

# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

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## President's Column

*Lydia Spruhan, President*

For several terms, it was my father's task to write the Summer FOSL Newsletter President's column, apprising those who support our wonderful library of exciting changes, upcoming events, and accomplishments worthy of celebration.

Unfortunately, John Spruhan passed away early in February, developing several serious health challenges in the past year. Upon my father's death, I found myself the inheritor of his position as FOSL President, which I acknowledge is only possible with the gracious counsel and support of Treasurer Ken Sosnowski and Secretary Susan Ahalt. I thank all who have reached out to my family during this time of loss. It is deeply appreciated.

Dad's enthusiasm for the library translated into active FOSL membership after a nudge from the late Helen Robertson, who thought we needed a social outlet in this new town of Salem, after a cross-country move twelve years ago. It was exciting meeting people who worked in tangible ways to support the library's mission, whether from an interest in fostering literacy, building community, or as a fun family activity to build upon through the years. There are so many ways you can participate in the FOSLs. This year we have a particular need. Consider spending a morning sorting books and organizing a particular section during our preparation for this year's book sale. Why not make it a family project? Check your e-mail for Book Sale announcements and get in touch if interested.

There are exciting things happening at the library! Children's Program Director Emily Metrock has completed a new layout with a lockable gate entrance, low shelving, and comfortable, colorful seating in sizes perfect for the little ones and parents to read together. Library Director Anne Tripp lead the FOSLs on a guided tour after the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Library staff worked diligently to complete Miss Emily's vision; closing the Children's

## BOOK SALE -- COOL DAYS OF FALL APPROACH

*Ken Sosnowski, Chairman*

It is 96 degrees outside as I write this, but I am dreaming of the cool September weather of Olde Salem Day and with it, the annual Book Sale. We are planning to hold the sale in the parking lot again this year. Customer response to that location was great. Our storage unit is crammed with donations, so the selections should be excellent. We will spend August unpacking and sorting the books. If you are interested in joining us in this activity or just want to see how the sale comes together, visit the library any morning. The sale will follow the usual pattern.

### **Friday, Sept 9**

9am-12	Member Only Sale
12-1pm	Member Luncheon
1pm-4pm	Public Sale

### **Saturday, Sept 10**

9am-4pm	Public Sale
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### **Sunday, Sept 11**

1pm-4pm	Bag Sale (\$5/bag)
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See you at the sale....and bring a friend!

area on Tuesdays to ease the work. A grand reopening was held July 11-15, with patrons young and old delighted by glossy books, a Pete the Cat-themed rug, and a much simpler and safer layout. Stop in and check it out.

Students from Salem Public Schools participated in the Library's annual Art Show. New displays provided by the FOSLs allowed families and patrons to view this year's entries in a well-ventilated, well-spaced gallery, and permitted visitors to see artwork for several weeks.

July 8<sup>th</sup> the Library held a Petting Zoo on the lawn, with goats, llamas, donkeys, bunnies, and chickens delighting families with fluffy coats and bushy tails. It was well-attended and the weather was absolutely perfect. The Children's Garden has had the installation of butterfly houses, new plantings, and fresh

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## President –from page 1

landscaping. Be sure to take the little ones outside on your next visit. Children and Adults are welcome to participate in the Summer Reading Challenges available at [salemva/beanstack.org](http://salemva/beanstack.org) or in person at the circulation desk. Fun activities and prizes for every age level. Watch a movie. Read a book. Listen to music. So many activities to fill up your summer days. Children receive a prize just for entering! Adult Programming at the Library includes two book clubs with vibrant discussions led by Adult Services Librarian Cheryl Price. The Afternoon Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. The Same Page Book Club discusses a LGBT+ book each month, and meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Ask for more information and for this month's book at the Circulation desk. New members always welcome. Donations enthusiastically accepted for the Annual FOSL Book Sale. Keep an eye on your e-mail for important information from Ken Sosnowski, Book Sale Director. Do you enjoy checking out books? Movies? Music? Using the Computer kiosks? Watching Zoom storytime? Logging onto Library Elf or Beanstack? Hanging out in the Teen Area? Checking out the telescope? Guitars? Reading the local newspaper? The Library has so many ways of brightening the lives of Salemites and their families. Consider helping the FOSLs with the Book Sale, our yearly fundraiser. You're always welcome to join the FOSL family.

## Children's Area Renovation

*Emily Metrock, Youth Services Librarian*

On July 10, 2022, after years of planning, we completed the final touches of the Children's Area renovation project. The project seemed unlikely to come to fruition when COVID hit, but thanks to the generosity of the FOSLs and the City of Salem, we were finally able to make our dream for a comfortable, welcoming, enclosed Children's Area a reality!

While the planning process spanned several years, the physical labor occurred in just five weeks. In that time, nearly every shelving unit was moved, (a process that included relocating all the books and unbolting the shelves from the floor), the books reorganized to fit the new "flow" of the shelves, new furniture unboxed and organized, new décor and posters hung, and over 700 books purchased and shelved.

We inhaled piles of dust, worked muscles we didn't even know we had, and constantly recalibrated every time an unforeseen challenge arose.

In the end, all the hard work paid off. The response to the updated space has been overwhelmingly positive. Parents of little ones are thrilled with the gate, the kids love the new couches, and everyone finds it easier to locate the books they want. Best of all, every day, multiple times a day, families take the time to sit and read with their children. Providing our families with a safe, inviting place to read was our ultimate goal, and I'm proud to say we accomplished that.

Thank you for making this possible!

A FOSL Membership application can be found on line at [www.salemlibrary.info](http://www.salemlibrary.info). Select "Friends of Salem Library" on the left menu. Then click on "FOSL membership Form" to the right of "WHO WE ARE". Print the form and follow the instructions.



BEFORE



AFTER

## Roanoke Valley Libraries go fine-free!

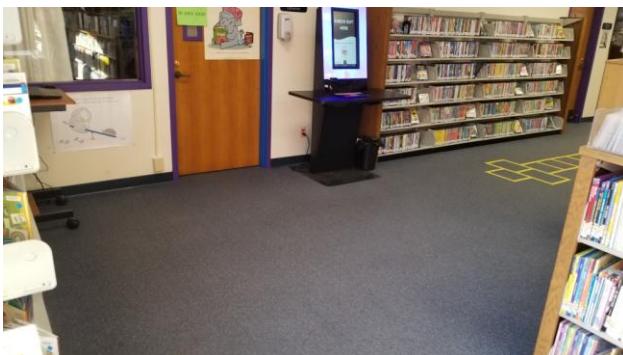
*Ann Tripp -Librarian*

The governing bodies of all four localities that make up the Roanoke Valley Library consortium - Salem, Botetourt County, Roanoke County, and Roanoke City –approved proposals to go fine-free beginning July 1, 2022! As of July 1, all overdue fees were removed from patron records, and moving forward, patrons will no longer be charged late fines for returning library materials after their due date.

While this might seem counterintuitive – “how will libraries get their stuff back?!” – the movement to become a fine-free public institution has actually been gaining traction for years across the county. Public libraries that have stopped charging fines have seen higher rates of returns, increased circulation and patron use, and a highly positive growth in library card holders.

In the Roanoke Valley, our libraries have several measures put in place to make using the library as seamless and easy as possible. First, our patrons now receive auto-renewals on their checkouts. When due dates are coming up, the system will automatically check and renew items that are coming due, and a confirmation email will be sent to the patron to notify of successful renewal or to remind them of the upcoming due date. Auto-renewals can take place up to two times. After the official “last” due date, patrons have two weeks to return their overdue items before any action is taken by the library; once those two weeks are up, the patron will be billed for the long-overdue items. But don’t worry! Once the items are returned, the charged will disappear, and the patron can return to normal library use without any issues.

This is a celebratory time for our libraries, our patrons, and our staff! Please be sure to tell your family and friends, so we can continue to spread the word about this wonderful new policy in our public libraries.



BEFORE



BUTTERFLY FEEDER

## New Pollinator Features in SPL Children's Garden!

*Theresa Baga, Senior Library Assistant*

If you've been to our Children's Garden lately you may have noticed that we've made some notable changes. Most of the changes are related to pollinators and providing information on who they are, why they are important and how we can help them -- whether we have a small flower bed or a large meadow.

First, we installed a Solitary Bee and Lacewing House as “nursery” and hibernation house for mason bees, leaf cutter bees and lacewings. We also installed 2 Butterfly Houses, 2 Banana Holders and 3 Butterfly Puddlers. The butterfly houses are hibernation houses to give insects a place to overwinter and the banana holders, as the name suggests, hold overripe fruit as a treat for butterflies. The puddlers provide salts and minerals from rainwater that butterflies need.

So that visitors to the garden would know what the features were for, we then changed out the story in the Story Walk storyboards with photos and information suitable for all ages about bees, butterflies and hummingbirds and the purpose of the pollinator features. The information even includes

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AFTER

### The Friends of Salem Library is online

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/friendsofsalemlibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsalemlibrary/)

Website:

[www.salemlibraryfriends.org/](https://www.salemlibraryfriends.org/)

Contact us: [library@salemva.gov](mailto:library@salemva.gov)

Or

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

### The Salem Library appears on the city website

Library: [www.salemlibrary.info](https://www.salemlibrary.info)

Menu: Streaming Video, ebooks, and more

Library Databases

Friends of Salem Library

### Officers of the Friends of the Salem Library:

President: Lydia Spruhan  
Vice President: Amanda Beachum (by appt)  
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  
proark@rev.net

**Membership dues** (other than Life) are payable **January 1** of each year. **Consult your mailing label**. If the date shown is **prior to 2022**, please renew your membership. Pay by check (payable to FOSL) at the Library desk, by mail, or at the Member's Sale.

## FOSL Schedule, 2022

FOSL holds four regular meetings each year. They are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 10,11:** Book Sale

## Next FOSL Meetings

- **October 9, 2022** Regular Meeting
- **January 8, 2023** Regular Meeting
- **March 12 , 2023** Regular Meeting

### Children's Garden -- from page 3

activities that you can do at home, like building a Bee Nest Bundle or plant lists/pictures for a Pollinator Garden. Of course, we've also included pictures of books for kids or adults that can be found in the library catalog for more information about pollinators.

If you drive by the Library on Main Street and look out your window, you will see we have added a Shade Sail to the Children's Garden close to the gated entrance that provides shade to one of the benches. The Shade Sail was installed by Shade Sail Structure Inc. ([www.shadesailstructure.com](http://www.shadesailstructure.com)) and was "professionally engineered by Masters Engineers in Lynchburg, VA." We're very excited to have this shade sail that pivots 360 degrees so that patrons can enjoy being in the garden on warm, sunny days. Coming soon! We've also ordered some outdoor children's furniture to give kids places to play or participate in outdoor programs AND bug kits (bug box, bug net, and bug magnifier) for kids to check out and use in the Children's Garden or to take home to investigate pollinators and other insects in their own yards.

This year in the two raised garden beds, we have planted 12 herbs and -- now that the plants have grown on a bit -- we are inviting patrons to pinch a few leaves to spice up their dinner!

Sadly, we had to retire the Dino Dig in the third raised bed as an animal used it as a litter box. Concerned that animals would continue to return and repeat, we are disposing of the soil and will disassemble the bed to make room for some of the children's outdoor furniture on order.

We hope the changes to the garden will spark interest for all ages. Come and visit the garden next time you're in the library!



SHADE SAIL