



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

April 2023
F* R * I * E * N * D * S TALK

HERE'S JUDY

Hello Friends,

Like many of you, I am retired and try to get in a few trips here and there. This year I'll be doing more travelling than usual which plays havoc on my work for nonprofits—including FONCPL. So please forgive me if you contact me and I don't get back to you in a timely manner. I will get caught up at some point!

Between my trip to see family in Florida in late March and my trip in early April to see some of Europe, I did manage to represent FONCPL at the Spring meeting of the NC Public Library Director's Association which was held in Wilmington. The new NCPLDA President, Faith Phillips invited me to speak. Fortunately, in 2022 I did an orientation to the new library directors on the Friends, so I was able to update that PowerPoint. I had already consulted with Faith on her Friends group, so she gave me a very nice introduction. I gave a brief overview on FONCPL and then launched into a presentation on Friends groups. My goal is to help library directors understand how Friends are organized as nonprofits and how they work with libraries. The audience was very attentive. I hope FONCPL can develop a strong working relationship with NCPLDA and I believe that this opportunity helped to begin that process.

During the past month I have consulted with several library directors on various issues. One had to do with the role of the Friends in fundraising for a new library facility. This brings up the issue of the role of the Friends vis-à-vis the library Foundation—if one exists. Some libraries have both. Normally, Foundations take the lead on major renovation and building projects—the big bucks. Friends play a smaller role and may help with equipping and furnishing the facility, once done. Friends need to be careful not to interfere with major fundraising efforts of the Foundation when a building project is underway. If there is no Foundation, Friends could and have taken on the task of major fundraising. Needless to say, this is a lot of work and we applaud those Friends who capably tackle this effort.

We hope you are celebrating National Library Week (April 23-29) and National Library Workers' Day (April 25th). Do something nice for the library staff. My Friends in New Bern are sprucing up the staff breakroom—currently an abysmal mess of left over furniture. We hope our makeover creates a bright, peaceful oasis where staff can relax and read a book while eating their meal. The big reveal will be on April 25th—National Library Workers' Day.

So, enjoy this beautiful spring weather. Have a happy Easter!

In Friendship,
Judy Hills, FONCPL President

2023 Friends Group Members

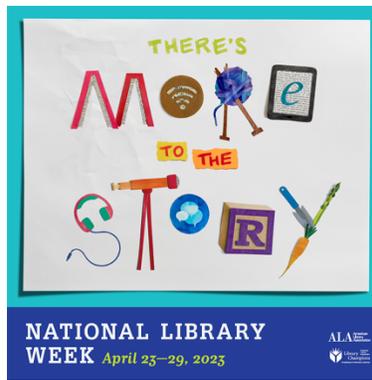
Alamance County Public Library
Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library
Alleghany county Public Library
Alexander County Library – Bethlehem
Alexander Public Library
Ashe County Public Library
Bogue Banks Public Library
Boonville Library
Braswell Memorial Library
Brown Library
Buncombe County Libraries
Burke County Public Library
Caldwell County Library
Camden County Library
Carrboro Branch Library (Cybrary)
Carteret County Public Library
Caswell Library
Catawba County Library
Chapel Hill Public Library
Cove City-Craven County Library
Denton Public Library
Down East Library
Durham Library
Farmville Public Library
Gibsonville Library
Goldston Public Library
Harnett County Library
Harrisburg Branch Library
Haywood County Library
Henderson County Public Library
Hickory Public Library
Hocutt Ellington Memorial Library
Hot Springs Library
Iredell Library
Jackson County Public Library
Johnston County/Smithfield Library
Kernersville Library (Paddison)
Kinston Lenoir County Public Library
Lewisville Library
Lexington Library
Marianna Black Library

2023 Friends Group Members

Mars Hill Public Library
Midland Library
Mountain Branch Library
Mt. Airy Public Library
NC Accessible Books & Library Services
New Bern-Craven County Public Library
New Hanover County Public Library
Orange County Public Library
Pamlico County Library
Pender County Public Library
Rourk Branch Library
Rowan Public Library
Sneads Ferry Library
South Buncombe Library
Southern Pines Library
Southport/Oak Island Library
Spruce Pine Public Library
Stanly County Public Library
Swansboro Public Library
Topsail Township Library
Transylvania County Library
Tyrrell County Library
Union County Public Library
Vanceboro-Craven Co Public Library
Walkertown Library
Watauga County Public Library
Weaverville Library
Western Watauga
Wren Memorial Library
Yadkin County

2023 Individual Members

Susan Anderson
Frances L. Ashburn
Kathy Baradyn
JoAnn Bass
Gary Berger
Carol Brolley
Mary Bryan
Patricia Brusa
Julie Cannon
Dale M. Chodorow
Charlotte Collins
Tim Como
Laurie Cranston
Kim Eaton
Julie Flick
Diana Fotinatos
Judy Hills
Jack James
Sylvia King
Katie Lake
Kathy Lambe
Lynda Marsh
Karen Mill
Donna Morgan
Bill Oelkers
Melissa Oleen
Edward Pearce
Pamela B. Poteat
Lynda Reynolds
Kathryn K. Riddle
Barbara Roberts
Luann Rottmann
Karen Schrader
Marilyn Shapiro
Gorda Singletary
Rebecca Smith
Joyce Speas
Cindy Stewart
Joanne Straight
Jeff Tudor
Erica Ververs
Dian Williams



Remember to celebrate National Library Week which is being held April 24-28, with National Library Workers Day being held on Tue. April 25, 2023. This year's theme is "There's More to the Story."

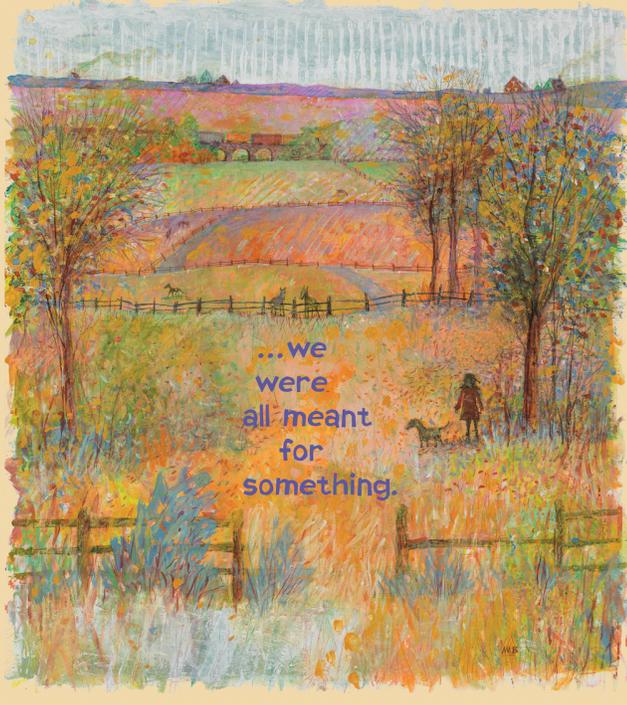
This is the opportune time to show hard-working library staff members how much we appreciate them and all they do for our communities. If you don't have an event planned yet, we hope that you will plan one. [Click here](#) for ideas.

Other Days in April to Celebrate!

- 1st - - National Play Outside Day.....looks like NC will have some warm temps this day!
- 2nd - - And you can't miss Peanut Butter & Jelly Day - - Make a sandwich & enjoy the yumminess!!
- 9th - - Easter!! Enjoy your family, be full of praise.....and have a fun Easter Egg Hunt!
- 13th - -National Scrabble Day - - organize a game competition at your Library!! Smiles abound!
- 15th - - Tax Day.....have a good cry!!
- 18th - - National Animal Crackers Day – offer everyone Animal Crackers on this day!! Fun!!
- 22nd - - Celebrate Trails Day - - look in this Newsletter on more information



National Poetry Month April 2023



Artwork by Marc Brown. Line excerpted from the poem "Carrying" by U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón, from *The Carrying* (Milkweed Editions, 2017). For more free poetry resources, visit [Poets.org](https://poets.org).



Isn't this poster pretty?!

April is National Poetry Month.

The 2023 poster was designed by Marc Brown, creator of the popular *Arthur* book and PBS television series. The artwork incorporates an excerpted line from the poem "["Carrying"](#)" by U.S. Poet Laureate [Ada Limón](#). Brown was selected by Scholastic—the global children's publishing, education, and media company—to create the artwork for this year's poster as part of a [new National Poetry Month initiative](#) between the publisher and the Academy of American Poets.

[Download a PDF of the 2023 poster.](#)

[Sign up for Poem-a-Day](#) and enjoy a free daily poem in your inbox curated this April by U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón

This is fun!!

To add more fun to our Hiking NC this year, the NCSL has some Literary Trails of NC Guidebooks:

Mountains: In this volume, eighteen trails lead readers across North Carolina's western region from Cherokee to Asheville, Crumpler to Hickory--with stops at Black Mountain College, Junaluska Memorial and Museum, Riverside Cemetery, and Lanier Library. Writers featured in this volume include Nina Simone, O. Henry, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Charles Frazier, Sequoyah, Elizabeth Spencer, Fred Chappell, Carl Sandburg, Kathryn Stripling Byer, Romulus Linney, Robert Morgan, William Bartram, Gail Godwin, Thomas Wolfe, Anne Tyler, and Lillian Jackson Braun.

Piedmont: In this volume, eighteen trails lead readers across North Carolina's piedmont region from Winston Salem to Charlotte, Greensboro to Troy--with stops at Oak Grove Feedman's Cemetery, the home of Harry Golden, James Taylor Bridge, and the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Writers featured in this volume include David Sedaris, O. Henry, Doris Betts, Patricia Cornwell, Maya Angelou, Margaret Walker, Alex Haley, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, John Hart, Pauli Murray, Betty Smith, Edward R. Murrow, Carson McCullers, Lee Smith, and Reynolds Price.

Eastern NC: In this volume, eighteen trails lead readers across North Carolina's eastern region from Raleigh to the Dismal Swamp, across the Sandhills and the Outer Banks--with stops at William Peace University, 1898 Memorial Park, Gertrude Weil House, and the Topsail Towers. Writers featured in this volume include Omar ibn Sayyid, A. R. Ammons, Gerald Barrax, Harriet Jacobs, Charles Chesnutt, Rachel Carson, Clyde Edgerton, Philip Gerard, Kaye Gibbons, Jill McCorkle, Michael Parker, and Bland Simpson.

Please visit <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/nc-literary-trails/literary-trails-north-carolina-guidebooks> for more info.

There are also Story Trails located across NC.

Using pages from a deconstructed children's book, a story is displayed along trails or walking paths on poster boards, attached to fences, or encased in outdoor frames. Pages are often accompanied by activity prompts and questions. The Story Trails of North Carolina only includes programs that are active and ongoing. Although we wish to include them all, temporary or pop-up programs are difficult to maintain over time.

Please visit <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/nc-literary-trails/story-trails-north-carolina> to find locations.



Make time for the Lyrid Meteor Shower

April 15- April 29



A Lyrid meteor streaks across the sky over the Anza-Borrego Desert in California. Kevin Key / Slworking via Getty Images

Meteor showers occur when the Earth passes through debris left behind from comets and asteroids, which is why they occur at around the same time each year. The Lyrids originate from the comet Thatcher, which orbits the sun about every 415 years. This is one of the oldest recorded showers, with observations dating back to 687 B.C.E., writes Daisy Dobrijevic for [Space.com](https://www.space.com).

This year's shower will peak on the night of April 22, and the viewing conditions will be favorable—the waxing crescent moon will only be 6 percent illuminated, Dobrijevic writes. Observers are usually able to see about 18 meteors per hour in a clear, dark sky, though on very rare occasions, the Lyrids can surprise viewers with as many as 100 meteors in an hour.

For the best stargazing, find a dark area between moonset and sunrise. Lie flat on your back with your feet facing east and look up at the sky, [NASA](https://www.nasa.gov) recommends.



This past month several Friends' groups have asked questions about "auditing" their finances. Here is a typical statement that we have seen in bylaws: "A financial audit shall be conducted in the first three months following the end of each fiscal year by a committee appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The committee shall use procedures approved by the Board."

In discussing this bylaw, we need to understand that the Friends' Board has a fiduciary responsibility—the duty of care—to properly handle the funds that have been paid as dues by the members and the donations given by the community as well as funds from other sources like grants. How does the Board really know if the Treasurer is properly handling the checking account, savings account and other investment accounts? It is their job to monitor. How will they accomplish that requirement? Some choose to go the "audit" route as we see above, but with new banking methods, there are better ways.

The word "audit" implies work done by a CPA. We do not advise using that word because only the very largest of FOLs could afford to pay for a CPA to audit their books. While you could solicit a CPA to volunteer to do this, you could also assign a committee as mentioned above. But even this is at the end of your fiscal year. A lot of mistakes or misappropriation could have taken place during that time.

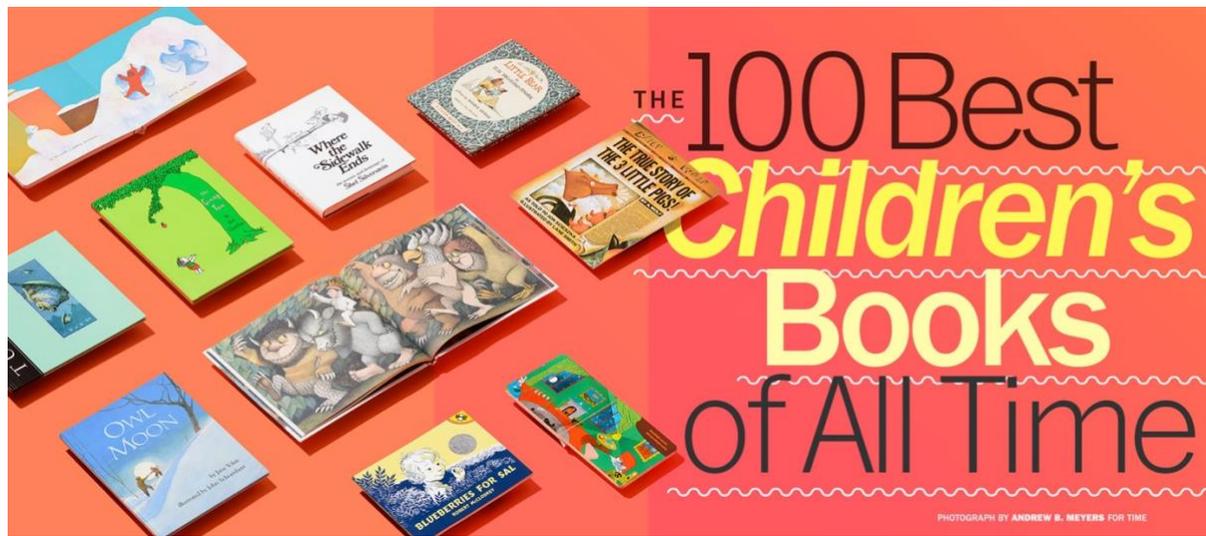
Actually, here is a better way for your board to keep close tabs on your funds:

1. Of the signatories on the checking account (should be at least two)—give account review access to one person other than the Treasurer. They have read-only access to the account. FONCPL uses a bank and that allows a second person (in our case it is the President) to receive an email about withdrawals and deposits. This second person has read-only access to the account. They can also access the online account activity and pull down the monthly statements.
2. Have the treasurer pull the monthly bank statement and send it with a monthly financial report (via email) that compares the budget to actual to the board each month. The balances should match. This is far better than the audit process as questions can be asked immediately on transactions.
3. We also recommend that the treasurer send a copy of the credit card statement for the month (if you have one and most do).

This is an ongoing active review and is far more effective than an end-of-year review. As the Board does its monthly review of the finances, it can also discuss issues and make recommendations for procedural changes. For example, in the monthly review the Board discovers that there is no approval process for out-of-pocket expense reimbursement to members so they draft this procedure. This helps the Board fulfill their fiduciary responsibility to monitor the funds of the organization—in almost real time.

So, we suggest that you talk to the bank you currently do business with to see if they have such a program for nonprofits. If they don't, you may want to consider changing banks. Another thing we recommend that you do is to check with your bank to make sure that your account was set up using either the State Tax ID number or your FOL's EIN (federal tax number). If your account has been around for a very long time, it might have been set up with someone's social security number. This could be seriously problematic.

We continue to encourage FOLs to up their game and to meet current professional standards for running a nonprofit. FONCPL has a lot of articles and material in the [resource section](#) of our website and President [Judy Hills](#) is available for consultation.



by
Time
Magazine

The First 15 Listed:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Where The Wild Things Are | Maurice Sendak |
| 2. The Snowy Day | Ezra Jack Keats |
| 3. Goodnight Moon | Margaret Wise Brown |
| 4. Blueberries For Sal | Robert McCloskey |
| 5. Little Bear | Else Homelund Minarik |
| 6. Owl Moon | Jane Yolen |
| 7. The Giving Tree | Shel Silverstein |
| 8. The True Story of the Three Little Pigs | Jon Scieszka |
| 9. Tuesday | David Wiesner |
| 10. Where The Sidewalk Ends | Shel Silverstein |
| 11. Harold and the Purple Crayon | Crockett Johnson |
| 12. Make Way For Ducklings | Robert McCloskey |
| 13. Olivia | Ian Falconer |
| 14. Madeline | Ludwig Bemelmans |
| 15. Anno's Journey | Mitsumasa Anno |

The First 15 Listed of the "100 Best Young Adult Books of all Time":

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Little Women | Louisa May Alcott |
| 2. Anne of Green Gables | L.M. Montgomery |
| 3. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn | Betty Smith |
| 4. Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl | Anne Frank |
| 5. The Catcher in the Rye | J.D. Salinger |
| 6. Lord of the Flies | William Golding |
| 7. To Kill a Mockingbird | Harper Lee |
| 8. From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler | E.L. Konigsburg |
| 9. A Wizard of Earthsea | Ursula K. Le Guin |
| 10. I'll Get There. It Better Be Worth the Trip | John Donovan |
| 11. Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret | Judy Blume |
| 12. A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich | Alice Childress |
| 13. Forever... | Judy Blume |
| 14. Tuck Everlasting | Natalie Bobbitt |
| 15. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry | Mildred D. Taylor |

Start walking our state!



So fun!!!

2023 NC Year of the Trail celebrates North Carolina's vast network of trails, greenways, and blueways which showcase our diverse landscapes – grand mountain vistas, quiet rivers, vibrant urban greenways, coastal forests, and the rolling hills of the piedmont.

NC Year of the Trail is the largest statewide celebration of trails and outdoor recreation in North Carolina history.

North Carolina is the Great Trails State, where each of North Carolina's 100 counties should be able to enjoy the proven benefits of trails, including health, safety, economic development, tourism, transportation, and environment. Trails are the backbone of our state's growing \$28 billion outdoor recreation economy.

The Year of the Trail campaign will reach communities with the message of how and where to experience trails that showcase North Carolina's beautiful landscapes, provide healthy recreation, and stimulate local economies. The NC General Assembly NC designated 2023 as NC Year of the Trail, an effort led by the Great Trails State Coalition.

The [Great Trails State Coalition](#) is a broad-based group of diverse organizations, agencies, and supporters advocating for increased state investment in all types of trails statewide: hiking, paddle, mountain biking, equestrian, and paved.

Goals for NC Year of the Trail:

- Inspire people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to try trails,
- Demonstrate the importance of trails to elected officials.
- Boost outdoor recreation tourism across the state through Year of the Trail events in all 100 counties.
- Promote safe and responsible use of trails, with the [Outdoor NC Principles](#).
- Advance diversity and inclusion on trails.

SURPRISING BOOK FACTS

33% of High School Graduates never read another book the rest of their lives



42% of college grads never read another book after college

57% of new books are not read to completion

70% of US adults have not been in a bookstore the last five years

80% of US families did not buy or read a book last year

The more a child reads, the likelier they are able to understand the emotions of others

Reading one hour per day in your chosen field will make you an international expert in 7 years.

Tsundoku

By Judy Hills

According to Wikipedia, “Tsundoku (Japanese: 積ん読) refers to the phenomenon of acquiring reading materials but letting them pile up in one's home without reading them. It is also used to refer to books ready for reading later when they are on a bookshelf.

The term originated in the Meiji era (1868–1912) as Japanese slang. It combines elements of tsunde-oku (積んでおく, to pile things up ready for later and leave) and dokusho (読書, reading books). As currently written, the word combines the characters for "pile up" (積) and the character for "read" (読).”

The term “antilibrary” is also being used to describe Tsundoku. Have you ever thought about all the books you brought into your home, but never read? I wonder about such things when our Friends are culling books. We get brand new books—never been cracked open, some never even taking out of their shrink-wrapped covers. I know I have been guilty of this. I guess that I once thought that I could absorb the information in the books merely by having them in my personal library. I still have a few of those in my home, but not near as many as I used to have.

“In his book, *The Black Swan*, Nassim Taleb describes our relationship between books and knowledge using the legendary Italian writer Umberto Eco (1932-2016). ‘The writer Umberto Eco belongs to that small class of scholars who are encyclopedic, insightful, and nondull. He is the owner of a large personal library (containing thirty thousand books), and separates visitors into two categories: those who react with “Wow! Signore professore dottore Eco, what a library you have. How many of these books have you read?” and the others—a very small minority—who get the point is that a private library is not an ego-boosting appendages but a research tool. The library should contain as much of what you do not know as your financial means ... allow you to put there. You will accumulate more knowledge and more books as you grow older, and the growing number of unread books on the shelves will look at you menacingly. Indeed, the more you know, the larger the rows of unread books. Let us call this collection of unread books an antilibrary.’”

According to Taleb, we underestimate the value of what we don't know and overvalue what we do know, and fundamentally we miss out on the surprises of life. “Someone who focuses on the unread books, and makes an attempt not to treat his knowledge as a treasure, or even a possession, or even a self-esteem enhancement device—a skeptical empiricist.”

So, in a way, our personal libraries serve as a visual reminder of what we don't know.
(paraphrased <https://fs.blog/the-antilibrary/>)



LIBRARY STRATEGIES

offers this fun little library fundraiser:



FOODIE FESTIVITIES / WINE TASTINGS

Author C.S. Lewis claimed that “Eating and reading are two pleasures that combine admirably.” Libraries and library support organizations across the country are finding this to be very true indeed. Take, for example, the Brookfield Public Library in Illinois. For the past decade, staff have orchestrated **Taste of Brookfield**. Each year, they partner with restaurants across town to bring in tapas and samplers representing a wide range of cuisines. Tickets start at \$45, and the event regularly attracts more than 200 attendees. Wine tastings are no less popular. **Friends of the Salisbury (MA) Public Library, Bethel (CT) Public Library, and Indian Valley Public Library in Telford, PA** are among those that seemingly have this down to a science. Check out their websites for details.

If you have any suggestions for discussion for our OPEN MIC nights, please let us know.

We want to offer you assistance in any area that we can.

Please share your news with us....we all love to see what other Friends are doing. And pictures always make us **HAPPY!!**
Just send them to klambe@me.com

Our Open Mic Night with Judy will be on Tuesday April 18th at 7:00 pm.
The topic will be Library Projects and Purchases.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87998167414?pwd=dmJERmZMTzINKzJtbitBbnNuSVB6dz09>

Meeting ID: 879 9816 7414
Pass code: 599097

