

# February

# 2023



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

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

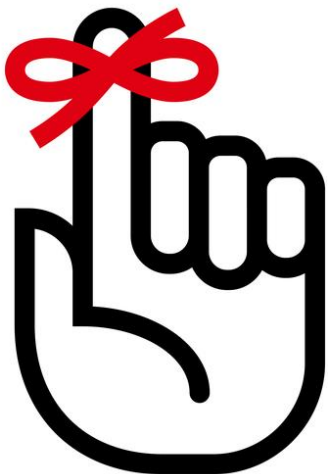


**Hey!! Don't  
forget to...**

**renew your FONCPL Membership!**

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](#)



Please remember!!

Any Friends group that has paid their dues by February 15, 2023  
will be eligible to fill out the brief application on the  
FONCPL website for the free STORYWALK!!

This is such a marvelous opportunity!!

**Join now so that you do not miss out!**

And.....to continue to receive the FONCPL **F\*R\*I\*E\*N\*D\*S TALK**  
Newsletter, you need to have joined by March 2023.



## **2023 Friends Group Members**

Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library  
Alleghany county Public Library  
Bogue Banks Public Library  
Caswell Library  
Catawba County Library  
Cove City-Craven County Library  
Gibsonville Library  
Haywood County Library  
Hickory Public Library  
Kernersville Library  
Marianna Black Library  
Mars Hill Public Library  
Mt. Airy Public Library  
New Bern-Craven County Public Library  
Spruce Pine Public Library  
Wren Memorial Library

## **2023 Individual Members**

Tim Como  
Laurie Cranston  
Kim Eaton  
Julie Flick  
Diana Fotinatos  
Judy Hills  
Jack James  
Sylvia King  
Kathy Lambe  
Lynda Marsh  
Donna Morgan  
Lynda Reynolds  
Joyce Speas  
Cindy Stewart  
Jeff Tudor  
Erica Ververs  
Charlotte Collins

The FONCPL Board members are working to complete a number of objectives this year. One of these is to improve the resources section of our website. We need to clean up and tighten up the material. If you know of anything you think needs to be added or if you have any documents or forms you would like to share with other Friends, please [email](#) those to me. We would especially like to get details and checklists on hosting fundraising events other than book sales.

In January, one of our new Directors, Erica Ververs, had to resign due to personal issues. At this time we have two Director positions open and the Vice President position still has not been filled. If interested or if you have someone to recommend, please [email](#) the contact information to me.

We have consulted with several Friends groups this month. One had questions on Director & Officers insurance. Another had questions on the Legal Compliance Checklist. Two of the groups were not FONCL members, but assured us they were joining. We are always happy to consult!

We appreciate our partnership with Lynda Reynolds at the State Library. Lynda is good about referring callers with pertinent questions to FONCPL.

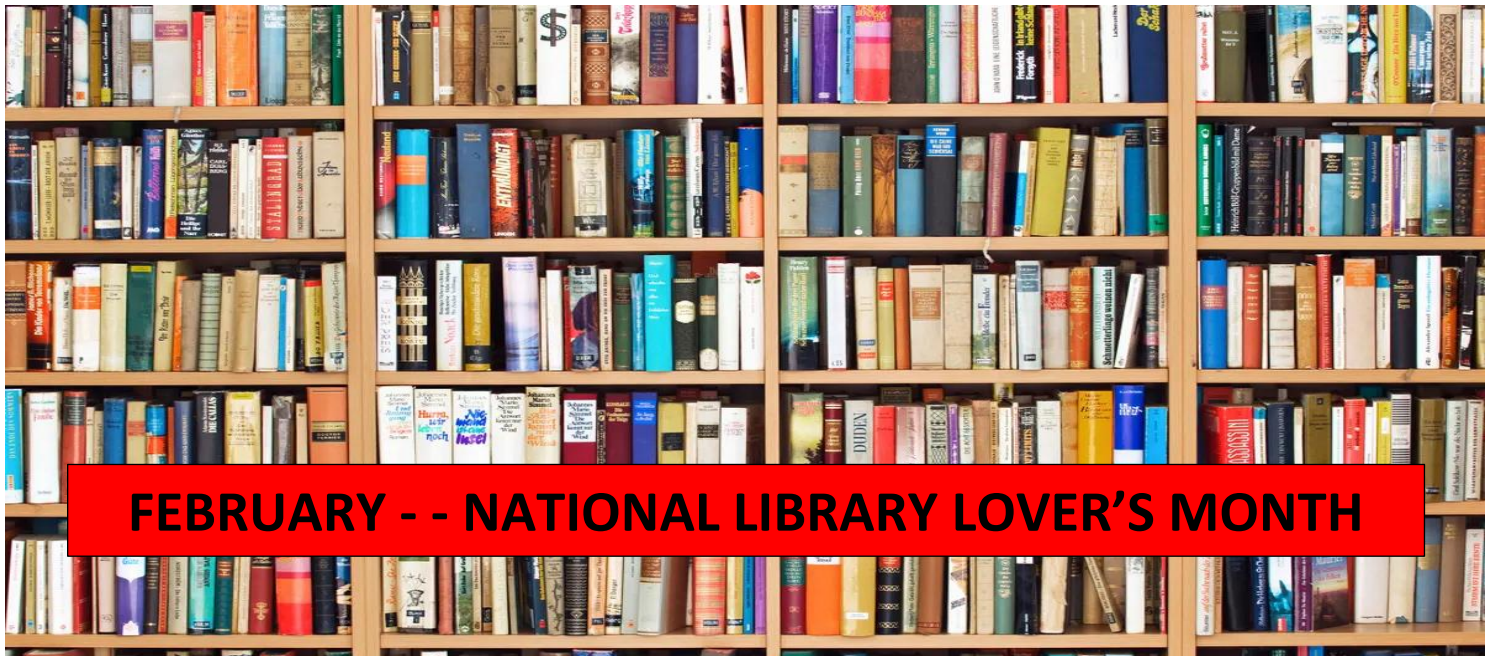
Regarding insurance coverage, we'd like to hear from you on this subject. Do you have Directors & Officers insurance (D&O)? Do you have general liability insurance? Do you have event insurance? Why did you choose to obtain that coverage? What can you tell us about how it has benefitted your Friends? What incidents or issues have you encountered that, to your dismay, were not covered by your insurance? What incidents or issues have developed that made you consider getting insurance coverage for? Please [email](#) your comments to me.

How are your book sales going? What seems to be changing? Any trends developing? We'd like to know both about your sales to the public (big book sale, retail sales at a store or kiosk or library), online sales to resellers, direct online sales. Please [email](#) your comments to me or to our newsletter editor, [Kathy Lambe](#).

That's all for this month! Just a reminder to develop a plan of work or calendar of events for the 2023 calendar year. You can always change the plan and you'll accomplish more if your plan is in writing.

Yours in Friendship!

Judy Hills, FONCPL President



## **FEBRUARY - - NATIONAL LIBRARY LOVER'S MONTH**

*....a whole month dedicated to the people who love whole buildings devoted to reading, housing, organizing, categorizing, finding, studying, and otherwise loving books!!*

**Be sure to READ, READ, READ this month!!**

### **5 FACTS ABOUT LIBRARIES**

1. The most overdue library book in the world was the one that was returned after 122 years.
2. A philanthropist named Andrew Carnegie donated 60 million dollars in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to open more than 1,689 public libraries worldwide.
3. The Library of Congress in the US is the largest in the world, with over 168 million items.
4. The most stolen book in the world is the "Guinness Book of World Records."
5. There are now 150 libraries around the world where, instead of books, you can listen to humans and their stories.

**FEBRUARY IS**

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

Work with your library to set up exhibits about your local Black communities or focus on Black history as a whole. Have a book discussion on a book by a Black author....it's a great way to get people in your building and to talk about Black literature. Or host a Black author or scholar to talk about their area of study.





**Dear customer,**

In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change—from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters.

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, we will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February. Once AmazonSmile closes, charities will still be able to seek support from Amazon customers by creating their own wish lists.

As a company, we will continue supporting a wide range of other programs that help thousands of charities and communities across the U.S. For instance:

- [Housing Equity Fund](#): We're investing \$2 billion to build and preserve affordable housing in our hometown communities. In just two years, we've provided funding to create more than 14,000 affordable homes—and we expect to build at least

6,000 more in the coming months. These units will host more than 18,000 moderate- to low-income families, many of them with children. In one year alone, our investments have been able to increase the affordable housing stock in communities like Bellevue, Washington and Arlington, Virginia by at least 20%.

- [Amazon Future Engineer](#): We've funded computer science curriculum for more than 600,000 students across over 5,000 schools—all in underserved communities. We have plans to reach an additional 1 million students this year. We've also provided immediate assistance to 55,000 students in our hometown communities by giving them warm clothes for the winter, food, and school supplies.
- [Community Delivery Program](#): We've partnered with food banks in 35 U.S. cities to deliver more than 23 million meals, using our logistics infrastructure to help families in need access healthy food – and we plan to deliver 12 million more meals this year alone. In addition to our delivery services, we've also donated 30 million meals in communities across the country.
- [Amazon Disaster Relief](#): We're using our logistics capabilities, inventory, and cloud technology to provide fast aid to communities affected by natural disasters. For example, we've created a Disaster Relief Hub in Atlanta with more than 1 million relief items ready for deployment, our Disaster Relief team has responded to more than 95 natural disasters, and we've donated more than 20 million relief products to nonprofits assisting communities on the ground.
- [Community Giving](#): We support hundreds of local nonprofits doing meaningful work in cities where our employees and their families live. For example, each year we donate hundreds of millions of dollars to organizations working to build stronger communities, from youth sport leagues, to local community colleges, to shelters for families experiencing homelessness.

We'll continue working to make a difference in many ways, and our long-term commitment to our communities remains the same—we're determined to do every day better for our customers, our employees, and the world at large.

Goodbye

**amazon**smile



## Some Great Sites to Visit for Acknowledging Contributions

### Charitable Contributions – Written Acknowledgments

The written acknowledgment required to substantiate a charitable contribution of \$250 or more must contain the following information:

- name of the organization;
- amount of cash contribution;
- description (but not value) of non-cash contribution;
- statement that no goods or services were provided by the organization, if that is the case;
- description and good faith estimate of the value of goods or services, if any, that organization provided in return for the contribution; and
- statement that goods or services, if any, that the organization provided in return for the contribution consisted entirely of intangible religious benefits, if that was the case.

In addition, a donor may claim a deduction for contributions of cash, check, or other monetary gifts only if the donor maintains certain [written records](#).

### Additional Information on Charitable Contributions

- [Publication 1771, Charitable Contributions - Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements](#) **PDF**

And this link takes you to a clear explanation on what to include in Donor Acknowledgment Letters

<https://cullinanelaw.com/donor-acknowledgment-letters/>

### Some examples:

The Chronicle of Philanthropy, Dec. 6, 2012: IRS Crackdown on Tax Deductions Puts Focus on Gift Records: [http://www.cce-rochester.org/files/IRS\\_Crackdown\\_on\\_Tax\\_Deductions\\_Puts\\_Focus\\_on\\_Gift\\_Records.pdf](http://www.cce-rochester.org/files/IRS_Crackdown_on_Tax_Deductions_Puts_Focus_on_Gift_Records.pdf)

Some Examples of letters: (Source: <https://cullinanelaw.com/donor-acknowledgment-letters/>)

#### CASH DONATION:

*"Thank you for your contribution of (insert amount of cash donation) on Date. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Name of NP is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN ##."*

You can make this a fun, too! I also like seeing something tied to the nonprofit organization in the required language:

*"Thank you for your contribution of (insert amount of cash donation) on Date. . . No benefit was bestowed upon this donor in exchange for this contribution...other than the joy of giving to an organization that supports programs for children. We are an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN ##."*

#### For a NON-CASH ITEM:

*"Thank you for your contribution of one used table and set of six oak chairs that NP received on Date. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution."*

Look at these beautiful love-filled community projects  
your Friends group could support!  
What a wonderful way to make your library the center of the town!

### THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OPPORTUNITY



#### **Food Literacy Center Grants**

Food Literacy mini-grants will support food literacy & nutrition programming for North Carolina's public libraries. This opportunity will fund public libraries to purchase mobile teaching kitchens, supplemental programming materials, and appropriate safety supplies.

Eligible libraries are public libraries that are eligible for the Aid to Public Libraries Fund and may submit one application for awards up to \$17,000!

***Keep watching for the opening date for applications in 2023.***

<https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/services-libraries/resources-library-staff/youth-services/food-literacy-center-grants>

### THE 2<sup>nd</sup> OPPORTUNITY

## THE CHARLIE CART PROJECT

The Charlie Cart Project is an all-in-one, hands-on food education program for any learning environment.

Here's what's included:

<https://charliecart.org>



#### Mobile Kitchen

A durable kitchen on wheels, with power, storage and sink.



#### Equipment

All the tools and appliances you'll need to cook with students



#### Curriculum

Hands-on lesson plans for K-5, aligned to Math, Science and English Language Arts



#### Training & Support

Training and resources needed to maximize your program



#### Network

A forum for educators to share best practices and exchange ideas



## QR (Quick Response) CODES

By Judy Hills

While having many channels of communication today is a convenience, it can also be a challenge—especially when you want people to attend an event, fundraiser or meeting that you are hosting. Posting notices online and sending them via email make it easy—you just insert links into the document and the reader can just click on the link and POOF!—they are at your web page or have opened an email to send to you or have landed on your sign up page. But the challenge comes in when you are using posters in the community.

So, what are your choices when you know the reader needs more information than is given on the poster or you need then to sign up electronically? I know when I see a poster that has something of interest, I will take a photo of it on my phone and then reference it later. While that is good for the basic information, it still does not get the reader to engage with your website or to sign up online.

One option would be to use a QR code. You’ve surely seen them. They look like a box with small boxes. They are very convenient to allow a cell phone user to directly access your web page or your online sign up. Most savvy cell phone users have already downloaded a QR reader from the app store (free). All they have to do is to scan the QR code with the app and VOILA!—they arrive at the site where you want them to go.

Another advantage of using a QR code is that if you copy and paste a pdf into another document (like WORD), you may lose the hot link feature to embedded URLs. The QR code in the pdf can still be scanned. While not ideal, it is a workaround.

There are many QR code generators online, but most want you to purchase a subscription. This is fine if you want to customize the QR code, but if you are doing this infrequently there is no need to pay for this. Also, once you have a QR code for, let’s say, the home page on your website, there is no need to generate another. However, if you want to send them to a specific page on your website then you would need to generate a new code.

So, this is not an endorsement as there are many free QR code generators to be found online, but VistaPrint has a free QR code generator that will give you four formats: PNG, JPG, TIFF and SVG. You create it on their website ([click here](#)) and then download the four formats (ZIP file). Save them if you intend to use them in the future.

Below is an example of a QR code for the FONCPL home page. I went to “insert” “Picture” “on this device” and located the file I wanted and inserted it into this WORD document. In this case I selected the PNG file for the QR code. Use the QR code reader on your phone and open this QR code. When you click on the link on your phone, the FONCPL home page should appear.

This is another tool for your communication tool box.



# THE TRADITION OF LIBRARY CATS

By Elizabeth Borneman



There are few things better than a good, old bookshop or library. For readers and book lovers walking through dusty stacks of new and old books is a special experience, and many people have that favorite bookstore or library they love to walk through and just relax.

Imagine, now, that your favorite library has a fluffy mascot who peruses the shelves with you, popping in and out of the maze of books and occasionally falling asleep in a well-placed sunbeam.

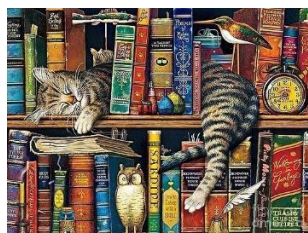
The addition of feline friends to some libraries and bookstores around the world is a time-honored tradition benefitting the owners of the bookstores, the attention-loving kitties, and customers as well (the local mouse population might not be such big fans, though!).

The practice of having cats in libraries began in ancient Egypt where cats were domesticated. Cats meandered their ways through the libraries of ancient Egyptian temples and were trained to keep rodents away from the fragile manuscripts. During the Middle Ages cats kept rats and mice out of castles, homes and libraries, and modern day library cats serve the same functions in addition to bringing a smile to customers' faces.

While you won't find a friendly neighborhood library cat in your nearby Barnes & Noble, many independent bookstores add character and charm to their establishments with cats that are pets of the owners or have established themselves in the shop on their own. Some bookstore cats simply wandered in one day and never left – sounds like a typical cat!

There are benefits to library cats that a lot of people don't know. Cats and other pets help kids who are hesitant about reading to themselves or out loud relax; young students have a friendly feline face to read to instead of an intimidating group of their peers or their parents.

Cats make the environments of bookstores and libraries fun and, due to their independent personalities, are able to come and go without disturbing those who don't want to be bothered.



## NC Authors' List

By Judy Hills, FONCP President

We need your help. FONCPL would like to assist Friends identify North Carolina-based authors (including local self-published) who may be available to speak at Friends and Library events or to participate in an author event or fair. To do this we need information on these authors. Some of you are already acquainted with such authors. We plan to do an excel spreadsheet and would need to following information on each of them: Name, NC town where they live, website, genre(s), information on how to contact them (e.g., through their website, email address), other pertinent information (e.g., literary awards won; international, national or local author).

For example:

### Orson Scott Card

- Greensboro, NC
- <http://www.hatrack.com/>
- Sci-Fi, fantasy, thriller, horror, historical fiction & fantasy and biblical fiction, LDS fiction
- Contact via email through his website
- Won Hugo, Nebula, Locus Fantasy awards. Movie made from his book, "Ender's Game."

### Nicholas Sparks

- New Bern, NC
- <https://nicholassparks.com/>
- Romantic fiction, romantic drama and nonfiction
- No method to contact on NS website. Email address for NS Foundation: [staff@nsparksfoundation.org](mailto:staff@nsparksfoundation.org)
- International best-selling author. According to Wikipedia 11 of his novels have been made into movies. Many of his novels are set in eastern NC.

### Charlie Lovett

- Winston-Salem, NC
- <https://charlielovett.com/>
- Mysteries, non-fiction primarily on Lewis Carroll, playwright (primarily children's)
- Contact him through email on his website
- NYT Best-selling author, bibliophile, loves Friends of the Library, has the world's largest collection of Lewis Carroll memorabilia, twice president of Lewis Carroll Society of North America.

### Michelle Garren-Flye

- New Bern, NC
- <https://michellelegflye.com/>
- Poet, illustrator, romance novels, children's books.
- [mgflye@yahoo.com](mailto:mgflye@yahoo.com)
- Local author



Other famous living authors who reside in NC: Charles Frazier, Jan Karon, Kathy Reichs, and John Hart. Of course, this is a very abbreviated list, so help us identify these authors and provide the requested information. We look forward to getting your data! The list will probably be a work in progress and will be posted on our FONCPL website's resource page. Email to [jahnbnc@gmail.com](mailto:jahnbnc@gmail.com)

## Does your Board need Director & Officer (D&O) Insurance?

By Judy Hills, FONCPL President

This subject has come up in the past and it came up again recently. A Friends of the Library group was grappling with this issue and contacted FONCPL for an opinion. The short answer is: maybe—it's really your decision. If you talk to an attorney or an insurance agent, they are going to recommend you obtain this coverage. But, for a small nonprofit with no employees and little in the way of resources and assets, is it necessary? Really, what is your risk?

Since YOU will be the ones making the decision to purchase (or not) D&O insurance, it behooves you to do some research. Now, in case you did not know, there are risk management links on the "Managing Friends" tab on the FONCPL website's Resources section. [Click here](#). But we have selected a few to discuss here. Let's begin with what North Carolina law has to say about the subject of liability and immunity of those who volunteer for a nonprofit (and that is what your board members are—volunteers).

Applicable North Carolina General Statutes are two:

### **§ 1-539.10. Immunity from civil liability for volunteers.**

(a) A volunteer who performs services for a charitable organization or a volunteer engaged in providing emergency services is not liable in civil damages for any acts or omissions resulting in any injury, death, or loss to person or property arising from the volunteer services rendered if:

- (1) The volunteer was acting in good faith and the services rendered were reasonable under the circumstances; and
- (2) The acts or omissions do not amount to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.
- (3) The acts or omissions did not occur while the volunteer was operating or responsible for the operation of a motor vehicle.

(b) To the extent that any charitable organization or volunteer has liability insurance, that charitable organization or volunteer shall be deemed to have waived the qualified immunity herein to the extent of indemnification by insurance for the negligence by any volunteer.

(c) Nothing herein shall be construed to alter the standard of care requirement or liability of persons rendering professional services. (1987, c. 505, s. 1(2); 2005-273, s. 1.)

### **§ 55A-8-60. Immunity.**

(a) In addition to the immunity that is authorized in G.S. 55A-2-02(b)(4), a person serving as a director or officer of a nonprofit corporation shall be immune individually from civil liability for monetary damages, except to the extent covered by insurance, for any act or failure to act arising out of this service, except where the person: (1) Is compensated for his services beyond reimbursement for expenses; (2) Was not acting within the scope of his official duties; (3) Was not acting in good faith; (4) Committed gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct that resulted in the damage or injury; (5) Derived an improper personal financial benefit from the transaction; (6) Incurred the liability from the operation of a motor vehicle; or (7) Is a defendant in an action brought under G.S. 55A-8-33. The immunity in this subsection may be limited or eliminated by a provision in the articles of incorporation, but only with respect to acts or omissions occurring on or after the effective date of such provision. (b) The immunity in subsection (a) of this section is personal to the directors and officers, and does not immunize the corporation against liability for the acts or omissions of the directors or officers. (c) Without diminishing the applicability of any other provisions of this Chapter, "nonprofit corporation" as referred to in this section shall include any credit union chartered under the laws of this State, the laws of any other state, or under the laws of the United States. (1987, c. 799, s. 3; 1989, c. 472; 1993, c. 398, s. 1.)



This article “The I’s Have it: Immunity, Indemnification, and Insurance for Nonprofit Directors” by an NC attorney with Ward & Smith, P.A. will help to help clarify these two laws. [Click here](#) to read.

We strongly suggest you read this 11 page document produced by the Nonprofit Risk Management Center on this subject: [Click here](#) Pages 6-8 may help you decide on whether or not your FOL needs D&O coverage.

So, again, whether or not you need D&O insurance is up to you. Join us for a discussion of this topic on Open Mic Night on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

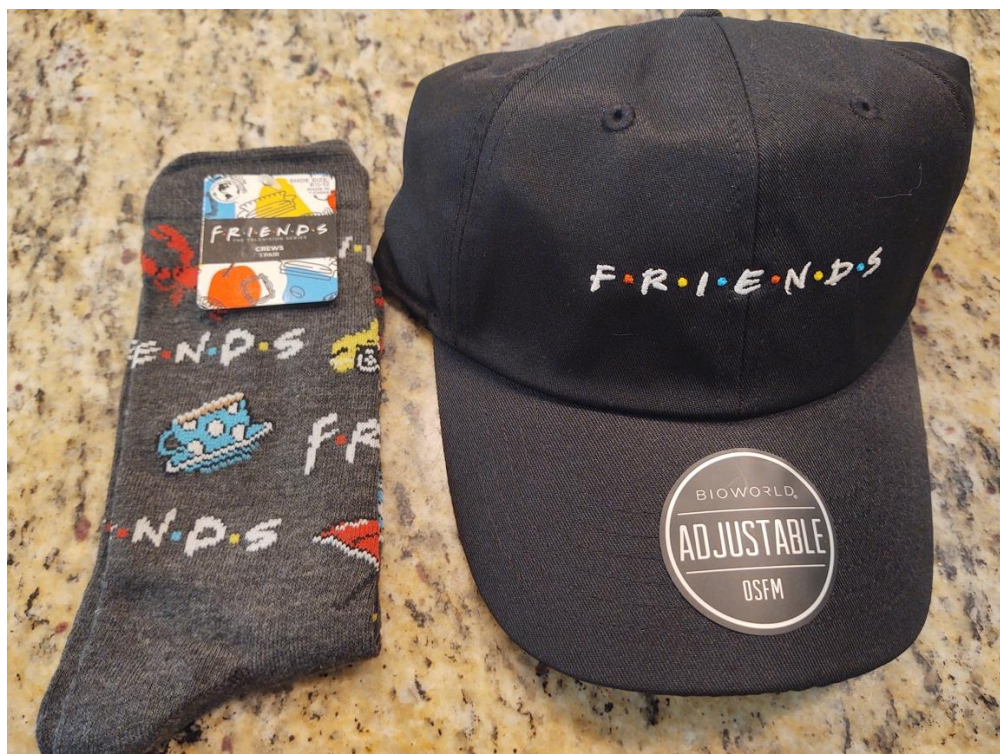


**Open Mic Night**  
**Tuesday February 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM**  
**via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292951755?pwd=OURHM3VpTXNHd25YeWNvWUhxZUxLdz09>

**If calling in:**

(301)715-8592  
Meeting ID: 842 9295 1755  
Passcode: 064602



Items that are very  
representative of  
FONCPL !!

Found at  
HOBBY LOBBY



# Please don't forget to join FONCPL!

You will get to enter for a chance of a STORYWALK!

You will continue to receive the FONCPL

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

Log on to our OPEN MIC with Judy  
on Tuesday February 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

*I learn something every OPEN MIC night!*

If you wish to share some photos or an article with us for the  
March F\*R\*I\*E\*N\*D\*S TALK , please email your information to [klambe@me.com](mailto:klambe@me.com)  
by **February 25, 2023.**

## Feel free to reach out to your FONCPL 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)

Newsletter Kathy Lambe (Forsyth)

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

### BOOK LOVER QUOTES in this Valentine Month

"There is no friend as loyal as a book." ~Ernest Hemingway

"You know you've read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend." ~ Paul Sweeney

"People can lose their lives in libraries. They ought to be warned." ~Saul Bellow