We Will Miss Main Library

Jane Goodridge, Friends of the Durham Library Board Member

Carol Ann Walters and I have been co-chairs of the Friends of the Durham Library book sales for well over a decade. We have worked with more than forty volunteers, some still working with us, and we have raised significantly more than a million dollars for the library during that time. Over the years we changed our model from three book sales each year (that summer sale was easy to eliminate!) to two semi-annual sales and year-long sales at all the regional libraries as well as Stanford L. Warren and the Durham Co-op Market.

During all that time, our work site was the garage at Main Library. Hundreds of thousands of books and boxes have been stuffed into that garage, on handmade shelves (some of them made by Carol Ann!) and carts, amidst at least two vans, a bookmobile, Destination Literacy, pallets of toilet paper and the daily delivery from UPS. For anyone who has shopped the sale, you know that Main’s garage is just that—no heat, no air conditioning, fairly poor lighting and two large garage doors that, when both are open, turn the space into a wind tunnel. Our wonderful volunteers brought ear muffs, knit hats and fingerless gloves for winter and worn out t-shirts for summer. We did have some standards—we cancelled our weekly sorting of book donations if the temperature was above 95 or below 20. Carol Ann and I are very compassionate people.

And the sales. Here are just a few memories:

The dealers lining up at 8 a.m. Once resolving an altercation between two men who were arguing about first place (the argument was so heated I asked them both to leave)—as if there was only one best book in the garage!

The hordes of people clogging the garage on Friday afternoons—some grabbing armfuls of books and stuffing them into boxes while others calmly read through one book, deliberating about whether to buy it.

Little children finding a place to sit (never under a table, please) to just read.

Learning to rent gutters for the tents the hard way—rain pouring down our backs in the gaps between tents. Carrying loads of towels in the trunk of my car, because the gutters are not fool proof.

All the goodies baked by our hard working volunteers, so that no matter how many miles I walked during the sales I still gained weight.

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Setting up thousands of fiction books on tables in the auditorium, and one volunteer wanting to alphabetize them!

Being greeted by all the library staff as they entered the library on Tuesday mornings with so many gracious thank yous for our hard work. Occasionally a staff member arriving with donuts for us—a wonderful feeling of appreciation and collegiality.

We all love sorting the books. Otherwise, we wouldn’t undergo the seasonal discomfort and all the questions that sorting requires. Just how many copies of *The Bridges of Madison County* have been bought and then donated to the Friends? Possibly millions—we lost count. And where do you put *Eats Shoots and Leave*? Humor? Writing? Self-Help? Or hide it in fiction and hope no one notices?

And is Tom Wolfe literature or fiction? Or is that Thomas Wolfe? Remember, don’t keep medical self-help more than 5 years old! How many bags of books do we have hidden under our beds, in hopes of our significant others never finding out about this ‘hobby’? And let’s have another sorter potluck dinner—because no matter our age or race or politics or gender or favorite books, we have looked out for one another for a lot of years and cared about each other and our kids and grandkids together.

Our last sale at Main was February 11 and 12. Main Library has now closed for a two-year renovation. When we return, we are promised an indoor space, with heat and AC! For the interim, we are at Books Among Friends, our new location inside Northgate Mall beside Sears. And while we are all feeling nostalgic about the old space and the comradery created by the challenges of working in the garage, we appreciate the climate control and not having to move everything around each week to accommodate vehicles!

Please come visit us at Books Among Friends! Our Grand Opening Sale is Friday, April 28 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See you there!

Also, please continue to donate *lots of books*. You can bring them to our new location at Northgate Mall on Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon or to any of the regional libraries any time during their regular operating hours. If you bring book donations to Northgate, you can drive up to a door on the exterior of the mall between Sears and Catherines. If you need help with your donation, send an email to fodldonations@gmail.com. We really like to sort books and support the library!

Friends Members are invited to attend the Open House & Annual Meeting

**Books Among Friends**

1058 W. Club Blvd. (inside Northgate Mall near Sears)

**Thursday, June 8**

7 – 9 p.m.

Come see Books Among Friends, the Friends of the Durham Library’s new location at Northgate Mall.

**RSVP by May 23 to LibraryMarketing@dconc.gov.**
Members of the Friends of the Durham Library are invaluable to the organization and to Durham County Library. Everyone may not know just how much the Friends do to support library programs and services, because Friends members so often operate behind the scenes. To showcase this work and bring more people into this energized volunteer team, the Friends are working to engage old, new and potential Friends members in the work of helping Durham County Library achieve its mission to encourage discovery, connect the community and lead in literacy.

Board member Elizabeth Hein is helping lead this initiative by working to get the word out about the Friends. As an author, Elizabeth has come to appreciate the role of social media in marketing. Hein has accepted the challenge to pass on more stories and information about the work of the Friends to Friends members. She’s been busy—Hein established a new Friends Facebook page, facebook.com/FriendsOfTheDurhamLibrary/, welcoming all to “befriend” the organization. She’s also announcing library and Friends news via a new Friends Twitter account @friendsodl.

“By utilizing Facebook and Twitter, we’ll connect more of the Friends beyond membership letters and volunteering for the book sales. While these opportunities have always been immensely valuable, it’s not the complete extent of what the Friends currently do, and is planned for 2017,” notes Hein. A redesign of the Friends’ webpage is being considered as well.

While the Friends cosponsor a great deal of library programs for children and adults, such as Comics Fest and summer reading festivities, the Friends also strongly advocate for the library in the community. Along with Friends’ Membership Chair Elsa Woods, Hein will support new efforts to engage Friends Members and attract new ones. Under consideration is the establishment of a Friends’ book club and other programs, which would offer members an opportunity to gather together more often than during board meetings and book sales. The hope is that there will be a more prominent public presence of the Friends, year round. If you have any ideas for how the Friends could engage our members more or would like to get more involved, you can reach Elizabeth Hein through our Facebook page or at Elizabeth@ElizabethHein.com.
Check out these upcoming events sponsored by our sister organization, the Durham Library Foundation.

Humanities Programs

All are welcome and invited to attend. Questions? Call 919-560-0268. For more programs like these, see the Adult Programs Brochure or visit DurhamCountyLibrary.org.

**BECOMING A CREATIVE GENIUS (AGAIN!)**

**Thursday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.**

**South Regional Library**

Carl Nordgren leads a free, 90-minute workshop designed to help anyone, young or old, grow their creative capacity and develop their entrepreneurial instincts. Nordgren has taught courses in creativity and entrepreneurship at Duke University for nearly 14 years. The exercises in the workshop draw heavily on his teachings and on the points made in his book, *Becoming a Creative Genius* (Again). There will be lots of fun and effective exercises and great advice to help folks continue to develop their creative, entrepreneurial genius.

**DOCUMENTARY FILM: GERTRUDE ELION**

**Saturday, May 20, 3 p.m.**

**Southwest Regional Library**

Join us for this thoughtful documentary film on the life and work of Dr. Gertrude Elion, a ground-breaking Burroughs/Wellcome scientist. Dr. Elion won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1988 and spent most of her career making discoveries and doing research here in RTP. Panelists familiar with her work, and the many challenges of her career as a woman in science, will be available for Q&A following the film. Image of Dr. Gertrude Elion (bottom left). Burroughs Wellcome/Wellcome Foundation logo 1908 to 1995 showing two designs for the Unicorn (top left).

**SISTER CITIES: THE KAVALA—DURHAM CONNECTION**

**Sunday, May 21, 3 p.m.**

**North Regional Library**

What does Durham, NC have to do with a 2,700 year-old city in Greece? The business that Washington Duke began on his small farm in 1865 grew into a world-wide industry that dominated life in Durham for most of the city’s history. In the 20th century, working for one of Durham’s tobacco companies might actually mean buying tobacco in Kavala, Greece. Come learn about Durham’s tobacco connection with its newest Sister City, Kavala, Greece. *Photo by Arthur Rothstein. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FA/OWI Collection.*

**READER’S PARTY**

**Sunday, Jun. 4, 2 p.m.**

**Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville St., Durham, NC 27701**

Come out and be heard! Celebrate reading! Think you or someone you know is a good reader? Audible? Distinct? Expressive? Entertaining? Celebrate your reading skills with poetry, prose, monologues, shorts stories and original works. Read from material we provide or bring your own. Come early to sign up to read at the open mic. It’s a party! Refreshments provided. Presented for adults and children by the Triangle Readers Theatre Ensemble.

**WRITING CLINIC WITH PIEDMONT LAUREATE MIMI HERMAN – FLIRTING WITH YOUR READER**

**Thursday, Jun. 15, 7 p.m.**

**South Regional Library**

Do you find yourself writing wallflower prose? Does your poetry sometimes feel heavy-handed, shy, lurking in corners, unable to charm even your Aunt Gladys? If so, this master clinic is for you. Find the part of you that is charming and churlish, marvelous and mysterious. Learn to sustain a certain intrigue and to read your reader. Mimi Herman - writer, teacher and flirt extraordinaire - will help you pull your prose and poetry out of the corner and onto the dance floor. Complete strangers will follow you for blocks, begging for the privilege of whisking you off to Paris (their treat, of course). *Photo courtesy of Mimi Herman.*

For more information, call 919-560-0268 or visit DurhamCountyLibrary.org
It's A Reader's Party!
Jenny Levine, Humanities & Adult Programming Coordinator

Sunday, March 5 marked the first time the Reader's Party team came together at Hayti Heritage Center. After a successful first year meeting on the first Sunday of every month at Main Library in 2016, we were excited to host the party in the beautiful and historic Great Hall at Hayti. Lovingly orchestrated by founder Ms. Joan J. Njie, the Triangle Readers Theatre Ensemble celebrates literacy and expression through the art of reading aloud. Anyone of any age can come and sign up to read for five minutes on stage. We were treated to a tremendous variety of texts, ranging from poetry, a news article, a portion of a play in progress, prayers and even a song incorporated in a poem. The variety of texts and readers were a perfect example of Durham's vastly diverse population and interests. Mr. Claude Brame, Jr., even treated us to a fond memory of how he learned how to read in that very room as a child from "Miss Amy."

We plan to continue hosting the program at Hayti on the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. Come a little early to get signed up, and plan to stay after for refreshments and conversation. There is often a theme for each month, but it is flexible. Join us Sunday, May 7 for our next Reader's Party. As Joan would say, "Come on out and have a Reading Good Time!"

DONATE BOOKS

Year-Round Book Sales & Donation Locations
A small selection of high-quality gently used books are available for sale at these locations year-round. Drop off books to donate at any of these locations except the Durham Co-op Market, any time during open hours.

East Regional Library
211 Lick Creek Ln.
North Regional Library
221 Milton Rd.
South Regional Library
4505 S. Alston Rd.
Southwest Regional Library
3605 Shannon Rd.
Stanford L. Warren Branch Library
1201 Fayetteville St.
Durham Co-op Market (sale only)
1111 W. Chapel Hill St.

Periodic Big Book Sales & Large Donation Location

Books Among Friends
(inside Northgate Mall near Sears)
1058 W. Club Blvd.

Donations accepted at Books Among Friends
Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – 12 noon.
Bring donations to the door on the exterior of the mall between Sears and Catherines.

Grand Opening Book Sale
Books Among Friends
Friday, April 28, 3 – 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Questions? Contact
FODLdonations@gmail.com
Friends of the Durham Library

GRAND OPENING BOOK SALE
BOOKS AMONG FRIENDS

Friday, April 28, 3 – 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
All are welcome both days.

$3 for hardbacks, $2 for trade paperbacks and other large paperbacks, and $1 for mass market paperbacks. Everything else priced as marked.

Inside Northgate Mall near Sears
Transformation Main

Thanks to the passing of a bond referendum on November 8, 2016, Durham County Library’s Main Library in downtown Durham is in the midst of a major expansion and renovation. This much-needed transformation will provide additional space, updated facilities and enhanced technology to Main Library in downtown Durham. Main Library is currently closed to the public while construction gets underway and is scheduled to re-open in early 2019.

Durham County Library has launched Downtown Library Without Walls—expanded outreach efforts to continue serving downtown Durham during Transformation Main. Highlights include the new Digital Access Center inside the Criminal Justice Resource Center, programs for children and teens at Durham Housing Authority, Liberty Street, and the MakerLab and the North Carolina Collection at Northgate Mall. Tutoring and homework help at The Scrap Exchange is also underway. This popular program pairs teen and college student volunteers with kids in grades K through 6 for academic support.

Before the last group of staff moved out of the old building on N. Roxboro Street, Main Library hosted a farewell celebration for Durham County Library staff during which time staff were able to go up onto the roof. While it will certainly be difficult to wait two years for the transformed library, being on the rooftop and seeing the incredible views of Durham that the new design will highlight, made it so clear that the new Main Library will be well worth the wait.

For more information on the transformation of Main Library as well as visual renderings of the new design, visit DurhamCountyLibrary.org/TransformationMain/.
JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE DURHAM LIBRARY

Become a member of the Friends of the Durham Library or renew your membership:

Name

Phone                                    E-Mail

Address                                   City                        Zip

Type of Membership: Memberships expire in one year (except Life memberships)

☐ Family $25  ☐ Senior (over 65) $10  ☐ Sustaining $50  ☐ Life $300

☐ Adult $15  ☐ Youth (18 and younger) $5  ☐ Patron $100  ☐ Additional gift of ________________

Please make your check payable and mail to
Friends of the Durham Library, PO Box 3809, Durham, NC 27702.

Questions? Contact Annie Mountcastle at 919-560-0190 or amountcastle@dconc.gov.

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