



Newsletter

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Summer 2022

Friends Board of Directors

Brian Jacoby, President		John Filippini, Vice President		Robert Evon, Treasurer		Mollie Weinert, Secretary	
Karen France, At Large		Dennis Hays, At Large		Rik Karlsson, At Large		Karin Richardson, At Large	
Tom Skirbunt, At Large		Charly Karlsson, Valerie Little, Book Sales				Eileen Evon, PR & Community Outreach	
Non-Voting Chairpersons							

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

FRRL Gives Landmark Gift of \$200,000 to the Library



On June 8th the Friends of Reston Regional Library presented a check for \$200,000 to the Fairfax County Public Library to be used for the library collection. This will help all branches in FCPL, including our own.

FCPL Director Jessica Hudson, Technical Division Director Dianne Coan, the FCPL Board of Trustees, and Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn were all present to recognize and thank the Friends, and to listen to volunteer representatives from our team as they spoke up on behalf of the FRRL organization. A thank-you reception was provided by the County, featuring catered appetizers and desserts from [Silver Spoon Caterers](#) in Herndon.

Trustee and outgoing Chairwoman Fran Millhouser expressed her heartfelt thanks for the gift, and stressed her own concerns about FCPL's need for an increased budget for the collection. The current collection budget is about half of what is needed to provide the depth and breadth of holdings the Library is striving for to meet patrons' needs. (Read more about the Library budget on page 5).



Community Outreach Chair Eileen Evon reminded everyone of the broad value of the library to the community. *“Increased holdings and increased access to holdings improve literacy. Literacy changes lives. Literacy benefits all of us. Improving the collection benefits every branch.”*

Book Sale Chair and longtime volunteer Charly Karlsson petitioned the Trustees, asking for partnership and respect when the Friends try to communicate needs and concerns, *“Please listen to us.”*

This tremendous gift was timed to coincide with FCPL's 2022 Year of Literacy. It would not have been possible without many years of hard work and dedication from our volunteers, and the continued support of the community through book donations, monetary donations, and shopping at our sales.

Each year, almost 100 volunteers donate over 20,000 hours to process over 40 tons of donated materials, to generate tens of thousands of dollars via our book sales. Reston volunteers sort, move, stack, stock, wrangle, untangle, and arrange books, puzzles, DVDs, audio CDs, and ephemera, box by box, book by book, in as many as 7 sales in a single year. Friends book sales also offer the public an excellent opportunity to find good quality materials at low prices, with the added benefit of helping their community in the process.

Our Library will have more copies and a greater variety of titles in much needed areas, all because of you – our loyal volunteers and supporters. The Library will also serve more patrons, and help more readers of all ages, because of you. Thank you!



Community Responses

Supervisor Alcorn posted online, *"We love our library branches in Fairfax County, but Reston is especially dedicated to the Reston Regional Library! I was honored to join in the celebration last night (6/9) of the Friends of Reston Regional Library donating \$200,000 to the library for its book collection."*

Lee District Trustee Keith Foxx said, *"\$200,000 donation! I'm still blown away. Thank you!"*

Outgoing Hunter Mill Library Trustee Sheila Janega said, *"Thank you! These words don't adequately express the gratitude I feel for the huge donation you have made to the Library. This is so generous! ... your donation is timely as we face the challenge of offering the public e-materials as well as print."*

News items about the donation were posted by [Fairfax Now](#), the [Fairfax Times](#), and the County's own [website](#). We've also received greetings and kudos on social media from local broadcasters, from the community and library staff, and from current and former volunteers as far away as Texas and South Carolina.

"So proud of my friends at FRRL. You are an amazing group and although I now live in South Carolina, a part of me will always be there working with Charly and all of you. Congratulations to all!" *"These volunteers work so hard and put on fantastic book sales! Thank you."* *"I am so proud of FCPL for investing this gift in places that matter for their patrons!"*

"What a wonderful gift. Long live The Friends!"

UPCOMING SALES

AUGUST 18 to 21

**Back to School Sale for
Children, Young Adults,
and Educators***

If you're a grandparent looking for the perfect present to spark a young reader's imagination, a 6th grader on the hunt for that one book missing from your favorite series, or a teacher in need of more copies for your classroom library -- this is the sale for you!

From fact-filled non-fiction to best-selling new picture books and novels, and from newborns to college, this sale really does have something for readers at any level.

We reserve the right to limit quantities to give more patrons a chance to shop. NO SCANNERS or other electronic price-checking allowed at this sale.

**September 21 - 25
"THE BIG FALL SALE"**



New to our big sale? This is our largest one, typically held twice a year at Reston Regional. We offer 35-40,000 items, in over 20 categories. There are NO children's books at these sales. Teens and adults are welcome, but we recommend small kids take a pass on this one; it's quite big, there are books under the tables, and shoppers set aside large bags and baskets in a lot of the small spaces.

Scanners are allowed at this sale, but not in all areas. Quantities in some sections may be limited. Additional guidelines are provided at the sale to make it safe and pleasant for all. We will ask shoppers to leave if they can't play nice.

Members Night will be Wednesday, Sept 21. "Members" admission is open to anyone who has donated \$15 to FRRL within the last 12 calendar months (\$5 for those 65 and over). [Email us](#) to confirm your membership, or [donate online](#) to join or renew.

There are NO children's books at this sale!

**October 27-30**

Puzzles and Games Mini-Sale*

**December 8 - 11**

Holiday Mini-Sale*



* We reserve the right to limit quantities. NO SCANNERS or other electronic price-checking allowed at these sales.

Please make sure you are on our emailing list, check our [website](#), or follow us on social media for updates!



/RestonLibraryFriends



@LoveBooksReston

DIVE IN AND CELEBRATE SUMMER READING DURING KIDS SALE IN AUGUST



On **Saturday, August 20** (during the Children's Book Sale), the Friends will join the staff of Reston Regional Library to put on an end-of-summer bash to celebrate readers of all ages who participated in Summer Reading.

Kids and families are invited to come to the library for free refreshments and a variety of free activities, including story times, balloon animals, and live musical entertainment.



The Summer Reading theme is *Oceans of Possibilities*.

From June 10 to August 12, children and adults can participate in the program by using an online app or a paper form to complete reading milestones throughout the summer.

Participants who complete the challenge can win prizes, including coupons for Friends book sales! [Visit the FCPL website](#) for more information on Summer Reading, and join us at the library August 20!



LIBRARY NEWS

Staff Excellence Award to Rebecca Takacs, Youth Services Assistant at Reston Regional

In early March, the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) Board of Trustees honored several staff members with its annual Staff Excellence Awards, including Reston's own Rebecca Takacs, Youth Services Assistant. Among other duties, Ms. Takacs is the staff leader for the Reston Teen Advisory Board (TAB), a volunteer and leadership opportunity for area teens (sponsored in part by the Friends). The TAB runs book clubs, writing workshops, and other activities where students can learn, explore their interests, and acquire new skills. Ms. Takacs said, *"I love these kids. These kids at the TAB...are just wonderful. They're clever and they're engaged and they're fabulous."*

According to the patrons who nominated Ms. Takacs for this award, she *"makes a difference for teens by creating a warm, welcoming environment for any and all teenagers lucky enough to find themselves in her company. She is generous in her respect and kindness to all, and makes everyone feel useful and important, regardless of how long you've been at the library or your past volunteer experience."*

Trustee Fran Millhouser commented, *"It's just such a wonderful thing to drill down and see... in every branch across the system, how individuals make a difference in the lives of our library users and the residents of Fairfax County."*

Library users nominated their favorite staff members in February, and a board committee selected winners from nearly 150 nominations recognizing staff members from 12 branches and FCPL's administrative services.

If you see Ms. Becky at the library, be sure to congratulate her on her Staff Excellence Award!

Reston Regional Branch Manager Mike Siriwardena Featured in FCPL's Branch Out Magazine

Asked about a specific library visitor who has benefitted from an FCPL resource, Mike mentioned the impact of individual assistance from the staff, and value of the library's English Language Learner (ELL) programs.

"We had a family who recently immigrated to the U.S. The lady's son was with her, attempting to find a job in the local area. One of our staff members took the time to work with them to find jobs, helped them use the computer, and looked over her grammar for the application. We found out that because of the help she received, she was able to find a job with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and is also taking English classes through our free English Language Learner (ELL) programs offered at Reston. The ELL programs are one of my favorites. I have seen so many of our community members served through this program, and we are able to provide such top-notch instruction because of a dedicated and highly-skilled volunteer base."

Your Donations at Work

The ELL program is one of many at Reston Regional Library funded by the Friends.

Read the entire interview with Mike in the [online version of Branch Out](#), or pick up a copy at the library!

Parker Brugge Appointed New Library Trustee for the Hunter Mill District

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn recently appointed Parker Brugge as the Library Trustee for Hunter Mill district. Brugge replaces outgoing Trustee Sheila Janega, who retired from the position this spring. As Trustee, Brugge will represent Reston Regional Library and Patrick Henry Library, two of the busiest libraries in the County.

Brugge has a degree in Chemical Engineering from UVA, and a law degree from William & Mary. He practiced patent and environmental law for a number of years, and then shifted to managing the environmental and energy policy portfolio at the Consumer Electronics Association, where he first worked with Alcorn. Brugge went on to become the Head of Federal Affairs for one of the nation's largest consumer electronics firms (Best Buy).



His interest in learning and experience as a longtime volunteer and local Reston resident make him an ideal representative for our district.

Meet Parker Brugge

Do you also volunteer with other local or national organizations? When my 3 kids were growing up, I served on the board and as commissioner for the Great Falls youth basketball league. I also do volunteer work for HACAN (Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect), an organization founded by my late mother-in-law, Carmen Fernandez.

What's something you bring to the role as Trustee that you think will help you in your work on behalf of our libraries? I'm excited to bring my experience as a public policy professional, working with all levels of governments, to seek creative solutions to complex problems.

What's the last book you read that really stuck with you? Coach K: *The Rise and Reign of Mike Krzyzewski* by Ian O'Connor. Although I bleed Cavalier orange and blue, as a huge college basketball fan, I have always had deep respect for Coach K. The book chronicles his life - challenges he faced and successes he achieved. It provides more than a glimpse into his leadership style that, more often than not, brought out the best in his players.

Library News, cont'd.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE LIBRARY FITS INTO THE COUNTY BUDGET

For every tax dollar you pay to Fairfax County



the Library system gets about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a penny.



Out of that fraction of a cent, FCPL has $\sim\frac{3}{40}$ th of a penny to spend on books for over 400,000 cardholders.



STAY INFORMED, STAY INVOLVED, SPEAK UP FOR LIBRARIES

Speak up for the Friends! We want to continue to be a force for literacy and library programming in the Reston community. **Supporting our branch is still our first priority. But we need the room and the resources to continue.** Our ability to collect donations, earn money through book sales, and support our Reston branch as well as the system at large is made possible through over a decade of collaborative partnership with our local branch and the library administration, *including consistent provision of sufficient and appropriate space to work, and sustainment of our volunteers.* Both of these are at risk if the new Reston Library is not built with donation operations in mind.

Speak up for the Library! We believe the clear and demonstrated need for this donation (which the Library says it can make use of in fewer than six months!) should be a warning signal to the public and the Board of Supervisors. **Clearly, the Library has many unmet, basic needs.**

While we're happy to support the library system at large with our efforts, we know it's both impossible and unwise for such an essential public service to rely on small local charities for these core operating funds. **Public support needs to be marshaled to equip our libraries for the future,** whatever that brings!

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/>

WAYS TO GIVE – VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Interested in Volunteering?

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 passion to help our community. If you have a special skill but don't see it listed, contact us. We never know where our next good idea may come from! Send an email to RestonFriendsPR@gmail.com

General Book Sale Worker

The heart and soul of our work is in our seven yearly book sales! Step right up and help us with setting up, restocking, and taking down our sales. Hang signs, haul books, help customers. There are many roles, but the majority of book sale jobs require volunteers the ability to move around the sale space and to heft boxes of books and other sale materials. A great workout!



Event Volunteers

Generating community awareness of the library and the work of the Friends. Interact with the public, Friends, and Library staff. Requires learning and being able to communicate or hand out information to the public. Volunteer at events inside and outside the library branch, such as Farmers Market, author talks, etc. *Experience with community orgs (Girl Scouts, BSA, fairs, etc.) or customer service is helpful.*

WAYS TO GIVE - DONATING FUNDS TO THE FRIENDS OF RESTON REGIONAL LIBRARY

- You can DONATE ONLINE any time: www.RestonLibraryFriends.com/membership--donations.html
- Donate by SHOPPING ON AMAZON. When you shop on Amazon for things you need anyway, use **Amazon Smile** and designate the Friends of the Reston Regional Library as your charitable recipient. Amazon then donates 0.5% of your total to the Friends!
- 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!

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 (\$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!)

Email and mailing 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.

Membership Donation News

The Friends Board of Directors appreciates the loyal support of our community. See above 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 for your household. Your support means so much!

Abbott	Hays*	Russakoff
Cantarelli	Hershey	Shapira
Coble	Hooban	Sperry
Cunningham	Jacoby*	Storck
Dambrosio	Kahn	Weinert*
De Cola	Karlsson*	
Godette	Kukreja	
	Lanphere	
	Lassiter	
	Medvid	
	Monson	
	Reddy	
	Reges	

*FRRL Board member



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