The night was unseasonably warm, so attendees at the tenth Library Gala on January 19 did not have to brave the usual cold. Many of our friends are saying it was the best Gala yet. The featured author-scholar, David Reynolds, spoke engagingly of the impact of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* on American history and culture. Our guests are saying they are now eager to read his book, *Mightier than the Sword: Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Battle for America* and even (re)read *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. Professor Reynolds stated that the Q and A session was the best he had experienced in a long time.

The audience walked to Mead Hall along a pathway glowing with luminaria. At the conclusion of the cocktail hour, President Vivian Bull gave greetings, followed by the announcement of the Béla Kornitzer

**Friends Gala Revisits an American Classic**

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Books have long evoked deep emotion from their readers and owners. Libraries have, too. Especially the public library of one’s youth. Even the library where one studied during college days often enjoys similar sentimental status. These bonds of affection also extend to the smaller collections accumulated book by book by scholars over the course of their careers—attachments that abound among their students, colleagues, and families.

I know this to be true, because of the mail that I have received in response to my recent essay in *The New York Times Book Review*—a piece that explored my thoughts and feelings when I dismantle the library of a scholar upon her or his death and prepare it for transport to the Drew University Library.1 These letters carried such pathos and craft of language that I wanted a larger audience to enjoy a sampling.

The son of the theologian Robert McAfee Brown wrote:

*My dad died in 2001. Almost 10 years later, a librarian at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California dealt with us as though these books were living reflections of him. The process extended our time and enabled us to say goodbye in even deeper and more resonant ways.*

It’s a sad business — the wrapping up and the transposing of something that mirrors the heart of someone you love — but [he] made us feel as though the books, and the thought they represented, were still intricately connected to the mind and soul of our Papa.

Several writers sent me copies of books and articles they had published. Among them was Christopher De Vinck. He sensed what had prompted my written meditation:

*To know that we are living a unique experience not to be lived again gives us a sense of immediate contemplation.*

The daughter of a rabbi wrote:

*The house of my parents had an entire floor designated as “Abba’s Library”. . . . It was there that so many of the mysteries of the world were resolved with books, and questions that my schoolteachers did not answer to my satisfaction were clarified with the guidance of my father and his library. . . . When I randomly take one of his books in my hands and begin to read, I am reconnected with [him] . . . .*

The former provost of Lafayette College, June Schleuter, wrote:

*When I peruse my 12-foot wall of Shakespeare books or feel the warmth of my “scriptorium” envelop me as I struggle with the next academic essay or book, I look with affection at the spines of my indispensable library—perhaps the best of its kind—and wonder how, when beyond the grave, I could possibly not care about it anymore.*

Michael Lydon paid tribute to the library of a historian that filled an old white house in the New Hampshire countryside and mused: “What is a book? Why is a book? How do books survive the long years when no one opens their pages? How from this sleep can they spring to life the moment our eyes take in their opening words?”

A professor in Michigan wrote about a faculty colleague who had extreme eclectic tastes: “The experience of [seeing] a book by Lenny Bruce right next to a Greek lexicon was startling and jarring, but also made me sense something new about my colleague and his pattern of thought.”

And the mail was not without humor. A professor wrote that his wife said that he had enjoyed my essay because he wanted to be a scholar whose personal library would be sought out by others.

*Want to be?” he retorted. “I thought I already was!” *

I chuckled when I read the perspective of a used bookstore owner:

*At parties, or when visiting a new friend’s apartment, I forge the awkward introductions and small talk and beeline for the bookshelf. Not only is it a good place for a socially awkward person to hide while appearing engaged and intelligent, it’s also—as any good sleuth knows—the best place in a person’s apartment to suss her out as a potential friend, lover, stalker, or bore. A cursory glance suggests her interests and tastes, but an informed investigation of a bookshelf is often more revealing than talking.*

One scholar chided me for ruining an otherwise fine essay by mentioning the growing popularity of e-books. Interestingly, no one wrote about the delights of reading on a Kindle or iPad. Can there be abiding affection for things that are not meant to last but a few years, even if they reside in designer cases? I wonder.

1December 30, 2012.
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/30/books/review/handled-with-care.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1
Jason Fein, Director of Athletics
A great novel called *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach (Little, Brown, 2011). On the surface, it’s a story about a baseball team and the administration, specifically the President, at a small liberal arts college (sound familiar?). But beneath the surface, it’s really an in-depth story about family, friendship and commitment. It’s a great read.

Perry Leavell, Professor of History, Emeritus
I loved Hilary Mantel’s *Bring Up the Bodies* (Henry Holt, 2012). She brings historical fiction alive, mingling drama and the past in a style that somehow combines the distance of the 16th century with the clarity of the 21st.

Gamin Bartle, Director, Instructional Technology Services
*Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other* by Sherry Turkle (Basic Books, 2011). I had the chance to read it carefully during the power outage after the hurricane last fall, sometimes by candlelight. For me, this book is meaningful because it speaks to the intentional use of technology. We are letting it use us instead of the other way around, and, as Turkle concludes: “We deserve better. When we remind ourselves that it is we who decide how to keep technology busy, we shall have better.”

Ernest Rubinstein, Theological Librarian
*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville. Finally, after many past attempts. Forget Ahab and the white whale and read for the undulating evocations of life at sea.

Norman Tomlinson, Retired Publisher and Donor to the Drew Library
*Engineers of Victory: The Problem Solvers Who Turned the Tide in the Second World War* by Paul Kennedy (Random House, 2013). I liked this book because it didn’t focus on generals and heads of state but rather on the unsung people who had great expertise in tackling a particular problem and who were closer to the action.

Kenneth Alexo Jr., Vice President, University Advancement
*Nietzsche: The Ethics of an Immoralist* by Peter Berkowitz (Harvard University Press, 1995). Berkowitz presents a textually faithful, provocative, and eminently readable interpretation of Nietzsche’s ethical and political thought, challenging the now orthodox view that Nietzsche is the prophet of perspectivism—and the source of today’s post-modernism. He convincingly shows that Nietzsche is more than just a little bit of a Platonist.

Sara Webb, Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Studies
*Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper, 2012). Kingsolver is both a novelist and a scientist, and her most recent novel is an engaging read. Here she weaves a story grounded in the beauty of nature, specifically the remarkable but fragile migration of butterflies, and in the conflict between protecting biodiversity and making ends meet. The book offers a not-so-subtle reminder to environmental scientists to get our heads out of the sand.

Lucy Marks, Special Collections Cataloger
*Portrait of a Turkish Family* by Irfan Orga (Eland, 2002, first published in 1950, later revised and enlarged). A riveting memoir of Orga’s family during the last days of the Ottoman Empire and their experiences during World War I and after.

Catherine Keller, Professor, Constructive Theology
*A World of Becoming* by William E. Connolly (Duke University Press, 2010). Enfolding questions of planetary politics, global economies, perilous ecologies in a meditation on becoming, the political philosopher draws from philosophy, biology, films and even theology to stimulate reflection on the entangled force fields that make us up. The dangers of the “capitalist-evangelical resonance machine” are countered by the resonances across disciplines, movements and species that foster a world of differential pluralism.

Dean Criares C’85, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Drew University
*Pinstripe Empire: The New York Yankees from Before the Babe to After the Boss* by Marty Appel (Bloomsbury, 2012). Any Yankee fan will appreciate the complete detail and history of the Pinstripes’ organization.

Sean Nevin, Director, MFA in Poetry and Poetry in Translation
*The Stick Soldiers* by Hugh Martin (Boa Editions, 2013). Martin’s first full-length collection of poetry won the A. Poulin Jr. Prize from Boa Editions. It presents the stark witnessing of an Iraqi combat veteran trying to negotiate cultures in a time of war. This important book reminds us not only of the human costs of war but the power of the unflinching poetic eye.
Book Awards. That announcement will long be remembered as unique, for Noémi Neidorff, whose parents established the award, greeted us and named the winners from her home in St. Louis through the magic of video technology.


The book endowment that the Friends of the Library established under the leadership of Dr. Lynn Heft, grows with each Gala. That largesse has enabled the Library to add books to the stacks, and now e-books to the virtual stacks, beyond the purchasing power of the Library budget. At the last Gala, Dean Scrimgeour reported that the endowment had contributed $38,000 to the book budget in 2010–11. This year it is adding $112,000 to the budget. What a difference the growing endowment makes.
Dean Scrimgeour brought the program at the cocktail hour to an end with these words:

_In this bleak mid-winter,_
darkness stretching longer than day,
lights blaze in the library
where books surrender
to eager hands on the over-sized tables
and scoot up and down and sideways
on the luminous screens of portable
plastic libraries—
_places all where authors are at the
beck and call of readers
at any hour, heat wave or hoarfrost._

He continued, “You make it so. May it always be so. Thank you for being part of this tradition. Let’s go down to dinner.”
ADVICE FOR CONSTANT READERS
by Jennifer Heise, Reference Librarian and Web Manager

“W hat shall I read next?” is a question that confronts voracious readers a few times a month, week, or day. Even if we have a teetering to-read pile on our bedside table, which ones will fit our reading mood?

Many years ago—when library floors were still marble, reference desks still mahogany, and computers a distant dream of the future—librarians tackled that “What’s next” question with a service called “Readers’ Advisory,” designed to help match readers with “read-alikes” and themed fiction.

The advent of the Internet—connecting librarians and bibliophiles worldwide—offered a great opportunity. Information about books and their readers’ preferences could not only be collected, but also conglomerated into databases and made accessible to help other readers pick books! Advanced “web 2.0” social media powered these applications. Now readers’ advisory and recommendation tools proliferate. Allow us to recommend a few!

NoveList
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SERGEON continued from page 1

The personal interests and private experiences that led to the formation of Glen Sergeon’s collection lend an air of intimacy to the whole. His deeply felt pleasure in these books, as well as his admiration for and empathetic understanding of the authors, seem almost palpable. In the words of Langston Hughes: “Dream singers, Story tellers, Dancers, Loudlaughers in the hands of Fate—/My people.”
RECENT GIFTS

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SCIENCE LIBRARIAN  
CATHY RYAN RETIRES

Cathy Ryan, the science Reference Librarian since 2005, retired in November, starting a new phase of her life in upstate New York. She began her affiliation with the Library in 2004, working in the Government Documents office as an associate, but, with an MLS and a degree in biology, she stepped into the position of Science Reference Librarian when it became vacant.

Under her aegis, the library in Hall of Sciences was shifted into the Library, relationships with the University’s RISE program were strengthened, and the science faculty’s use of the Library for both their own research and that of their students expanded. Ms. Ryan often attended poster sessions, honors defenses and honor society meetings, forging strong bonds with students in the sciences. In fact, in the Library’s community survey last year, in response to the question, “What should NOT be changed?” one student answered forcefully, “The library should not change Cathy Ryan. She’s amazing.” We agree.
Conversations on Collecting
Hosted by the Friends of the Library, 4 – 5 p.m., Pilling Room, Rose Library

September 18
“Remembering and Collecting Doris Lessing”
Paul Schleuter

Dr. Schleuter, an independent scholar, will reflect on how “The Golden Notebook” captured his interest in Lessing in 1964, flowered into a friendship with her that’s endured almost a half-century, and shaped his collecting. Schleuter was initially introduced to Lessing’s work by Harry T. Moore, the D. H. Lawrence biographer. Moore became Schleuter’s doctoral advisor. That same year, when the author of a planned essay on Lessing suddenly died and the book the essay was intended for was ready for Southern Illinois University Press, Moore asked Schleuter to read everything by her that had been published, write the essay, and submit it to SIUP—all within two weeks.

October 23
“Jacob Landau, Illustrator: The Counterpoint of Painter and Poet”
David Sten Herrstrom

A conversation to revolve around Landau’s illustrations to writers from Dante to Hawthorne, all of which reside in the Drew University Archives. As Landau has said, “Rhythm drives my work. ... I feel the need for a rhythmic correlation with other rhythmic aspects of the composition.” Talking about some of these correlations, Dr. Herrstrom will invite everyone to see the music.

Book Receptions
Hosted by the Theological School and the Drew University Library, 4 – 5 p.m., Library Lobby

April 24, 2013
Book Reception celebrating the publication of two books by Chris Anderson, Methodist Librarian and Coordinator of Special Collections:

October 16, 2013, 4 p.m.
Book Reception to mark the publication of John McEllhenney’s A Masterwork of Doubting-Belief: R. S. Thomas and His Poetry (Wipf & Stock, 2013).

Main Library
Thomas H. Kean Gallery

The Glen Sergeant C’72, Collection of African American Literature
February 28 – August 15, 2013
The collection of African American literature donated by Drew alumnus Glen Sergeant C’72 was shaped by the literary interests he formed while a student of the late Professor Joan Steiner. A representative selection on display in the library entrance includes important works from the Harlem Renaissance, first editions of Ralph Ellison and Zora Neale Hurston, modern poetry, studies of George Washington Carver and Martin Luther King, Jr., an early children’s book, and a lesser-known short story by George Bernard Shaw. Curated by Lucy Marks, Special Collections Cataloger.

Methodist Library
“. . . For the Cause of Freedom”: The Prophetic Ministry of Bishop Gilbert Haven and the Rev. Frank Mason North
February 28 – September 30, 2013
The General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church has mounted an exhibition which highlights the writings and work of Bishop Haven of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who was a strong abolitionist and an advocate for civil rights following the Civil War, and the Rev. North, who was involved in developing an urban ministry to the poor and the creation of the Social Creed during the Progressive Era. The exhibit showcases documents from the recently acquired papers of Bishop Haven.