



FOOL's FORUM



A Newsletter by and for the Friends of the Oakmont Library

(affectionately known by the acronym "FOOL's")

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

VOLUME 21 • SPRING 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE OAKMONT CARNEGIE LIBRARY BOARD

Oakmont Carnegie Library's ability to serve the community would be diminished if it were not for the generosity and support of the Friends of the Oakmont Library (the FOOL's). They have consistently supported the Library's programs, especially those that focus on children and youth. Their most recent donation has enabled the Library to update their youth non-fiction collection.

I grew up in Oakmont and earned a B.S. in Special Education from Clarion State University. I left the area in 1977 and migrated to Massachusetts. I returned to Oakmont in November 2011. I grew up with adult role models who appreciated reading. My mother often chided, "You should read more." Eventually, I "got it." I began to read and as I read, I realized that words create worlds.

My goal is to strengthen the relationship between the FOOL's, the Library, and the Library Board of Directors. It only makes sense. We want the same thing: a Library that serves its citizenry across age ranges and ability levels - a Library that offers a variety of programs for different audiences. These days libraries struggle to maintain quality service with ever diminishing funding. Libraries throughout the United States face the challenge of the increasing digitization of our culture. With continued support from the FOOL's and those who generously support the library's Annual Appeal, I hope that in years to come an adult who learned to love reading and value life-long learning will come through the library door and say to the library staff, "My favorite book was _____ .. and I got it here!"

Debbie Ormay
Debbie Ormay
Oakmont Carnegie
Library Board President

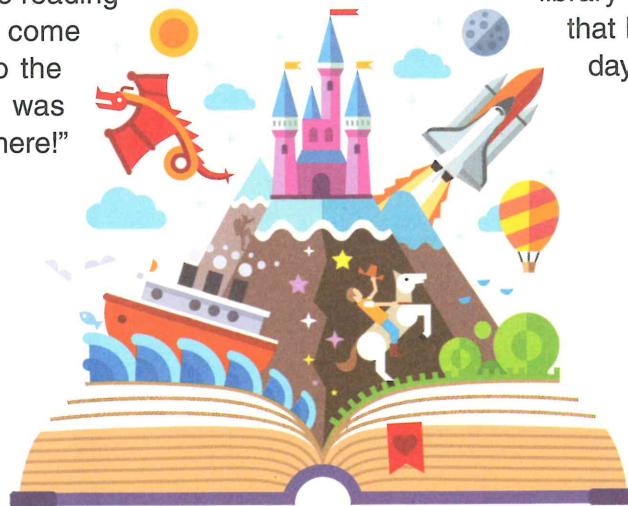
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE OAKMONT LIBRARY

Since 1992 the Friends of the Oakmont Library have mailed an annual newsletter to the community asking for support of library programs for children and young adults. We have been pleasantly rewarded with yearly responses that have allowed the Friends of the Oakmont Library (the FOOL's) to cover expenses regarding this type of programming. We were even able to enhance the quality of program content and delivery.

We are all faced with daily appeals for financial support from a variety of issues, causes and programs. This makes us have selective hearing and giving. The Friends of the Oakmont Library are not immune from this competition for support. A result is our annual membership decreases and our available program funds are reduced. Our 2014 yearly membership is half of the number in 2010 and, consequently, donations have fallen. Times like these require an organization to do more with less. With your support, the FOOL's will continue to support children's and young adult programs at the Oakmont Carnegie Library and ensure the programming continues and the quality and content remain high.

The FOOL's thank you for your support in past years and hope that you include us among the future causes that you feel are important in our community. If you are new to our area we invite you to come through our library doors and witness the connection that happens, even in these high tech days, between a child and a book.

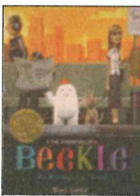
Joe Schweinberg
Joe Schweinberg
President of the FOOL's



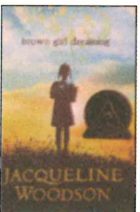
AWARD WINNING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



2015 Newbery Medal Winner (Ages 9-12+) *The Crossover* was written by Kwame Alexander. Twelve-year-old narrator Josh Bell uses the rhythms of a poetry jam to emulate the "moving & grooving/popping and rocking" of life on the basketball court with his twin brother, J.B. This powerful novel in verse paints an authentic portrait of a closely-knit family on the brink of crisis.



2015 Caldecott Medal Winner (Ages 3-6+) *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend* Illustrated and written by Dan Santat. In four delightful "visual chapters," Beekle, an imaginary friend, undergoes an emotional journey looking for his human. Santat uses fine details, colors, and exquisite curved and angular lines to convey the emotional essence of this special childhood relationship. The author makes the unimaginable, imaginable.



2015 Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award (Ages 10-14) *Brown Girl Dreaming* Jacqueline Woodson, as the author, tells the story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights movement.



Best Of the Best

Books for Children and Young Adults in 2014

PICTURE BOOKS

Baby Bear Written and illustrated by Kadir

The Baby Tree Written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall

The Farmer and the Clown Written & illustrated by Marla Frazee

Hannah's Night Written and illustrated by Komako Sakai.

Hansel and Gretel By Neil Gaiman Mattotti.

MIDDLE GRADE

Arcady's Goal Written and illustrated by Eugene Yelchin (9-12)

Brown Girl Dreaming By Jacqueline Woodson (10-14)

Egg and Spoon By Gregory Maguire (12-17)

El Deafo Written and illustrated by Cece Bell (8-12)

Heap House Written and illustrated by Edward Carey (10+)

YOUNG ADULT

I'll Give You the Sun By Jandy Nelson (12+)

The Impossible Knife of Memory By Laurie H. Anderson (12-17)

Noggin By John Corey Whaley (12-17)

100 Sideways Miles By Andrew Smith (12+)

This One Summer By Mariko Tamaki (12-+15)

Meet the New Librarian at the Library

Please meet Becky Price, the newest addition to the library staff. She has served as an intern at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and as a librarian at CCAC and Duquesne University. In addition, she volunteered for several years as a computer tutor for unemployed adults and seniors. Becky will be working in two specialized areas at our library. Oakmont Carnegie Library is offering two new computer learning programs in 2015.



1. Drop In Computer Help.

Patrons are invited to drop by the reference desk for one on one help on the month's topic.

2. Computer Classes. Monthly classes kicked off in February with Introduction to the Internet. Classes are free, but seats are limited. Pre-registration is required.

Check the library calendar or website for dates and times, or call for more information. 412-828-9532.



Gingerbread House Contest



TRICK OR TREAT IN THE LIBRARY

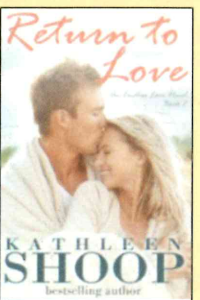
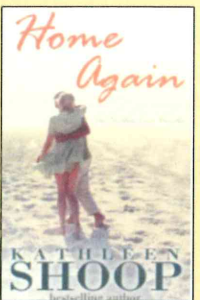
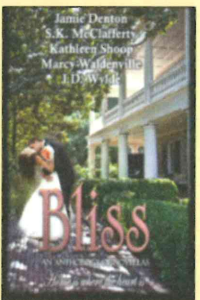
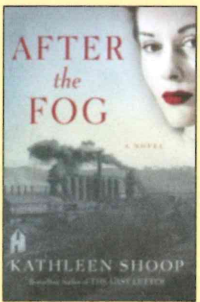
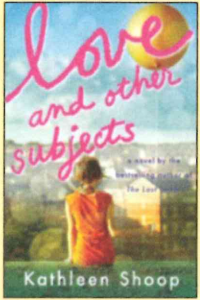
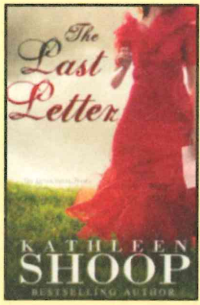


Living Candy Land

The Friends of the Oakmont Library (the FOOL's) help to underwrite one of my favorite annual programs, Living Candy Land. With staff and students dressed up as various Candy Land characters, the library invites children and their caregivers to travel through Candy Land to help find Queen Frostine. On the way they meet Grandma Nutt, Princess Lolly, Lord Licorice and Mr. Mint. It's a great family program for the holidays and helps to end each year on a happy note. The FOOL's make it possible for us to host this program and provide crafts and treats.

Beth Mellor, Library Director





Meet **Kathleen Shoop** OUR OWN OAKMONT AUTHOR

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

I grew up in the Pittsburgh area where I completed my high school and college education with a PhD from University of Pittsburgh in reading education. I worked in some capacity in public schools for 20 + years but now I am working from home as a writer.

HOW DID YOU FIND OAKMONT?

My husband, Bill and I lived in the city. At one point we decided it was time to move. Bill loved Oakmont because he grew up there and I loved that it had the small town feel and was not just a suburb like where I grew up. There is so much good in those other types of suburban places, but we really loved the feel of a small town. Love the experience for our kids--great schools and wonderful friends. Having shops, theater and restaurants right down the street just makes it all perfect

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE OAKMONT CARNEGIE LIBRARY?

The beautiful Oakmont Library is a focal point of the community. Its architecture and history make it an exceptional place for children and their families to spend time. When my children, Jake and Beth, were smaller they loved the children's room (still do, actually!) even though the space is expansive, it feels warm and inviting. There's nothing like seeing kids spread among a ton of books, happily reading. The library is also generous in sharing its space with authors like me who want to have signings and workshops. It's a beautiful and inspiring space to do that. In that same vein the library hosted the Riverview High School Orchestra during Light-Up-Night. What a gorgeous setting to listen to wonderful Christmas songs and see my son, Jake, play.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A WRITER?

My first novel was inspired by hundreds of family letters from my mother's side of the family. One set was essentially love letters from my great, great grandmother to my great, great grandfather the year before they married and went homesteading in the Dakota Territory. They are beautifully written, full of hope and dreams for a loving marriage and happy family life. Well, the second set of letters shows that the happy, love-inspired dreams in the first set of letters did not come to fruition. They had six children on the prairie and then divorced in the late 1890's. This was the framework from which I wrote the first novel, *The Last Letter*. Coming soon is *The Road Home*—book 2 in the Letter Series (Book 1 was *The Last Letter*)... The story goes backwards and forwards in time, still mostly set in



the 1890s, but also moving forward in the 1905 storyline that was introduced in the first novel. Book 3 in the Letter Series—*The Garden Promise* will launch soon!

After these stories, I wrote a romance series, *Endless Love*, set on the Inner and Outer Banks of North Carolina. The stories are set in the late 60s and early 70's. Those were inspired by an invitation to include a story in a romance anthology. All the stories are set in the same house on the water (mansion called Bliss) but each takes place in a different era. *Home Again* was the story that started that series. Book Two, a novel-length work in the *Endless Love* series called *Return to Love* was released in 2014 and book 3 *Tending Her Heart* was released in November.

Kathleen has been featured in USA Today and the Writer's Guide to 2013. Her work has appeared in *The Tribune-Review*, four *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books and *Pittsburgh Parent Magazine*.

TELL US ABOUT THE AWARDS YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

The Last Letter was the gold medal winner by the Independent Publisher Book Award.

After the Fog received the Eric Hoffer Book Awards category as a finalist. This novel is historical fiction set in Donora, PA during the 1948 death smog incident.

Love and Other Subjects received the Independent Publisher Book Award Silver medal for Women's Fiction.

Home Again was a 2014 finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

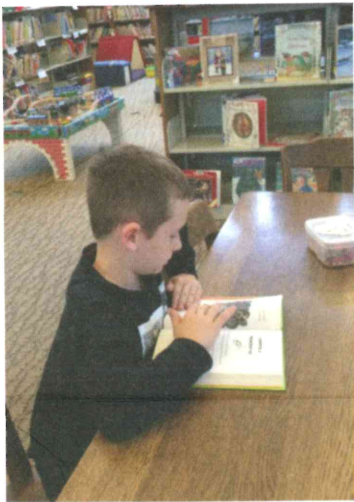
"Great writing grabs you by the throat from the first sentence without ever letting go. Ms. Shoop's latest novel, *Love and Other Subjects* opens with middle school teacher Carolyn Jenkins confronting a student with a gun pointed at the belly of a classmate. What happens next establishes the tone for everything that follows in this alternately tense, hilarious and poignant tale of love, friendships across racial lines, inner city public school politics and dysfunctional family relationships... *Love and Other Subjects* is solid literary fiction."

—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,
Tony Norman

Thank You!

Thank you to the FOOL's for funding our many newly acquired non-fiction books in the children's department! This will help us to provide support to our schools and families in regard to the PA Common Core standards through our collection and services. The Common Core has a strong focus on non-fiction texts so that students can make connections to the wider world. These books also help with critical thinking skills through comparing, integrating, synthesizing, and evaluating information. As we expand our non-fiction collection, students will be able to find what they need for inquiry-based learning.

Karen Crowell
Youth Services
Oakmont Carnegie Library

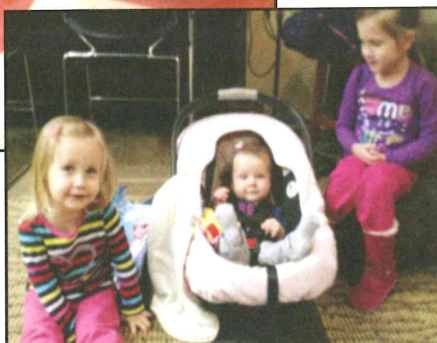


A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE LIBRARY

A message from a proud Grandmother—Pat Ferguson Woltjen

Imagine my delight when my active 5-year-old grandson asked if he could go to the library! We chose a Sunday afternoon visit following two hours of climbing at the playground. As we passed the circulation desk, we collected the book about zombies that we had reserved earlier online. Conner went directly to the Children's Library, put his book on the table, took off his coat and looked around. He then turned to me and quietly asked, "Do I have to read my book or can I play?" I answered that he was free to choose any activity. Conner played with the trains, the puzzles, and the coloring book pages for the next hour. Having investigated the Children's Library, he sat down at the table and read his zombie book.

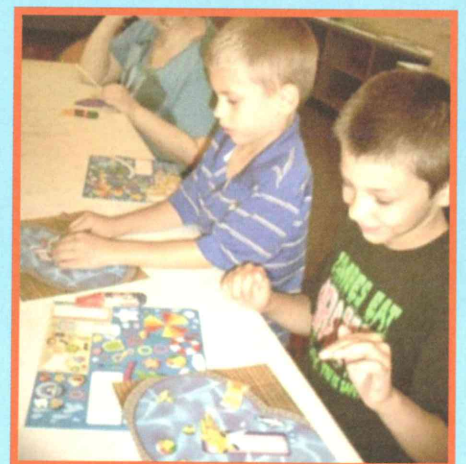
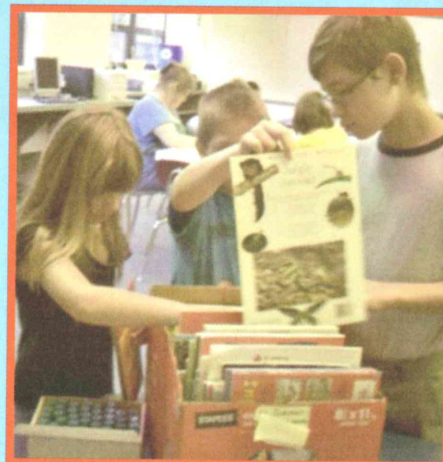
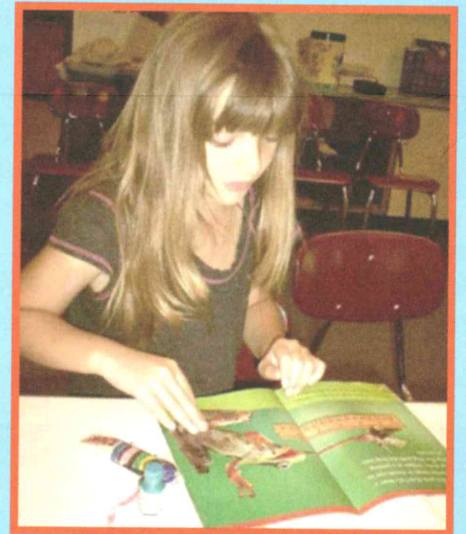
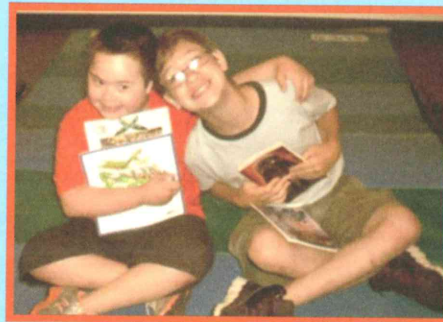
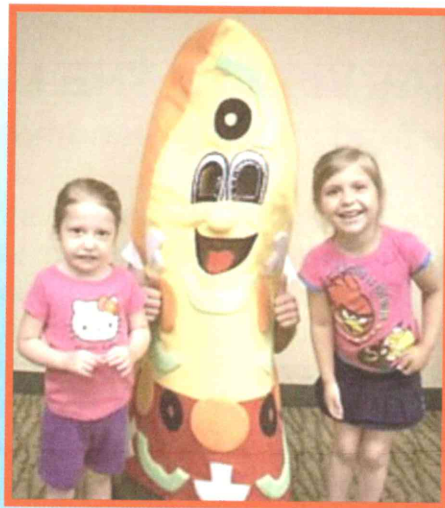
Our Oakmont Carnegie Children's Library is so well designed that Conner, a child visiting from another state, had no trouble understanding how he could explore and enjoy it. If you haven't visited the Children's Library recently, I hope you will take time during your next visit to see it. It is an important gateway for children to access the world of knowledge that Oakmont Carnegie Library makes available.



Book Buddies Story Time!



summer reading 2014



2014 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Barbara L. Alcorn
Robert & Ruth Alcorn
Marilyn Alexander
Dixie & Sam Anderson
Joanne & Bill Anderson
Nancy Angerman
Jan & Jim Beiber
George M. Bender
Patricia V. Black
Sarah Blakely
Brigitte Bouchat
Richard A Boulden
Judy J. Bridges
Bob & Paula Brison
Mr. & Mrs. James Brown
Joanne and Dave Brownlee
Ann & Hank Buechli
Dan & Carol Burton
Paula A. Calabrese
Mrs. Grace Campbell
Mary O. Castelli
Jackie Cimino
Ms. Eileen Colianni
Maggie Conte
Mary M. Contestabile
George & Alice Coulter
Aimee S. Cupelli
Carolyn Czapor
Elmer Delle Donne
Mary G. DiDiano
Christine Dietrick
Peter Kovacyk & Paula Doelfel
Evelyn Doelfel
Betty Drew
Wallace D Edsall
Robert & Roberta Erickson
Jenine Fastuca
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick R. Favo
Bob & Vicki Federline
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Robert & Sandra Gentilcore
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Mathew & Lucy Gregory
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Gregory
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Susan M. Tanner
Lori & Ernie Tillman
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Dominick & Vera Viale
Patricia Walsh
David & Cathy Watters
William & Laura Wengerd
Pete & Myrna Wetmore
Lawrence & Fran White
Richard A. & Nancy Lee Williams
Marian Williams
Pat Woltjen
Dan & Cassie Wright
Jerome & Evelyn Wrzosek
Margo K. Xidis
Mary Ann Yingling
John & Rita Young
Dolores L. Zangrille
Richard & Ruth Zoller

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.

A Home Library— Where do you start and why?

Starting a home library shows your child/children how important books and reading are. Having books in a special place boosts the chance that your child will want to read even more. Here are some ideas for creating your own home library.

- Become a book hunter! Check out book store sales, garage sales, flea markets, used book stores, and sales at your local library for good books at a reduced price.
- Organize a book swap with friends, community groups, or your school.
- Encourage family and friends to give books as gifts for birthdays, holidays, and other celebrations.
- Don't forget quality nonfiction and children's magazines!

Pick a special place for your child to store their books. It doesn't have to be fancy—a decorated cardboard box will work just fine.

Borrow books from your local library. Spend time with your child selecting books to take home and put in that special spot so that they do not get mixed up with your child's own books. This also teaches responsibility in returning the library books on time.

When collecting and reading books are a part of family life, you send your child a message that books are important, enjoyable, and full of new things to learn!

The FOOL's are our Friends

The board and staff of the Oakmont Carnegie Library want to thank the FOOL's for supporting our summer reading programs, afternoon adventures and summer reading outreach for 2014. This past summer we extended our summer reading program to the elementary schools over the summer and the FOOL's came through by helping us purchase program specific materials including books and crafts to support reading throughout the summer. For 2015, the FOOL's will be helping to support our first ever writer in residence program. For this program we will have a writer Lillie Leonardi teaching a series of classes and writing in the library. The FOOL's are our friends for helping us try new programs and expand our services to the community.

Beth Mellor, Director

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