

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Annual Meeting

7:30 pm March 25, 2019

Agenda

7:30 Guest Speaker Bob Mondello, NPR senior arts critic

8:20 Friends business meeting and election

8:30 Refreshments

President's Report

Early morning March 1, a message landed in the inbox of the FTPML Facebook page.

"Hi there!" Miriam Salerno wrote. "My mom just found out that you guys featured one of my dad's poems in your public art display last year. His name was Joe Salerno and the poem is No Wife, No Kids, No work. We are so thrilled that he was included! Just curious how you came to find that poem?"

She received a swift response from Pat Hanrahan, a long-time leader on our all-volunteer board, who most recently has cultivated a faithful following on our Facebook page with her clever, insightful literary posts.

Pat quickly responded that she would contact Merrill Leffler, our volunteer book sale coordinator and poet-in-residence. He instigated our Spring for Poetry program 12 years ago, working with Montgomery College design students to create posters with selected poems and place them throughout the community.

"I am sure he'll be delighted with your question and to help," Pat told the daughter. "Congratulations on having such a talented dad!"

Within hours, Merrill had gotten in touch to share the backstory with her -- that he had met her late father at a poetry workshop decades earlier and took an immediate liking to him and his work. His poems were so memorable, Merrill wrote, that he chose one of them for the public art project. Over the years, he also has read several at our annual Favorite Poem evening, when residents gather at the library to share best-loved verses aloud.

That email "brought tears to my eyes," she wrote back. "I can't tell you how incredibly grateful we are that you continue to keep my dad's poetry alive."

To Pat, she wrote, "Thank you so much for helping to make that connection! I love the concept of this poetry project and it makes me so happy to think about his work out there for people to enjoy."

That's what our organization is all about: Making connections between people and literature, building community around literature and the library.

For years, Pat and Merrill have embodied that mission. Indeed, they've become the face of it in greater Takoma, nurturing book clubs, children's programs, and thought-provoking forums on the intersection of race, politics, sports and literature. All the while, they've grown our popular used book sales that, along with your donations, help fund our initiatives.

Miriam Szapiro is another long-time volunteer, who has led and nurtured the organization both on and off the board for years. If Pat and Merrill have become the face of the Friends, Miriam has given *voice* to the organization, by producing our monthly segment on Eric Bond's Talk of Takoma radio show, Sundays at 1 on WOWD.

As the three of them now step away from their official roles with the Friends, I and the entire board extend our thanks for all they've done, for their lasting contributions to the community and for the inspiration going forward from their examples.

We know they'll continue to be a strong source of support for the Friends – and for the four terrific new board members who will be joining us. A special thanks to our super volunteer nominating committee, Irene Huntoon, Tim Rahn, Megan Waters and Michele Morgan.

If you were to do a word-cloud analysis of this annual report, the term VOLUNTEER would loom large. That's because our organization has no paid staff and runs 100 percent on volunteers.

Like Tina Hudak, who helped create a new Friends parent-child book club for students in the English as a Second Language program, working with PBES ESL teacher Rachna Rikhye as well as volunteer board member Anand Parikh, library director Ellen Arnold-Robbins and librarian Anne Leveque.

Like Maurice Belanger, our volunteer Webmaster, who re-launched a lively, new FTPML.org last fall.

Like the dozens of volunteers who set up, took down and staffed our used book sales. And the dozens more who maybe don't have time but donate to the cause of literacy, literature and libraries for all.

To all of you, a heartfelt thanks!

Deborah Nelson, president

FTPML Treasurer's Report				
March 14, 2017 – March 13, 2018				
Income:				
1. Book sales:	\$7,620			
2. Membership dues and donations:	\$5,948			
3. Grants, insurance payment	\$1,100			
	Total Income: \$14,668			
Expenses:				
1. Event-Related, Outreach and Program Expenses: (\$15,966)				
a. Spanish & French Programs:	7,785			
b. Storytelling programs:	2,500			
c. Summer Quest & Winter Quest:	2,480			
d. Local speakers program:	1,115			
e. Children's book programs:	1,156			
f. Solstice programs:	400			
g. Poetry programming, Spring for Poetry:	530			
2. Resources for the library:	(\$651)			
a. Books (books and breakfast club):	115			
b. Lanyards:	500			
c. French books:	36			
3. Publicity and administrative expenses	(\$2,992)			
a. Newsletter, Website & Promotional:	2,540			
b. Sales Taxes:	452			
	Total Expenses: \$19,609			
	Overall Total (\$ 4,941)			
Checking Account				
Opening Balance: March 14, 2018: \$13,296				
Ending Balance: March 15, 2019: \$6,524 <i>pending payments not included</i>				
Walter Mulbry, Treasurer March 15, 2019				
FTPML Membership Report				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of households	63	64	76	96
Total membership/donation	\$6,161	\$7,799	\$5,313	\$5,948
Walter Mulbry, Membership March 15, 2019				