

NEWSLETTER - FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY

JANUARY 2006

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Charles Draper, President

Year 2005 was another busy one for the Friends of the Salem Library. We supported the library by approving the expenditure of more than \$9,000 for library projects and needs. This included T-shirts to serve as incentives for the library's Children's Summer Reading Program, six End-of-Range Display Panels to be added to library shelves, an Automatic Defibrillator, and a machine to clean CDs and DVDs. We continued our support of the CASA program by allocating funds to buy books. See Joyce Foster's article elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition, we donated \$3,000 to the Biloxi, Mississippi Public Library to aid their recovery from the Hurricane Katrina tragedy.

Sara Ahalt led another very successful Olde Salem Days book sale in September. It netted nearly \$5,000. Members contributed over 520 volunteer hours to achieve this. Janis Augustine, Director of the Salem Library, and her staff hosted a luncheon for FOSL members immediately prior to the sale. I didn't count the members attending but it was quite a crowd and the food was great.

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See our web site at
<http://www.salemlibrary.info/friends.html>

The CASA PROJECT

by Joyce Foster, Treasurer

Every year since 1999, Friends of the Salem Library (FOSL) have donated about \$500-worth of children's books to the Roanoke Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Foundation. Maureen Harrill, Salem Public Library Youth Services Librarian, selects the books for children from toddlers to teens. The Library purchases the books using their discount and FOSL pays the bill. A colorful bookplate mentioning FOSL and Salem Public Library is affixed to each book after which the books are delivered to the CASA office in the Jefferson Center in Roanoke. The books provide a bright spot, we hope, for the children who are served by CASA.

The need is enormous. "Each year approximately 20,000 Virginia children are thrust into court because they are victims of physical or sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many of these children become part of the overburdened state child protection and justice systems. Their lives are disrupted and their futures are uncertain."

CASA volunteer advocates are "everyday people who are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children. A CASA volunteer advocate stays with each child until they are placed in a safe, permanent and nurturing home."

Roanoke Valley CASA's Mission

To be "the child's voice in court. CASA is committed to serving the abused and neglected children in the Roanoke Valley who come before the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for protection. The purpose of CASA is to humanize the complicated, unfamiliar, and frightening legal and child welfare systems for the child victim by providing a trained volunteer who will act as a consistent mentor, role model, support person, and advocate."

At the January, 2005 FOSL meeting, Janis Augustine congratulated Sara Ahalt who was chosen as "Volunteer of the Year, 2004". I was honored to be named "Volunteer of the Year, 2005" at the January, 2006 meeting...

It's nice to recollect the past year but now 2006 is upon us. In the first meeting of New Year, your officers were re-elected by acclamation to serve another year (A list of officers and committee chairman appears on this page.) We are dedicated to keeping the ball rolling in 2006. Our challenges for the year include:

- Increase our membership
- We get a rousing turnout to help with the book sale but we see few of these folks the rest of the year. How can we increase the number of members who take an active role in FOSL; i.e., attend meetings, take committee chairs, etc? I would be interested in your opinions and suggestions. Call me at 387-9824 or leave a note for me at the library.

I want to thank all of the members of the Friends who pitched in and made 2005 a success. I also want to commend the staff of the Salem Library for all of their hard work and dedication. Thanks for an opportunity to help. ♦

FOSL BOOK SALE

By Sara Ahalt, Book Sale Chairman

A crowd of eager book-buyers waiting for the library doors to open on Olde Salem Saturday is a welcome sight to the FOSLs working the Book Sale. These "early birds" are prepared to shop. They bring their own totes and carts; some even come with a shopping list of authors and titles. And they already know where to find the types of books they are looking for. As the day goes on, the shoppers are more casual in their approach; there are many repeat buyers as well as newcomers. We often hear compliments on our sale. This year one shopper remarked that he had just come from another local sale and that the FOSL sale had a "better selection" and was "better organized." That "better selection" is thanks to our generous donors, and the "better organization" is thanks to the hard-working volunteers.

There are a couple of questions frequently heard around Book Sale season. "How many books are there?" Well, we actually do have to come up with a number so the sale can be listed on BookSaleFinders.com, a national web site for book sales. No we do not count the books, but there are

some rules of thumb to help determine the number. This year we had 10,000 plus.

The second question is: "What are the best sellers?" That varies from year to year, but children's books are always among the most popular. Cookbooks usually rank near the top in popularity as well.

The up-side to having the Book Sale on Olde Salem Saturday is the very large pool of potential buyers. The down-side is that many people curtail their buying because books are heavy and they are parked far away. Any reasonable suggestions as to how we could help with this problem would be welcome.

There were two special events connected with the 2005 Book Sale. It was the first year we had "real" book shelves for most of the paperbacks. Thanks to Charlie Draper for designing and building the shelves and to Gwen Nickerson for her top-notch organization of them. The second event was seeing Anderson Cooper and John Grissom on CNN doing a report on the damage done to the very library in Biloxi that the Friends were able to send some aid.

My heart-felt thanks go to all the Friends who gave their time and energy to make the 2005 Book Sale so successful. ♦



Busy at the Children's Table, Sept. 2005

Friends of the Salem Library, 2006 Officers

President – Charles Draper, ph. 387-9824
Vice-President – Bob Paine
Secretary – Susan Ahalt
Treasurer - Joyce Foster

Committee Chairman

Book Sale - Sara Ahalt, ph. 389-3802
Historian – Marcia Kelly
Newsletter Editor – Charles Draper

The Doll Collection

by Susan Abalt, Secretary

The next time you go in the front entrance of the Salem Library, look to your right and enjoy the doll collection donated by FOSL member Grace Thomas. It is housed in a glass display case purchased by the Friends of



the Salem Library. Grace acquired the dolls in a variety of ways including gifts as well as purchases. Some were bought on trips and some came from the foreign students Grace encountered in her years of teaching at the University of Georgia. The case also contains an Estonian doll donated by Mairel Brand.

Several of the dolls are from Korea. One pair includes a woman with a 12 string kayagum, an instrument resembling a zither. She is a woman skilled in music, dancing, writing, and reciting poetry. She is paired with a male doll, her sponsor in the Korean version of a geisha relationship. The taller pair includes a young man and woman. The girl's long braided hair shows that she is a "maiden" and the young man has brought her flowers.

I am particularly fascinated by a set of male dancers. Grace bought these dolls during a visit to a folk village in South Korea. When Grace visited the folk village, she saw a performance of the oldest of the folk dances of Korea. The audience was seated in a circle of stone benches. They heard loud music from a distance. Then the group of 20 dancers came into the circle playing mostly percussion instruments. The dancers wore colorful costumes with long, wide ribbons attached to their hats. They played their instruments and kept the ribbons moving in circles throughout the dance. If you study the dolls, it is easy to imagine the dance Grace described.

One of the Japanese dolls in the collection is a young boy. This doll was a gift from a cousin who lived in Japan for a couple of years. The doll is about 6 1/2 inches tall and dressed for a very special occasion, probably a birthday..

There are more examples from Asia including Japanese, Chinese, and two dolls from Thailand. These dolls were given to a friend Grace's who had obtained them many years ago from a Thai couple visiting in the US.

History of CASA

Beginning in 1976 in Seattle, WA, CASA programs now number 930 nationwide, including Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Roanoke Valley CASA Foundation was established in 1986 through the efforts of Judge Philip Trompeter of the 23rd Judicial Circuit as "a non-profit organization committed to advocating for the best interests of children involved in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court process."

*Quotes from the Roanoke Valley CASA web site, <http://www.roanokevalleycasa.org/>

How else can we help? FOSL helps by donating books each year to CASA. You can help through FOSL and by sending a tax-deductible donation in any amount to Roanoke Valley CASA Foundation, Post Office Box 35, Roanoke, Virginia 24002-0035, Tel: 540.853.2407 Email: rvcasa@casa.roacoxmail.com ◇

There are two dolls from Scotland that Grace acquired on her travels. The Scottish dancer is a typical tourist item; really authentic. The *Newhaven Fishwife* doll is much more authentic. Her basket would have contained herring. She is wearing a red wool petticoat under her dress. Beside her is a songbook which includes the song she would have been singing.

Grace bought the doll from Ecuador as she traveled through the countryside from Quito to the coast on her way to the Galapagos Islands. It is dressed in a costume typical of one of the groups that lived in that area. Another doll is from Peru. It is a young woman sitting and weaving. The weaving pattern is typical to the area, and her costume is very detailed.

Some of the dolls in the collection come from the United States. One from Florida is a Seminole woman about 6 1/2 inches high dressed in typical brightly colored cotton. She has an authentic high hair style. Four other dolls represent an Amish family. They were purchased in Pennsylvania before such dolls were made in large quantities for tourists. The dolls are made of cast iron and have painted faces

There are other dolls in the collection. All of them are labeled so you can identify where they came from. I picked some of my favorites to describe in more detail and enjoyed learning about them from Grace. I was sorry to hear that one of her favorites had not survived. She had a doll with a head carved from a withered apple. Unfortunately one summer she went out of town for an extended period, and the apple did not make it through the Georgia humidity. ◇

2006 Meeting Schedule

March 8

May 10

July 12

October 11

We meet at 5:30 PM in the Library meeting room on the dates shown.

Book Sale September 8-10

Yes! I want to belong to the Friends of the Salem Library!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Telephone _____ **Email** _____

Type: **Individual (\$10);** **Family (\$15);** **Sustaining (\$25);** **Life (\$75)**

Please cut out and mail, with your check, to FOSL, c/o Salem Public Library, 28 E. Main St., Salem, VA 24153 Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Salem Library* or *FOSL*. You may also drop this form and your check at the Library Desk.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Friends of the Salem Library
c/o The Salem Public Library
28 East Main St.
Salem, VA, 24153-3897