

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

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At the Library: Thank you for being a Friend (of the library)

*By Erin Hils Shepherd
Orange County Public Library*

The first weekend in October marked the Friends of the Orange County Public Library fall book sale. And what a sale it was.

More than \$2,000 was raised Oct. 4 through Oct. 6 as hundreds of folks visited the OCPL Main Library in Hillsborough to purchase books, CDs and DVDs for the bargain-basement prices of 50 cents (for paperbacks and children's books) and \$1 (for hardbacks, CDs and DVDs.) Kids were treated to a free book of their choice for attending the event.

FOCPL is a nonprofit organization started in 1981 and run exclusively by dedicated volunteers. Its mission is to support the OCPL Main Library by raising funds to enhance the library's services, collection, technology, programs and staff development.

"Even though the library is well-supported through the budget approvals made by the Board of Orange County Commissioners, this group of committed library lovers—from all backgrounds and walks of life—wants to help OCPL meet the all-time high demand for its services," FOCPL President Janet Flowers said.

Indeed, the library lent a record number of items—more than 400,000—and had nearly 200,000 visits between July 2012 and June 2013.

FOCPL raises funds for the library through the following activities:

- Semi-annual book sales held each spring and fall (usually April and October);
- An ongoing book sale inside the OCPL Main Library – look for it behind the hold shelf on the first floor;
- Membership dues collected annually; and
- Fundraisers, such as the 2013 paver sale (more details below).

Since 2009, the Friends have donated more than \$65,000 to OCPL. Prizes for this year's summer reading program—which included two Kindle Fire e-readers—were provided by the Friends. The self-checkout machine on the second floor of the library was made possible by FOCPL. And items such as shelving, teen room furniture and the meeting room projector were endowed by the group, as well.

Interested in becoming a capital 'F' Friend of the Library? As a Friend, you make an important contribution to one of the county's most vital educational and cultural assets. In return, you also enjoy:

- the satisfaction of working with like-minded book and library lovers;
- early access to the semi-annual book sales;
- email updates regarding library events, issues and news from our secure listserv;
- ongoing or occasional volunteer opportunities tailored to your personal interests and skills.

Friends who actively volunteer with the group are also entered into periodic drawings for tickets to productions by Playmakers Repertory in Chapel Hill.

Membership brochures are available at the circulation desk and more information can be found on the FOCPL Web site at www.orangecountync.gov/library/friends.asp

Buy a Brick and Support the Library!

Hurry! Time is running out to purchase a brick paver in support of OCPL!

Pavers are a lasting way to honor a loved one, remember a pet, celebrate a life event, or represent your business/church/community organization.

The pavers will be installed in the front walkway of the OCPL Main Library and funds raised will enhance library services, programs and collections. Visit www.orangecountync.gov/library/pavers.asp for more information or to place an online order.

OCPL Carrboro Branch Opens New Art Exhibit

Drawing in art museum galleries is a long-standing tradition.

At the Ackland Art Museum at UNC-Chapel Hill, children and adults have gathered for formal and informal drawing experiences for the past six years.

"Drawing in the Ackland" runs October 20 through January 13, 2014, and bears testimony to their endeavors. For more information about this exhibit, please contact Nerys Levy at rilevy@mindspring.com. The OCPL Carrboro Branch Library is located inside McDougle Middle School at 900 Fayetteville Rd., Chapel Hill.

The OCPL Main Library is open 7 days a week and located at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough. Free parking is available behind the library.