

# ***BOOK REMARKS***

## **GETTING READY FOR THE FALL BOOK SALE**

Last spring's book sale was our most successful, but we will not rest on our proverbial laurels. Since the week following the April sale, volunteers have met weekly to sort donated books for the fall event. As in the past, the community has responded with donations of several thousand very good books. There is something for everyone, including a large selection of contemporary and classic fiction (including mysteries), biographies and history, as well as volumes on gardening, crafts, art, music and many other topics. Come early too for the best selection of books-on-tape, videos and assorted CDs. There will, of course, will be a special section for kids -- and they are welcome at the sale.

The sale dates are Thursday, September 28, Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30. Once again, the location is the Kiwanis Building, 309 Credle Street in Pittsboro (one block west of route 15-501). The hours are 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Books are "full price" but still an incredible bargain on Thursday. Serious collectors, dealers, and folks looking for a special volume come early. Most hard-covers are \$3, (first editions and other special books may be more), large paperbacks, \$1.50 and regular paperbacks 50 cents. Media are similarly priced. Friday is half-price day and on Saturday you can buy a whole grocery bag of books for \$5, and we even provide the bags. But come early and get the best selections. Tell your friends and bring the whole family.

FOL book sale proceeds support many projects and services vital to the library and its patrons. The sale also places affordable books in the hands of people across Chatham County-- bringing them the knowledge and pleasure that come from reading. But there is more to the book sale than shopping. It's a wonderful community event and by participating you will help maintain the library as a valuable resource for all Chatham County.

We still need volunteers to work the days of the sale, as well as to help set up from Saturday, September 22 through Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> and for take down on Sunday October 1. (After all, you'll be in Pittsboro for "First Sunday, anyway, right?) In addition to volunteers to work at the sale, we need items such as home-made muffins, cookies and brownies to sell at the check-out tables. Such goodies are always a big hit. If you can share your time and baking skills, please call Doris Flexner at 542-3495.

We look forward to seeing you -- and your family and friends -- at the book sale! And don't forget to bring your \$3.00 discount card. Only paid-up members will receive one in the mail, but you can join at the sale and receive your discount immediately.

**What's new about the plans for the new library?  
Check it out at the new Chatham County website.  
<http://www.co.chatham.nc.us/LibraryBuilding/default.htm>.**

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Plans for the new library are rapidly moving along. We had a busy summer collecting community opinions through surveys and charettes (public input sessions for major architectural projects), meeting with the librarians and county planners and gearing up for a major fundraising campaign.

The current schedule calls for selection of the project architect during November 2006, design completion by May 2007. Construction should be finished by November 2008. Obviously, there is much to do between now and the dedication of the new facility in approximately two years.

Ah, you say, what was that about fundraising? You thought our county taxes were paying for this new library? Well, yes...and no. You may recall that the genesis of this new library was from a strategic plan written in 2001. The building size and capital budget set by Chatham County were based on that study and modified by some changes that occurred during the last five years. These changes include the building of a joint public/community college library and the establishment of a Chatham County stand-alone county library system which will require headquarters staff space in the new building. Needless to say, the alterations to the original plan -- along with a rapid rise in the cost of building materials -- will increase construction costs significantly.

Although we have only preliminary cost estimates, it is anticipated that county funding will provide only a basic library building and furnishings. The community must augment county funds to make up the difference between an ordinary library and an extraordinary destination. We can do it. Remember, 30 years ago the present library was built entirely with community funds.

Our challenge and opportunity is to make sure we have a first-class community library. With your help, our Friends of the Library organization can lead this effort. Over the coming months there will be many opportunities for you to make a difference. Please attend our upcoming events and learn more about the new library and how you can help. We need everyone's participation to make the next chapter a success.

Reece Jones  
President  
The Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library



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## GALLERY TO FEATURE HISTORY, NEW ARTISTS AND POLISH POSTERS

The Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library gallery exhibit for September features local history, courtesy of the Chatham County Historical Association. Whether you are a native or a newcomer you will enjoy *People and Places of Chatham County* in the renovated Reeves Gallery at the rear of the library. The exhibit is drawn from the CCHA collections of photographs, maps, and artifacts, and reveals a mosaic of Chatham County. It tells the stories of soldiers, farmers, mill girls and manufacturers from f Chatham's past and present.

The Gallery is open to visitors during regular library hours. Many thanks go to Katherine Ladd, organizer of the Gallery shows for several years. She resigned her seat on the Board of the Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library, but the results of her hard work will grace the Gallery walls into 2007. We welcome Leslie Palmer as Katherine's Replacement.

One of the many benefits of living in Chatham County is the talented artists and artisans who also call it home. The December Chatham County Studio Tour, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, features the work of members of the Chatham Artists Guild, which sponsors the event. Each year, artists new to the Studio Tour are honored with a show at the library. There are five new artists this year: Bill Cummings, Suzanne Holt, Robert Breen, Cindy Bainbridge, and Joey Howell. In addition to several examples of each artist's work, there will be photos of them and their studios taken by Dr. John Shillito, a noted photographer and teacher at CCCC. The Guild exhibit, on display in October and November, will whet your artistic appetite for the December Studio Tour.

There is a reception at CCCC from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on December 1. The artists' studios will be open to the public on December 2 and 3, as well as December 9 and 10.

Following two home-grown exhibits, the Gallery will begin 2007 with a showing of Polish Posters from the collection of Joan and Bill Sommers of Fearrington. The posters are notable for their inventiveness, startling images and artistic talent. Polish poster art has rarely been shown in the United States, so graphic art and poster aficionados will have a rare chance to sample a small but carefully selected array of contemporary Polish posters. The Sommers Collection is the result of four years of living in Krakow, where they got to know poster expert Krzysztof Dydo, who has more than 25,000 Polish posters in his collection

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## SCHOLAR TO SPEAK ON LIBRARIES' IMPACT ON THEIR COMMUNITIES

David Carr, Ph.D. of the UNC-CH School of information and Library Science will present his thoughts on *A Library and its Community: the Transforming Nature of a Great Library*. His talk is especially appropriate as Chatham County is growing and making plans for the new library. The program will begin at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 21 at the Council on Aging (Senior Center) on Route 87 North in Pittsboro.

As an Associate Professor at the School of Information and Library Science, Carr teaches about libraries, information and culture, museums, collections and reading. His interests include lifelong learning and the cultural institutions that encourage it. He also has written extensively about self-directed learning in museums and libraries. Professor Carr is the author of *A Place Not a Place: Reflection and Possibility in Museums and Libraries*. The book looks at ways in which a library can improve a community and promote critical thinking.

## FUN, FOOD, AND FUNDS FOR FRIENDS IN FEBRUARY

We get a little down at the thought of those dreary days between the December holidays and Valentine's Day. So for a treat that will warm your tummy and your heart, come to the February 5 Burrito Bash at the General Store in Pittsboro. The wonderful folks who run the General Store provide the burritos and the \$15 you pay goes to the Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library. The fun starts at 6:00 pm... Bring your family and friends – and chase away those winter blahs for a great cause.

# ***Renewal and New Member Form Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (for notification of Friends events only)

Please enclose a check payable to the **Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library** for a one-year membership, and mail to us at **P.O. Box 580, Pittsboro, NC 27312.**

Please check:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$5.00)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$100.00)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$10.00)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$250.00 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor (\$25.00)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50.00)                                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer matching gift (include appropriate forms) |  |

## ***Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library***

Membership dues help support special library events and programs, book purchases, and facility improvements. The Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Thanks for your help.

***We are an all volunteer organization. Please check areas with which you are willing to help:***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sales     | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Gallery       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter     | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising    | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technology     | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Read | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Programs |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |  |

Not sure when your membership is up for renewal? Just check the back label on **Book Remarks** or other Friends' mailings. Above your name is a line that says "MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES" followed by the year and date for your renewal, as in the sample below.

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MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: 2007- 11  
JOHN AND JANE LITERATI  
23 SMART LANE  
PITTSBORO NC 27312

## GOVERNMENT AIDS DONATIONS TO FRIENDS FOR OLDER TAXPAYERS

It may be easier for you to donate to the Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library if you are over age 70 ½ (and required to make minimal withdrawals from your traditional or Roth IRA). The recently enacted Pension Protection Act exempts some of those distributions from taxation if the money goes to charity. This opportunity is available only for tax years 2006 and 2007.

The rule allows an individual to exclude from taxable gross income up to \$100,000 in traditional or Roth IRA distributions -- if the money is donated to qualified charities. The law allows a taxpayer one such withdrawal per tax year. You cannot take both the exclusion from taxable income and a charitable deduction for the same contribution. The contribution will, however, count toward any required minimum distribution (RMD). In other words, a charitable contribution directly from your IRA distribution could be nontaxable, allowing you to meet your RMD without increasing your gross income.

The Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library is a qualified charity, and would be delighted to receive such donations. But first see [www.house.gov/jct](http://www.house.gov/jct) or [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for technical details and consult your tax advisor about your individual situation before making such potentially tax-exempt IRA withdrawals.

## CCCC AWARDS FRIENDS' SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship sponsored by the Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library was awarded to Central Carolina Community College student Terry Glover. The grant is a Foundation scholarship in Library and Information Technology for Fall 2006.

Ms. Glover is a Library Technical Assistant at the Warren County Memorial Library, where she has worked for ten years. She is working on an Associates Degree in the CCCC Library and Information Technology Program. Selection of the scholarship recipient is determined by the Lead Instructor of the "distance learning" program.

"This is the first CCCC scholarship sponsored by the Friends," according to Friends President Reece Jones. Jones noted that the scholarship is consistent with the group's mission to support libraries and librarians, as well as its desire to partner with the Community College on the planned joint-use (public & college) library for the Pittsboro CCCC Campus.

Thanks to all Friends members for their support of programs and book sales, that allowed us to offer this scholarship.

## CHATHAM LITERACY HERO HONORED

Marjorie Hudson, past president of the Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library, got an unexpected phone call in March. The caller was NPR reporter Adam Hochberg, seeking background on Chatham slave poet George Moses Horton, after whom UNC-Chapel Hill was naming a dorm. "I don't know anything about the dorm," Marjorie told him, "but I know a lot about George Moses Horton."

According to Marjorie, Horton came to Chatham County as a toddler and a slave, in the year 1800. He and his family worked the farms of William Horton and his descendants until they were freed by Union soldiers in 1865. Horton spent his youth working as a herdsman and self-described "plowboy"— and composing rhyming poems in the fields of northern Chatham. On Sundays he walked to Chapel Hill to sell produce and with encouragement from the university students, he would "spout poetry."

His passion was learning to read—which he did by hoarding scraps of books and a Methodist hymnal, at a time when a slave who learned to read could be punished by death. His other passion was composing poetry. It took him many years, but with the help of a faculty wife at UNC, he wrote down and published his first book of poems *The Hope of Liberty* in 1829. Meanwhile, on campus, he composed love acrostics for students to send to their sweethearts. The young men sometimes boasted that Horton composed it, but often claimed authorship for themselves.

Horton's plan was to purchase his freedom by selling his poems, and was the first African American to publish a book in the South. Fourteen years later, he published another. He became a *cause celebre* in the abolition movement, and among Yankee benefactors. When he was unable to purchase freedom, he wrote about his yearning for it, protested his bondage, and told his life story, an astonishing tale and a rare glimpse into the mind of a slave.

Horton has been honored many times over the years, including election to North Carolina Writers' Network Literary Hall of Fame, a proclamation by Chatham's commissioners, and by creation of the Horton Freedom Path mosaic by collaborating artists and Horton Middle School students. In 2001, the Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library planted a crape myrtle in his honor (just south of the side entrance to the library).

In addition to his autobiography, Horton published three volumes of poems (the last as a free man). This summer the North Carolina Division of Archives placed an official historic marker at the corner of 15-501 and Mt. Gilead Church Road to honor his life and work. For more about Horton, see [www.chathamarts.org/horton](http://www.chathamarts.org/horton).

**PO BOX 580**  
**Pittsboro, NC 27312**

