



Friends of the
Reston
Regional
Library

Newsletter

Volume XVI, Issue I

Spring/Summer 2019

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Author Events at Reston Regional Are a Hit

In our last newsletter, we mentioned a planned reading with award-winning children's author Kwame Alexander. Hosted in September, this event drew close to 200 children, teens, and parents. The event was co-hosted by the library and local independent bookseller, Scrawl Books, as well as local public television station WETA. Funded by a grant from PBS and by the Friends as part of our support of library programs, we also



were able to give away 50 copies of Alexander's book, *Rebound*, to the first 50 school-aged attendees, some of whom had never been handed a brand new book of their own.

Building on the success of our first big author event, we were thrilled to partner next with local bookseller Bards Alley, to host best-selling thriller author David Baldacci at a standing-room-only event in early December. Once again, the crowds came out, and this time we welcomed over 250 people lining up to hear the author speak about his new book *Long Road to Mercy*.

In March, we welcomed nationally known author Dani Shapiro. An audience of close to 100 gathered to hear her discuss her new memoir, *Inheritance*, in a conversation with a professional genealogist Shannon Combs-Bennett. For the Shapiro event, the library and Friends partnered once again with Bards Alley and also with the Fairfax Genealogy Society.

In April, we will partner again with Scrawl Books for two author events: First, to celebrate National Poetry Month with the return of Kwame Alexander, along with musician Randy Preston, for a special performance celebrating the release of Kwame's new picture book *THE UNDEFEATED*.

Then, with help from the library's Teen Advisory Board, we'll welcome author Hena Khan to share her lovely children's book *Under My Hijab*.

As we work hard to raise money and awareness for the library, it gives us great pleasure to see our funds used to offer interesting, informative, popular literary events to the community. We love to see new and old faces come into the branch, and find a warm, welcoming space.

The turnout and interest in these events has been tremendous, drawing audience members ages 9 to 99, from as near as next door and as far as southern Maryland. During the weeks leading up to these events, we've been able to directly observe increases in library book checkouts, as well as increased foot traffic and inquiries at the Circulation and Information Desks about available books, and other library programs on offer. We've even had audience members sign up for library cards on the spot!

We will continue to work with the library staff and patrons to identify opportunities to partner with local booksellers and other community organizations to bring more such programs to Reston Regional Library.

FRIENDS SUPPORT

- Coordination with community booksellers, authors' publicists, etc.
- Publicity
- Event Volunteers
- Book Giveaways
- New PA System

BOOK SALES

MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE!

2019 Spring
Semi Annual Sale
May 1-5

MEMBERS NIGHT

Wednesday 5pm to 8pm

OPEN SALE

Thursday 10am to 8pm

Friday 10am to 5pm

Saturday 10am to 4pm

Sunday Noon to 3:30pm

OTHER 2019 SALE DATES

August 15-18 (NO Scanners)
Children, Teens, Educators

September 25-29
Fall Semi-Annual

October 24-27
Puzzles and Games

December 5-8
Holiday Sale

We need YOUR help!

Interested in volunteering or want more information about FRRL?

Call 703-829-5467

Email RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com

Visit www.RestonLibraryFriends.com

LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE





RRL Thanks ESOL Program Leader and Looks to Continued Success in the Future

Ten years ago, if a Reston or Herndon library patron wanted to learn to speak, read, and write English, there were only a few one-to-one conversational sessions offered at Reston Regional Library. Under the direction of Ivanka Atanasova, a fledgling program blossomed to become one of largest library-based programs for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in Fairfax County. And it has all been funded by the Friends.

From those few little conversations, the program now serves over 300 students a month. Thirty volunteer instructors teach the classes, and materials and expenses are funded by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library.

Atanasova recently retired, and library staff, patrons, and Friends all paused to thank her for the enormous contribution she made, and to recommit to continuing this essential service into the future.

In a recent article in the Reston Connection newspaper, teacher Robert Muzzio said, "People of all backgrounds and cultures meet, interact socially and make new, and in some cases, lasting friendships. Ivanka [Atanasova] has created an enormously successful program which is benefiting all participants and the community at large."

Dorothy Gudgel, one of the thirty volunteer ESOL instructors, was also quoted in the Reston Connection article: "We do our best, every week, to give back to our immigrant community the opportunity to learn English in their adopted homeland, America."

- | FRIENDS SUPPORT |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESOL course materials and teaching resources (e.g., subscription to an online ESL resource library) • Citizenship class text books • ESOL materials lending library • ESOL and Citizenship class equipment (e.g., dry erase boards) |

Students are quick to point out the benefits of the program go beyond mere technical grammar. The experience promotes community, knowledge development, integration, and professional growth. Newcomers to the country can bring expert skills but lack the English language proficiency needed to secure related work. With these classes, and the encouragement they provide, learners are able to achieve a level of language that matches their capacity.

Student Beatriz Sandoval said, "There is no other place like the Reston Library and its ESL program. I haven't felt that sense of community and integration anywhere else... You also get to know amazing people from all around the world in a respectful and friendly environment."

RRL staff member Wilma Andrade will take over Atanasova's work with the program, and the branch is committed to keeping the ESL Program going strong. The Friends will be right there with them, providing the funding and support needed to keep this essential service available.

To learn more about free programs for Learning English at Reston Regional Library and other Fairfax branches, visit <https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/learning-english>

This article contains excerpts from the Reston Connection, March 5, 2019.



Longtime teacher Robert Muzzio, and international students from Reston Regional Library ESOL programs.

In a letter to the Friends, Ms. Atanasova said,
*"Dear Friends of the Reston Library,
As I am approaching my retirement, I feel compelled to express my profound admiration!
I have never seen a group so strongly motivated, so well organized and so fabulously successful. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to be working side by side with you!*

*Best wishes to all,
Ivanka"*



The Friends wish to express their thanks and appreciation to Ivanka Atanasova for her years of dedication and support to the Reston Regional Library, and to the community it serves.

You will be missed!



Annual Membership / Donation Renewal / Volunteer Application

IMPORTANT - If your membership is expired, this will be your last mailed copy of the newsletter. If you are up to date, but prefer to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, please let us know.

Mail To: Friends of the Reston Regional Library, Inc. (Attn: Membership) 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston VA 20190-3306

Join or Renew Your Membership Online: www.restonlibraryfriends.com/membership

First and Last Names:

(Includes primary family members)

Street Address: City State ZIP Code

Email:

Email addresses are used to provide notice of upcoming sales, FRRL news and events. FRRL does not give member email addresses to anyone outside our organization.

I want to volunteer: Book Sale, Sorting, Public Affairs/Legal Counsel, Accounting/Bookkeeping, Membership, PR / Community Outreach Events, Other (write in)

Table with columns: Type of Application, Annual Membership, Additional Donation (includes standard membership). Rows include New Member, Renewal, Information Change, Volunteer.

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Reston Regional Library, Inc. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law for a 501(c)(3).

Friends Membership and Donation News

The Friends Board of Directors appreciates the loyal support and generosity of its donors and volunteers. Please use the form above to donate for the first time or to renew your support. Your membership expiration date appears on the mailing label. Many of our Friends continue to provide financial support above the minimum annual membership. To those individuals and families, the Board of Directors expresses special thanks.

- Abbott, Angel, Bohlander, Buis, Critzer, Dowd, Eaton, Evon, Greenwood, Huddleston-Wisler, Hughes, Jennings, Karlsson, Kay, Lay, Lewis, Linney-Schoen, McCrackin, Nathanson, Nguyen-Stievater, Norrell, Olson, Ose, Stanley, Sylvester, Terpak, Wayman

Special thanks to MCB Accounting for their gift in memory of Donald Jenkins, a true Friend of libraries.

Book Lovers and Bargain Hunters!

Don't miss our May 2019 Spring Sale coupon on back!



Coupon users: Please tell us... Is this your first time at a Friends' Book Sale? (circle one) I've been to a sale in the last year, First time in more than a year, FIRST TIME EVER



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Please Note: if your membership has expired, this will be your last mailed paper copy of the Friends newsletter.

Friends of the Reston Regional Library, Inc. is a 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.

2018 Fall Book Sale Sponsors

If you have the opportunity, we encourage you to support these fine folks and their local businesses.

Be sure to mention you heard about them from the Friends of the Reston Library!

Amphora Diner Deluxe, Elden Street, Herndon
Baskin Robbins, North Point Village Center, Reston
Eggspectation, Westone Plaza, Chantilly
Einstein Bros. Bagels, Fountain Drive, Reston
Giant #0747, North Point Village Center, Reston
Giant #0753, Fox Mill Shopping Center, Herndon
Glory Days Grill, Fox Mill Shopping Center, Herndon
Great Harvest Bread Co., Station Street, Herndon
Home Depot, Price Club Plaza, Fairfax
Jason's Deli, Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax
Jerry's Subs and Pizza, North Point Village Center, Reston

La Ong Thai Bistro, Fox Mill Shopping Center, Herndon
Office Depot, Spectrum Center, Reston
Pollo Peru, Reston Parkway, Reston
Potbelly Sandwich Shop, Sunset Hills Road, Reston
Safeway #1570, Hunter Woods Village Center, Reston
The Chantilly Donut Shop, Henninger Ct, Chantilly
The Honey Baked Ham Co., North Point Village Ctr, Reston
Vapiano, Reston Town Center, Reston
Walmart, Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax
Wegmans, Monument Drive, Fairfax
Whole Foods, Plaza America, Reston



SHOP OUR SPRING SALE!