



# 2005 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

(As of March 15, 2005)

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We have made every effort to present the list of donors as accurately and completely as possible.

If any errors have occurred, we apologize most sincerely.



# FOOL'S FORUM

A Newsletter by and for Friends Of the Oakmont Library

(affectionately known by the acronym "FOOLS")

700 Allegheny River Blvd., Oakmont, PA 15139 • 412-828-9532

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## President's Message

This is an exciting time for staff and patrons of the Oakmont Library. The plastic will soon be removed from the Pennsylvania Street entrance. What will be revealed will be a building twice the size of the original library, erected with a seamless design that doubles the inside space yet preserves the classic look of a 1901 facility. Being a Friend of the Oakmont Library (F.O.O.L.) you must be very proud. Although the campaign to add on the extension and the F.O.O.L.'s annual membership drive are two separate programs, I assure you that your membership contribution will be put to its best use. As you know, we pay for purchases of books, computer classes, children's programs, and encyclopedias. These are items that would not be available if left to come out of the library budget. Thinking about how our additional purchases have effected the lives of library patrons, I wondered if a child was inspired towards an exciting career by one of our children's programs, or if a person communicates regularly with a relative via the internet with skills learned in one of our classes. What was brought to my attention was a true surprise.

When the construction on the library started, the FOOL's decided to take digital pictures of the progress and link them to our library home page. These photos started February of 2004 and were updated through the year. I had heard of some positive feedback coming from former area residents who have moved away and enjoyed the pictures. What I did not expect is explained inside these pages. How something so simple has allowed a dislocated resident a chance to take a break from the realities of life, and experience a bit of home. This is an example of where your membership contributions go. If you are a member, welcome back. If not a member, now is a great time to join. Experience the opening of our new library knowing that your annual dues make a difference in the lives of many people.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Schweinberg".

Joe Schweinberg, *President, Friends of the Oakmont Library*

Recently, while reviewing the pledges and donations that we have in support of the Library campaign, it struck me as to how far reaching the Oakmont Library has extended. We have received support from Hawaii, Washington, California, Idaho, Texas, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Arizona to name a few. In all, former residents from over thirty five states have given back to Oakmont Library. In addition to those, we have had continued local support. It is during this reflection that I realize how important the library has been and continues to be for Oakmont residents. For over one hundred years, the library has been serving all ages of our community. I'm impressed with the number of people who have fond memories of their library. It may be that it is "just a view" of the outside that reminds them of living in Oakmont. It may be memories of spending countless hours in what one patron describes as "This is how a library should look and feel." Whatever it is, we hope to continue that tradition. I have had numerous people say to me that the new building looks like it has always been there. With support from individuals and groups like the FOOL's there is hope that for the next one hundred years we will continue to have a library that this generation will look back to with fond memories. Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Terry Griffin".

Dr. Terry Griffin, *Oakmont Carnegie Library Board President*

# Construction Update/ Temporary Closing

Work on the inside of the “new” part of the library is progressing. The Community Room, kitchenette, and small meeting room located on the lower level, are almost complete. The upper level is taking shape with rooms being partitioned and painting taking place. Soon the new circulation desk and shelving will be installed. Once that has been completed, the library will close for a minimum of 2 weeks. We expect this to occur around mid-April. The staff and volunteers will move about 26,000 books during those two weeks, as every book in the library will be relocated.

While the library is closed, we urge you to visit one of our neighboring libraries in Plum, Penn Hills, O’Hara or Springdale. You may return materials there, or any other library in Allegheny County, and also borrow items. This will be an opportunity to see what they have in their collections! Because we will not have access to our circulation computers, the outside book return will not be available while we are closed nor will we be able to process telephone renewals. You can renew online at [www.oakmontlibrary.org](http://www.oakmontlibrary.org) or call the automated phone line on your date slip. We will also have a grace period on late fees after the library re-opens. The end is clearly in sight.

## Volunteer Opportunity

### — Greet Library Patrons —

The Library is looking for friendly people to welcome users to our newly expanded library. If you are available a minimum of 3 hours per week and would enjoy this type of interaction with the public, please call

**Dixie** at the Library. 412-828-9532



*Read with a friend at the library.*



*Puppet show at the Park sponsored by the FOOLs.*

## Thoughts about the Library from Near and Far

### Our youngest patrons say:

“I think it will be nice, but why is it taking forever?”  
— Danielle, age 5

“I love the big machines always parked in your yard.”  
— Zachary, age 4

“I think that it is excellent. Keep up the good work.”  
— Meghan, age 12

“I love it so much. It’s exquisite to see. It has so much to choose from. It’s so beautiful.”  
— Erika, age 10

“I think it is starting to look like a church. I think it’s going to be great!”  
— Molly, age 5½

### From far away came the comments from our next patron:

February 21, 2005

Dear Fools,

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Marini (Betty). I’m currently stationed in Heidelberg, Germany serving my seventh year in the U.S. Army. I am a Military Working Dog Handler in the Military Police Corps, and have included a picture of myself and my K9 partner, Max. We work together in explosives detection and security. For instance, we recently worked during Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s visit to Warsaw, Poland, searching her motorcade and the areas she was to visit. We also provided security for President Bush’s 2003 visit to Normandy, France, for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. I just wanted to take a moment to say how wonderful it is to be able to go to the Library’s home page and keep tabs on the construction, thanks to the FOOLs, and also to be reminded a little of home. I’ve lived in Oakmont all of my life, and can remember stepping up on those creaky

steps stools to give a stack of books to Mrs. Carlin to check out. I always remember her as a very nice woman, and on occasion she would let me check out a couple more past the limit of ten books. Eventually I didn't have to use the creaky step stools, and was checking out books through Mrs. Beiber, who was just as kind. Mrs. Beiber later became my employer, and I worked as a page at the Library putting away books and helping out behind the desk when I could. Let me warn you, it seemed like without fail, after I would finally get the children's books in order, a young toddler would come right behind me five minutes later and pull out handfuls of books at random. That's alright though. It always felt good to help someone that was looking for a particular book, or needed some help on the newly installed computers. Anyways, I would just like to say that I am delighted that the construction on the Library is coming along so well, and again, it is always great to look on line and follow it from all the way over here in Germany. I will never forget the Oakmont Carnegie Library and all that it has done for me.

Sincerely,  
SGT. Elizabeth A. Marini  
529th Military Police Company, K9  
Heidelberg, Germany



Betty and her special partner, Max.

### A final comment from a relatively new resident and a member of The FOOL's :

I have always been an avid reader and library user. I can still remember how happy I was when I learned to print my name – that was the prerequisite for obtaining my own library card at my childhood public library. Everywhere I've lived, I've sought out the nearest public library. It was no different when I moved to Oakmont in 1997. I soon began to use the Oakmont Carnegie's resources, both in-person and on-line, extensively. This time, though, I decided to give something back by joining the Friends of the Oakmont Library. Eventually I started to attend the monthly meetings to help out with tasks such as getting the newsletter ready for mailing. I've learned a lot about how this organization helps to meet the library's needs. I encourage you to join the FOOLs and get involved – it's a great way to contribute to a valuable community resource!

Christine Dietrick

We all have a person we consider a hero, someone we admire. Find your "hero" in one of these sites.

#### My Hero

[www.myhero.com/](http://www.myhero.com/)

#### TIME: 100 Most Important People of the Century

[www.time.com/time/time100/](http://www.time.com/time/time100/)

#### Medal of Honor Citations

[www.army.mil/cmh-pg/moh1.htm](http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/moh1.htm)

## Upcoming Events



The Allegheny County Library Association has announced that its 3rd annual event for *One Book, One Community* will be based on Fanny Flagg's novel "Fried Green Tomatoes" at the Whistle Stop Cafe. The goal of *One Book, One Community* is to encourage individuals in our communities to read the same book and participate in programs and discussions during the same two-month period.

Oakmont Carnegie Library will sponsor Southern Cooking Pot-Luck and Story Swap on April 10th and an intergenerational Book Discussion on April 17th.

Due to construction, both events will be held at the Oakmont Municipal Building from 2-3 pm.

The library will have multiple copies of the book (in regular and large print), the movie (VHS and DVD), and the "Original Whistle Stop Cafe Cookbook" available for patrons to borrow.

To learn more, visit [www.onebookonecommunity.org](http://www.onebookonecommunity.org)



Froggy visits the library. (A program sponsored by the FOOL's.)



We know the children will be disappointed but due to construction, there are currently no scheduled children's program. We do have plans for a fun-filled Summer Reading Club.

Keep posted at [www.oakmontlibrary.org](http://www.oakmontlibrary.org)