

☞ The Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library ☞

Annual Report (1 May 2004 - 30 April 2005)

President's Report (Margery Thompson)

Changes this year include adding to the array of adult programs the Friends now offer—a very popular noontime book club, Books Sandwiched In, at the Library inaugurated by our Martha Conway. Secondly, we are about to redesign our Web Page and, finally, we are very excited at the prospect of preview book sales for Friends member's only—the first on Friday evening, May 20. This year, we were proud to give the Library over \$45,000 for books, children's programs, and technical support. One bittersweet change this year was losing Kelly Harrell as our MAT chair. She was only the third chair in 30-odd years). But we are consoled by gaining Melissa Cain who stepped in without a beat. Reports from Committee chairs below round out the rest of our activities. My report is by way of a farewell after four years as president. (I will continue to be newsletter editor). The years were exciting ones and I was proud to be your president when we worked so hard to get the bond referendum passed. And when we established our great adult programs. Your consistent support and cooperation has been much appreciated.

Treasurer's Report (Patsy Saylor)

Assets (April 30, 2004) \$68,649.44

Income

Membership	\$14,560.00
Book Sales	\$38,146.85
Interest	\$ 194.25
Adult Programs	\$ 177.40
Gifts	\$ 8,250.00
Total Income	\$61,328.50

Expenses

Gifts to Library	\$40,185.00
Friends' Shelf	\$ 4,663.97
Children's Programs	\$ 2,315.00
Adult Programs	\$ 1,277.11
Book Group	\$ 850.73
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,546.06
Total Expenses	\$57,837.87

Assets (April 30, 2005) \$72,140.07

Programs for Adults

Adult Book Discussion Groups (Martha O'Hara Conway) "Books Sandwiched In" is by all accounts -- and there are many -- a smashing success. February's kick-off meeting drew a crowd of close to 50 participants who gathered in and outside the conference room to discuss the Pulitzer-Prize winning *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones. The group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of the month, at 11:30 am. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch and share their thoughts on the current reading selection, copies of which are available on a first-come first-served basis at the Chapel Hill Public Library. This year's other "Books Sandwiched In" selections included:

- *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis (March 2)
- *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner (April 6)
- *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* by Tony Horwitz (May 4)
- *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks (June 1)
- *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood* by Alexandra Fuller (July 6)

In August, the group will discuss the book that has been selected for the Carolina Summer Reading Program. This year's selection is *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy B. Tyson, which focuses on the 1970 murder of a young black man in the author's hometown of Oxford NC. Early in the fall, in recognition of Banned Books Week, the group will discuss a book that has been challenged or banned. Celebrated annually during the last week of September, Banned Books Week is sponsored by the American Library Association and the American Booksellers Association and endorsed by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

Meet-the-Author Teas (Kelly Harrell and Melissa Cain) This season marked 37 years since the Friends Meet-the-Author Tea series was inaugurated—our longest running adult program. Our area abounds in interesting authors who are very loyal to our program and willing to come year after year even though they cannot sell their books as they do in other venues. Kelly Harrell planned most of the teas and was hostess until January. Melissa Cain became hostess in February and assumed responsibility for booking talent thereafter. This year's author guests included:

- John Dalton (*Heaven Lake*)
- Faulkner Fox (*Dispatches From a Not-so-Perfect Life*)
- Joanna Catherine Scott (*Cassandra Lost*)
- Sarah Dessen (*The Truth About Forever*)
- Doug Marlette (*A Town So Backward Even the Episcopalians Handle Snakes*)
- Scott Huler (*Defining the Wind*) and June Spence (*Change Baby*)
- Eunice Brock (*A Year of Betrayal*)
- Kathy Hogan Trocheck

Sunday Series Classic Films (Talmadge Neece) In February, the Friends purchased an inventory of 17 films in the DVD format which will ultimately be the basis of a collection for the Library. Meantime, our first Sunday showing in March—The Maltese Falcon—competed with the UNC basketball team during March Madness and lost. Great movie; we may have to re-schedule it at a better time.

Sunday Series Concerts (Margery Thompson) The Concert Series continues to do well—drawing full or near full houses at each performance and generous contributions. Because renting a piano is so costly, recent concerts have been confined to chamber music. Over 60 people attended our mid-summer concert in July. The Eno River String Quartet performed in November.

Sunday Series Speakers (Kathy Harris) This year's speaker series featured David Carr (A Celebration of Library and Community), Matthew Spangler (dramatizations of works by James Joyce and Clyde Edgerton), and Doug Eyre (The Horace Williams Airport).

Programs for Children

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends organization this year, the Children's Division of the Chapel Hill Public Library was able to offer a total of 15 wonderful children's programs that included a variety of talented performers and a series of Children's Movie Matinees. Friends-sponsored performances included an animal program with Kim Miller's Action Animals, a concert by singer/songwriter Timmy Abell, a performance of "Jack and the Beanstalk" by the Rags to Riches Theatre for Young Audiences, an amazing Black History Month program with Chuck Davis and the African American Dance Ensemble, and a storytelling program in honor of National Library Week with Louise Omoto Kessel. A total of 409 children attended these five programs during the year! The Friends also made it possible for the Children's Services Division to continue the Children's

Movie Matinee series at the Library. A total of 10 movies based on popular children's books were shown this year, including "Babe," "The Secret Garden," "The Black Stallion," and "James and the Giant Peach." A total of 654 children and parents attended. Since the program has been so popular, the Children's Services Division will show another 10 movies as part of the 2005 Summer Reading Program. We are so thankful for all the wonderful Library programs the Friends make possible for the community! We look forward to another great year of activities and partnership with our Friends! **(Karin Michel and Kathleen Thompson)**

Committee Reports

Book Sales (Virginia Powell, Jean Seaman, and Margie Pfaff) We thank our reading public who donate books to the library. Many items— books, tapes, etc.— from these donations add to the library collection. The remaining donations are sold, along with "retired" library books and tapes at the four book sales held each year. This year, the gift to the library from these proceeds was \$28,000. We have an impressive group of volunteers who help: those who set up the sales on Fridays, those who serve as cashiers on Saturdays (the main sale day) and Sunday afternoons (the Bag Sale time), and those who pack up at the end. Without all these volunteers, we would be helpless.

Hospitality (Eleanor Engel) The Hospitality Committee served coffee, tea and cookies at the Meet-the-Author Teas. Sugar-free cookies were added to the selection. Bitty Holton provided the beautiful decorations to the tea table. Beverages were graciously donated by Starbucks Coffee. Serving with Eleanor Engel were Sarah West Campbell, Martha Boren, Jane Bultman, and Lee Mayfield.

Membership (JoAnn Kerrick) The Friends started out our year with 483 members and ended it on April 30, 2005 with 524 members. Many of the new members joined us at our fall membership drive. Also this year, the Friends had a booth at the Apple Chill Street Fair to raise awareness about the library and our organization. We thank all of our members who give so generously of their time and money to support the library. Our focus for the year ahead is to get the Friends membership active and vocal in lobbying for the library expansion to happen as quickly as possible. Please remember to tell everyone you know about the Friends and ask them to join!

Newsletter (Margery Thompson) This year we returned to Chapel Hill and R. B. Hull at Tri-Printers, Inc. Though we much appreciated International Minute Press, they had moved ever deeper into Durham and the distance was inconvenient. The move has been satisfactory in several ways: Tri-Printers is handy and R. B. has given us a break on price. We continue to use Robin Ober's mailing service.

Publicity (Rodger Harris) In the 2004-2005 season, publicity for each program sponsored by the Friends was sent to 32 individuals at eight newspapers, three radio stations, and two TV stations. Publicity for musical programs is sent to one additional radio stations. We continue to use email to distribute publicity as well. Each publicity distribution includes a section that provides the basic information for a one or two-sentence announcement of the program. A second section each distribution contains added story material so each media contact can decide how much information they can include about each program. Occasionally, we can include a photograph for a small number of contacts. A telephone number and an email address to be used if a media representative needs additional information for clarification is included, as is the Library Reference Desk telephone for members of the public to call for more information. Next year, when our new Web page is up and running, we will send material to the person who keeps the page current.