



Newsletter

Volume XX, Issue I

Spring 2023

Friends Board of Directors

Brian Jacoby, President		John Filippini, Vice President		Robert Evon, Treasurer		Mollie Weinert, Secretary	
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YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Friends Award Our First-Ever Literacy Grants to Local Non-Profits

The Friends of the Reston Regional Library (FRRL) recently announced the awarding of one-time grants to **four local organizations that support and promote literacy in the community.**

These grants are intended to strengthen literacy education in our community by narrowing the gap between learners' needs and organizations' financial resources. Ranging from \$11,000 to \$30,000, the grants will be given to support hands-on programming that directly impacts literacy.

FRRL Board President Brian Jacoby said, "We have been so impressed by the work these organizations are carrying out. The proposed programs, both long-established and new, will bring much needed literacy support to participants. The results will last a lifetime. We're honored and privileged to be able to be a part of it."

Meet the 2023 FRRL Literacy Grant Awardees

From pre-school to pre-citizenship, and from phonics to the pharmacy, these amazing local organizations support lifelong literacy throughout our community.



For Success in Kindergarten and Beyond

All Ages Read Together – Helping children to be "kindergarten ready," with free preschool for children and families in under-resourced communities.

www.allagesreadtogether.org

All Ages Read Together (AART) is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to educating children in need with free preschool programs in their communities. They strive to address the preschool opportunity gap for many working families throughout Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. AART preschool classes are designed to build and strengthen preschool-aged children's fundamental skills in early literacy, English language development, math skills, and socialization in the classroom setting. All AART classes take place in in-kind donated spaces like Northern Virginia county libraries, affordable housing communities, and senior centers. During the school year, classes meet twice a week for 30 weeks, for 60 sessions and at least 90 hours of direct instruction.

Each class is led by experienced Preschool Teachers and supported by a bilingual Preschool Assistant and volunteers. There is at least one book used each week to introduce or strengthen one or two essential skills kindergarteners will need. To promote the development of these skills, teachers use a standard class schedule that includes fun learning activities and centers. At the end of the week, the student will take home a copy of the book and a parent resource sheet to practice learning at home.

2023 BOOK SALES

Big Spring Sale: April 26 - 30

Wednesday, April 26

10am -5pm Lobby & Hall: Open Sale
1 - 5pm Main Room: Members Only

Thursday, April 27 10am - 5pm

Friday, April 28 10am - 5pm

Saturday, April 29 10am - 5pm

Sunday, April 30 10am - 3pm

(No kids' books at this sale!)



Children's Back to School Sale August 17-20

Big Fall Sale (No kids' books) September 20 - 24

Lobby Sale: Puzzles & Games October 26-29

Lobby Sale: Holiday Gifts December 7-10

**DONATIONS CLOSED
APRIL 15 - MAY 7**

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



English Empowerment Center (formerly Literacy Council of NoVA): Instruction and support to help adult and family English Language Learners help themselves.

www.EnglishEmpowermentCenter.org

EEC provides English language and literacy instruction to those who cannot read, write, speak, or understand English beyond the 6th grade level, through a model that combines intensive instruction with support services. EEC uses today's best practices for adult learning and second language acquisition in its instruction. Classes are available at a variety of locations, times and duration throughout Northern Virginia. With English skills, EEC learners can gain a foothold in the workforce, obtain job advancement, or move on to higher level learning.

This FRRL grant will help fund a Family Learning Program in Reston and an adult Beginning English program in Herndon. The Family Learning Program emphasizes the needs of parents with school-aged children, engaging families in activities that help parents develop their English and reinforce what their children are learning in school. Classroom-based programs like the Beginning English course provide instruction in the context of both workplace and life-skills.



The **Loudoun Literacy Council:** Early Intervention Family Literacy programming for at-risk preschoolers.

www.loudounliteracy.org

Loudoun Literacy Council's Early Intervention Family Literacy Program for STEP Preschoolers was initiated in 2017 to provide family literacy services to 320 at-risk children and their families enrolled in Loudoun County Public School's (LCPS) STEP (Starting Towards Excellence in Preschool) Program. The STEP classrooms are located throughout the county and all students served are from low-income families. Loudoun Literacy Council provides cognitive learning opportunities and activities to enhance the early language, literacy, and prereading development of preschool age children, particularly those from low-income families. They also provide free books and materials for children to take home to build their own home libraries.

By providing new books and at-home literacy activities for STEP families, LLC enables parents to become their child's first and most important teacher. Family Literacy Nights are geared to provide language and literature-rich environments, so that the children can attain the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for optimal reading development in kindergarten and beyond. By modeling reading aloud, and demonstrating how learning can be a fun and interactive experience, LLC provides parents with important tools for at-home learning.



Literacy Volunteers of America – Prince William County: Helping people take charge of their families' healthcare through the development and execution of a health literacy program for English Language Learners.

www.lvapw.org

LVA-PW was founded by Dona Swanson, a former public librarian in Prince William County, VA, more than 30 years ago. They provide conversation classes, more advanced English learning classes, and Citizenship classes.

Financial support from the Friends of the Reston Regional Library will help fund the B4HealthLiteracy 2023 program, the most recent addition to LVA-PW's curriculum. These classes in Health Literacy have been created to specifically address the complexity of healthcare-related language. LVA-PW has embraced health literacy for many reasons; most driven by the dire impact low health literacy has on millions of people globally, including thousands of people in our own backyard. B4Health Literacy education will especially reach out to support minorities and seniors, the groups most affected by the financial burdens caused by low health literacy.

Library News

At the recent Fairfax County budget hearings, the Library Board of Trustees and the Fairfax Library Foundation made a public appeal to the County Board of Supervisors to increase the FCPL collections budget. Best library practices and the Library Board's own policy recommends that the collections budget totals at least 20% of the library's total budget. The current proposed collections budget is around 10%, or less than half of what would be a minimum needed to maintain a sufficient collection for the population of Fairfax County. *The proposed budget provides no new funding for books* (physical or digital). As most of you will remember, FRRL recently donated \$200,000 of our own funds to help with this major need, but of course this only scratches the surface of a countywide challenge.

The Library Board of Trustees Chair, Brian Engler, and Fairfax Library Foundation Board Chair, Miriam Smolen, each touched on the amazing contributions of FCPL staff, how critical library services are to the community, and unfortunately how underfunded the library's collections budget remains. Ardent library users are well acquainted with long wait lines for many titles, the need to update and expand nonfiction collections, and the sad faces when children (and adults!) visit and cannot find their favorite new series on the shelves.

Over the last several months, the Library Board of Trustees has been developing a Friends and Advocates Network, or a FAN club, to connect and inspire library supporters in times of need. The committee is asking everyone to help them spread the word about this urgent need for collections improvement. If you missed the budget hearings but still want to make sure your voice is heard, please consider writing an email to your local elected official, urging them to increase the library's book budget (see links below). The Trustees encourage everyone to include your own stories about the library's collection and your experiences with the library. If you'd like a help drafting a letter to your elected officials, the Trustees committee is available to help. Contact FAN Committee Chair Fran Millhouser via email at Frances.Millhouser2@fairfaxcounty.gov.

STAY INFORMED, STAY INVOLVED, SPEAK UP FOR LIBRARIES – How to Speak Up!

If you are a resident of Fairfax County, contact your local representatives to speak up for your library!

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/members-and-districts>

The Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees:

<https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/c.php?g=726086&p=5435993>

Find your state and US legislators:

<https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

THREE DIMENSIONAL THINKING

RRL recently had a local community member donate the funds for the purchase of a third 3D printer! According to our branch manager, Mike Siriwardena, "We will be building it May 6th and we can't wait to get it into the mix, since Reston is the busiest library for 3D printing in the entire county!"

FRRL regularly funds the needed supplies (3D printing filament) for our branch and several others in the county. To find out about printing your own 3D object at the Reston Regional Library, or another branch, visit the FCPL website: <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/3d-printing>

There's a New Book Club in Town—and everywhere!

The Reston Regional Library community recently welcomed a new book club to the thriving local book club scene. But instead of meeting in the library, the "Second Sunday Book Club" is a monthly book club that meets *online*. Hosted by new-to-Reston resident Jonathan Tennis, the club discusses books on a wide variety of topics, from best-selling novels to head-scratching nonfiction. The online format means not only can you participate from home, but so can your friends and family around the country. All readers are welcome, regardless of whether or not they live in the Reston area. To find out more, contact Jonathan at jonathan.h.tennis@gmail.com.

RETRACTION

In a December 2022 guest column contributed by the Reston Citizens Association, the article mistakenly noted that the Fairfax NAACP was "urging the County to reject the Foulger-Pratt proposal."

The Fairfax NAACP has since publicly stated they are (were) in favor of the proposal. FRRL regrets the error.

The Foulger-Pratt proposal has since been withdrawn. Additional information on this proposal may be obtained by contacting the Reston Citizens Association (info@rcareston.org)

Thank you For Your Donations! – Beyond “Paying Your Dues”

The Friends Board of Directors appreciates the loyal support of our community. To be considered a Member of the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, an individual must have donated \$15 within the last calendar year (\$5 for persons 65 and over). See below for instructions on how you can make a donation or renew your membership online. The Board extends special thanks to all those who contributed financially since our last newsletter, especially those who went above and beyond the minimum “dues” amounts since our last newsletter. Your support means so much!

Stephanie Abbott
Heather Gray Brown
Elizabeth Davison and Brian Jacoby*
Laurie Corkey
Nancy Dickson

John Filippini*
William Harshaw
Linda Irwin
Charly and Rik Karlsson*
Melvyn Kay

Joan Kenney
Mary Beth Merin
Janet and Bill Merrill
Katharine Murphy
Mike and Lois Olson
Lawrence and Margie Shapira

Thomas Skirbunt*
Robert Storck
Jonathan Tennis
Richard Wharton
Richard and Eloise Williams

*FRRL Board Member

REMEMBER: Pay Early Online before the Big Sale!

FRIENDS MEMBERS GET EARLY ACCESS TO THE “MAIN ROOM” from 1-5p Wednesday, APRIL 26.
Not sure if you’re up to date? Email RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com and avoid the rush!

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Did you know, **our volunteers donate over 25,000 hours a year?** Volunteers spend literally thousands of hours physically processing over 40 tons of donated materials as they come in to the library. In addition to donation processing and book sales, our volunteers also pitch in at library and community events, and even at home!

Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and perform a variety of roles. We would love you to join in our success and engage your passion to help our community. Our biggest needs are for **book sale** volunteers at our 7 annual sales, and **event** volunteers for various programs in and outside the library during the year. If you have a special skill you think might be helpful, contact us. We never know where our next good idea may come from! **Interested in volunteering?** Send an email to RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com and become a part of our energetic team of literacy lovers!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

PLEASE APPLY OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

<https://www.restonlibraryfriends.com/membership--donations.html>

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 is \$15 per person (\$5 for Seniors 65 and over). When you donate at least these amounts, you’re automatically entered into our 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 email address (we do not share your information with outside organizations!)



/RestonLibraryFriends

Follow us on social media!



@LoveBooksReston

Email addresses are used to provide notice of upcoming sales and FRRL events. We do not share our mailing list with other organizations and we do not receive any contact information from the Fairfax County Public Library or its internal mailing lists.



Friends of the
Reston
Regional
Library

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