

NEWSLETTER – FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY

JANUARY 2014

VOLUME 10

ISSUE 1

President's Letter

Ken Sosnowski, President



If I were a football coach, I would say the 2013 was a “building year”. That is normally translated to mean that we didn’t win the championship, but we laid the ground work for a great next year. We were worried that the state and maybe

Salem would severely cut the library budget, but the ax didn’t fall. Our long-term Book Sale Chairman, Sara Ahalt, was ill; thus we were forced to run the book sale without her experience and guidance. We fretted that the number of books donated for the sale was less than previous years, but we ended with a reasonable income. We wondered what we would do with the books left over from the sale as the man who had previously purchased them in bulk was no longer available. Serendipitously, St. Elizabeth’s moved their sale to the week after ours. For years, their sale had preceded ours and we received their left over stock, now we were able to return the favor.

After months of worry, we realized that we had survived the year without any major harm. Looking back, many of our efforts were very successful. The library had had two computer-related needs, a color printer for the clients and a replacement for a very over-used microfiche reader. (See page 2, Ed) FOSL was able to provide both. The May Art Show was the most heavily attended to date. In preparation for future advancement, we held a major review of the Constitution and By-laws and brought both up to date. Thus we begin 2014 in good shape and look ahead to a very active year.

As I step down as President, I want to thank all the members who volunteered their time and effort to bring this year to successful finish. I also thank Janis Augustine and her library staff, not only for their support, but for jumping in and helping make things happen. ♦

2014 Officers and Board

By The Editor



On Sunday, January 12, 2014 we elected the officers who will lead us during the New Year.

Front: L/R: Joyce Foster and Susan Ahalt,
Rear: Ken Sosnowski and Charlie Draper

Charlie Draper was elected President, Ken Sosnowski is our Vice President., Susan Ahalt returns as Secretary, and Joyce Foster returns as Treasurer.



Front: L/R: Bob Paine and Helen Robertson
Rear: Ken Sosnowski, Sara Ahalt, and Betty Waldron

The following four members were elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term as required by the Constitution (amended October 13, 2013):

Sara Ahalt, Dr. Robert Paine, Jr., Helen Robertson, and Betty Waldron. Ken Sosnowski is appointed to the Board as the past President. ♦

The LEGO Club

By Maureen Harrill, Children's Librarian

LEGO Club @ Salem Public Library was born on October 15th, 2013. As soon as our posters went up and word got out, parents and children were excited and signed up for the first program. There were 17 children that day, which was amazing for not advertising it outside our library.



Boys & girls come from 3:30 to 4:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month and make amazing creations from the LEGO bricks. We even have LEGOs in girl colors! Many children come to every class. Some of the skills I see displayed are using their imaginations, cooperation and sharing with one another.



Some of the children have come to every LEGO activity, except for on January 7th when the morning temperature was in single digits – and on this coldest of cold days eight children braved the cold to attend! I think they like building. I see friendships forming as well.

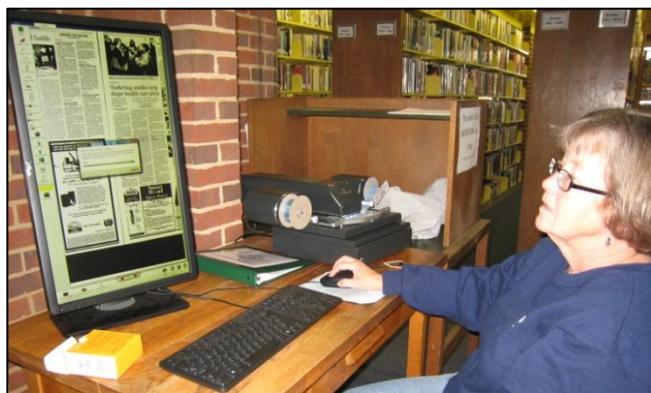
I wish to thank all the people who donated building items for the children. The LEGO Club is open to anyone in elementary school or home schooled. Registration is not necessary. Call Maureen Harrill if you have questions. 375-3089.◇

New Microfiche Reader

By The Editor

The Salem Library has a large collection of microfiche files going back to the 1950s. These files are an important research tool for the public. The files were read by an old optical-mechanical reader that was on its last legs. It was totally obsolete and unreliable. Repair parts were not available. It had to be replaced.

The Friends funded the purchase of a computer-based Microfiche reader for the library. The cost was \$8985. The reader is now in service. It is a major upgrade from the old technology in reliability, ease of operation, and quality of output. ◇



Janis Augustine, Director of the Salem Library, demonstrates the new microfiche reader.

Our Mission:

The Friends of the Salem Library organized in 1988 to pursue the following mission: *To maintain an association of persons interested in libraries; to focus public attention on the library, its resources and services; to rally public support to ensure adequate library funding at municipal and state levels; to receive and encourage gifts and bequests to the library; to support and cooperate with the library in developing library services and facilities for the community.* FOSL is chartered as a non-stock corporation under Virginia law and holds tax-exempt status for Federal taxation purposes under Section 501C3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.

Walter Cronkite 1916~2009

2013 Book Sale

By The Editor

This is what the volunteers faced as they entered the meeting room in August to begin book sale preparation. They saw more than 100 boxes of donated books and other items.>



<.... Many more books were donated by the public in August and September prior to the sale. After hundreds of volunteer hours of sorting, pricing and shelving, we were almost ready for the Book Sale when this picture was shot.

Friday, September 13, the public waits for the book sale to open.>



<....The volunteer's hard work and the public's support, resulted in sales of \$6000 over the Olde Salem Days weekend. This is our major fund-raising event of the year. It is the principle source of funds the Friends' will use to support the library.

This Page for the 'Frig.

Officers of the Friends of the Salem Library:

President: Charles Draper
Vice President: Kenneth Sosnowski
Secretary: Susan Ahalt
Treasurer: Joyce Foster

Board of Directors:

Sara Ahalt Helen Robertson
Betty Waldron Kenneth Sosnowski
Dr. Robert Paine, Jr.

Standing Committees:

Book Sale: Sara Ahalt
Newsletter Editor: Charlie Draper 387-9824
Labels for Education: Sara Ahalt

This Newsletter is published biannually in January and August of each year by the Friends of the Salem Library, c/o The Salem Public Library, 28 E. Main St, Salem, VA 24153-3897

Internet:

www.salemlibrary.info/Community/FriendsoftheLibrary.aspx

Membership dues (other than Life) are payable **January 1 of each year**. Consult your mailing label. If the date shown is *prior to 2014*, please renew your membership. You may pay by check (payable to FOSL) at the Library desk or by mail.

Important Dates

FOSL holds a minimum of four (4) regular meetings each year. They are on the 2nd Sunday of the scheduled month. Meetings start at 2PM and last for approximately one hour.

- **March 9:** Regular meeting
(Note: Daylight Savings begins today.)
- **May 18:** Children's Art Show and reception
- **July 13:** Regular meeting
- **Book Sale Preparation starts in August. Date TBD.**
- **Weekend of September 13: FOSL Book Sale. Exact schedule TBD. *(Sept 13 is Olde Salem Days)***
- **October 12:** Regular meeting

Please attend the meetings and events and volunteer your time to contribute to the success of Friends of the Salem Library

Membership 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 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.