



Central Rappahannock Regional
Library
INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNING

Director's Written Report

Illustrating Elements of CRRL's Strategic Plan

READ • LEARN • MEET • INNOVATE

March 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023



Director's Goals: Accomplishments March-May



Public Relations:

- CRRL received three VPLDA awards at the annual meeting in April (Outstanding Adult Program for the Rappahannock Writers' Conference 2022; Outstanding Staff Member, Tami Cruz; Outstanding Website for the Deaf Culture Digital Library)
- Continued service as the RGI Board Chair
- Attended the UMW Women's Symposium in March along with four other staff members
- Martha and Rebecca attended the RUW Women United event in March
- Staff continue monthly appearances on local radio show, *Town Talk*



Public Relations: (continued)

- Martha was interviewed for the Chambers L2L podcast with CEO Susan Spears
- CRRL hosted two Fredericksburg-Este Sister City events at our branches
- Gave lengthy interview to PBS' *Marketplace* regarding library budgets and workforce development



Organizational Development:

- Continued focus and emphasis on three main themes from the Employee Survey (Compensation, Autonomy, and Stress)
- Continued attending PLA Leadership Development Committee meetings
- Joined new VPLDA Committee on State Standard Awards for Public Libraries
- Both Spotsylvania County satellite locations reopened on a regular weekly schedule
- The Partlow location was open 7 times, with 28 visitors (two evenings were canceled due to staffing shortages)
- The Belmont location was open 11 times, with 97 visitors



Organizational Development: (continued)

- Adult Services Coordinator Tracy McPeck graduated from the Chamber's Leadership Fredericksburg in May
- Our first in-person Staff Day in three years was held on May 12. Staff Day is when we recognize milestone years with gifts and acknowledgments and conduct staff development training



Library Administration:

- Visited all branches at least once this quarter
- Attended the Capital Area Library Directors quarterly meeting
- Continued service on *Public Libraries* Advisory Committee
- Fredericksburg Branch's computer lab relocated to more centralized location, saving staff time and reducing the library salary budget
- Garden refreshes completed at Newton and Montross branches
- New interior signage for all three Westmoreland Branches is being designed; install will commence soon
- Staff distributed 1,620 free COVID-19 test kits from the VDH



Financial Management:

- E-rate reimbursement was \$29,000 higher than I estimated in the previous Director's Report (we received \$109,104 this year).
- CRRL received a donation of theater technology for the Fredericksburg Branch valued at \$4,000 from Fredericksburg All Ages
- FY23 budget balancing measures continue to be worked on

Board Relationship:

- Met with Board Chair to review June board meeting agenda
- Maintained regular communication with Board Chair and other board members



Additional Highlights



Satellite Locations Reopen

The **Belmont** satellite location reopened in **March** and **Partlow** reopened in **April**, after the COVID-related hiatus. Belmont is run in partnership with **Spotsylvania County**, the **Belmont Ruritan Club**, and the **Belmont Club of Women**.

Partlow is run in partnership with the **Partlow Ruritan Club**.



Virginia Public Library Directors Association Awards

CRRL received awards for **Outstanding Staff Member**, **Outstanding Adult Program**, and **Outstanding Website**.



Executive Assistant
Tami Cruz:
Outstanding Staff
Member



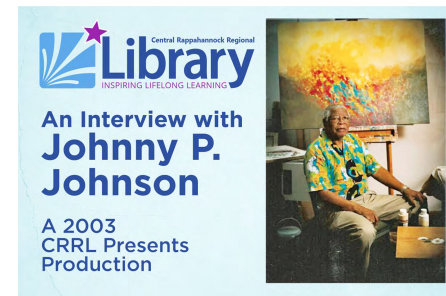
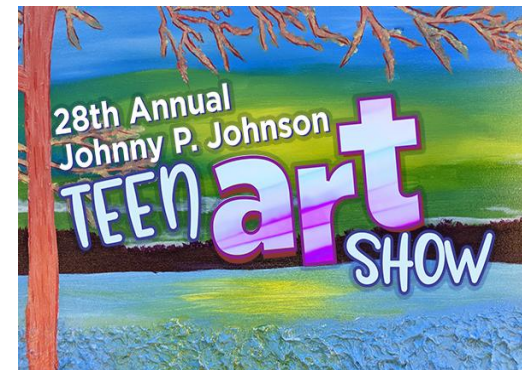
A promotional poster for the 2022 Rappahannock Writers' Conference. The background is a teal color with a stylized illustration of a hand holding a pen. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says "2022 RAPPAHANNOCK" and "3 Tracks: Adult, Teen, and Virtual". The main title is "Writers' Conference" in a large, bold font, followed by "Saturday, November 5" and "Germanna Community College". Below that, it says "A day celebrating writers with informational workshops and a panel discussion. Keynote addresses by Denise Hill and Jeffery Deaver". At the bottom, it lists "PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSOR: GERMANN COMMUNITY COLLEGE Center for Workforce Development" and "Register at librarypoint.org/writers-conference".



Teen Art Show

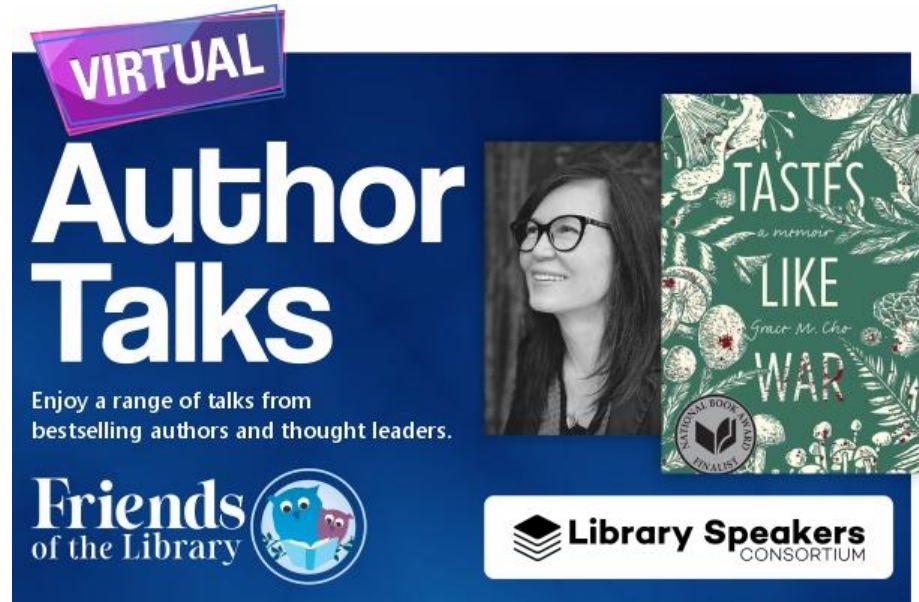
Local teens were highlighted in **CRRL's 28th Annual Johnny P. Johnson Teen Art Show** and **20th Annual Claudia Emerson Teen Poetry Contest**.

Prizes for both were donated by the **Friends of the Library**. CRRL also rereleased a **2003 interview** with Johnny P. Johnson.



Author Talks

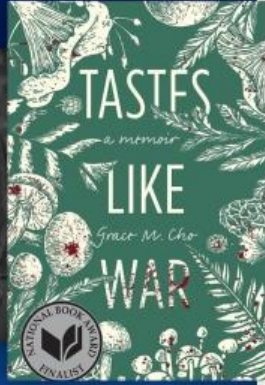

Virtual author talks from *New York Times*-bestselling authors and thought leaders representing a wide variety of genres and topics. Sponsored by the **Friends of the Library**.




VIRTUAL

Author Talks

Enjoy a range of talks from bestselling authors and thought leaders.



Friends
of the Library



Library Speakers
CONSORTIUM



Read Across America

On March 2, CRRL celebrated **Read Across America Day** with activities and pop-up stories for children throughout the day at all of the branches.



CRRL-Con

CRRL's 9th annual comic book convention featured contests, photo booths, face painting, and much more. **525 attended** our first in-person CRRL-Con since 2019.



IdeaSpace: Making+Media

CRRL's location for tech and creative exploration offers **MakerLab Badging**, **Tech on the Go** items for checkout, and classes for creators.



Food for Friends

Throughout March, library customers were encouraged to support their neighbors in need by donating **one or more cans or boxes of food** at **library branches**.

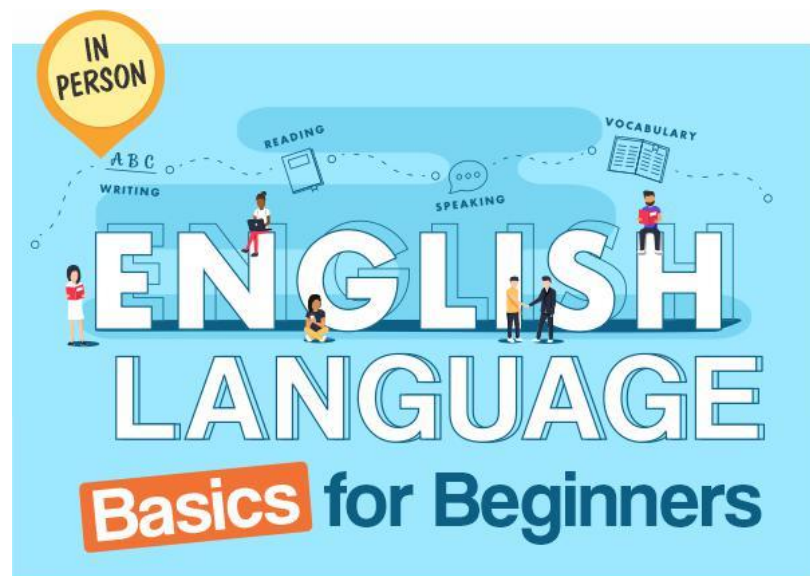


As a thank-you, they received coupons for 20% off purchases at library book sales or at the **Friends of the Library Center and Bookshop**.



Classes for English Language Learners

- English Conversation Group
- English Language Learners Book Group - sponsored by Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Exam Prep Group
- English Language Basics for Beginners



Library of Things Craft Kits

CRRL now offers **Craft Kits** for checkout, including cardmaking/stamping, crochet, embroidery, knitting, watercolor painting, and woodburning.



PAWS for Reading

Children in grades K-5
practice their reading with
therapy dogs trained to be
avid listeners.



Time with a Therapy Dog

Customers **grade 7-adult with disabilities** can read or relax with a therapy dog. In partnership with **Blue Gray Therapy Dogs**.



A Journey to Peace

A 3-part series presented by **Mary Washington Hospice.**

- Supporting Veterans at the End of Life
- The Gift of Preemptive Planning:
Advanced Medical Care
- Understanding Your Grief



Mary Washington Healthcare
Mary Washington Hospice



Director's Goal: Library Administration

Your Money Matters





In April, CRRL presented a **financial education workshop series** with community partners.

VIRTUAL

Your Money Matters

Financial Education Workshop Series

Presented by

-  GREATER FREDERICKSBURG
BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
-  Virginia
Cooperative
Extension
-  FAITH HOUSING
COALITION
-  ALNA | FINANCIAL
GROUP LLC



Naturalization Information Sessions

In April and May, staff from **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services** held information sessions on the steps to becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen at three branches.



Alzheimer's Association Educational Series

On May 22, the first part of an **Alzheimer's Association educational series** was held at **Salem Church Branch**.

- Learn about the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and how to recognize them in yourself and others.

In June, the series will continue with the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages, risk factors, and more.



alzheimer's  association®



DMV Connect

The **Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles'** portable office visits a CRRL branch each month to process **driver's licenses, ID cards, titles, and registration.**



Kudos

The staff is always helpful with reserving books, recommending authors, and providing computer help and scanning docs!

Cooper Branch Customer

Every time I come to the library, I feel such comfort and safety, and our librarians are always so warm, kind, friendly, and helpful. Thank you, librarians, for everything you do for us.

Salem Church Branch Customer

Staff go above and beyond each week and we are so thankful for our branch of the library. Thank you for helping my kids develop a love for reading and books.

Snow Branch Customer

Shout out to staff who helped our group use a meeting room. They were very helpful and answered all of our questions. We appreciate having access to these rooms.

Fredericksburg Branch Customer

Wonderful place to work on schoolwork. 10/10 atmosphere. I really enjoy the lighting; it's easy on the eyes.

Howell Branch Customer



