

# Library News | Fall 2022

*From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library*

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## Author Talk with Jane Goette

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### *A River Road Memoir*

“My River Road memories begin in summertime. Shadows, whispers in the grass, ants crawling across my legs – a slight tour on their path from here to wherever it is ants go.”

Join local author Jane Goette as she takes us on a journey through her idyllic childhood in the rural South to a restless adolescence when the Civil Rights struggle becomes urgent and personal to her family. Her memoir explores the complexities of family, of race; the interconnections of the personal and historical; the books that influence our lives; childhood memories that are dear or disturbing.



*[continued on page 2]*

## General News Cont'd

**“A treat for the senses, a tug at the heartstrings, and layers of insightful reflections” -Amazon Reviewer**

This event, hosted by the Friends of the Library, will offer refreshments following the presentation.

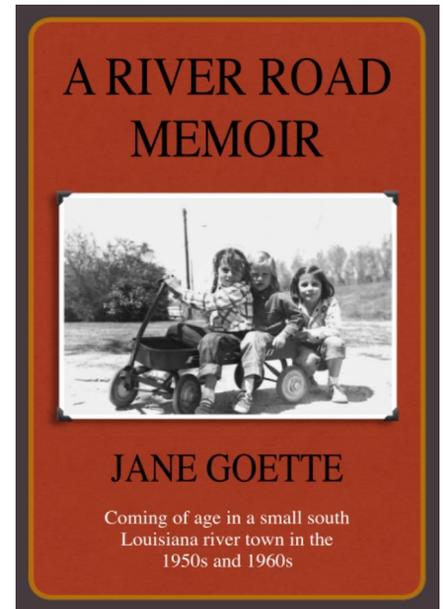
Bring your personal copy of her book for autographing, or purchase one on-site courtesy of Blacksburg Books.

Members of the Montgomery County Friends of the Library will hold a short annual business meeting and elections in the Community Room following the reception. All are welcome.

**Sunday, October 16 at 2 pm,**

**Blacksburg Public Library Community Room**

*Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)*



## ***Author Talk with Ron Peterson Jr.***

Returning to Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library in December will be best-selling author, Ron Peterson Jr., to discuss his latest book, *Eyes of a Monster*, as well as updates on his previous books.

Ron Peterson Jr. is a Virginia-based author whose best-selling true crime books explore compelling mysteries and consistently receive five-star reviews. Peterson’s first book, *Under the Trestle*, was selected as one of the Top 100 true crime books of all time and is currently being developed into a documentary film or series with Mactavish Pictures. This book is based on the local Radford University student, Gina Renee Hall, who disappeared in 1980. Stephen Epperly was later arrested and sentenced for her murder, making it Virginia’s first ever “no-body” murder trial.

Peterson followed with *Chasing the Squirrel*, the true story of notorious drug smuggler Wally Thrasher, also a case well known to the New River Valley. Thrasher and his wife Olga lived in the NRV while he flew out of Florida and became one of the FBI’s most-wanted drug smugglers. Thrasher supposedly died in a fiery plane crash, but an investigation proved that his death was staged. Peterson’s book has been optioned for development as a television series by Los-Angeles-based Urban Legends Film Company.

*Eyes of a Monster* explores the previously unsolved 1981 murder of Hampton, Virginia schoolteacher Olivia Dare Christian. In 2011, the case was re-opened by detective Randy Mayer who, with FBI assistance, uncovered a suspect believed to be a serial killer.

Events are free and open to the public, books will be available for sale and signing at:

**Christiansburg Library on Thursday, December 1 at 6:00 pm**

**Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd on Friday, December 2 at 5:00 pm**

**Meadowbrook Public Library in Shawsville on Saturday, December 3 at 2:00 pm**

*Kerri Copus (Program Manager & Project Coordinator, MFRL)*

## Branch Updates

**BLACKSBURG** | Hello to our wonderful Friends!

We have an exciting fall planned for our community!

We are excited to host a variety of programming in support of our international community. On September 15, we hosted a multi-lingual storytime, featuring bilingual stories in Chinese, Ukrainian, Spanish, and Farsi as part of the YMCA International Welcome Week programming. Likewise, in partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, we are hosting not one, but two English Conversation groups for adults. Finally, we are partnering with LVNRV to bring our Family READS program back and we are hoping for a terrific turnout!

In August, Karim Kahn, the MFRL Director, and I were notified that MFRL was awarded a \$7,000 grant from the Public Library Association and AT&T to offer digital literacy classes through the libraries. We will offer clas-

ses in email basics, resume development, and other basic computer courses. This is an additional LVNRV partnership.

Over the last year, we have developed a relationship with Sustainable Blacksburg, Inc. to offer monthly Lunch and Learn workshops. We have offered programs on electronic cars, low waste living with kids, the sharing economy, and our upcoming workshops on Stadium Woods and Home Energy Checks. These workshops have been very popular.

Our crafting workshops are as popular as ever. Our workshops have included Black Glue Art, Worry Pets, a Back to School Bash, among others. I can't wait to see what else my amazingly creative team pulls together. I hope you will follow along on our journey.

Best wishes for a terrific fall!

*Monena Hall (Branch Manager)*

**FLOYD** | Hello Friends! There have been some very exciting happenings at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library. In July we opened our Free Fridge! In partnership with Plenty! Farm and Food Bank, the Floyd Free Fridge offers produce and other healthy food for the public. Community Fridge projects are a sustainable, grassroots approach to address food insecurity and to encourage people to make healthy food choices. The fridge was donated by a generous patron and the Floyd Friends paid for a beautiful sign created by local Finn Graphics. Plenty! keeps the fridge stocked with produce and anyone in the community is welcome to visit the fridge and take whatever they need. So far, the fridge has been very popular. Since July, we have been able to give out over 3,000 pounds of food. The Floyd Free Fridge is one of the first of its kind in Virginia! We are very proud and happy to provide our community with this amazing resource.

In addition to the Free Fridge we are now able to offer our patrons a new space within the library. Our Quiet

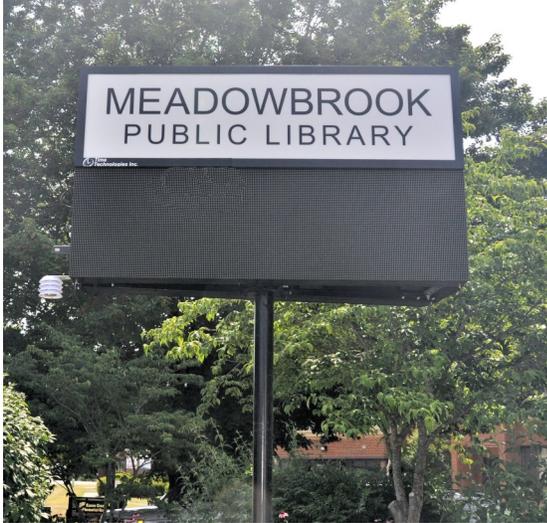
Booth is a free-standing soundproof space suitable for a single person. Anyone needing a quiet place to make a phone call, engage in a tele-health interview, attend a virtual meeting, or just have an extra quiet place for a little while can sign up to use the Booth at the desk.

Ian Catton returned in August to talk about growing native plants and how to go about converting your lawn to a wildflower meadow. We also had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Edible Book Festival in August, with some really wonderful entries. August also saw the start of our partnership with the 401 Peer Center and the weekly program "We Can All Use A Little Support". Every Tuesday, from 3pm to 4pm, certified Peer Recovery Specialists will be at the library. Certified Peer Recovery Specialists are trained to offer support to individuals who are dealing with substance use disorder and/or mental health challenges. These meetings provide a safe, non-judgmental space that will promote overall wellness.

*Joann Verostko (Branch Manager)*

## Branch Updates Cont'd

**Meadowbrook** | Meadowbrook Public Library in Shawsville has a new electronic sign to better promote library programs. The sign was installed in June to replace the aging sign on wheels which required staff to change the message letter-by-letter. The new sign can be programmed from inside the library and the message will also rotate the text allowing for more content and information to be shared.



### Janet Wren Retires

Assistant Manager at Meadowbrook Public Library retired in August after 31 years of service. Janet began working at the library in 1991 and has worked at the three Montgomery libraries during her career. Janet plans to relax, read more, and enjoy her grandchildren.

*Cindy Minnick (Branch Manager)*



## Calendar

October Sunday	October Wednesday	October Saturday	Monthly Each Monday & Thursday	Monthly Every 2nd Sunday
16	26	29		
Author Talk: Jane Goette   Blacksburg 2pm, FOL Business Meeting to follow	Red Cross Blood Drive   Christiansburg 10am-3pm, Walk-ins welcome	Quilting Marathon & Quilt Bookmark   Meadowbrook 8am-8pm, All ages	Floyd Moves It!   Jessie Peterman 11am	Knit & Chat   Christiansburg 2pm-4pm



# Thank You

**FRIENDS UPDATE** | Many thanks to the following members for their exceptional generosity.

Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following members for their **additional cash gifts above and beyond membership dues** for 2022.

## **\$10 - \$49**

Paula and Tom Alston  
 Fred Baumgartner  
 Susan Caceci  
 Gene Cielinski  
 Lauren Cooper  
 Pauletta Copenheaver  
 Don Creamer  
 Kay Dunlap  
 Piper Durrell  
 Richard Gilbert  
 Linda Greaver  
 Elaine Harkinson  
 Don and Connie Heindel  
 Becky Hepler and Rick Teags  
 Virginia Jedda  
 Gunin Kiran  
 James and Lois Lang  
 Charles and Nancy Maus  
 Fred Mignone  
 Franklyn and Bonnie Moreno  
 Elizabeth Obenshain  
 Sarah Orrick  
 Irene Peterson and Molly McClintock  
 Marge and Travis Poole  
 Mark Sanders and Gail McMillan  
 Thomas and Maureen Patton  
 Helen Salmon  
 Martha Sawyer  
 Edie Schumacher  
 Alan and Pat Steiss  
 Alexander Templeman  
 Melody Warnick  
 Monica Weinzapfel  
 Herbert Williams  
 Mary Jane Zody

## **\$50 – \$99**

Susan Anderson  
 Frances Church

Edie and Dick Ebel  
 Beverly Fleming  
 Sam and Ruthann Hicks  
 Lucinda Jennings  
 Noreen Klein  
 Margaret Laing  
 Janice Litschert  
 Angela Little  
 Marjorie Modlin  
 Patricia Monroe  
 Terry and Marga Pletcher  
 Cecelia Powell  
 Jim Schlaudecker  
 Edie Schumacher  
 Marilyn Spencer  
 Catherine Snyder  
 Richard Swanson  
 Chester Van Tyne

## **\$100 - \$199**

Jo and Bud Brown  
 Susan McCrea  
 Ed, Missy and Hollis Oakes  
 Patricia Polentz  
 Judy Watson

## **\$200 - \$499**

Allen and Marilyn Bowman  
 David Dillard  
 Rebecca Sears  
 Spencer Winfrey

## **\$500 - \$999**

Patricia and Michael Marcolini  
 Don and Carolyn Rude

## **\$1,000 - \$1,999**

Susan Duggins

## **\$2,000 and over**

David Harkinson

*Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery County Friends)*

## Thank You Cont'd

**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 Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.:

**Don and Caroline Rude**



**Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club**

With the simple motto of " We Serve "



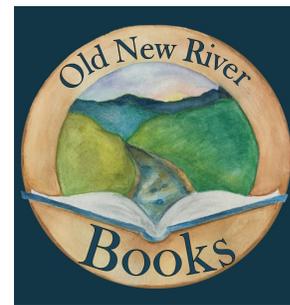
*Brown Insurance*

**CAPONE'S**  
**JEWELRY**



**M**  
**&**  
**M**

**MCMILLION & MCMILLION, PC**  
**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**



  
National Bankshares



**Rainbow Riders**  
**childcare center**

 **SHELTER**  
ALTERNATIVES, INC.  
DESIGN BUILD TEAM