



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 2

President's Letter *by the editor*
The president's column is missing from this issue. Our president, John Spruhan informed me that health problems would prevent him from writing a column for this issue. John has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma and has been undergoing chemotherapy treatment since February 2020.

So you will get the musings of the vice president. This has been a tough year. Our normal activities have been curtailed. Simple things like grocery shopping have become a risky adventure. Most club meetings and group gatherings have been cancelled. Predicting an end to "social distancing" is almost impossible. Until then, any FOSL activities will have to be modified.

Our last FOSL meeting was in January. The July meeting was canceled, and status of the October meeting is yet undecided. We need a plan for this "new normal".

What are the possibilities?

Should we consider an on-line book sale for the most desirable books? Getting rid of some of the books will help alleviate a growing storage problem.

Could we setup a storefront operation and sell books by appointment? This would also reduce the storage problem.

How about a bulk sale to another organization?

Or we could start planning for increased storage space. Find a large area that we could use for a longer period of time. Start processing books in March 2021, with a spring book sale. Then repeat the process for a fall book sale during Olde Salem Days.

We should try to have a meeting before the end of this year and make a FOSL plan for 2021. The year 2022 may bring back normal activities. I hope so.

No Vaccine to Save the Book Sale

Ken Sosnowski, Book Sale Chairman

The invasion by the Corona virus has upset many aspects of our economy. One part that most economists felt would not be badly affected was books! If the population is going to be locked away for weeks, they will need something to help them pass the time. Of course, there is always the electronic connection, linking us to the movies we missed, the TV series we had always planned to binge-watch and the ever-present Twitter. Yet, there is a sizable portion of the people who have a secret passion for the feel and smell of a printed book. Amazon has been busy answering that need.

Then there is the Library and for the real connoisseur, there is the annual Book Sale. At least, there is usually the Book Sale. When the Rotary Club and the City of Salem decided to cancel Olde Salem Day, we knew the Book Sale was in trouble. Some have asked if we would have the sale anyway. We thought about it. Unfortunately, it would require several weeks of our members being confined to a room sorting and preparing the books for sale. I don't think I am giving away any secrets when I say that the vast majority of our members are in the "high risk" pool for intensive care, if they become infected. In addition, the Community Room is currently serving as the decontamination area for library books.

So we begin planning for next year. Books can still be donated. Anyone calling the Library to donate will be given my phone number and I will pick up the books and take them to our storage area. With any luck, next year's sale will be the largest ever. We are hoping to be able to have a satellite sale out on Main Street. To do this, we will need additional volunteers to man the booth. Think about donating a few hours!

My Thoughts *by Charlie Draper*

What to do? Here I sit in our little apartment in the Hermitage trying to keep six feet away from anyone. I must remember to put on my mask when I leave to pick up our evening meal in about 30 minutes. Hope it's not raining. Pat and I will eat it at our kitchen table. Wonder when the Dining Room will reopen? Not soon, I guess.

Laying here on my desk is a note I received several weeks ago that starts with a Shakespeare quote ending "*I am struck with sorrow.*" That pretty well sums up my feelings. Any member reading this probably has a copy of that note laying around, too. The note announces that Olde Salem Day has been canceled and, thus, so has the [Olde Salem Day Book Sale](#).

If the world were normal, Phil Roark, our Newsletter Editor, would be scrambling to prepare the FOSL Newsletter to inform our members about the September Book Sale; the schedule of the member sale, the member's luncheon, etc. I had assumed that with no book sale, there would be no FOSL Newsletter. I was surprised when I just received an email from Phil posting deadlines for an August Newsletter. Good for Phil! It's important to keep the membership informed. I'm glad to see the Pandemic hasn't changed everything.

I sit here in the month of August missing working the pile of donated books with my FOSL friends; missing seeing the Scouts and the volunteer parents toting thousands of donated books into the library meeting room, and missing the kick we get when we find a valuable item to sell. What does a FOSL do on an August morning if there is not a Book Sale for which to prepare?

But Phil helps relieve my sorrow. Thanks for the good work, Phil.



Library Open with

Contact-Free Pickups and

Virtual Programming *by Ann Tripp*

Although the library building is not currently open to the public, we are providing contact-free holds pickup daily from 10am-4pm so you can stock up on new books, movies, music, and more to keep busy while we're all staying safer at home! You can visit [www.rvl.info](#) to place titles on hold, and just give us a call at 540-375-3089 so we can check your holds out and place them in our foyer with your name on the bag for you to pick up. We are also offering grab-and-go kids' craft kits (aka "Grabbies"), book bundles (books hand-selected by our librarians based on your preferences), virtual storytimes and teen programs, and much more!

While our services have looked very different during this time, your library staff have been working diligently to provide the very best services and maintain our support of our community. Staff have completed many projects, including shifting hundreds upon hundreds of books in our nonfiction collection for a seamless flow, delivering books to Salem schools students on the bus routes over the summer, planting and harvesting in our children's garden to provide a safe and natural experience for downtown visitors, and calling some of our elderly or regularly patrons to make sure their lifelines to the community remain open.

We are looking forward to reopening our building when it is safe to do so, but please know that in the meantime, we will do everything we can to provide everything you need to support your educational and recreational needs. From streaming movies and TV shows to new book releases to reading the Roanoke Times online, you can find all sorts of resources on our website at [www.salemlibrary.info](#). And as always, if we can help in any way, give us a call and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have!



New look of the library.

Masks and social distancing.

Even the books go in quarantine.



The Friends of Salem Library is online

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Website: www.salemlibraryfriends.org/

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FOSL
Salem Public Library
28 E. Main Street
Salem, VA 24153-3397



The Salem Library appears on the city website

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Standing Committees:

Book Sale: Ken Sosnowski

Newsletter Editor: Phil Roark

Historian -vacant-

Membership dues (other than Life) are payable **January 1 of each year**. Consult your mailing label. If the date shown is **prior to 2020**, please renew your membership. Pay by check (payable to FOSL) at the Library desk, by mail, or at the Member's Sale.

FOSL Schedule, 2020

FOSL holds four regular meetings each year. They are on the 2nd Sunday of the scheduled month starting at 2PM and last for approximately one hour. Members are encouraged to attend and contribute to regular business meetings and to volunteer to help make activities such as the Book Sale a success.

- **August:** Book Sale Preparation **CANCELLED**
- **September 11-13:** **FOSL Book Sale**.**CANCELLED**
- **October 11:** Regular meeting (maybe)

FOSL Schedule, 2021

- **January 10, 2021** Regular meeting
- **July 11, 2021** Regular meeting

Membership Form: Dues (other than life) are on an annual basis and are payable **January 1 of each year**. Your dues help support the library.

Name _____

Street Address _____

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

Telephone _____ **Email** _____

Type: Please indicate type of membership below with an X.

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

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