



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 17

ISSUE 1&2

President's Letter

John Spruhan, FOSL President

It's been a year and a half since I wrote a President's Letter. Part of the reason was Covid. Another part of the reason was my treatment for multiple myeloma. I want to thank Phil Roark, our FOSL Vice President, for writing for me in the last issue. I have been informed by my oncologist that I am now in full remission. I am only taking a lower dosage of one chemotherapy drug for maintenance, so I feel much better.

This has been an unusual year and a half for our organization. Our last meeting was in March of 2020, just prior to when Covid hit. We had to cancel our book sale for 2020. We met again on July 11, 2021. I am happy to say that there will be a book sale this year! I would refer you to Ken Sosnowski's article in this issue. In consultation with the library staff, this year's sale is an exercise in thinking outside of the box. I will not repeat what is in Ken's article. However, we will need your help to make this sale a success!

As the pandemic has forced us to make some changes in the book sale, it is also a good time to look at FOSL. We are an aging organization, with very little public exposure. Without change, we will fade away. The Salem Library has had to change much of its service plans and is working to expand its exposure in the public mind. This presents an excellent opportunity for FOSL to do the same, in partnership with the library. We would like to use the October meeting for planning for the future.

In the meantime, I hope to see you as we prepare and accomplish this year's book sale. Be safe. Get vaccinated for Covid if you haven't already done so.

WILL THERE BE A BOOK SALE?

Ken Sosnowski, Chairman

For months, that question has been echoing throughout Salem. For most of that time, we could not provide a definite answer. The best we could reply was "We'll try". Then slowly things began to improve. The library re-opened. The Rotary Club announced that there would be an Olde Salem Day. However, then we all learned another letter of the Greek alphabet: Delta. We declared: "Plans may have to be modified, but the sale will go on!"

This year, the sale will be held in two large tents in front of the library. As usual, the sale will begin at 9:00 on Friday, September 10th with the Members Only Sale. At 1:00, the sale will be open to the public. Saturday, we will be part of the festivities of Olde Salem Day. Then on Sunday, the traditional Bagful of Books Sale (\$3/bag) will be held, but in a change, it will be extended for another 5 days. Since there was no sale in 2020, we have 2 years-worth of donated books which we would like to sell. Come to the sale and replace all those books you read during the pandemic lock-in with new and exciting stories.

BOOK SALE DATE IS SEPT 10-12

See details on page 3

ELECTION of OFFICERS

Phil Roark, Editor
At the July 11 FOSL meeting, the officers for current year were elected.

President: John Spruhan

Vice President: Phil Roark

Secretary: Susan Ahalt

Treasurer: Ken Sosnowski

Board notes:

Lydia Spruhan elected to the board.

Gail Evans and Betty Waldron re-elected to the board.

Janis Augustine elected as Chairman.

Serving our Library Community during the COVID Pandemic -- Anne Tripp

On March 15 2020, the Salem Public Library, along with most other organizations, offices, and businesses, closed its doors to the public due to the pandemic overtaking the world. In the months since our initial closure, we have made incredible changes to what were considered "normal" library services, and we continue to broaden our offerings to our public on a regular basis.

Once the reality of the pandemic set in, we quickly shifted gears in our services and programming to provide a touchstone in education, recreation, and engagement for our library patrons. These new ventures included virtual storytimes, Zoom programming, book deliveries in partnership with the City of Salem school bus lunch deliveries, nature craft kits and grab-and-go-craft kits, drive-through curbside book giveaways, contact-free book holds and pickup services, and much more! Approximately 2,000 people have attended our virtual storytimes from all over the country, including local kindergarten classrooms and former library patrons who have moved out-of-state. Better World Books donated two pallets of books for us to give away, and to date we have given away over 3,000 books to our community through the school bus deliveries and our drive-through giveaways. Staff have assembled and given out over 1,000 Grabbies (grab-and-go craft bags) for our pick-up patrons, a popular program even now that we are open to the public. Many of these services are completely new to our library, but they have been so successful that they are likely to remain an integral part of our regular library offerings. While we were unable to provide face-to-face services, we switched to phone and virtual services, answering questions by telephone, email, and social media around the clock.

Several library staff members called many of our at-risk patrons to coordinate for book deliveries and to find out if social services were needed. One of our staff members started a weekly Resilience Newsletter to provide resources for maintaining mental and physical health during the pandemic, and our children's garden yielded a gorgeous bounty of vegetables and herbs that were offered to patrons in handmade newspaper pots. Staff also stocked local Little Free Libraries and Little Free Food Pantries around the Valley, and we partnered with local schools to accept school library book returns and quarantines for virtual students.

Working in staggered shifts to ensure that there were no more than four staff members in the building at a time, our library staff maintained strict health and safety protocols, wearing face masks and gloves for 4-8 hours a day, quarantining library materials prior to discharge, and tracking health symptoms daily to make sure no risks were encountered by employees or patrons. This necessitated a big change in our meeting dynamics, so library staff members attended weekly (or more!) staff meetings by Zoom to discuss the most recent needs and to update our return-to-services plan. Countless hours were spent in webinars, reading news and professional journal articles, and attending virtual meetings with librarians around the country to learn (and share!) new ways to serve our patrons.





ZOOM sending



ZOOM receiving



Non-contact pickup area



Books in quarantine

BOOK SALE SCHEDULE

Friday (9/10) 9:00-12:00 **Members Only Sale**

1:00-8:00 **Public Sale**

Saturday (9/11) 9:00-4:00 **Olde Salem Day**

Sunday (9/12) 1:30-4:00 **Bagful of Books**

The Bagful of Books sale will continue in the library.

Monday (9/13) through Friday (9/17) 11:00-6:00

The Friends of Salem Library is online

Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofsalemlibrary/

Twitter:

Website: www.salemlibraryfriends.org/

Contact us: email: library@salemva.gov

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



The Salem Library appears on the city website

Library: www.salemlibrary.info

Menu: Friends of Salem Library

Programs and events

Search the Catalog, and more

Officers of the Friends of the Salem Library:

President: John Spruhan

Vice President: Phil Roark

Secretary Susan Ahalt

Treasurer: Ken Sosnowski

Board of Directors: Janis Augustine, Chairman

Gale Evans Lydia Spruhan

Betty Waldron Ken Sosnowski

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 2021**, please renew your membership. Pay by check (payable to FOSL) at the Library desk, by mail, or at the Member's Sale.

FOSL Schedule, 2021

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
- **September 9-12:** Book Sale
- **October 10:** Regular meeting

FOSL Schedule, 2022

- **January 9, 2022** Regular meeting
- **March 13, 2022** Regular meeting
- **July 10, 2022** 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.