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Volume XIV No. 1 • July 2005

# NEWS

## Harry Potter and the two librarians

By Kari Baumann

♣ I hadn't wanted to go to Friendly Center, but even the best wizards have to venture into the Muggle world now and then.

Imagine my surprise, however, when I saw a long line of people outside Barnes and Noble and heard them mentioning "Harry Potter." After some blatant eavesdropping, I realized they did seem to be discussing books about *the* Harry Potter! I had no idea Muggles knew about him! I went inside to see what they were doing.

There were kids everywhere; many were dressed like Harry, with his round glasses and dark hair. I saw a man dressed like Rubeus Hagrid, who I remember as the gamekeeper from my days at Hogwarts. Actually, many of the Muggles seemed dressed as Hogwarts professors – I even saw a man dressed like Albus Dumbledore!

As I walked around the store, I saw children making wands out of plastic and feathers and shiny stuff (trust a Muggle to think that's how a feather is used in a wand... they were quite pretty, though), and having their pictures made with a cardboard Harry Potter. For such a large group of people, everyone seemed to be in good spirits, even as the night wore on. I heard two women talking in the café, saying incredulously, "These kids are lined up for a book. Not a video game, not a movie, not some electronic device. These kids want to read!"

Reading, after all, is a magic that even Muggles can understand.

Editors note: Reference librarians Kari Baumann and Jonathan Farlow each participated in Harry Potter release parties at area bookstores. Here are some of their reflections.

By Jonathan Farlow

♣ The release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* this past Saturday brought me some good luck.

I got to dress up like Professor Severus Snape at a Books-A-Million

release party for Book 6. This was good because Snape is my favorite character and, since Snape is the bully of the book, I got to chide costumed Harry Potter fans on Saturday night. There were several activities to keep the little Muggles occupied until their books arrived. They were sorted into houses, did crafts, got to see a real owl up close and of course there was potions with Professor Snape.

At 12:01, as I was cleaning up, a cheer went out in the store as the first sealed case of books was wheeled out from the store room. As I was leaving I saw one fan who couldn't wait to crack open this newest book; she had sat down on the curb and began to read right there. My wife has reserved a copy and plans on buying it the first of the month, but I think that I'll put it back and read something else before I find out who the Half-Blood Prince is.

Now don't get me wrong. The contribution that these books have made in getting children to read cannot be ignored. It is wonderful to see children get excited about books and reading and I loved watching them file by Professor Snape's table and stare in wonderment as if the genuine article was glowering down at them over bottles mineral oil and food coloring.

But for now I'm all potted out.

## Put on your *Traveling Pants* and join discussion

If you liked the book or film *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, share your thoughts during a special discussion for young adults (and those young at heart) at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 28 at the Asheboro Public Library. Refreshments will be provided. Bring your best friend and wear your favorite pair of pants!



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**from  
the  
director**

by Richard Wells



## Archdale's Galbreath to retire

♣ **Archdale Public Library manager Naomi Galbreath retires after July 31. She has served some 13 years in Archdale, and they have been years of growth, innovation and fun!**

I will not try to sum up a fine career in this short space, but simply touch upon some areas that were important to her as a librarian.

Providing a library that was welcoming to the public as soon as they came in and fun as long as they stayed was always a top priority. That has certainly been the case: the Archdale library has the feeling of a large living room — your very own living room.

Naomi immediately compliments the staff for much of this feeling. They are truly a professional group in every regard and the pride they take in their work is evident.

Her position required her to work closely with the Archdale city government and with the community as a whole. This seemed to be a job she was destined to undertake. The expansion of the building and the community fundraiser saw her even more involved. The success is evident. In her words, "It was an unexpected and valuable opportunity.

She was able to gain cooperation from two municipal governments in order to provide a better library. This is

not an easy task and she managed to accomplish this again and again.

The collection of materials in Archdale is rich and varied. It reflects a diverse clientele, and careful selection and much thought in its creation. Again, she garnered much support for the growth of the collection through local government, clubs, organizations and individuals. Only a well-respected and trusted leader can engender such support.

Programming was another very strong aspect of her career at Archdale. It would be hard to list the many subjects that were the basis for programs for citizens of the area, young, old and everyone in between.

Naomi and the staff seem to have a secret formula for obtaining grants for programs! An important ingredient of that formula is hard work, preparation and persistence.

One must mention her pursuit of the Spanish language: she decided that learning to speak and understand Spanish would better serve her patrons, so she simply did that. She will be teaching Spanish classes in retirement. She also speaks Chinese and holds a masters degree in that language.

Her creativity, determination and belief in good library service for the public translated into a fine library. All of us should aspire to look back upon our careers with such satisfaction.

Naomi certainly can.

## Friends have got a brand new bag



♣ Tote bags featuring the new Friends of the Library logo are now available.

The colorfully-trimmed, sturdy canvas bags come in navy, khaki, orange, yellow, light blue, green, red, burgundy and black. They cost \$12 and can be purchased at the Asheboro library Circulation desk.

◀ Staff members *Lindsay Shore-Wright* and *Kari Baumann* model the new Friends of the Library tote bags.

## Taylor named Archdale manager

♣ The new head of the Archdale Public Library will be George Taylor, currently manager of the Reynolda Manor branch of the Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL).



**George Taylor**

Documents Department, and prior to that worked as a reference librarian in the FCPL Business, Science and Adult Continuing Education Department.

He began his library career in high school, as a page at the FCPL's Kernersville branch. He holds a bachelors degree and a

Taylor has served at Reynolda — one of the library system's busiest branches — for four years. Previously, he was head of the FCPL Periodicals and Government

masters of library and information studies from UNC-Greensboro.

Taylor will begin work in Archdale on August 1.

## Randolph Reads begins in August

♣ A novel that Kirkus Reviews called "a high-wire act — of surprising tenderness" will be the focus of this year's Randolph Reads community reading program.

Activities centered around Lewis Nordan's *Wolf Whistle*, a meditation on the ripple effects of a case similar to the

lynching of Emmett Till, will include panel and group discussions. Events also will showcase blues music — an integral aspect of the story and inspiration for Nordan, who told an interviewer, "I heard a rhythm and a song long before I had the words, and I've just been waiting all these years to fill in the words."

Look for a schedule of events in next month's newsletter.

## Asheboro Reads

Asheboro Reads continues through the summer with more thought-provoking discussions, which take place from 2- 3:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month at the Asheboro library.

Upcoming titles include: **July 26:** *Confessions of a Pagan Nun* by Kate Horsley; **August 30:** *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd; **September 27:** *Blessed are the Cheesemakers* by Sarah-Kate Lynch; **October 25:** *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris; **November 29:** *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson.

## Computer classes

Asheboro library computer classes take place Mondays 2-3 p.m., and Wednesdays and Saturdays 9:30-10:30 p.m. They alternate among Internet, advanced Internet, email and word processing.

There's no charge but space is limited, so call 318-6800 menu option 4 to sign up.

## Book sale

The Friends of the Library book sale will take place from 9-3 p.m. Saturday, July 30, at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

## Parents as Teachers program expands to Randleman

A Parents as Teachers program like the hugely successful one currently serving Franklinville will begin this fall in Randleman. Funded by a grant from the

Randolph County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) and managed by the library, the program helps parents prepare their children for kindergarten.

# Friends of the Randolph Public Library

**YES!** I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year:

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**Mail to: Friends of the Library**  
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*Memberships are tax deductible*

**YES!** I'd like to help: \_\_\_Program planning\_\_\_Program Receptions \_\_\_Book Sales\_\_\_Membership

## Randolph County Public Library

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## memorials & donations

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**In Honor of: Alice Hammond**  
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**In Honor of: Beverly C. Stout, President**  
By: Woodland Garden Club

**In Honor of: Josh Brown**  
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**In Honor of: Janet Jones**  
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**In Honor of: Woodland Garden Club**  
By: Woodland Garden Club

**In Honor of: Ann Grey**  
By: Peggy B. Woodruff

**In Honor of: Homer and Doris Leonard**  
By: Bobby Burgess and Denise Lowe

**In Memory of: Wade Harmon Harris**  
By: Dr. and Mrs. A. Cleve Dunn III

**In Honor of: Frances Hall**  
By: Susan Coltrane

**In Honor of: Carol Matney**  
By: Peggy B. Woodruff

**In Memory of: Kevin Jermaine Marley**  
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**In Honor of: Arlene Smith**  
By: Jane and Bob Darwin  
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**In Memory of: Katie Sue Glascock Bridgers**  
By: Joan M. Allred  
Steve and Dianne Wrenn

**In Memory of: Mary Lou Rainey Moran**  
By: Sorosis Bookclub