

Newsletter

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December 2020

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YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

FRRL “Book Bites” Project Gives Free Books To Kids As COVID-19 Continues To Impact Schools And Families In Need

This winter, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library will be providing almost 2000 free, new books to children in Reston.

Across the country, school districts like Fairfax County Public Schools are providing no-charge pickup meals for students and their families. These meal distribution sites are a straightforward effort to fill a gap that is usually somewhat assuaged by the students’ attendance at school and participation in free-or-reduced lunch programs. This gap has been made even wider not only by schools being closed but also by a decrease in financial circumstance for many families, as households find themselves out of work or with reduced income. In short – since early spring 2020, schools have adapted to feed students they were already feeding, and are now feeding even more kids than before, because more families are in need.

How does this relate to free books? In conjunction with school meal programs, organizations all over the country have also been providing free books to children during this time of crisis and isolation. Inspired by these organizations, the Reston Friends saw an opportunity to foster young readers in our own community.

The FRRL *Book Bites* project will distribute nearly \$15,000 worth of new books to children at four Reston public schools during meal pickup times. Books were chosen from nationally recognized and recommended children’s reading lists, with direct input from school librarians, reading specialists, and staff. Books are currently being received, inventoried, and sorted by volunteers, marked with a *Friends of Reston Regional Library* sticker, and packaged into bundles. They will be taken to the schools in the new year. At the schools, volunteers will work on meal distribution days to hand out the books. Students and families coming to pick up meals will be able to take home books as well. Bundles are arranged by reading level (e.g., “K-1”) and families will be able to take bundles for multiple students within a given household.

The *Book Bites* project would not have been possible without the partnership we formed with our local independent bookseller, Scrawl Books. Scrawl provided generous discounts on the books, enabling us to make each dollar count even more, while keeping those dollars in our local economy. We are pleased to work with Scrawl and other area merchants on projects like this. And we are so grateful to our Friends members who have donated funds and shopped at our sales – your support makes this program possible.

FRRL Joins Reston Reads In Providing Babies A Head Start On Childhood Literacy

Reston Reads is a project designed to help parents provide their children with a head start to childhood literacy. Research suggests that future achievement in reading and success in school is highly linked to being able to read as a child. This project kick-starts that process by giving parents of newborns born at Reston Hospital Center a *Reston Baby* board book. The book, which features local Reston scenes, will be printed in English and Spanish. It will be accompanied by a bilingual brochure explaining the benefits of reading to children.

The Friends joined with other local organizations, including the Reston Historic Trust and the Reston Association, to contribute financial support to the creation and publication of the book. Book distribution is expected to begin around Spring of 2021.

FRRL Helps Welcome Patrons to Reston Regional Library



Weatherproof banner printed by Reston Copy Center.

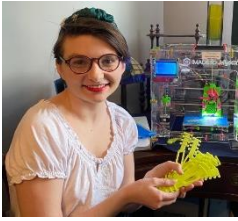
As the library reopened for Express Services within the branch, staff sought a way to increase visibility and let the public know the branch was ready to welcome them in. Working with the library staff, and the folks at Reston Copy Center, FRRL designed and provided a large weatherproof welcome banner, printed in English and in several other languages commonly spoken in Fairfax County. Library staff have received many positive comments and compliments on the 3’ x 9’ splash of color at the branch.

In addition to the banner, we also provided weatherproof “feather” flags (so called for their distinctive shape) which library staff can use to direct patrons to Curbside pickup (and post-pandemic, to use to highlight library events – and perhaps even our book sales!). Our staff has worked very hard to adapt to changes and to continue to help patrons make the most of library services. FRRL is happy to help support these efforts by funding this new and very useful signage.



LIBRARY NEWS

Two Goodbyes and One Hello



Goodbye, Michelle B! This month the Friends are reluctantly saying goodbye and good luck to our Assistant Branch Manager, Michelle. Michelle has been very involved in generating and supporting many programmatic initiatives at our branch, and has actively partnered with the Friends to find more ways we can fulfill our mission to make our library even better. From the Sesame Street celebration to author events to catalog curation, Michelle has been a professional, enthusiastic, and creative force at Reston Regional. She was willing to pitch in with everything from 3D printing mask extenders to mobile library school visits to taking the library to voters waiting in line on cold November days. She will be greatly missed.



Goodbye, Emily R.! Our thanks go out to Emily R, the Branch Manager from George Mason Regional who has spent the last several months doing double duty by also serving as the Interim Branch Manager in Reston. Emily jumped right in, supporting the staff and library wherever she was needed, all while still supporting her home branch. She was a welcome Friend during this year, and we are grateful to her for her support.

Hello, Mike S! We are pleased to welcome our new Branch Manager, Mike S. He began supporting Reston Regional on December 21. Mike comes to us from Florida and brings extensive experience with a large, complex library system. It's always an exciting challenge to start at a new library, but we recognize Mike is coming at an even more unusual time, and we wish him all the best! We look forward to working with him in the coming year. If you are visiting the branch and see Mike, be sure to welcome him to Reston.

Library Operating Hours

Per an update from Fairfax Library Director, Jessica Hudson, FCPL will continue with [Express Services](#) only, likely until the state enters Phase Four of the governor's [Forward Virginia plan](#). Express services allow you to visit inside the branch building for 30 minutes. Curbside services continue as of this writing.

Due to recent changes to the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response, FCPL has also lowered the number of persons allowed in the building, and the age requirement for mask wearing. The cap for gatherings for indoor and outdoor settings has been reduced to 25 people. Masks are now required for children ages 5 and up.

Express Services

Monday–Tuesday 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Wednesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Curbside services

Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Adapting to Change, RRL Staff Have Made a Variety of Programs Available Online

Staff at Reston Regional and throughout the county continue to work hard to create a number of new virtual programs this winter. Here are just some of the regularly scheduled online programs RRL staff are now hosting:

- Virtual chess club for school age children and teens
- Trivia programs for kids and adults
- Weekly online English language learners (ELL) and citizenship programs
- The Great Decisions series, hosted in partnership with the US Foreign Service Office
- YouTube book recommendation show, starring “The Cats of Reston Regional Library”
- YouTube based craft series, with each ‘episode’ demonstrating a craft you can do at home. So far, crafts include how to make paper beads, tie-dyeing using permanent markers, and even how to make a catapult! (There were no actual cats in the catapults).

Library Equity Access Pass (LEAP)

The new LEAP program gives a library account to all Fairfax County Public School students from kindergarten through grade 12. Rather than having to go to a branch building to set up their card, students are automatically granted access, and need only their already-existing student identification. Recently, RRL staff members made several outdoor outreach visits to serve area students, letting students and families check out grab bags of books via their LEAP accounts. We hope our Friends will learn more about the LEAP program [online](#), and share the news with family and neighbors.



3D Printing for Library Patrons

Did you know RRL has a 3D printer you can use to print your own projects? This printer and its supplies are funded by FRRL. If you'd like to learn how to use the printer, or have a project you want to print, ask a staff member for details! Also, keep an eye out for future programs related to the 3D printer, such as how to design your own 3D printable objects and other ways to get creative with the 3D printer.

Book Donations Closed Through 2020; No Book Sales Scheduled At This Time

To support the Friends while book sales and donations are closed, see below. We've also provided information on how to support other local organizations serving the community.

For the most current information about Friends happenings, please keep an eye on our website www.RestonLibraryFriends.com. If you want to receive email updates when we send them, please make sure we have your correct email address. You can contact us at RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com.

Follow FCPL and the Reston Friends on Social Media



/fairfaxcountylibrary
/RestonLibraryFriends

@fairfaxlibrary
@LoveBooksReston



More Ways To Help Your Community

Throughout the year, Fairfax County Public Schools has [continued to feed students in need](#). They need help to provide food and supplies to the nearly 60,000 students in Fairfax County who live in poverty. One organization that supports that goal is the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools. With campaigns like Project Cornucopia, the foundation aims to provide additional support to students during the holidays as well as through year round resources. [Click here to read more](#) about the activities of the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools.

In addition to students, there has been an increase in the overall number of people in our community struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families. There are many hunger assistance organizations in our area working to keep Northern Virginians healthy. Because of the increase in demands, their resources are severely strained. If you are able, we encourage you to consider supporting these worthwhile organizations. The links below will take you to their websites for more information.

[Capital Area Food Bank](#) [Northern Virginia Family Service](#) Searchable list of *Fairfax County Food Banks and Pantries*

Other Ways To Give To The Friends of Reston Regional Library

- You can DONATE ONLINE any time at our website: www.RestonLibraryFriends.com/donate
- Donate by SHOPPING ON AMAZON. When you shop on Amazon for the things you need anyway, use **Amazon Smile** and designate the Friends of the Reston Regional Library as your charitable recipient. The Friends can receive 0.5% of your purchase.
- Donate through CHARITABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS. Take advantage of your investment firm or bank's charitable savings account programs, such as Schwab Charitable or Fidelity Charitable. These accounts let you set aside funds for charitable purposes now, and distribute the funds at a time of your choosing. You can designate FRRL as your chosen recipient any time!
- Find us on Network for Good and other charitable contribution websites.
- ASK YOUR EMPLOYER. Some businesses offer matching donations when their employees make a cash contribution to our organization. Some employers even offer "free" volunteer hours to encourage their employees to become involved in the community. Ask your employer if such a program exists. If you're a company interested in donating, or would like more information, please contact us at RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

PLEASE APPLY OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

www.restonlibraryfriends.com/donate

Given our current limitations, we ask that if you wish to renew or apply for membership at this time, please do so online. Alternatively, you can submit a paper application at the library branch. To renew or apply online, please fill out an online donation form at our website. There is no separate "membership" form or page, so please [click here to go to our general Donations page and then take the following steps](#):

1. Once you're there, **click on the DONATE button**.
2. To enroll (or renew), **click on the amount you want to donate and the payment method you want to use**. Annual Membership Fees are \$5 for Seniors 65 and over, and \$15 for a General Household Membership. When you donate at least these amounts, you are automatically entered into our membership rolls.
3. **On the next page that appears**, there will be a field near the top of the donation page that says "Add a note" or "Write a note" (depending on which payment method you select). In that space, **please indicate the following**:
 - Is this a RENEWAL or NEW MEMBERSHIP?
 - Your mailing address (if you want us to have it)
 - Your email address (if you want us to have it) – we do not share your information with outside organizations!

Email and mailing addresses are used to provide notice of upcoming sales and FRRL events.

FRRL does not share member addresses with anyone outside our organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law for a 501(c)(3).

2020 Friends Online Forum

This year FRRL took the initiative and hosted the first-ever online Friends Forum in September. We had 17 out of 22 Friends groups, with 37 individual attendees!

- A few groups are continuing with their Ongoing Sales in the branches, stocking from already-processed materials.
- Friends of Oakton hosted a Sidewalk Sale.
- Friends of Reston sold books to a new restaurant in their neighborhood.
- Friends groups with online sale platforms like Amazon or eBay are still selling at various paces. Some are affected by the amount of stock they have on hand, but all are working to make the most of their stock to the greatest benefit to their branches.
- Friends groups such as Reston, who have a larger amount of books in inventory, have been able to share stock with other, smaller Friends groups to help them stay afloat this winter.

The Friends Forum is held at least once a year, as an opportunity for all of the Friends groups dedicated to branches within the Fairfax County Public Library system to get together and exchange ideas. The very first Forum was hosted by our own Book Sale Chair, Charly Karlsson, as a way to talk about book sale best practices and help each other out. That spirit of mutual support continues to this day!

Friends Volunteer Book Recommendations

Looking for your next favorite read? We asked Friends volunteers for recommendations from their own book lists. All titles here are available through the Library!

Have a book to recommend? Send us an email and we might include it in our next newsletter.

Behold the Dreamers, by Imbolo Mbues

Big Trouble, by Dave Barry

Book of the Little Axe, by Lauren Francis-Sharma

Free Range Knitter, by Stephanie Pearl-McPhee

Queen of Katwe, by Tim Crothers

Lincoln in the Bardo, by George Saunders

The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich

This Time Together, by Carol Burnett

Too Much and Never Enough, by Mary Trump

Uncommon Type, by Tom Hanks



Membership Donation News

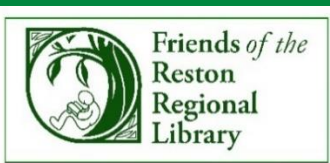
The Friends Board of Directors appreciates the loyal support of its members, donors, and volunteers. See page 3 for instructions on how you can make a donation, apply for membership, or renew your membership online.

The Board extends special thanks to supporters who have been especially generous this year, even during difficult times.

C. Furjanic	M. Kay
K. Shultz	The Konnerts
S. McCrackin	C. Lanphere
J. Loveland	C. Lund
D. Akan	L. Mackin
S. Abbott	K. Pascal
F. De Cola	M. Patterson
J. Epp	J. Schoenfeld
B. Canavera Good	L. Tovar

Thanks also to:

- The friends and neighbors of **Kevin Byram**, who made a large group donation in his memory this year.
- Fellow book club members and friends of **Pat Schreiber**, who made a large group donation in her memory this year.
- **Bill Chadsey**, who donated the bulk of his personal library to the Friends early in 2020. While we can't take estate donations now, if you or your family is planning a move or has a large collection you anticipate donating in the future, please contact us so we can talk with you about making a donation.



Friends of the Reston Regional Library, Inc. is an all-volunteer, registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Proceeds from our sales go to funding library and literacy materials, programs, and equipment in our community. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

www.RestonLibraryFriends.com