



Library News

From Friends of the Montgomery - Floyd Regional Library

Spring 2017

FOL Annual Meeting - April 23rd - Features David Cline



David Cline, Assistant Professor in the History Department at Virginia Tech, will be the speaker at the April 23 Friends of the Library annual meeting. Cline will talk about his new book, *From Reconciliation to Revolution: The Student Interracial Ministry, Liberal Christianity, and the Civil Rights Movement*.

The Student Interracial Ministry (SIM), founded in 1960, was dedicated to dismantling the Jim Crow laws and advancing American Protestant churches' approach to race. In this book, David Cline tells how the seminary students of SIM influenced hundreds of thousands of community members through its racial reconciliation and economic justice projects. Dr. Cline's research focuses on 20th century U.S. social movements, oral history, and public history. His public history work has included museum exhibits, contributions to radio and film documentaries, large-scale oral history projects with the Library of Congress and

others, and a 2005 project to document the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

David Cline will speak on Sunday, April 23, 3:00 pm at the Christiansburg Library.

Books will be available for purchase and autographing. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Paula Alston, MFRL Director, Retires

After 10 years working devotedly with the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, Director Paula Alston will be retiring at the end of April, 2017. Ms. Alston began her library journey in 1972 during her high school years in Glendive, Montana. She received her Masters of Library Science in 1986 from San Jose State. Over the next 30 plus years, with a 4 year break serving in the U.S. Navy, she worked the bulk of her library career in the Chesapeake, Virginia area. Her positions there spanned from Reference Librarian 1 to ultimately the Assistant Director. In 2006, she accepted the position of the Director of MFRL and moved to the New River Valley in August of that year.

During Ms. Alston's tenure with MFRL, she was instrumental in the enlarging and remodeling of the Jessie Peterman Library in Floyd, significant internal changes in both the Christiansburg and Blacksburg Libraries, the Reading Garden at the Meadowbrook Library, ushering

in the e-book age (downloadables), and encouraging staff to reach beyond themselves to grow in their careers.

Ms. Alston plans to throw away her alarm clock, spend more family time with her husband Tom and daughter Brett and daughter-in-law Siobhan, travel and help out with the family's Jimmy John's businesses.



MFRL will miss Ms. Alston's leadership, expertise, and devotion. MFRL is grateful for her time with the library system and wish her well as her life moves forward into retirement.

Ruth Bellman, MFRL Senior Program Assistant

Paula Alston, Director, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

As you may know, I am retiring from MFRL on May 1. Tom and I have several trips planned, our business to take care of and our new dog, Cooper, who needs lots of walks.

I want to thank the Friends of the Library, the Foundation and the Floyd Endowment for ten years of support. It's been a privilege to work with you as we moved the library forward. Between the two Friends groups, you have donated almost \$300,000 to the library in the last 10 years. We have used that to fund the summer reading programs, crafts, food and needs for other programs, bought some furniture, sent several staff members to library school, and funded several author visits. FOL support, with the expansion and renovation of the Jessie Peterman Library and the reading gardens at both

Christiansburg and Meadowbrook, was invaluable.

The Foundation stepped up to host fundraisers to start the endowment for us. That is so important to our future. And the Floyd Endowment has been so generous with giving us money for the Floyd book budget. I am grateful to have the backing of so many wonderful people.

Throw in ten years of terrific library boards and the chance to work with a group of dedicated and caring employees, and I can only conclude that I am one lucky library director. I'm excited to move on to this new chapter in my life and to be a library patron!

Thank you so much for all you have done. I value your friendship. Whatever you do, keep on reading.

Ellen Hall, President, Friends of the Montgomery County Library

Paula was just the next person in my line buying a 2014 Garden Tour ticket when I thanked her for her support of public libraries. Her husband, Tom, said, "Well, she pretty much has to." This was how I first met Paula. For a person who "pretty much has to", Paula certainly has never given the appearance of being forced! Leadership and a passion for libraries just come to her naturally. Forward-thinking, organized, thoughtful, inspiring, energetic, and persis-

tent are the qualities that come to mind when I think of Paula. She has provided effective leadership, effectively sought the support of county governance, engaged the public, and worked with a superb staff to provide excellent service to the young, the elderly, the working, and those seeking employment. The four public libraries of our two counties are inviting spaces that provide access to information, enlightenment, and entertainment. **Thank you, Paula!**

Floyd Friends! Thank you to all our loyal Floyd friends!

Please keep in mind that we are always looking for people to serve as officers of the group.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 13th at 3:30 pm.

If you're interested or want to know more about an office, please join us in the Community Room or contact either Kit Haggard at kfhaggard@yahoo.com or Cathy Whitten at cwhitten@mfri.org or 745-2947.

2017 Friends of the Library Board Members

Ellen Hall, Montgomery President	Lynn Brammer, Co-Hospitality	Linda Spivey, Staff Liaison
Susan Keith, Secretary	Phyllis Eschenmann, Co-Hospitality	Ruth Heinzelmenn, Book Sales
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Blacksburg Library News

Hello, Friends! We have had a busy winter so far and are looking forward to spring! Thanks for helping to make the 4th Annual Blacksburg Chili Crawl such a success! Eight local restaurants participated, serving 350 people 2-4 ounces tastes of chili. This is one of our favorite events to organize since it gives the library and local business a place to shine and entice new customers.

Working with Nurse Gina Leve from the office of Direct Primary Care in Blacksburg, Blacksburg Library will host **BLAST: Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training Course** every Monday in March. Participants in this program will gain an understanding of first aide, safety, age appropriate activities for children, and more. The Library will offer this course to 13 lucky students free of charge by using Friends funding to pay for the training textbook. We are so excited to offer this course to our community and help a few teenagers get ready for safe summer babysitting.

Our next big program is just around the corner! **The Beatles: Band of the Sixties** is an exciting program happening **Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library**. Explore the music of The Beatles in this 60-minute multimedia presentation (part history and part musical analysis) spanning the full 1960's: beginning with the band's seminal visits to Hamburg, continuing through Beatlemania, and concluding with Abbey Road. The program will be supplemented with audio clips of music and excerpts from interviews with the band members. Join us if you can!

And don't forget about our bi-annual **Plant and Seed Swap** on **Saturday, April 29th at 2p.m.** Have your hostas gotten out of control? Are your phlox taking over that corner? Dig those "volunteers" up and bring them in! Bring a plant or seed package to share, leave with something new for your garden. Plants go fast, so come early!

Friends, thank you for all your support! We couldn't do any of this without you!

Christiansburg Library News

This winter was exciting, and we had many programs that were well received. The Artists Reception for the Christiansburg Elementary Students in January had 98 attendees even after it was rescheduled due to the weather. We also had many budding apiarist attend our beekeeping program. February marked the Winter Reading program for our youngest patrons. This meant extra storytimes, crafts, and a real bunny for the children to snuggle up with.

We are furiously planning our spring events. Master Gardner, Erica Jones, will teach people **how to start seedlings for their garden** on March 27th at 2:00 P.M. Local New York Times Best Selling Author, Beth Macy will be at the library on March 28th at 6:00 P.M. to discuss her newest book, **Truevine: Two Broth-**

Hello! I just wanted to take a moment to thank every member of the Friends of the Library for being so welcoming and wonderful in my first months at Christiansburg. I am very excited to be here and hope you all stop in and say hello the next time you are in the library. - Selena

ers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South.

Looking ahead to the summer, we want to thank the Friends for their support of our annual **Music on the Lawn Series**. Each program will be on a Saturday Evening from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. and refreshments will be provided. The schedule is as follow, remember to bring your lawn chairs and blankets, & enjoy!

May 13th - Jim Lloyd
June 10th - The McKenzies
July 8th - Davis Bradley
August 26th - Flaky Biscuits

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The following businesses & members have already committed to sponsoring major events in 2017.

Summer Garden Tour

Crow's Nest Greenhouses * Thomas and Rebecca Dunkenberg * The Shawsville Ruritan Club

Summer Reading Program

The Adventure Club * McMillion and McMillion, PC * Rainbow Riders

Save the Date! Friendly Garden Tour is July 8, 2017

Remember that the **Friendly Garden Tour** is July 8, 2017.

For a list of the seven lovely gardens, see the Fall newsletter, newrivervalleygardentour.org, or mfrlfriends.org/gardentour.

Tickets go on sale on June 1 at MFRL Libraries --

Meadowbrook, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, & Jessie Peterman, as well as at Salem and Radford Libraries.



The January Membership Drive was a Great Success!

Many thanks to all these volunteers who brought in 68 new members during the January Membership Drive.

Lynn Brammer, Jo Brown, Sandy Cox, Phyllis Eschenmann, Julee Farley, Linda Greaver, Ann Groves, Ellen Hall, Connie Heindel, Ruth Heinzelmann, Rochelle Johnson, Erma Jones, Susan Keith, Beldon Langford, Ruth Lefko, Julia Lewis, Mary Elizabeth Lindon, Evelyn Melia, Marg Modlin, Pat Monroe, Anne Page, Irene Peterson, Elizabeth Reisinger, S. J. Ritchey, Jana Ruble, Phyllis Salom, Jill Songer, Marilyn Spencer and Mary Jane Zody.

Thanks go also to Linda Greaver, Ruth Heinzelmann and Evelyn Melia for organizing the drives at Christiansburg, Meadowbrook and Blacksburg, and to the library staffs at each branch who were helpful in so many ways.

Over three hundred of our members have already renewed for 2017. Are you one of them?
Please check your mailing label.
It will include the line "Renewed through 2017" if you have already renewed.

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