

Library News | Fall 2023

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Author Talk with Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry

The Orchard

“Gorcheva-Newberry pulls off a tragic and nostalgic love letter to a much-tried generation. This is a winner.” Publishers Weekly

Born in Armenia and raised in Soviet Russia, Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry moved to the U.S. in 1995, after having witnessed perestroika and the fall of the Iron Curtain. *The Orchard*, set in the same period as the author’s adolescence, as well as in the 2000s, follows Anya and her three friends navigating their way through the changes in their country and in their lives.

In an interview with the *Washington Independent Review of Books*, Gorcheva-Newberry speaks of her juxtaposition of Anya’s “concerns and dreams as a teenage girl in the USSR with her memories and fears as a 40-year-old woman in America. . . . I wanted to explore in depth, her secrets and desires, the loss of childhood friends and her home country, which had transmogrified over the two decades into something very different yet just as dangerous and incomprehensible.”

Writing in English, her second language, Kristina has published over fifty stories and received ten Pushcart Prize nominations, as well as three special mentions in the Pushcart Prize Anthologies. Her work appeared in *Zyzzyva*, *Subtopics*, *Zoetrope: All Story*, *Joyland*, *LitHub*,



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General News Cont'd

Electric Literature, Indiana Review, The Southern Review, Gulf Coast, TriQuarterly, Prairie Schooner, Nimrod, and elsewhere. Kristina is the winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction, the Tennessee Williams scholarship and the Walter E. Dakin Fellowship in fiction from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Raz/Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction for her first collection of stories, *What Isn't Remembered*, long-listed for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize and shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize.

Her debut novel, *The Orchard*, was a finalist for the 2023 Chautauqua Prize and was picked by the *New York Post* as one of the best books of the year.

Gorcheva-Newberry studied at Hollins College and Radford University and lives in Virginia, and thus we are proud to claim her as a local author!

Bring your personal copy of her book for autographing, or purchase one on-site courtesy of Blacksburg Books.

Sunday, October 29 at 1 pm
Blacksburg Public Library Community Room

Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)



Branch Updates

Blacksburg | Hello to our wonderful Friends!

I am so excited to be part of such a wonderful, welcoming community in my new position as Branch Manager for the Blacksburg Library. Starting here midway through the year has been an exciting way to get to know the community and begin to learn about how much we are able to do for the surrounding area, thanks to your very generous support.

We've continued our partnerships with DBI and Sustainable Blacksburg through monthly meetings which have been well attended by members of the community. Most recently, Sustainable Blacksburg hosted a Lunch & Learn about Solar Energy for the Home which attracted nearly 50 people. In addition, we were an active part of the Welcoming Week festivities in partnership with the YMCA at VT by hosting a Multilingual Storytime, a Story Walk, and in-branch book displays and crafts. These events welcomed newcomers to the area and celebrated how diverse cultures enrich

and strengthen communities. We've already begun planning for next year!

We've begun the Fall session of Family READS, our family literacy and English Language Learning (ELL) series partnering with the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley. In just the first week, we helped five families who speak 4 different languages (Arabic, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese) begin to learn English skills which will help them support their families. Thank you to our Friends for your support of Family READS!

Our Spring Book Sale was a rousing success, however, due to the many activities in our Community Room, we had a difficult time scheduling a bag book sale for this Fall. Thanks to the hard work of many of our Blacksburg Friends, we were able to have a second half-price book sale in the branch which raised a substantial amount. We've already scheduled our Spring bag book sale for the end of March/April in 2024 – Look for additional news!

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Branch Updates Cont'd

As I learn and grow in my knowledge of this welcoming, vibrant community, I hope to continue the work done by my predecessors to offer informative, relevant programming which is made possible by the support of our

Friends of the Library!

Thank you!

Laura Dobbins (Branch Manager)

Christiansburg | The Christiansburg Library is continually grateful for the support of the Friends of the Library. Our summer and early fall programs would not have been the same without their support.

This summer we had the first return of Little Critters Petting Zoo, which the children always enjoy. Over 750 people attended and were delighted with all the animals. Our Music on the Lawn series returned with 4 concerts between May and August. While we did have to move 2 of them inside due to weather, that did not dim our fun and over 120 patrons enjoyed the concert series.

With the support of the Friends of the Library, we were

able to bring Mill Mountain Theater to the library twice this year. In June, they brought us Mad Libs Live!, a rip roaring musical based on the beloved word game. More recently, the story of Stellaluna was brought to life for our patrons and they learned lessons about independence and friendship. Over 50 patrons enjoyed each of these shows.

We look forward to our programming this fall and winter which will include spooky decorating, a holiday décor swap, and a visit from Santa. We hope to see you in the library soon!

Salena Sullivan (Branch Manager)

FLOYD | Hello Friends!

Jessie Peterman Memorial Library continues to strive to provide our patrons with a variety of programs and services that appeal to their interests and address their needs. Throughout the year, the Floyd library is celebrating its 50th anniversary. We had a very successful kickoff to our anniversary year in March with an Open House event. With distinguished speakers, lots of library memories, and delicious refreshments (paid for by our own Floyd Friends of the Library) the event was a wonderful celebration of our library's history.

In June, we partnered with the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, New River Valley Community Services, and the Floyd County Sheriff's Office to bring about All Together Now, a program aimed at informing the people in our community about resources available to them. We were rained out of Warren G. Lineberry Park but the generous folks at Dogtown Roadhouse let us inside their spacious restaurant/music venue. The focus was to highlight resources available to survivors of domestic violence. Over a dozen community organizations set up tables, spoke to attendees, and networked with each other. Speakers included film pro-

ducer and journalist, Rebecca Byerly, who shared her experiences with intergenerational domestic violence and Teresa McKensie, Assistant Director of Radford City/Floyd County Victim Witness Program.

The Floyd library saw another anniversary this year. July marked one year since we inaugurated our Floyd Free Fridge. The Floyd Free Fridge was established in collaboration with our local food pantry, Plenty Farm and Food Bank, and the generous support of one of our valued library patrons.

In our first year, the library gave out over 19,000 pounds of food. Our Free Fridge was also the recipient of a Virginia Association of Counties achievement award. Anyone is welcome to help themselves to items in the Fridge.

In other programming news, our monthly Family Art Adventure program continues to bring kids and caregivers together to create fun and interesting art. A partnership with New River Community College brought the College in Your Community program which informed youth and adults about opportunities for continuing education.

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Branch Updates Cont'd

We had horses at the library in April! Jason Rutledge, who has over 40 years experience logging with horses, brought Grace and Duke, Suffolk Punch horses, to the library and shared with us his knowledge of working with this heritage breed. In August, we hosted a Kitchen

Supply Swap, a program that was greatly enjoyed by all. The DMV continues to come to the library monthly with the next visit scheduled for Thursday, October 19th. This is just a taste of our various programming.

Joann Verostko (Branch Manager)

Meadowbrook | Thank you for the continual support of the Friends of the Library. We are excited that Mike and Marti Mull are helping with the Friends of Library Book Sale here at Meadowbrook Library. Mike and Marti had a great turnout for their first Friends of the Library \$5 Bag Sale on Friday, September 22 & Saturday, September 23. Thank you, Mike and Marti.

We have beautiful gardens in the Meadowbrook courtyard and in front of the library. These gardens are taken care of by Leslie Zaronsky and Denise Lane. The time that they volunteer to keep these gardens looking great is unbelievable. Thank you, Leslie and Denise.

Cindy Minnick (Branch Manager)

Calendar

Blacksburg

The Three Little Problem Solving Pigs

Blacksburg Community Room

Fri, Nov 3
4-5pm

Christiansburg

Killin' It: Solve a Mystery

Christiansburg Community Room

Tues, Oct 17
6-7pm

Floyd

Peaceline with the Women's Resource Center

Floyd Community Room

Thurs, Oct 19
5-9:30pm

Meadowbrook

Trunk or Treat

Picnic Shelter

Sat, Oct 21
3-5pm

Adult Craft: Resin Pendant

Blacksburg Community Room

Sun, Nov 5
1-2pm

Spooky Faux Stained Glass

Christiansburg Community Room

Tues, Oct 24
4:30-6pm

Author Talk with Martin Clark

Floyd Community Room

Thurs, Nov 2
6-8pm

Manga Meetup

Meadowbrook Community Room

Thurs, Nov 2
4:30-6pm

Reminder:

Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 29, Blacksburg Library

Guest author at 1:00pm
Business meeting to follow around 2:30pm



Thank You

SPONSORSHIPS | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses and individuals for their significant support of library programs and events. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the 2023 Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour:

Don and Caroline Rude

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

With the simple motto of " We Serve "



McMILLION & McMILLION, PC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



Rainbow Riders
childcare center

Fill out form online, then print:

2024 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year is January-December.

Dues received October 2023– December 2023 are good through 2024

New Renewal Date

First Name Last Name

Address City

Zip Code Email

Phone

Suggested Membership Contribution:

\$15 Individual \$20 Family Donation: \$

Contributions are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of MFRL

(Montgomery Floyd Regional Library)

Mail to:

125 Sheltman Street

Christiansburg, VA 24073

or bring to your nearest library branch.

We need your help with Friends Activities. Check below for volunteer opportunities.

Membership Drive

Book Sales

Socials – bring refreshments

Garden Tour

Hospitality Committee

Membership Committee

At which library do you wish to volunteer?

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Meadowbrook



<https://mfrlfriends.org/wp/join-us/>

2024 FLOYD FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

(Membership period consists of the calendar year January - December)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please show your support by renewing your membership to the Friends of the Library through either a single or family membership or a greater level of support.

- () \$10 Single () \$15 Family () \$25 Bronze Friend
() \$50 Silver Friend
() \$100 Gold Friend
() \$1000 Lifetime Friend
() Other donation _____

Make checks payable to Floyd Friends of the Library and mail with this completed form to:
Friends of the Library, P. O. Box 69, Floyd, VA 24091
Or drop it off the next time you're at the library.

Your membership helps support programming, building improvements, the summer reading program, and much much more. Please consider becoming a Friend!

We meet on a quarterly basis on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Please call the library at 745-2947 or check the library event calendar to see if the group is meeting.

Love Your Library

Love
become a friend