by Mary and the other Founding Members.

The vision of Mary and the other founding members has been realized far beyond what even they could have imagined. From a group of fourteen dedicated ladies with a budget not sufficient to pay postage for its mailings, the Friends has become a thriving, vibrant organization of over 300 members who make a real difference in our community. The Friends operate a Book Store and manage the Library Commemorative Brick Patio and Walkway which, with membership dues, donations, and grants, enables it to provide valuable support for the Library. Financial support for the Library included management of a Friends Building Fund of over \$700,000 for the 1998-2003 renovation of the Library Building and provides an average of \$30,000 for Library programs, equipment and supplies. Mary's legacy lives on

*Doreen Folzenlogen
Newsletter Editor 2000-2009*

Newsletter News...

If receiving the newsletter electronically is an option for you and if you would be willing to do so, please send a message to that effect to our email address at friendsofmathewslibrary@gmail.com. Thank you.

*Mary Margaret Hutchins
Newsletter Editor*

ORRELL BUILDING USED BOOK STORE

Spring and Summer 2012
Watch for our sign on Main Street

Open Saturdays
April 7 & 21, May 5 & 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m
Open after the Friends Membership Meeting, April 17

Memorial Weekend Openings
Friday May 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m
Saturday May 26, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m

Summer Months
Open every Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m

Thank you to everyone in the community and surrounding area for donating all the wonderful books for our sales. And this year we have more space to display your donations. The back room has been converted from an “old book storage area” to an attractive display area for books, tables and chairs.

Thank you to the following volunteers who made the book store successful this past winter: **Martha Arnold, Barbara Churray, Michael and Ed Cannon, Doreen Folzenlogen, Nan Hathaway, Joan Metzger, Maree Morgan, Barbara Sampson, Christine Ulrich, Bette Dillehay** and the Library Staff.

Jane Abbott
Used Book Store Chair



BRICK WALKWAY & PATIO

The Walkway & Patio is also celebrating a birthday this year - its tenth. Milt Lindgren, its founder and designer, installed the first inscribed bricks in January of 2002. Already engaged in the major ongoing fund raiser for the Library, Milt believed the Walkway & Patio would spur donations by providing donors "something" for their money.

He researched brick suppliers until he found the best of the best. Then with the assistance of a professional bricklayer, he established the base structure. It was not a simple



task as there were many pesky quirks to getting all the horizontal and vertical lines appropriately set. Donor brick orders then flowed in as residents and non-residents alike appreciated the opportunity to leave lasting memorials honoring family and friends. Milt installed 347 inscribed bricks during the first four years, bringing \$39,825 to the Friends' coffers.

In addition to providing the Friends with a source of ongoing contributions, the Walkway & Patio also enables the Friends visually to showcase its support of and appreciation for the work of the Library and its staff. One of the star bricks inscriptions highlights the 2005 “Best Rural Library in the Country” award received by our librarian, Bette Dillehay.

Milt is no longer with us, but his legacy lives on, stronger than ever. There are now 442 inscribed bricks and room for hundreds more. Check them out and keep the Walkway & Patio growing by adding your own special memories to it.

Roger Gamble
Brick Walkway & Patio Chair

LOOKING BACK

Mary Pulley, one of the founding members of the Friends, began in 1982 collecting all Friends related articles, pictures, newsletters and any other newsworthy event into scrapbooks which today number ??? volumes. She diligently maintained the scrapbooks until her death at age 93 last year. Her daughter, **Joan Metzger**, has continued Mary's legacy of preserving the Friends' history. Thank you to Joan for taking over her mother's scissors and glue and for donating the time necessary to keep the volumes of scrapbooks growing.

In celebration of the Friends' 30th birthday, below are snippets from the Friends' newsletters beginning with the first one printed in May 1984. As space permits, I will continue this practice with the upcoming newsletters of this birthday year. I encourage you to spend an afternoon browsing through the scrapbooks which are housed in the Library on the mezzanine. It will be well worth your effort.

Mary Margaret Hutchins
Newsletter Editor

 "Spurred by the desire to gain funds for the library used solely for adding to community services, this organization was formed in 1982. Its non-profit status was established in 1983, at which time all contributions to the Friends became tax-deductible.....From this beginning, membership now numbers 150. Our goal is 500 members.....**Charlotte and Art Cavanagh** and **Jack Ward** designed and constructed a Friends of the Library float for the Mathews Christmas parade held November 26, 1983." *May 1984, Vol. 1, No. 1*

"Since May, 1984, Friends of the Library funds have paid for the video cassette recorder and antenna, periodical shelves and outlay of promotional materials amounting to \$1,780.50.....The VCR provides the nucleus of the Audio/Visual/Learning Center available for use by the public. Presently the cassette collection includes the following titles: 'Learn Speed Reading', 'Pay Less Tax LEGALLY', "Strong Kids-Safe Kids", 'Caring for Your Newborn', and 'Jack Nicklaus-Sports Clinic'. New titles are added regularly and will continue to be of diversified subject matter. Do you have a request?"

Nov 1984, Vol. 1, No. 2

"The Friends of the Library has been busy not only with fund raising but also with increasing its membership and with construction work for the Library. **Jack Ward, Mason South, Walter Stillman, Joe Gould, Robert Blake, John Bing, Robert Farmer**, and other willing muscles gave freely of their time and labor pounding the pavements in preparation for the brick work that will provide for planting, following ideas that were sketched by **Art Cavanagh**. Professional brick layer, **Edward Forrest**, completed the boxes that will soon receive the services of a landscape gardener. The entire project is being financed by the Friends of the Library." *May 1985, Vol. 2, No. 1*

"Have you observed that there is a clock at the 2nd floor, center window at the Library? It keeps good time. The Clock Committee, **Maxine Crockett** and **Clare Jones**, fortunately enlisted the aid of **Jerome Hudgins**. He constructed the clock for the Friends of the Library at an approximate cost of \$35--well below previous estimates." *May 1986, Vol. 3, No. 1*

"WOW! TAKE A LOOK AT OUR LIBRARY! It's wonderful what a facelift will do. The grime of some 30 years has been removed and soon the facade will reflect its remarkable interior. Friends of the Library funds made these accomplishments possible." *May 1987, Vol. 4, No. 1*

"Friday, August 18, while Mathews village was awash with twenty-one inches of rainwater, **Mr. Jerome Hudgins** installed our new 25-inch community clock in back of the reconstructed window. The Friends of the Library is proud of this accomplishment that allows visibility for motorist and pedestrians twenty-four hours a day." *Feb 1989, Vol. 6, No. 2*

"Market Days Book Sale Best Ever. The annual sale of the Friends held during Mathews Market Days was housed in the Americana Building along with our exhibit 'Salute to Youth'. The location was definitely an asset. Sales were \$1,341.80. We thank **Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rilee** for allowing the use of the building. We appreciate the time of Thomas Hunter teachers **Jean Hatch and Kathy Reming** in decorating the walls of the building with student art work. Thanks also to the citizens who donated used books for the sale, the many customers who browsed and bought, and **Tatterson Greenhouse** for beautifying the sidewalk with lovely potted pansies and ornamental cabbage.....A sailor in distress phoned the Library. **Martha Story** phoned the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard rescued the sailor, and the grateful sailor mailed a check for \$100 to the Friends. What a novel way to raise money. The sailor was **John van Schalkwyk**. On board was **Will Story**, husband of the librarian. Thus the line of rescue. Never under estimate the resources of our local library." *Jan 1996, Vol. 14, No. 1*

to be continued in July

Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library
P.O. Box 127
Mathews, VA 23109-0127

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- Open My Lifetime Membership @ \$50 person
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- Renew My Annual Membership @ \$5 person

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