



**F·R·I·E·N·D·S**  
OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

December 2022. **F\*R\*I\*E\*N\*D\*S TALK**

Hello Friends!

The season of giving is upon us. Friends, as individuals, give of their talents and resources according to their means to their Friends group and to their community. For this we thank you! Friends groups give the resources they garner to better the libraries they serve and to enhance reading and literacy in the communities in which they live. For this we thank them! FONCPL Board members give of their wisdom and experiences to help Friends around the state to improve. We are grateful that our Board members are willing to do that. A rising tide floats all boats. FONCPL hopes to raise the level of performance of all Friends.

And the season of receiving is also upon us. We hope that as individuals and groups of Friends that your communities support your efforts by contributing and donating and that you receive what you need to complete your plan of work. FONCPL is grateful for the support we receive from Friends, both individual and groups. Your dues help us to provide information, consultation, grants and awards.

I want to personally thank two of our FONCPL Directors who are rotating off the Board for their many years of service. **Meg Forward** and **Becky Smith** have helped to sustain FONCPL through our transition period. We appreciate their contributions to the Board and wish them every success in future endeavors.

We have three new directors who have been appointed to the FONCPL Board. Please join us in welcoming: **Erica Ververs** (Forsyth County) is the President of the Friends of the Walkerton Library. She lives in Winston Salem and works P/T as a library assistant at the Carpenter Library—Wake Forest School of Medicine. Erica says, “As a newer president of a Friends group, I’ve been indebted to FONCPL for its resources and knowledge base. FONCPL continues to help me guide my board and organization to follow best practices, ensuring we’re more secure for the future. I’m excited to give back to FONCPL by serving as a director!”

**Laurie Cranston** (Onslow County) has several positions with the Friends of the Sneads Ferry Library. She retired after 30 years with a small public library in Woodbury, NJ. Laurie says, “As an active member of the Friends of Sneads Ferry Library’s board, I’ve grown to have a great deal of appreciation and respect for the assistance that the FONCPL offers to Friends groups. I was honored to be invited to join your Board, and hope that I’m able to find a role within the organization that will allow me to be useful to the group.”

**Lyn Marsh** (Forsyth County) has been in the computer field for over 25 years specializing in software testing. She is the Secretary of the Kernersville Library (Paddison Branch). To quote Lyn, “Reading and the local library was a huge part of my childhood. I am excited about the opportunity to do whatever I can that will potentially give that same experience to others.”

We thank Erica, Laurie and Lyn for stepping up to fill these Director positions. Welcome to the Board! We still have one Director position and the Vice-President position to fill. Please consider offering your talents to FONCPL in one of these capacities. If interested, [contact me](#).

Your Friends have the opportunity to win a StoryWalk. If you do not have access to a StoryWalk in your community and if you pay your group dues by February 15<sup>th</sup>, complete a short application and your name will go in the hat for a drawing for one story. Read more about this latest FONCPL project in this edition and on our website. This is another member benefit!

In closing, I wish all Friends and their families a safe and wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year! May you meet all your goals and expectations!

Cheers!

Judy Hills, FONCPL President

**HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

Your FONCPL just had their annual meeting and there is so much fun and good stuff being offered! Be sure to scour this whole edition so that you don't miss anything!

We have 3 new Directors!

Laurie Cranston

Erica Ververs

Lyn Marsh

To all the Friends Groups that are members, We will be giving 3 monetary awards. Read further to find out more!

And we are really excited about this!! All 2023 FONCPL members have the opportunity to win a

# STORYWALK® !



If your Friends Group pays dues by February 15, 2023 and completes a short application, your name will go into the hat for a drawing for one story. The winning Group will choose from available



The winning Group's choice will be printed & shipped to them. Start planning now as to where you will install your

**STORY WALK!!** <https://foncpl.org/grants-2/>

IT'S TIME !! Join us now for 2023!!



Membership  
runs from  
January thru  
December  
each year



F·R·I·E·N·D·S

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### FONCPL offers two membership options:

**Group membership** is open to Friends organizations and public libraries. The [Group Membership form](#) is available [here](#).

**Individual membership** is open to anyone with an interest in the activities of the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries. Click [here](#) to access the [Individual Membership form](#).

### *Need to Talk With Your NC Friends Board?*

President Judy Hills (Craven County)

[jahnbnc@gmail.com](mailto:jahnbnc@gmail.com)

Secretary Joanne Straight (Craven County)

[jostraight@gmail.com](mailto:jostraight@gmail.com)

Treasurer Tim Como (Catawba County)

[826mechanic@gmail.com](mailto:826mechanic@gmail.com)

Director Lyn Marsh (Forsyth)

[mclincoln1@gmail.com](mailto:mclincoln1@gmail.com)

Director Donna Morgan (Brunswick County)

[ladyloves2read@protonmail.com](mailto:ladyloves2read@protonmail.com)

Director Joyce Speas (Alleghany County)

[joyce.speas73@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.speas73@gmail.com)

Director Laurie Cranston (Onslow)

[LCCran@gmail.com](mailto:LCCran@gmail.com)

Director Erica Ververs (Forsyth)

[erica.ververs@gmail.com](mailto:erica.ververs@gmail.com)

Newsletter Kathy Lambe (Forsyth County)

[klambe@me.com](mailto:klambe@me.com)

*We encourage you to join also as an individual member even if your own Friends Group has joined as a Group. Your Individual Membership supports the grants and awards programs we offer. Take a moment to read this short note from an Individual Member:*

## **WHY I'VE BEEN AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF FONCPL FOR 27 YEARS**

Frannie Ashburn, High Point, NC November 17, 2022

I joined the Library Development staff at the State Library of NC in January, 1995. I retired in October, 2011. I had regular Library Development consulting duties with library systems statewide plus two focused consulting assignments. First as Director of the NC Center for the Book which offered public library book-related programs for out-of-school adults. The Let's Talk About It programs bring library audiences and college/university professors together to read and discuss books (fiction, non-fiction, and poetry) and to view and discuss documentary films on a variety of subjects and themes. Let's Talk About It is now managed by the NC Humanities Council with the State Library handling the books/DVDs distribution to libraries. Programs continue statewide.

My second assignment was as the State Library Liaison to FONCPL. I joined FONCPL in 1995 as an individual member, and I've renewed my membership for the past 27 years. Working with Friends was a great way to encourage libraries to host the LTAI public programs. Friends were natural partners, working with library staff on program logistics and promotion, and taking part as participants.

A special benefit from my Friends assignment was how much I learned from attending FONCPL board meetings and Friends meetings/workshops/programs. I was a much better library consultant thanks to this experience. I got to know our public libraries—and the communities they serve—from the viewpoint of their users and local government, as well as from staff. And I met so many wonderful people, so committed to enriching life in their communities by improving and expanding public library services. I came to understand the critical importance of the public library in community development, and I still see that everywhere I go.

Although I am no longer active with FONCPL, I remain an individual member to stay directly informed about what's happening with Friends and their libraries. As an individual member I look forward to the e- newsletter when it arrives via email packed with inspiring stories about accomplishments and offering practical suggestions, advice, and information about Friends' concerns.

Join FONCPL as an individual member. Expand your connection to NC Friends' activities and concerns. Strengthen your library to make your community a better place to live and work.

**FONCPL ROCKS!!!**



Look at these ADORABLE book displays for December!

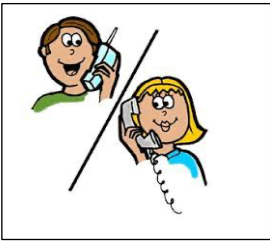


# DECEMBER DAYS



**3<sup>rd</sup>** – National Play Outside Day – hike nearby trails, check out local parks, go fishing, go for a bike ride

**7<sup>th</sup>** – National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
- all those who lost their lives when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. More than 3,500 Americans lost their lives or were wounded on that solemn day.



**12<sup>th</sup>** - National Ding-a-Ling Day - encourages us to reconnect with people we once talked to often. Call someone you haven't heard from in a long time.

**15<sup>th</sup>**– National Cupcake Day – make a batch of your favorite or visit your local bakery!



**18<sup>th</sup>** – Answer the Phone like Buddy the Elf Day - Simply answer the phone and say “(Insert your Name) the Elf, what’s your favorite color.” Or tell elf jokes - Q: What kind of music do elves like best? A: Wrap music! Q: What’s the first thing elf children learn in school? A: The elf-abet!

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Hanukkah begins – Jewish festival commemorating the Temple rededication

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Day - Christmas is a celebration for Christians of their Savior’s birth.



**26<sup>th</sup>** – Kwanzaa begins – celebration of African-American culture & heritage



Hi Judy

*Do you have any information about best practices regarding library requests for funding and the manner in which Friends turn that funding over?*

*For years, our Friends group has asked me to create a wish list with details about where we will spend the money. Some groups turn over a lump sum to the library and others do so upon requests for projects throughout the year.*

*Thank you,*

*M, D, & M*

First, I suggest you view this YouTube video I created this spring on this topic: Money matters: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YDq8ndsOXw> Here is the link to the PDF version so you can click on the links at the end: <https://foncpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Money-Matters.pdf>

Here are the ways the money can be handled:

1. The library creates a wish list—gives it to the Friends—Friends make desired purchases and have them shipped to the library. One advantage is that the Friends can be reimbursed from the state for the sales tax they paid for the purchases. So, if they are making a very large purchase (e.g., new conference room furniture), this would be advantageous.
2. Friends develop their yearly budget and allocate an amount for the library (e.g., \$5,000). They convey a check for \$5,000 to the library along with a letter that tells the library that this is a grant. The letter instructs the library as to the parameters for spending the funds (e.g., computers for public use, book & media for collections, refreshments for public programs, summer reading program materials, etc.). The letter should be specific, but not overly restrictive. The library handles this in their fund accounting system like the grant that it is. They make the purchases and charge them to the grant. The auditor reviews the purchases charged to the grant against the intended uses delineated in the letter. This is the best way, in my opinion as it allows the library some latitude for spending the funds while holding them accountable for the intended uses of the funds.
3. Some Friends entertain funding requests from the library throughout their fiscal year. Hopefully they included an amount in the budget and that they stick to that amount.
4. My Friends do both 2 and 3. We have an amount we give like described and then we also entertain special requests for opportunities that might unexpectedly pop up, but we are in a financial position to do so.

Friends that give the library money should ALWAYS send a letter stating the intended uses. Best practice is for the library to report back to the Friends periodically on the grant and/or purchases made with Friends funding. Backing this up with a copy of the library's financial report showing the line items is also a best practice.

I did not go into this topic in this email, but there are concerns about Friends being asked to fund things that are legitimately the responsibility of the library to provide. Friends are advised NOT to supplant funds. View the video or PDF for details.

There are many ways to skin this cat, but the most important thing is to come to an agreement that is fair and agreeable to both parties.

Hope this answers your questions. I am happy to have a conversation or Zoom session with you all if you need more guidance.

Good luck!

Judy Hills

cell: 252.670.1913

# BEWARE!!

This is a Mail Scam. If you receive this, do not respond!!



## Domain Name Expiration Notice

visit us at [www.util.com](http://www.util.com)

As a courtesy to domain name holders, we are sending you this notification of the domain name registration that is due to expire in the next few months. When you switch today to Domain Registry, you can take advantage of our best savings. Your registration for: **foncpl.org** will expire on **January 9, 2023**. Act today!

Domain name: foncpl.org  
Reply Requested By: December 26, 2022

You must renew your domain name to retain exclusive rights to it on the Web, and now is the time to transfer and renew your name from your current Registrar to Domain Registry. Failure to renew your domain name by the expiration date may result in a loss of your online identity making it difficult for your customers and friends to locate you on the Web.

Privatization of Domain Registrations and Renewals now allows the consumer the choice of Registrars when initially registering and also when renewing a domain name. Domain name holders are not obligated to renew their domain name with their current Registrar or with Domain Registry. Review our prices and decide for yourself. You are under no obligation to pay the amounts stated below, unless you accept this offer. **This notice is not a bill**, it is rather an easy means of payment should you decide to switch your domain name registration to Domain Registry.

Term	Period covered	Price
1 Year	Until -- Jan 9, 2024	\$60.00
2 Year (Recommended)	Until -- Jan 9, 2025	\$105.00 (save \$15)
5 Year (Best Value)	Until -- Jan 9, 2028	\$225.00 (save \$75)

The following names are currently available for you to register and secure, protecting your domain name from being duplicated.

Available Domains	Period covered	Price
foncpl.com .....	2 Years .....	\$105.00
foncpl.net .....	2 Years .....	\$105.00

For a complete list of our terms and conditions, please visit [www.util.com/tos](http://www.util.com/tos)

Transfer and renew your domain name online at [www.util.com](http://www.util.com) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Please detach this stub and include it with your payment.

Check the appropriate boxes of the Domain Names you would like to order.

foncpl.org				
Expiration Date	Reply Requested By	Renewal Term	Payment	(✓)
January 9, 2023	December 26, 2022	1 Year	\$60.00	
		2 Year	\$105.00	
		5 Year	\$225.00	

### Available Domain Names (Optional)

foncpl.com  
1 Year ..... \$60.00 ☐  
2 Year ..... \$105.00 ☐  
5 Year ..... \$225.00 ☐  
foncpl.net  
1 Year ..... \$60.00 ☐  
2 Year ..... \$105.00 ☐  
5 Year ..... \$225.00 ☐

Total Amount

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
1307 HERITAGE DR.  
NEW BERN NC 28562-3324

T118 P1

If paying by credit card, please enter your information below:

Card Number:

Expiry:  /



Please provide a valid email address on the above line





## FONCPL MEMBER GROUPS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER DRAWING FOR A STORYWALK!

### What is a StoryWalk®?

We hope you are familiar with this wonderful way to read a book to a child. A StoryWalk® is a fun, educational activity that places a children's story (literally a book taken apart due to copyright law) along a popular walking route or at an event in a community. Each StoryWalk® panel has a literacy component and an exercise component. They can be used both indoors and outdoors. To read more about StoryWalks®, [click here](#).



### What is FONCPL offering?

The Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library has worked with a local printing company's designer to create backgrounds, literacy tips and activity prompts. These are very colorful and are printed on 18" x 24" waterproof corrugated plastic signs (like political signs). The pages of the story from the book are laminated (10 mil) and are then glued to the background. There are 20 pages with each set. The first page is the book title with logos and contact information for the sponsors (or funders). The second page is instructions on how to use the tips and prompts. Pages 3-19 are pages from the book. Page 20 is a blank announcement page where you can add a message on cover stock which can be changed each time you use the story. The set of 20 panels comes with metal frames which are inserted into each panel and then stuck in the ground. The winner gets to pick from six different titles, one of which is bi-lingual (Spanish/English—see below).





**Who is eligible?**

Any FONCPL Group current on their dues as of February 15, 2023. We want to give this StoryWalk® to an FOL group that does not already have access to StoryWalks® in their community. We hope that in addition to being a great literacy tool, that it will also help the local FOL to generate new members and perhaps sponsors for additional StoryWalks®.

**How will this work?**

We will post a very brief application on the FONCPL website on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will ask you to pick the title of the story you prefer. The application period is open to February 15, 2023 at 11:59 PM. A few days later, we will put the names of every legitimate entry into a container and someone outside FONCPL will draw out the name of the winner. As soon as possible we will notify the winner and will post the winner's name on our website.

We will coordinate with the winner to get the needed logos and contact information for the first page of the StoryWalk®. Our hope is that the StoryWalk® will be done and shipped to the winner in time to use it during National Library Week (April 23-29). The Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library have a lot of experience with using temporary and permanent StoryWalks®. They have agreed to provide virtual assistance.

**What titles are available?**

Giraffes Can't Dance, Grumpy Monkey, The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, Walter the Farting Dog, Rainbow Fish and the bilingual Delicious Hullabaloo.

**If we don't win, could we purchase a StoryWalk® set?**

YES! The Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library would be happy to discuss this with you. The price will not include any profit—just actual cost of production and shipping (if applicable).

**Questions?**

Email FONCPL President Judy Hills at [jahnbnc@gmail.com](mailto:jahnbnc@gmail.com)

**Good luck!**



## Awards & Grants



**Your FONCPL Board awards 3 monetary gifts each year –  
all designed to help your Friends group succeed.**

**Please read this and plan to apply in 2023 to receive monetary help!**

**Friend of the Year** is awarded to a member of a Friends group who made an outstanding contribution to their local Friends of the Library in the past calendar year. Please remember to send in your Outstanding Friend so they can receive their due recognition!

**Seed Grants** are awarded to a group forming a Friends of the Library organization or to one that is revitalizing a dormant Friends of the Library group. Eligible groups shall receive only one of these grants. As an incentive, FONCPL offers a free one-year membership in FONCPL to the Seed Grant awardees for the year in which the award was made. Up to \$500 may be requested for activities and fees associated with forming or revitalizing a dormant Friends of the Library group. **It is required that a portion of the grant funding be used to incorporate as a nonprofit with the state of North Carolina AND to apply for the IRS 501 (c)(3) designation unless the group already complied with these requirements.** Funding may also be used for things like: designing a logo, printing membership pamphlets, meeting the minimum amount needed to set up a bank account, setting up a website, copying & printing costs, etc. Seed Grant funding may not be used to purchase goods or services for the library or library system.

The Friends of the North Carolina Public Library (FONCPL) will award **Challenge Grants** of up to \$250. FONCPL reserves the right to determine the number of these grants to be awarded in a calendar year. It is expected that the project or program proposed will be partially funded by the grant and partially funded by the applicant. These grants are awarded to FONCPL member groups current on their FONCPL dues. Priority is given to a Friends group that has not received a Challenge Grant award previously. Groups that receive Challenge Grants are ineligible to receive another for a period of three years.

*For more information, please visit [foncpl.org](http://foncpl.org) and  
read more under the drop down tab GRANTS/AWARDS.*

# The Coziest Books to Read This Holiday Season

by Angela Erickson for BookBub



## The Christmas Spirit by Debbie Macomber

Pastor Pete and bartender Hank may be the closest of friends, but they live two very different lives. In the midst of a lighthearted argument over whose life is easier, the two make an agreement to swap jobs for the Christmas season. As they settle into their new roles, Pete and Hank find unexpected happiness, new love, and a deeper appreciation for their friendship.



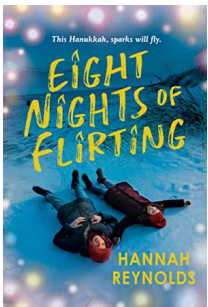
## Meet Me Under the Mistletoe by Jenny Bayliss

When London bookshop owner Nory is invited to her friends' extravagant castle wedding over the holidays, she must navigate an emotionally complicated reunion with her wealthy friends from the private school she attended on scholarship. And her undeniable attraction to gardener Isaac, a man she once considered an enemy, makes matters even more complex...



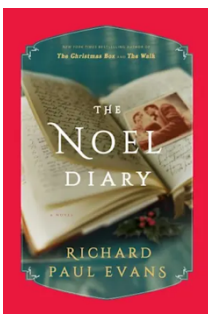
## Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

While making a coal delivery to the local convent at Christmas, Bill Furlong finds a young girl who has recently delivered a baby living there. Bill is shocked by her treatment, and must decide how to confront this and other problems in his small Irish town.



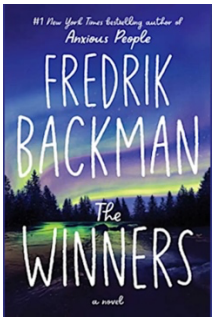
## Eight Nights of Flirting by Hannah Reynolds

*Kirkus Reviews* [says](#), "If there was a Hallmark Hanukkah movie tradition, this would be optioned in a heartbeat." Desperate to win over her crush, Shira strikes a deal with playboy Tyler when they're snowed in together for the first night of the holidays: If he teaches her to flirt, she'll pass his resume along to her great-uncle. But over hot cocoa and sled rides, Shira starts to fall for the guy ...



## The Noel Diary by Richard Paul Evans

When Jacob Churcher learns his estranged mother has passed and left him her house, he returns home for the first time in decades. As the holidays approach, he cleans out the house, discovering a diary left there long ago by a pregnant woman. At the same time, a stranger named Rachel arrives, looking for the birth mother who put her up for adoption 30 years ago.



### The Winners by Fredrik Backman

A tragedy occurred two years ago in a quiet hockey town in the north of Sweden, and the community has struggled to move on. As a storm sparks intense clashes between the rival ice hockey teams in Beartown and the city of Hed, long-buried secrets rise to the surface — and have consequences that will last for generations...



### The Christmas Clash by Suzanne Park

Chloe Kwon and Peter Li don't get along, and neither do their families, who own rival restaurants at the mall food court. As the holidays approach, Chloe and Peter find themselves facing off yet again: Chloe's working as a photographer at Santa's Village, while Peter's working at the nearby virtual reality North Pole. But when they learn the mall is about to be sold and destroyed, Chloe and Peter will have to reluctantly join forces in order to save their family's livelihoods — and Christmas!



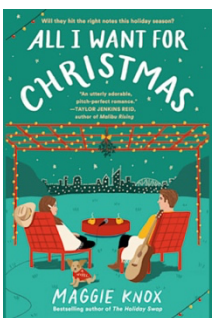
### Kiss Her Once for Me by Alison Cochran

After falling in love last Christmas Eve, Ellie's fortune plummeted as she not only lost only contact with the beautiful woman she connected with at a bookstore, but also her dream job. A year later, she is shocked when her landlord proposes a marriage of convenience — but that's nothing compared to the surprise of meeting his family, only to discover that his sister is the same mysterious stranger she met last Christmas...



### Whiteout by Collected Authors

As a winter storm bears down on Atlanta, can 12 teens come together to help their friend pull off an epic apology? This charming collection of interwoven narratives is a celebration of friendship, love, and Black joy.



### All I Want for Christmas by Maggie Knox

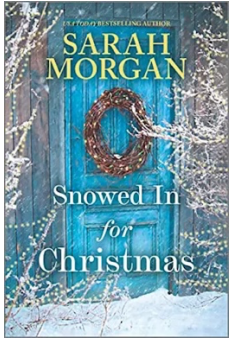
This festive romance from the author of *The Holiday Swap* follows Sadie and Max, two country singers who are convinced they've found their big breaks when they're both cast on a reality show called *Starmaker*. When they're paired up for a duet, their chemistry is undeniable, and the studio forces them to fake a relationship until the show's holiday finale — except Sadie and Max can't stand each other. But there's a fine line between love and hate...





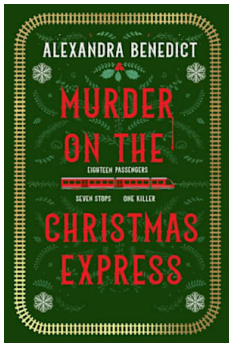
### **Once Upon a December by Amy E. Reichert**

When Astra Noel Snow takes her annual trip to the Milwaukee Christmas market, she crosses paths with a handsome stranger named Jack. But she doesn't know that Jack spends his life leaping from one December to the next every four weeks...



### **Snowed in for Christmas by Sarah Morgan**

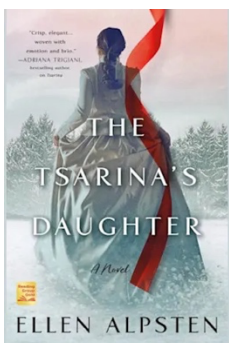
Ross, Alice, and Clemmie are three siblings who are all dreading the Miller family Christmas get-together for different reasons. When Ross's employee, Lucy, shows up unexpectedly on Christmas Eve, she gets snowed in with the family. But in the midst of craziness and family dysfunction, it may just turn out to be the best Christmas the Millers have ever had!



### **Murder on the Christmas Express by Alexandra Benedict**

[Alexandra Benedict](#)

As 18 passengers rest on a sleeper to the Highlands on Christmas Eve, the train derails out in the remote countryside. First one passenger ends up dead, then another, and the remaining inhabitants of the train frantically try to find the killer before they become the next victim...



### **The Tsarina's Daughter by Ellen Alpsten**

Daughter of Peter the Great and Catherine I, Tsarevna Elizabeth grew up in a life of luxury in the thrilling world of the Russian court. But her life changes dramatically when her father dies and her mother takes the throne... [According to Publishers Weekly](#), the “evocative period detail” in this stunning historical novel “will keep the pages turning.”



### **The Key to My Heart by Lia Louis**

In this warmhearted novel by the author of [Eight Perfect Hours](#), the devastating loss of her husband early in their marriage has made Natalie's world fall apart. The only thing that brings her any comfort is playing music on a public piano in a London train station where she remains anonymous to the passersby. Soon someone begins leaving sheet music for her husband's favorite pieces on the piano — and Natalie is determined to learn more about the mysterious benefactor who has brought hope back into this bleak season of her life...



What are some topics that you would like to discuss on our OPEN MIC nights?  
Send us your ideas & we will put them on the calendar!  
Thank you!

Remember to join FONCPL both by group & individual.....  
Newsletters only go to Members!

Be sure to send all your news & photos for our  
January 2023 Newsletter by December 25<sup>th</sup>  
[Klambe@me.com](mailto:Klambe@me.com)

