



Friends of the  
Reston  
Regional  
Library

# Newsletter

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Spring/Summer 2020

Friends Board of Directors							
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## COVID19 Closes Branches, but You Can Stay Connected

Even as branch buildings are closed, FCPL continues to support patrons with a wide variety of free resources. Here are just some of the great things available.

### Learn Something New (or Refresh Something You Already Know)

**Take Classes Online through the Library** – If you have a Fairfax County library card you have access to more than 500 courses online through [Universal Class](#). Classes cover everything from math and science to parenting and “how to” projects. [Learning Express](#) is another library-supported resource that offers online test prep, career support and other success-oriented resources for users.

Don’t have a library card? No problem! [Sign up for a card online now](#) and have immediate access to this and all of the library’s resources. You can finalize the application process later.

### Find Your Next Big Read

**Access Books, Magazines and Audio Resources Online** – [Overdrive](#) allows county library users the ability to access hundreds of books and audiobooks for free without having to step foot in a physical library. [Look online](#) to see what’s available, and to learn how to use Libby or other apps to access materials on your phone or computer. [Magazines are also available to read online](#) thanks to the Library’s partnership with RB Digital.

**Join a Virtual Book Club** – Join a [virtual book club or discussion group](#) through the Fairfax County Public Library. Meet authors virtually too. Participate in the national, [Big Library Read](#) where readers talk about the same book.

### Follow FCPL and the Reston Friends on Social Media



facebook.com/fairfaxcountylibrary

facebook.com/RestonLibraryFriends



@fairfaxlibrary

@LoveBooksReston

### Support Our Local Independent Booksellers

If you just can’t find that one special book you want in the library catalog, and you’re starting to think about drifting over to an online retailer, consider supporting a local indie bookstore instead. Two of our local bookstores, *Scrawl Books* in Reston and *Bards Alley* in Vienna, are still open and fulfilling orders. Not only can you buy printed books from them and either pick them up or have them delivered, you can also purchase eBooks and audio books from them! Visit their websites for more information.

[www.ScrawlBooks.com](http://www.ScrawlBooks.com)

[www.BardsAlley.com](http://www.BardsAlley.com)

**OUR BIG SPRING SALE, SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 29-MAY 3, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

**BOOK DONATIONS ARE ALSO CLOSED.**

**THE RESTON LIBRARY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

As with so many other organizations, Covid19-related precautions have caused us to make numerous changes. We hope you will continue to support the Friends during this national crisis, as the Library and community will need us more than ever when the situation improves.

To support the Friends during this time, see page 3 of the newsletter for *Other Ways to Give*.

To support other local organizations serving the community during the crisis, see *More Ways to Help Your Community* on page 2.

**For the most current information, including our sale schedule, please visit our website or social media accounts.**

**If you want to receive updates by email, please make sure we have your correct email address.**





## CELEBRATING JOAN BISSELL, FAIRFAX COUNTY LIBRARIAN FOR OVER 40 YEARS

In early January, the Friends joined RRL staff in celebrating Joan Bissell as she retired after more than 40 years as a librarian for Fairfax County Public Library. A party was held in Joan’s honor, with library staff, administration, friends, family, and other guests from throughout the County coming to wish her a happy retirement. The Friends contributed to the event itself, as well as honoring Joan with a donation to the Reston Museum at Lake Anne Plaza, including a commemorative brick in Joan’s name. The brick is scheduled to be installed on the Plaza this year and will serve as a permanent reminder of her many years of service to our community.

Joan’s service to FCPL took her to multiple locations throughout the county over more than 40 years, but the bulk of her time was spent in Reston. Her first posting in Reston was in 1966 at Reston’s very first library, Carter Glass, which was located at Lake Anne in the building which is now the Reston Museum. Joan also worked at the mini-library at Hunters Woods Plaza in 1974, before moving to the current facility on Bowman Towne Drive in 1985. Joan worked at our current facility from opening day until December 2019, and supported our community through much growth and change over the last three decades. After so many years of devoted service, Joan now looks forward to a life of travel, adventure, and, of course, catching up on her reading!

## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Since our last newsletter, the Friends have provided financial and hands-on volunteer support for numerous programs and events at Reston Regional and in the community. These include:

- ♥ Great Decisions Series featuring General Clapper
- ♥ Ken Burns Country Music Documentary preview
- ♥ Author James Donovan – Fall for the Book
- ♥ Sesame Street 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- ♥ David Baldacci Book Launch
- ♥ Southgate Community Day
- ♥ Mystery Author Extravaganza
- ♥ Holiday Open House
- ♥ Lunar New Year

Even with library branches closed, we are still working with our branch manager to identify ways to provide continued support to library programming, equipment, and materials, to best meet the needs of the library community, even in the unexpected circumstances of the Covid19 pandemic. For us, the library will always be an Essential Service.

## RESTON FRIENDS BY THE NUMBERS

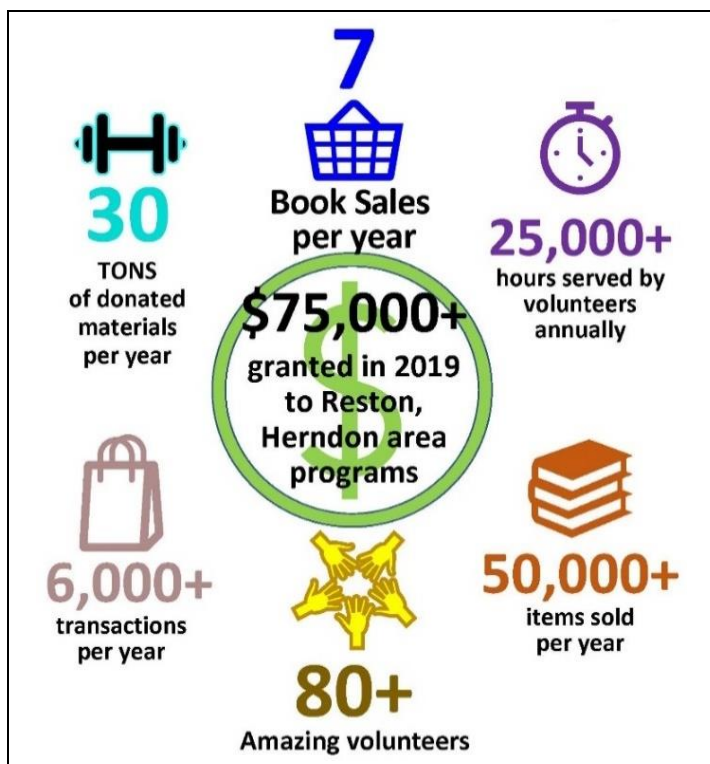
Whether our volunteers are in the library, or out in the community, they are often asked, “*What do the Friends do?*” In other cases, folks tell us they *think* they know what we do. But when we give them a breakdown, the inevitable response is, “*I had no idea!*” The number of volunteers, the labor we put in, the funds we raise, and, most importantly, what the library is able to accomplish with those funds, are all more than most people imagine.

So, the next time someone says to you, “Why do you shop at that book sale?” or “What do the Friends do, anyway?”, just consult this handy Friends by the Numbers chart, and wow them with all we do!

## MORE WAYS TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

<https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirus-update-food-resources>

Although schools are closed for the rest of the year, Fairfax County Public Schools [continue to feed students in need](#) during this crisis. They need your help to provide food, technology and school supplies to the nearly 60,000 students who live in poverty. [Donate today](#) to the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools.



In addition to students, this current crisis has seen an enormous 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 following links will take you to their websites for more information.



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Please apply or Renew Your Membership Online

[www.restonlibraryfriends.com/donate](http://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 wait until you receive word from us that we are back at full operations and submit a paper application at the library branch. To renew or apply online, please [click here to fill out an online donation form at our website](#).

Annual Membership Fees are \$5 for Seniors 65 and over and \$15 for a General Household Membership.

In the online form, 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:

- 1 – Is this a RENEWAL or NEW MEMBERSHIP?
- 2 – Your mailing address (if you want us to have it)
- 3 – Your email address (if you want us to have it)

*Email and mailing addresses are used to provide notice of upcoming sales and FRRL events. FRRL does not share member addresses or emails with anyone outside our organization. FRRL is a registered 501c(3) nonprofit and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE – VOLUNTEER WITH US

We won't be on hiatus forever. When sales and donations start up again, we'll need more volunteers than ever to help us do our part for the library. Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and perform a variety of roles. We would love for you to join in our success and passion to make the library a better place for the community. Right now, we are especially looking for help in the areas listed below. If you have a special skill but don't see it listed, tell us about it. We never know where our next good idea may come from.

- ♥ General Book Sale Workers
- ♥ Events/Outreach Support
- ♥ In Kind Donations Support
- ♥ Secretary (Board Member)

**Email us at [RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com](mailto:RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com)**

### FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION NEWS

The Friends Board of Directors appreciates the loyal support and generosity of its donors and volunteers.

Your membership expiration date is based on the date of your last donation, and appears on the mailing label of this newsletter.

To apply or renew membership, use the form above. Or save a stamp and visit our website:

[www.restonlibraryfriends.com/donate](http://www.restonlibraryfriends.com/donate)

Particular thanks to our Friends who provided financial support above the minimum annual membership.

- ♥ Stephanie Abbott
- ♥ Doruk Akan
- ♥ Ganesh Arvapalli
- ♥ Ann Bohlander
- ♥ Gabe and Hildy Buis
- ♥ Pat Coshland
- ♥ Brandi Dadi
- ♥ Krista Eaton
- ♥ Janine and Ralph Greenwood
- ♥ Benjamin Hargis
- ♥ Diane Huddleston and Dennis Wisler
- ♥ Roxane Hughes
- ♥ Elizabeth Davison and \*Brian Jacoby
- ♥ David and Julia Jones
- ♥ \*Rik and Charly Karlsson
- ♥ Melvyn Kay
- ♥ Joan Kenney
- ♥ Richard Kenney
- ♥ Karen Knox
- ♥ Stephanie Locke
- ♥ Carol Lund
- ♥ Susan McCrackin
- ♥ Kevin Moriarty
- ♥ Alan Nathanson
- ♥ Mai N and James Stievater
- ♥ Mike and Lois Olson
- ♥ Lynda and Wendell Ose
- ♥ John and Lisa Pastoral
- ♥ Veronica Sedgwick
- ♥ Josie Stanmyre
- ♥ Chris and Don Sylvester
- ♥ Richard and Eloise Williams

♥ = FRRL Volunteer \* = FRRL Board Member



### A special acknowledgement goes out to the family and friends of the late Joseph "Joe" Francis.

Mr. Francis was a long-time member and supporter of the Friends. He passed away in late December 2019. His family very generously suggested donating to the Friends in lieu of flowers, and many did just that. Mr. Francis was a loved and respected member of the community, an avid reader, and a great believer in the power of education and literacy. We are so grateful to have been chosen to help honor his memory. ***Our sincere thanks to all who contributed.***

### OTHER WAYS TO GIVE TO THE FRIENDS

- You can DONATE ONLINE any time at our website: [www.RestonLibraryFriends.com/donate](http://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. When you shop on **Amazon Smile**, the Friends can receive 0.5% of your purchase. Designate the Friends as your recipient when you log in to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) today!
- 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](mailto:RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com).



### FRIENDS OF THE RESTON REGIONAL LIBRARY SUPPORT THE COALITION TO EXPAND LIBRARY ACCESS

As many of you are aware, Friends groups across the County (including ours) have united behind the Coalition to Extend Library Access (CELA), a grass-roots initiative to increase library funding, and specifically to include expanded and consistent hours at all libraries across Fairfax County.

The initiative saw some initial success. The County Executive presented his FY21 advertised budget on 2/25, and **all** of the Library's requests were included in this draft version, including the elimination of fines on children's materials, a new full-time Behavioral Health Specialist position to serve as the library's internal social services support, and full funding for Phase 1 of expanded and consistent Library hours.

Unfortunately, this budget was presented just a week prior to the lockdowns associated with the pandemic, and the County quickly retreated from many initiatives in a budget revision, including this one. Our hope is that economic recovery will be relatively swift and that the Library will see increases within the next year or two. The good news is that the initiative gained clear support from the County executives, CFO, and the community at large -- thanks in part to the Friend's efforts to publicize it and make their support known.

If it is eventually approved as part of an adopted budget package, FCPL currently envisions implementing it at Phase 1 libraries by the end of that calendar year. Phase 1 branches are all of the regionals plus Kingstowne, Kings Park and Patrick Henry. The new expanded and consistent hours will be Monday-Wednesday 10-9 and Thursday-Sunday 10-6. Phase 2 would encompass most of the remaining libraries in the second year of implementation.

You can help by letting your Supervisor know you support this initiative, continuing to help the Friends "spread the word" (but not the virus!) to other members of the community, and attending your local budget hearings once they resume (wear a CELA sticker if you go -- they will be available in the sorting room once the library reopens). You can find more information about this initiative at <http://www.celafairfax.org>.

### LOCAL SPONSORS

Now more than ever, if you have the opportunity, we encourage you to support these fine folks and their local businesses. Many restaurants are still open for **delivery or carry out**, and our area grocery stores are working around the clock to help our community. Be sure to mention you heard about them from the Friends of the Reston Regional Library!



- Amphora Restaurant, Elden Street, Herndon
- Baskin-Robbins, North Point Village, Reston
- Costco, West Ox Road, Fairfax
- Eggspectation, Westone Plaza, Chantilly
- Einstein Brothers Bagels, Fountain Drive, Reston
- Giant, Fox Mill Shopping Center, Herndon
- Giant, North Point Village, Reston
- Glory Days Grill, Fox Mill Center, Herndon
- Great Harvest Bread Co., Station Street, Herndon
- Gregorio's Trattoria, North Point Village, Reston
- Home Depot, Price Club Plaza, Fairfax
- HoneyBaked Ham, North Point Village, Reston
- Jason's Deli, Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax

- Jerry's Subs and Pizza, North Point Village, Reston
- Jersey Mike's Subs, Hunter Woods, Reston
- LA ONG Thai Bistro, Fox Mill Center, Herndon
- Ledo Pizza, Hunter Woods Plaza, Reston
- Office Depot, Spectrum Center, Reston
- Pollo Peru, Reston Parkway, Reston
- Potbelly Sandwich Shop, Sunset Hills, Reston
- The Chantilly Donut Shop, Henninger Court, Chantilly
- Trader Joe's, Killingsworth Ave, Reston
- Walmart, Fair Lakes Drive, Fairfax
- Wegmans, Monument Drive, Fairfax
- Wegmans, Newbrook Drive, Chantilly
- Whole Foods, Plaza American Drive, Reston

Thanks also to **Reston Copy Center**, for all their tremendous help in printing our sale signs, bookmarks, brochures, and more!  
They are real Friends of the Reston Regional Library!