



# F·R·I·E·N·D·S

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

January 2023

F\*R\*I\*E\*N\*D\*S TALK

**It's the New Year!! It's time to renew your FONCPL Membership!**



Join  
us

Just go to [foncpl.org](http://foncpl.org) and click on the JOIN tab....pull down to join as an Individual \$15 and a Group \$35. Fill out the online form. Make checks payable to FONCPL and mail check and completed form to:

[Friends of the NC Public Libraries](#)

Tim Como, Treasurer

1190 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Hickory NC 28601

# January

January is time for reflection: how did we do in 2022? What did we do in 2022? What changes, if any, did we make and did those changes make any difference? Are we starting 2023 better or worse or the same as January 2022? These questions are good starting points to evaluate your Friends.

2023 is a new chapter in the book of life for your Friends. The past is just that—the past. The question is what will you do in 2023 to make it different from the past. As I look back over the January President's messages that I have written over the years, the theme is recuring: are we growing or are we stagnating? The FONCPL Board continues to encourage every Friends group to grow, lest entropy take hold. Sometimes you need outside help to make a change—that is what we are here for. Take advantage of this membership benefit this new year.

Avail your group of other membership benefits as well: apply for a Challenge Grant, apply to receive a StoryWalk (if eligible), nominate a Friend of the Year, sit in on the monthly Open Mic Night Zoom meetings, read the monthly newsletter cover to cover, use the material and resources on our website, or request a consultation. All these suggestions require action on your part. We can put it out there, but ultimately it is up to you to follow up—and we sincerely hope you do!

So, the future is your story to write...make 2023 the best one yet! Wishing your Friends members, donations and community support in the New Year!

~Judy Hills, FONCPL President



# Odd 2022: The 10 Oddest Guinness World Records of the Year

by Ben Hooper



Duane Hansen broke a world record when he paddled 38 miles down the Missouri River in a hollowed-out pumpkin.

Jacob Chandler of Oregon found all 26 English-language letters in a can of alphabet soup and placed them in order in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds.

Jamie Keeton, aka "Canhead," or "Canpa" to his grandchildren, used air suction to affix 10 empty beverage cans to his face and shaved head, earning the record when the cans remained in place for at least 5 seconds.



Ibrahim Sadeq of Nasiriyha, Iraq, managed to balance 18 eggs on the back of his hand, equaling the record originally set by Jack Harris of Britain in May 2020, making the two men co-holders of the record.

Vermont teenager Ariana Wunderle, who has been performing with a youth circus since the age of 2, donned 4-inch high heels and walked 639 feet 7 inches across a tightrope at Bellows Falls Union High School in May, while she was a senior at the school.

Iron-stomached California man Gregory Foster ate 10 Carolina reaper chilies -- the hottest peppers in the world -- in 33.15 seconds.

[Serial record-breaker](#) David Rush earned his 250th Guinness World Records title when he used the breath in his lungs to blow a pea a distance of 84 feet and 11.28 inches across a level floor.

Japan's Same Name Association of Hirokazu Tanakas, founded in 1994 by Hirokazu Tanaka, 53, managed to gather 178 people who share the name at an October gathering in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward.

Lim Kai Yi of Butterworth, Malaysia, put his award-winning puzzle solving skills to an unusual test when he took a fully-disassembled Mr. Potato Head toy and put all of the pieces in the proper spots in 5.43 seconds.

A bar in Wyoming hosted an unusual Guinness World Record attempt when a group of men clipped their beards together and created a 150-foot chain.





## New Bern Friends Provide Books for Title I Elementary School

For the past several years, the Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library have provided Scholastic books to all the children in a designated Title I Elementary School. This year students in Pre-Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at JT Barber Elementary School were the recipients. The Friends wrapped each book in brown paper and decorated them. Board members Lisa Keesen and her son Alastir Whitfield who is an honorary member of our Board, distributed the books with the school administrative staff. The children were also treated to an ice cream bar. Here are some pictures from the wrapping and the distribution.

*Below are Friends Board member Ann Super, and President Joanne Straight wrapping the books.*



*Below are school staff Ms. Sampson, Alastir Whitfield (Friends Board) and Principal Mr. Willis.*





Below is a photo of Ms. Ingram's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class with their books. Alastir is in the middle and his mom, Lisa is at the back.



### January Open Mic Night

Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

Topic: the NC Center for Nonprofits 2022 Legal Compliance Checklist

We suggest you request a copy in advance from President Judy Hills. [Click here.](#)

### Join Zoom Meeting – click on link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86532316215?pwd=ZEY4d m96cEgvb1lseGdtbTNTZzhWZz09>

### To call in:

Meeting ID: 865 3231 6215

Passcode: 833935

301.715.8592

## DON'T FORGET!!

Any Friends group that has paid their dues as of **February 15, 2023** will be eligible to fill out the brief application on the FONCPL website appearing 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.

## 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!**

<https://foncpl.org/grants-2/>

It is fillable pdf form.

A decorative border with ornate floral and leaf patterns in black, framing the entire text area.

## **Some Pop Culture Items from 2022**

At the 2022 Academy Awards Ceremony, Will Smith slapped ceremony presenter Chris Rock across the face.

Johnny Depp's defamation trial against ex-wife Amber Heard began in April 2022 and it continued for 6 weeks. A jury awarded Johnny Depp with \$15 million in damages.

Bennifer 2.0 - - 20 years after they first got engaged, Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez decided to give it another go.

We lost actors Bob Saget, Betty White, Sidney Poitier, Naomi Judd, Taylor Hawkins, Leslie Jordan and Ray Liotta.

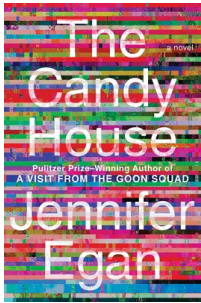
The Iceman returned in the next Top Gun film. Val Kilmer's one-scene appearance is better than anyone could have hoped for – silent & dignified.

Elon Musk buys Twitter.

The world mourned the loss of Queen Elizabeth II - - the longest reigning monarch in British history.

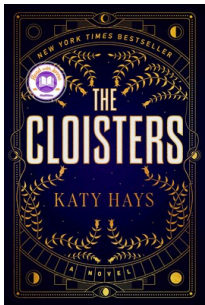
The Wordle craze! - - a guessing game that involves picking the right five-letter word and was arguably the most buzzed-about mobile game of 2022.



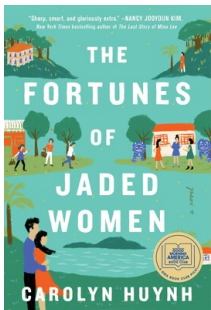


## FICTION

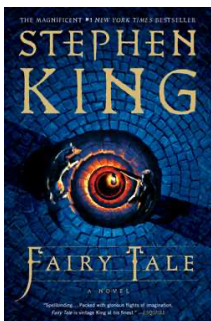
**The Candy House**  
Jennifer Egan



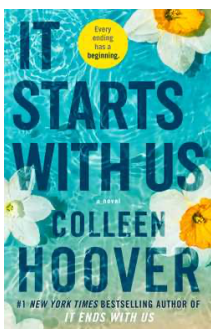
**The Cloisters**  
Katy Hays



**The Fortunes of Jaded Women**  
Carolyn Huynh



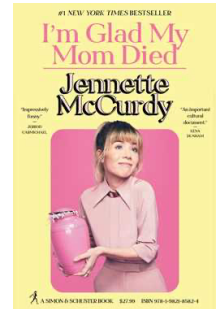
**Fairy Tale**  
Stephen King



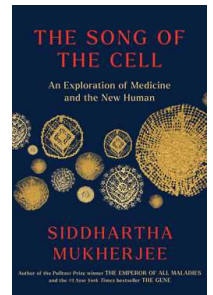
**It Starts With Us**  
Colleen Hoover

## NONFICTION

**I'm Glad My Mom Died**  
Jennette McCurdy



**The Song of the Cell**  
Siddhartha Mukherjee



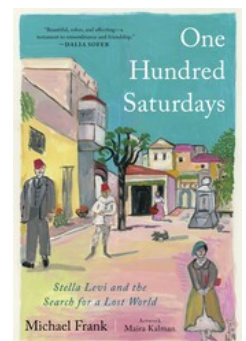
**Easy Beauty**  
Chloe Cooper Jones



**Butts**  
Heather Radke

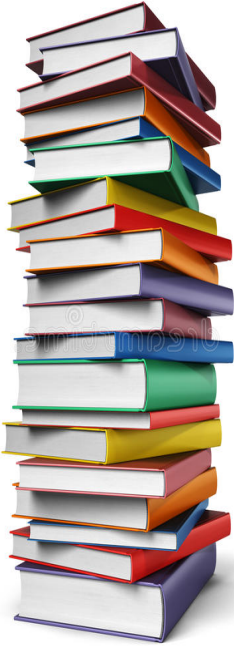


**One Hundred Saturdays**  
Michael Frank

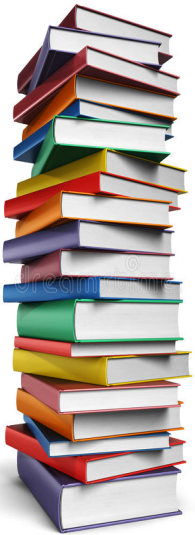


## Drowning in Books

*by Judy Hills, FONCPL President*

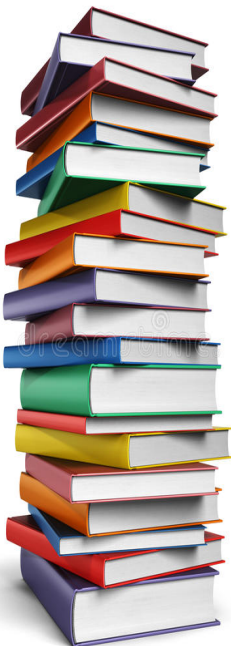


It seems like that at least once a month our Friends are “gifted” a large collection of books. Some of these are off-loads of adult children cleaning out the home of a parent who is either deceased or who is being moved to a facility. Some are due to downsizing, others due to a recognition that it was time to let go of these “old friends.” In looking at the donations, one can only guess about the professions and interests of the collector. A preacher with hundreds of books on spiritual topics; a planner with books on cities and architecture; an engineer who is giving up the tools of his trade. Then there is the cookbook collection, the erotica collection, the historical collection, the boats/sea collection, the literary collection. The list goes on and on. So many times, we have been told what “great books these are” only to find mildew, foxing, water damage and covers falling off. The public just can’t bear to throw out a book that “someone might need or be interested in.” And even if the book is in pristine condition, the subject matter may be so dated that the book is worthless.



There was a recent article in the Washington Post, “We’re drowning in old books. But getting rid of them is heartbreaking.” As one passionate book seller says, “They are more like friends than objects.” The article goes on to profile a number of individuals who seem to be owned by their book collections, rather than the other way around.

So, what does this have to do with libraries and Friends? The key question is just how much climate-controlled space (think in terms of the cost of that space) can a library or Friends group devote to the storage of books with the number of new titles being exponentially expanded every minute? Give the reading public’s affinity for hanging onto books, disposing of books is a political nightmare we all want to avoid. While libraries and Friends do the best they can to sell discarded books to the book re-sellers, there is only so much capacity in that marketplace. Friends also give away books to facilities, to nonprofits, in Little Free Libraries, to prisons, etc.



Friends rigidly cull the books as they are donated—disposing of those that are in no condition to be sold—some are recycled and some go to the landfill. Book buyers at sales are looking for books in the best condition. So, your Friends have their big sale and still have thousands of books left. Now what? What is the cost in terms of time and money to try to sell them again? At what point are you forced to make the decision to discard the lot?

This is probably one of the toughest decisions that a group of Friends have to make. The time to make this decision is at the start of your new year—not when you are in the throes of wrapping up a book sale. Once you decide, you need to stick with the plan. If you do decide to discard the remainder, you need to prepare your volunteers and help them understand the necessity/reality of the decision—lest you drown in books.



## More Fun Lists for 2022!!

TOP 10 SEARCHES	TOP 10 NEWS STORY SEARCHES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wordle</li> <li>2. Election Results</li> <li>3. Betty White</li> <li>4. Queen Elizabeth</li> <li>5. Bob Saget</li> <li>6. Ukraine</li> <li>7. Mega Millions</li> <li>8. Powerball Numbers</li> <li>9. Anne Heche</li> <li>10. Jeffrey Dahmer</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Election Results</li> <li>2. Queen Elizabeth Passing</li> <li>3. Ukraine</li> <li>4. Powerball Numbers</li> <li>5. Hurricane Ian</li> <li>6. Monkeypox</li> <li>7. Texas School Shooting</li> <li>8. Will Smith Oscars</li> <li>9. Johnny Depp Verdict</li> <li>10. Roe v Wade</li> </ol>
TOP 10 "WHAT IS...." SEARCHES	TOP 10 PEOPLE SEARCHES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is NATO?</li> <li>2. What is Monkeypox?</li> <li>3. What is RSV?</li> <li>4. What is Wordle?</li> <li>5. What is aphasia?</li> <li>6. What is a NFT?</li> <li>7. What is a recession?</li> <li>8. What is vabbing?</li> <li>9. What is Roe v Wade?</li> <li>10. What is the Wordle today?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Johnny Depp</li> <li>2. Will Smith</li> <li>3. Amber Heard</li> <li>4. Antonio Brown</li> <li>5. Kari Lake</li> <li>6. Anna Sorokin (Delvey)</li> <li>7. Chris Rock</li> <li>8. Andrew Tate</li> <li>9. Adam Levine</li> <li>10. Serena Williams</li> </ol>

### 2023 Group Members

Caswell Friends of the Library  
Friends of Haywood Public Library

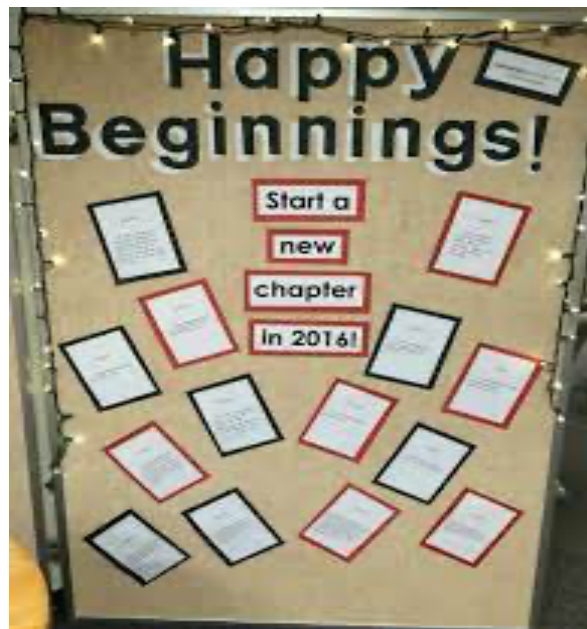
### 2023 Individual Members

Donna Morgan  
Kathy Lambe  
Julie Flick  
Lynda Reynolds  
Tim Como  
Diana Fotinatos  
Judy Hills  
Erica Ververs  
Kimberly Eaton  
Laurie Cranston

## Bulletin Board Ideas for January



Very cool !!!



Start a New Chapter in 2023!



Hat Off to a New Year!

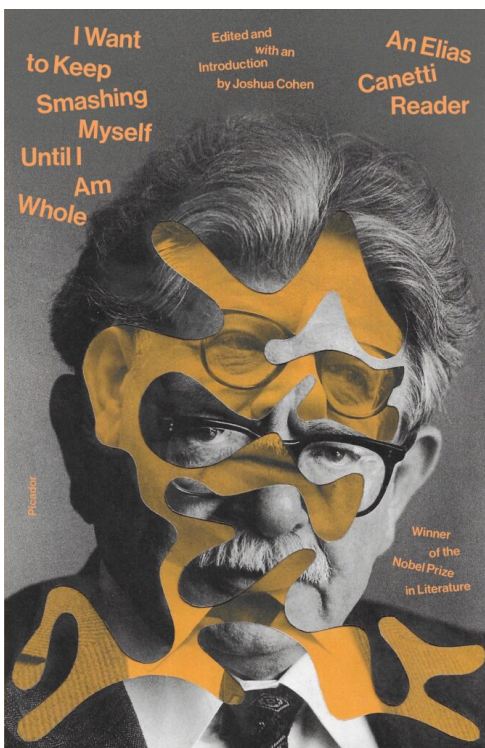
# 2022 | NoveList® Year in Review



*Wonder which books will be  
the most searched in 2023?*

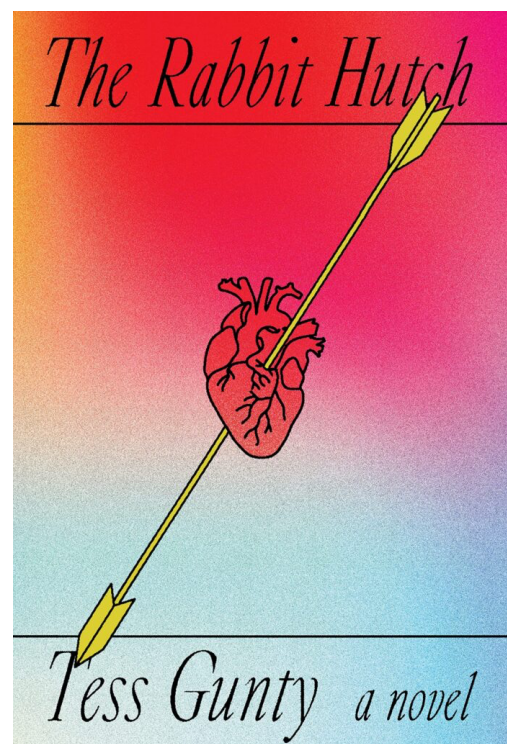


The #1 Book Cover of 2022



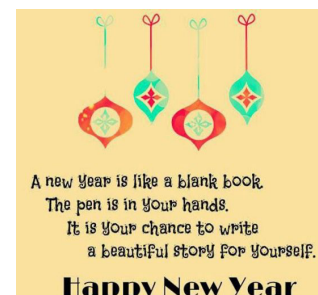
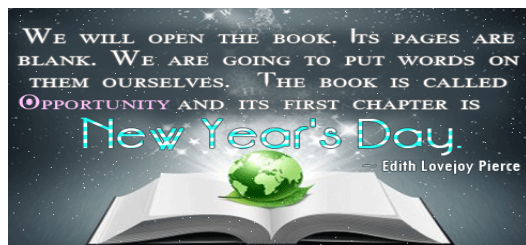
*I can't stop looking at this eye-bending collage. Love how the hectic, unsettled type complements the art, channels the title really well, and manages to get quite a lot of copy onto the cover. Neon orange is a great touch.* — Jamie Stafford-Hill

The #2 Book Cover of 2022



*When I first saw this I was blown away by Linda's use of color, texture, negative space, and the delicately balanced typography and illustration. The jacket is printed on a lithofoil stock that gives it that extra special sheen. Not only did the author win the NBA for fiction, but she was also given one of the most beautiful covers of the year.* — Emily Mahon





## 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)

Your FONCPL has available to its members a NC Center for Nonprofits Legal Compliance Checklist for nonprofits. If you are a member, please request a copy by emailing Judy Hills, FONCPL President. Please email her at [jahnbnc@gmail.com](mailto:jahnbnc@gmail.com)

Send any pictures or articles for our February Newsletter to [Klambe@me.com](mailto:Klambe@me.com) by January 25, 2023.