

FRIENDS OF THE RUTH ENLOW LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (by Gayle Byrne)

My earliest library memories are of going with my mother every week and coming home with an armload of 10-15 picture books. I would not sleep that night until I had read all of them, even if I had to finish them under the covers with a flashlight. (I found out later my mother was onto me, but let it go.)

Although libraries still offer us armloads of books, there is so much more to find in your local library today. You can check out movies, music and ebooks, and connect to the world through the internet. On any given day, the Ruth Enlow Library may offer preschool story time, adult crafting groups, or educational programs for all ages. You may be able to consult with a lawyer or tax advisor. You can reserve a meeting space, join a book club, or just stop by for a session of Dungeons and Dragons. There is something for everyone at all five branches almost every day.

Do you remember your earliest library memories? What brings you into the library and what keeps you coming back? The Friends of the Ruth Enlow Library help make many of your favorite programs possible through financial support and hands-on volunteer efforts. Please consider joining or continuing your support of the Friends so you can help to keep our library strong and vibrant for our whole community.



WHO WE ARE

The Friends of the Ruth Enlow Library is a group organized to bring together fellow citizens who value their public library. The Friends work for a better library for the community and speak up for good library service whenever and wherever their efforts are needed. The Friends pursue this mission through education, advocacy, and fundraising.



CLASSICS BUTTONS: SILVER & GOLD READER PINS

Thanks to generous funding provided by the Friends, the library was able to purchase new Silver and Gold Reader pins to add to the Classics Buttons program. Patrons who read 25 "Classic" books will be awarded a Silver Reader pin, while those who reach the 50 book mark receive a Gold Reader pin!



SUMMER READING CLUB

This year's Summer Reading Club was another success for the books, largely thanks to a \$2,500 programming donation provided by the Friends. The library gave out fun take-home prizes to Reading Challenge participants and awarded larger gifts to drawing winners at each branch location. A combined 1,379 attendees enjoyed 41 in-person programs throughout the summer, including a "Radical Reptiles" kick-off event with Reptile Smiles, instruction in the nighttime sounds of Garrett County presented by Kevin Dodge, and an introduction to instruments from around the world (with hands-on session at the end!) with Dr. Sean Beachy. The library continues to be beyond grateful to the Friends for their ongoing Summer Reading Club support.



- ✦ 650 People Registered
- ✦ 69 Passive Programs
- ✦ 2935 Books Read
- ✦ 1379 Attendees Combined
- ✦ 41 In-Person Programs
- ✦ 235 Log Completions



MURDER BY THE BOOK

This October, the Friends of the Ruth Enlow Library and Our Town Theatre partnered to present "Murder by the Book," a play written by Laura Teasdale and sponsored by Louise Penny, to raise funds for both groups. This hilarious whodunit play-within-a-play was superbly acted out by its cast under the direction of Mikey Virts at the Ruth Enlow Library's main location in Oakland. Both showings performed to a sold-out house! Ticket sales and donations from this fundraiser raised approximately \$1,100 each for the Friends and Our Town Theatre, making it an enjoyable success.

(This play was produced by special arrangement with the Playwrights' Guild of Canada.)





FRIENDS OF THE RUTH ENLOW LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends are proud this year to have established the new “Friends of the Ruth Enlow Library Scholarship,” which will award \$500.00 each year to a graduating senior at each Garrett County high school. These funds will help students enter a formal college pathway in library-adjacent fields, whether that be library and information science, early literacy instruction, language arts education, ESL education, or creative writing. Interested students can apply at their guidance office by March 1 of each year, and we look forward to giving out our first-ever awards!



JOIN THE TEAM

Stay up to date with events and newsletters by joining the Friends of the Library. Suggested dues are \$15.00. All donations include membership. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm at the Oakland (Main) Library. Share your ideas and have a say in how donations are spent.



(Please remove bottom portion along dotted line)



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

DONATIONS AND GIFTS - THANK YOU!

Your donations keep us going strong! Please send checks in an envelope or mail to:

Friends of the Ruth Enlow Library
PO Box 301
Oakland, MD 21550

Amount of donation: _____ Gift in the name of: _____

Please keep me anonymous: _____ Gift in memory of: _____

Please share this newsletter with other library supporters and book lovers! Help us grow!