

# Best of Friends

Friends of the Durham Library Newsletter  
Spring 2008

## Roving Computer Classes @ Your Library

By Anastasia Bush, Grant Writer

Technology  
Challenge  
Grant Success!

In the coming months Durham County Library will introduce “roving computer classes,” with financial support from the Friends of the Durham Library. “The Friends have a tradition of funding projects not normally included in the library’s budget,” explains Library Director, Skip Auld. “This project is so important

to our work and strategic plan, but we could never afford to do it without the Friends.”

Funds from the Friends’ \$25,000 technology challenge grant will purchase ten laptops to create a traveling computer lab. Library staff will use the laptops to teach computer classes, transforming library meeting rooms into temporary computer labs. Six library locations will soon be able to offer computer classes for the public.

Roving computer classes mean the library can offer more technology training. The roving computer lab will also expand the kinds of classes offered. Library staff will offer classes for teens, such as photo editing, podcasting and gaming. Besides being fun, these classes teach important computer skills, including the more advanced skills of web design and programming. Online safety skills for library customers of all ages is another roving computer class under consideration.

The traveling computer lab will be a boost to staff, as well. In-service training on reference, readers’ advisory, electronic databases and Microsoft Office Suite can now be held at library locations other than Main. “The convenience of roving computer classes will help staff at every branch stay on top of all the new reference tools,” states Donald Bradsher, Reference Librarian at East Regional Library and Chair of Durham County Library’s Reference and Readers’ Advisory Quality Council, “and that means we can serve all our customers even better.”



If you have an idea for a roving computer class, please contact Jennifer Lohmann at 560-0125 or [jlhmann@durhamcountync.gov](mailto:jlhmann@durhamcountync.gov).

## A Wiki Innovation

Wiki

The Durham County Library wiki has won the first ever Public Library Association (PLA) Polaris Innovation in Technology John Iliff Award.

When the Library purchased the wiki to help implement its strategic plan, “Saying Yes to the Community: Durham Builds a Customer-Centered Library,” most people involved in the planning effort had never heard of this online tool for encouraging participation from staff and the community.

Now, led by Reference Librarian Jennifer Lohmann, the wiki has evolved into a dynamic and informative “place” for communication and planning, and a resource where community members can track the library system’s progress as the strategic plan becomes a reality. With this award, the wiki’s success has garnered national recognition.

The PLA Polaris Innovation in Technology John Iliff Award honors the life and accomplishments of John Iliff, early adopter and champion of technology in public libraries, and recognizes the contributions of a library worker, librarian or library that has used technology and innovative thinking as a tool to improve services to public library users. Award winners receive a \$1,000 honorarium.

### What’s a wiki?

A wiki is a Web site that people build together. “Wiki,” the a Hawaiian word for “fast,” refers to how quickly and easily anyone can add comments, ideas and photos, or edit information already posted on the site. The most famous wiki is Wikipedia, a free, online encyclopedia with over 2 million articles in English.

Visit the Durham County Library wiki at <http://dclstrategicplan.pbwiki.com>.

# Heartfelt thanks

from the Friends of the Durham Library for supporting its book sales with donations and purchases.



*Thanks and recognition to the community of Durham for its support!*

**and to the following donors:**  
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**And to hundreds of caring individuals, schools and organizations, for donating books, money and volunteer hours to support the Friends of the Durham Library.**

## Friends of the Durham Library

The Friends of the Durham Library has over 1,300 members, an active Board of Directors and a healthy budget. But, what does the organization actually do?

The Friends raise money through three annual book sales in the spring, summer, and fall. These book sales are possible because volunteers spend hours each week sorting and shelving book donations from library customers and friends, and from library discards. More volunteers work at the weekend sales, staffing registers and counting books. The purpose of this effort is to raise funds and purchase materials, services and programs not normally provided for in the library's operating budget.

The book sales have become more and more popular with the local reading public and, with the increased popularity, the funds raised have also increased. In fact, since the spring of 1993, the Friends have raised over \$600,000 to support the library.

Library programs funded by the Friends include:

- Magic Tree Children's Programs
- Durham Civil Rights Heritage Project
- Summer Reading Program
- Reading is Fundamental
- Author events, such as Isabel Allende and Durham Reads Together



Carol Ann Walters and Jane Goodridge

The Friends have supported library services by donating funds that provided audio-visual equipment for the Children's and Audio-Visual Units, developed the DVD collection and provided computers for the library. In the fall of 2006 the Friends announced a matching grant by which the Friends would match all new donations to the Foundation up to \$25,000. This match, which has been met, is providing up to \$50,000 for technology for the Durham County Library. See related article page 1.

## Call for Nominations

The Friends of the Durham Library is looking for interested Friends members to serve on the nonprofit organization's Board of Directors. If you would like to take a leadership role with the Friends, please contact Marge Nordstrom, Nominating Committee Chair, at [mnordstrom@nc.rr.com](mailto:mnordstrom@nc.rr.com).

### **Friends of the Durham Library Board of Directors 2007-2008**

#### **Officers:**

Jeffrey S. Laufenberg, President  
Bobbie Walters-Brown, Vice President  
Jacqueline Matthews, Secretary  
Mary Auen, Treasurer  
Marge Nordstrom, Past President

#### **Board Members:**

Jane Goodridge  
Victoria Hertz  
Felicia Leggett  
A. Wendell Musser, M.D.  
Gary Snyder  
Aviva Shira Starr  
Ann Wilder  
Bob Wilkinson  
Andre Vann

## Hellos & Goodbyes

At its annual meeting last summer, the Friends of the Durham Library honored and thanked retiring Board members, welcomed new Board members and elected officers for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

- Marge Nordstrom completed a challenging and successful term as President. Her year began with a strategic planning retreat and concluded with a very successful book sale, despite the March fire in the Friends' storage shed. She will continue to serve on the Board as Nominating Chair.
- Carol Ann Walters completed her third and final two-year term of service, during which she managed the increasingly popular book sales with Co-Chair Jane Goodridge and organized the annual delivery of the season's poinsettias that decorate library locations. Carol Ann supervised the book sorter volunteers whose hard work achieved a complete turn-around from disaster after the fire to a successful Spring Book Sale.
- The Board also recognized Kay Amos, who retired from the Board after one term, and Jane Goodridge for three years of service as Treasurer. Jane will continue on the Board, but has handed over solidly-in-the-black financial accounts to new Board Treasurer Mary Auen.
- Incoming Board members Aviva Starr, Mary Auen and Gary Snyder received a warm welcome to their first two-year term. New officers are listed on page 2.
- In addition to the headache of the fire, 2007 brought heartache to the Friends. This close-knit group lost book sale volunteers Herb Burgess, Ed Walters and Clay Allen to cancer. Memorial gifts may be addressed to Friends of the Durham Library, PO Box 3809, Durham NC 27702. Donors who made gifts in memory of Ed Walters are listed on page 2.



Friends of the Durham Library Board members, from left to right: Bob Wilkinson, Aviva Starr, Andre Vann, Felicia Leggett, Jane Goodridge, Skip Auld, Mary Auen, Gary Snyder, Ann Wilder, Jeff Laufenberg, Jacqueline Matthews, Bobbie Walters-Brown and Vicki Hertz.

### Dear Friends –

*Thank you all for your kindness to Ed and me during his hospitalization and eventual passing. He so loved working at the book sales and “guarding” the money; and we did feel safe with the big guy standing there.*

*Also, thank you for thinking of me with the beautiful poinsettia plant. You all know how I loved picking them out for the library each Christmas Season.*

*Sincerely yours,*

**Carol Ann Walters**



## Henry Clay Allen Service Award

Presented to: James Reid, Audio Visual



James Reid was the first recipient of the Henry Clay Allen Service Award. James was recommended by his peers for his dedicated service to the library and his can-do attitude. Sumayyah Muhammad wrote, “James sees something that needs

to be done and just takes care of it. I don't remember him ever being rewarded for it, but I know he has never complained.” The award was created in 2007 to honor the memory of Mr. Henry Clay Allen and will be given each year to a staff member who symbolizes the hard-working and enthusiastic spirit of Mr. Allen. Clay worked for 19 years providing exemplary service to the library.



## Library Trustees Award

Presented to: Jennifer Lohmann, LIFT Librarian



Last year at Fall Staff Day, Jennifer Lohmann stood up as spokesperson for her table's vision of Durham County Library's Library of the Year Award in 2009. Her humor, enthusiasm and directness caught the attention of the

library's strategic planning consultants. A relatively new staff member with a fresh MLS degree, Jennifer was asked to join the strategic plan core planning group. Soon she had volunteered to lead the library in a new venture by managing the DCL strategic planning wiki, a collaborative Web site. Self-dubbed the “wiki witch,” Jennifer made it possible for everyone to be involved in strategic planning by sharing ideas, photos and comments about library best practices. The Library Trustees Award honors Jennifer for her dedication and leadership.

Jennifer is fully engaged in the library and its work. In addition to being the wiki witch, Jennifer is a reference librarian at Main Library, specifically the LIFT librarian. She re-introduced hours of operation for LIFT and organizes computer classes and programs for college and job seekers. Jennifer served on the selection committee and as Program Chair for Durham Reads Together 2007, and is a member of the Book Cart Drill Team.

## Best of Show Award Winner

Durham County Library won five Best of Show awards at the North Carolina Library Association Conference in Hickory, N.C. The library received first place awards for its publicity materials in the categories of calendar of events, programs and events, fundraising, newsletters, and bibliographies and booklists.



Pictured with the awards are, from left: Susan Wright, Main Library Manager; Sandra Lovely, North Regional Library Manager; Carol Passmore, Parkwood Branch Manager; Lynne Barnette, East Regional Library Manager; Priscilla Lewis, Facilities Administrator; and Skip Auld, Library Director.

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The newsletter is produced by the library's Marketing Division.

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 Webmaster..... *Jill Wagy*  
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*Our many thanks to the following donors who met the challenge issued by the Friends of the Durham Library last spring. The Friends matched the gifts of all new contributors up to \$25,000. Funds from the Friends' challenge will support technology initiatives at the library, such as "roving computer classes."*

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This list includes donations during the period 4/18/07 through 9/30/07. Please accept our apologies if your name is listed inaccurately. Please contact Anastasia Bush, (919) 560-0190 or abush@durhamcountync.gov, so that we may correct our records.

## "Get Set... Get Ready... Let's Read!"



Skip Auld (Library Director), Karlene Fyffe (Library Youth Services Manager) and Analia Wehe-Lehmann (Target Store Team Leader) with Target's check for \$4,000.

This grant helped Durham County Library launch a new program to promote early literacy skills in young children. *Get Set... Get Ready... Let's Read!* will bring a children's librarian, good books and engaging storytimes to 18 of Durham's child care centers.

Sponsored by



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPCOMING BOOK SALES



**April 11 • 4 – 7 p.m.**

*Members only; Memberships sold at the door*

**June 20 • 4 – 7 p.m.**

*Members only; Memberships sold at the door*

**April 12 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

*Everyone welcome*

**June 21 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

*Everyone welcome*

**April 13 • 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

*Everyone welcome; \$7 Bag Sale*

**June 22 • 2 – 5 p.m.**

*Everyone welcome; \$7 Bag Sale*

**October 17 • 4 – 7 p.m.**

*Members only; Memberships sold at the door*

**October 18 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

*Everyone welcome*

**October 19 • 2 – 5 p.m.**

*Everyone welcome; \$7 Bag Sale*



All sales take place at the Main Library • 300 N. Roxboro St. • For more info: 560-0190

**YEAR-ROUND SATELLITE BOOK SALES NOW AT:  
Southwest Branch, Parkwood Branch and North Regional**

## HOW TO DONATE BOOKS

The Friends of the Durham Library welcomes donations of books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs, *except for: encyclopedias, magazines, records and condensed books.*

Durham County Library accepts donations in any library location during regular hours. For large donations (several boxes), we ask that you bring them to the Main Library garage on Tuesday morning between 9 and noon, when the Friends of the Durham Library are present and can help unload.

For more info, visit our website: [www.durhamcountylibrary.org/about/sale.php](http://www.durhamcountylibrary.org/about/sale.php)

## Save the Dates:

### Poetry for Everyone

*Celebrate National Poetry Month with your favorite Durham leaders as they share their favorite poems. Light refreshments will follow.*

*Mark your calendars for:*

**Sunday, April 6 • 3 p.m.**

Main Library  
300 N. Roxboro St.

**Tuesday, April 8 • 7 p.m.**

Parkwood Branch  
5122 Revere Rd.

**Thursday, April 10 • 7 p.m.**

Stanford L. Warren Branch  
1201 Fayetteville St.

**Sunday, April 13 • 3 p.m.**

Southwest Branch  
3605 Shannon Rd.

**Sunday, April 20 • 3 p.m.**

North Regional  
221 Milton Rd.

**Sunday, April 27 • 3 p.m.**

East Regional  
211 Lick Creek Ln.

## Durham County Library Partners with The Nasher Museum of Art to Present a New Series

**W**ant a fun and educational introduction to modern and contemporary art on view in Durham? Durham County Library is pleased to announce a new series for anyone who loves art, likes art or wants to know more about art: Art with the Experts. During these events, curators and staff from the Nasher will lead interactive discussions and show slides highlighting works from the museum's current exhibitions. The series will provide tools for approaching artwork on your own and a context for each exhibition that will enrich your experience as a viewer. Art with the Experts is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. Please join us!

**Barkley L. Hendricks: Birth of the Cool**

**Tues. April 29, 2008 at 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Main Library, 300 N. Roxboro Street

*Presented by* Trevor Schoonmaker, the Nasher Museum's curator of contemporary art and Juline Chevalier, the Nasher Museum's curator of education

**Taste of the Modern: Rothko, Rauschenberg, Oldenburg, Kline**

**Tues. May 13, 2008 at 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Southwest Branch, 3605 Shannon Road

*Presented by* Kim Rorschach, the Nasher Museum's Mary D.B.T. and James H. Semans Director

# Thank you to these donors who supported the Durham Library Foundation and Durham County Library

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