



**FRIENDS** of the  
CENTREVILLE REGIONAL LIBRARY

## NEWSLETTER

**Volume 1**

**March 2024**

### Board Members

Officers:

President: Sharon Gottovi

Vice-President: Tara Lassiter

Treasurer: Kristina Dlugozima

Secretary: Rhonda Savage

Committee Chairs:

Book Sales: Cathy Pluchinsky

Book Sorting: Cathy Pluchinsky

Volunteer Recruitment: Dennie Knox

Volunteer Records: Dora Martinez

### CENTREVILLE REGIONAL LIBRARY HOURS AND CLOSINGS

OPEN

Monday - Wednesday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

Thursday - Sunday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

CLOSED

03/31—Easter—Sunday, March 31, 2024

05/27—Memorial Day—Monday, May 27, 2024

### BOOK SALE DATES 2024

Spring Book Sale

April 26-28

Back to School Book Sale

August 2-4

Fall Book Sale

November 15-17

**Knowledge is free at  
the library. Just bring  
your own container.**

# President's Message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of our Newsletter! While the newsletter may be new, our Friends group has been in place for a few years now. A little history of how we began...

In January 2019, a new library manager found that the Centreville Regional Library no longer had a Friends group. One of her first priorities was to try to find some interested and willing volunteers to create an entirely new Friends' organization.

Once she had identified volunteers, they began working to establish a new Friends group as a non-profit 501(c)3 community-based organization. New by-laws had to be written and a Board of Directors had to be put in place. The Friends of the Centreville Regional Library, Inc (FCRL) was incorporated on September 6, 2019. We obtained our non-profit status in October 2019.

We put together a small book sorting team in early 2020, set up shelving systems to manage incoming donations and to display books in the lobby area of the library for the Ongoing Book Sale, and began accepting donations that January. Things were running smoothly, and we were planning our first big book sale for later that year when everything came to a halt in March 2020 due to the pandemic. Once the restrictions of the pandemic eased later in the year, it was almost like starting over again. Despite these challenges and due to the efforts of our wonderful and dedicated volunteers, we have done a remarkable job of managing book donations, maintaining the ongoing sales shelves, selling donated books online and holding 3-4 major book sales a year!

I want to thank you all for your hard work in making our book sales a great success and share with you how the earnings help to support our library.

The Fairfax County libraries have a very limited spending budget. They rely on the book sale earnings from their respective Friends group to pay for many unfunded expenses. Since we are a relatively new Friends group, it has taken us a few years to raise enough money from our book sales to help.

Here are some ways that we have helped to fund programs at the Centreville Regional Library:

- Food for the annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheons
- Folding tables, chairs, outdoor canopy and give aways for Centreville Day
- Summer Reading Program events
- Food for Holiday Open House
- Chair Yoga Instructor for Adult Program
- Jazz Vocalist for Black History Month
- Children's Puppet Show
- Hispanic Heritage Month speaker
- Laptop for staff to use

We also contributed money to the Fairfax County Library Foundation to support their Children's Reading Festival.

Looking forward to another successful year,  
Sharon

# Online Book Sales

We started selling books on Amazon in September 2021. We were motivated to learn how to sell our donated books online after viewing all the resellers who attended our first book sale. We realized that we were possibly missing the opportunity to earn more than \$2.00 for a book.



We signed up for an Amazon Seller's account and started to learn what type of books to post online. After learning the process and getting all the necessary shipping supplies, we began posting books online. The second book we posted was on dog training and it sold within 5 days for \$52! That was a sign that we had to really invest time into finding good quality and interesting books to sell online.

To date we have sold 337 books online for a total income of \$12,594. The average sale price is \$37.37.



## Some Friendly Reminders When Book Sorting

Here are the items that should be recycled because they are **not** in an acceptable condition to sell:

Soiled

Strong odors

Water damage

Broken or cracked spines

Missing pages

Old/out of date books, especially I.T., medical, legal, & financial

Pamphlets, museum guides, etc.

- ❖ Before shelving books that are in excellent condition, check publication date – if there is no name or inscription on inside front cover, these should be placed on Bump Up shelves, categorized by date for adult fiction.
- ❖ Occasionally we get library books that are still in circulation in our donation bins. These books should be turned into a library staff member.
- ❖ VHS tapes should be disposed of in trash can, NOT recycling bin. We do not sell them.
- ❖ Music CDs can be donated to Friends of the Library of Montgomery County (FOLMC); however, they do NOT accept VHS tapes or audiobooks. They do accept complete encyclopedia sets in excellent condition.