
NEWSLETTER - FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY

JANUARY 2007

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Charles Draper, President

I want to thank the members of FOSL for reelecting me President again for 2007. I will work hard to live up to your trust.

In 2006, FOSL funded several Library projects and made a contribution to the Virginia Library Association Foundation. We held a social and art show in May.

The 2006 Book Sale was a great success. We netted \$5,221 during the Olde Salem Days weekend in September. We believe this is a record. We all appreciate the hard work and capable leadership of Sara Ahalt, our Book Sale Chairman, and the efforts of the 27 volunteers that supported her. We will use this money to help the Salem Public Library through 2007. See Sara's article, *FOSL Book Sale*, in this newsletter.

The library requests were down significantly in 2006; \$3,700 verses over \$9,000 in 2005. We authorized funds in

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A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

From Maureen G. Harrill, Youth Services Librarian

I want to thank the Friends of the Salem Library for supporting so many programs and projects for the Children's Department over the nine years I have been employed as Youth Services Librarian.

Everyday children come into the library and go for a ride on the back of a stuffed horse or dragon, provided by you. I see parents reading to their children in the blue rocking chairs provided by you and doing homework at one of the tables & chairs provided by you.

I recently requested a new PC with 27 early-literacy games for the children. With a limited amount of discussion, it was approved.

There are smaller items purchased from the Campbell Soup Label Committee who gather once a month to clip and organize these items. Sometimes the item is a set of videos such as the Eyewitness Animals Series or an item used by the library staff.

I can't forget to mention the annual Summer Reading Program Incentive – sometimes a six inch stuffed animal or a lovely theme based t-shirt for the kids.

I just want to say thank you for the children and parents who may not know your faces but who enjoy your generosity on a daily basis.

With much appreciation:

Maureen ◇

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Visit FOSL's web site at:

<http://www.salemlibrary.info/friends.html>

2006 for:

- The Summer Reading Program; \$2000 to purchase 480 stuffed toys for the children.
- The Legislative Liaison with a donation of \$350.
- A table and chairs for the courtyard, \$350.
- \$1000 to the Virginia Library Association Endowment Fund.

Membership: FOSL memberships run by calendar year. As you read this in late January or early February, 2007 dues are due. If you haven't paid your dues, the time is now. Our funding comes from two sources, Book Sales and dues. Help us help the Library by paying your annual dues on time. Annual membership dues are:

- \$10 – Individual
- \$15 – Family
- \$25 – Sustaining
- \$75 – Life

Dues may be paid by mail or in person at the Salem Library. Make your check payable to Friends of the Salem Library or FOSL. Tell your friends and neighbors about FOSL. Give them the application on the back of this newsletter and encourage them to join us.

Meetings: In 2007, all membership meetings will be on **Sunday afternoon**. For the last several years, FOSL meetings have been held on a Wednesday evening. After surveying the members, we determined that a Sunday meeting would likely increase participation. See the article *Meeting Schedule, 2007* elsewhere in this newsletter for the details.

Thanks to all the members who supported our activities in 2006. Special kudos to Janis Augustine and her staff for all of the help they have been to us during the year and the wonderful Member's Luncheon at Book-Sale time. I hope we will see more of you members take an active role in our organization now that meet at a more convenient time. ◇

**Friends of the Salem Library, 2007
Officers**

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

Committee Chairman

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



Gail Evans previews the Virginia Section

FOSL BOOK SALE

by Sara Ahalt, Book Sale Chairman

The September weather for Olde Salem Days was about the best you hope for. The sun shone brightly on the events of the Book Sale as well.

On Friday afternoon a substantial percentage of the Friends' membership came to the Members' Only Sale. Much like the shoppers on Saturday morning, members arrived early, waited eagerly, and a few nagged us to "Open the door!"

The usual early rush for the Saturday sale was followed by a steady stream of shoppers. Once again, we heard comments like "You have the best sale around" and "Please continue to have this sale." On a suggestion from Gail Evans, we had a new feature this year – a Virginia section. It was surprising how many writers, subject matters and settings had Virginia ties. Even a Lassie video was set in the "wilds of Virginia." Unfortunately, no one had time to watch it and find out where the "wilds" were.

Again, there was a crowd of eager buyers waiting to get into the Clearance Sale on Sunday. Lots of cram-filled bags and boxes went out the door.

My thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard and long so the Book Sale could take place. One of these days, I'd like to do a whole report on the volunteers, so members would have a real sense of what it takes to prepare, sell and clean up from the annual Book Sale.

On a final note, audio books were hugely popular this year. If you have some that you have no further use for, please consider putting them aside to donate to next year's sale. ◇

IT'S MORE THAN BOOKS

By Janis Augustine, Library Director

The Salem Public Library has other things besides books to offer to its users, such as databases that can be accessed from home. To view these, go to the Salem Public Library website, www.salemlibrary.info. Click on "Research Resources". That will take you to a list of databases that include everything from genealogy to auto repair to directories of addresses and phone numbers.

HeritageQuest Online can be used from home, and is a great source for genealogical research. It contains Census information from 1790 to 1930, the texts of family and local history books, revolutionary war records, and the information found in the Freedman's Bank, which supplies information on African-American families.

You can also use **Auto Repair Reference Center** from home. This database contains the Chilton Auto Repair Guides going back to 1945. It also gives advice on care and repair and troubleshooting.

Finally, another very useful database is **Reference USA**, which contains the addresses and phone numbers of 14 million business and 210 million residences. You can also find financial information about the businesses and basic census information about the residences.

Our newest database is **Rosetta Stone**, which provides online training in 30 languages. This database must be used from home because it requires speaking into a computer microphone when practicing the language.

Also, if you are totally helpless around a computer, Nancy Collins is teaching monthly classes in computer basics, such as how computers work, using a mouse, basic e-mail, basic Internet navigation, and basic Windows. If you want to register for a class, please call 375-3089. ◇

2007 OFFICERS ELECTED

By the Editor

The Friends held their first meeting of 2007 on Sunday, January 14. The members elected the following slate of officers by acclamation:

President	Charles Draper
Vice President	Dr. Robert McClanahan, Jr.
Secretary	Susan Ahalt
Treasurer	Joyce Foster

◇



The book sale is about ready to open!

MEETING SCHEDULE, 2007

By the Editor

The 2007 Friends of the Library meetings will be held on **Sunday afternoons** this year. We hope this will be a more convenient time for our members and will encourage participation. More participation equates to new ideas and better support for the Library. All meetings are held in the Library Meeting room and begin at **2:00 PM**. Normally they last for one hour.

Dates are as follows:

- March 11
- May 6
- July 8
- October 14

Preparation for the 2007 FOSL Book Sale will begin August 1. The Book Sale Chairman may call a special meeting in August for planning purposes.

Watch your mail for notices of each meeting. See you at the Library. ◇

CASA RECOGNIZES FOSL'S CONTRIBUTION

By the Editor

CASA recognizes FOSL's annual donations of children's books on their web site. See: <http://www.roanokevalleycasa.org/news.htm> ◇

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