



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





That's right.....this March issue is your \underline{last} issue of $F^*R^*I^*E^*N^*D^*S$ TALK if you have not joined for 2023. Please.....

Just go to 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 18th Ave. NE Hickory NC 28601

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2023 Friends Group Members

Alamance County Public Library Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library Alleghany county Public Library Alexander County Library – Bethlehem Ashe County Public Library Bogue Banks Public Library **Boonville Library Braswell Memorial Library Burke County Public Library** Caldwell County Library Camden County Library Carteret County Public Library Caswell Library Catawba County Library Cove City-Craven County Library **Denton Public Library Down East Library** Farmville Public Library Gibsonville Library **Goldston Public Library Harnett County Library Haywood County Library Henderson County Public Library Hickory Public Library** Hocutt Ellington Memorial Library **Hot Springs Library**

2023 Friends Group Members

Kernersville Library (Paddison) Kinston Lenoir County Public Library Lewisville Library Marianna Black Library Mars Hill Public Library Midland Library Mountain Branch Library Mt. Airy Public Library 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 **Sneads Ferry Library** South Buncombe Library Southern Pines Library Southport/Oak Island Library Spruce Pine Public Library Stanly County Public Library Swansboro Public Library Transylvania County Library Tyrrell County Library **Union County Public Library** Walkertown Library Watauga County Public Library Western Watauga Wren Memorial Library

2023 Individual Members

Jackson County Public Library

Susan Anderson
JoAnn Bass
Carol Brolley
Mary Bryan
Patricia Brusa
Charlotte Collins
Tim Como
Laurie Cranston
Kim Eaton
Julie Flick
Diana Fotinatos
Judy Hills
Jack James
Sylvia King

2023 Individual Members

Kathy Lambe
Lynda Marsh
Donna Morgan
Bill Oelkers
Melissa Oleen
Lynda Reynolds
Karen Schrader
Rebecca Smith
Joyce Speas
Cindy Stewart
Joanne Straight
Jeff Tudor
Erica Ververs
Dian Williams



Dear Friends.

As I write this column, I am preparing for a very tough week—organizing, working, and cleaning up after our Friends' Spring Big Book Sale. I don't mind so much evaluating, sorting, and packing the donated books as that task is spread out over the days and months between sales, but the sale itself calls for intense physical activity. And like so many of us—I'm no spring chicken—more like a very old rooster still crowing—I can do this! So, I suck it up and push on.

Things we have observed about our book donations is that we are getting fewer and fewer hard cover fiction books. Guess buyers are waiting for that best seller to come out in paperback form. And the small paperbacks are likewise disappearing. We surmise that the publishing companies know they can get more for a trade paperback than a small paperback. We also suppose that more people are using e-readers—which also cuts down on the number. We find people are still clearing out their collections. Just recently we got four large boxes of books on quilting and another three large boxes full of books on WWII. What have you noticed about books being donated?

I recently visited a book sale being held by a nearby Friends of the Library group. Their prices have been unchanged since who knows when: \$1 for hardcovers and 50 cents for paperbacks. They used to hold monthly sales, but are now holding them every other month. Wow, all that work for so little return! Isn't it time to reconsider the prices? After all, hardcover books have cost over \$25 each for some time now. And you might consider having two different prices for paperbacks: standard and trade. Two years ago, our Friends doubled our prices—with no discernable drop in sales. Yes, at first, we had some grumbles from those that regularly attend the sale, but that dropped off after the first sale at the new prices. After all, this is a fundraiser! So, we urge you to maximize your profits by upping your prices if they are low.

Regarding book sales, if you hold more than one book sale a year or if you sell books retail somewhere, you owe state sales tax. This is not optional. Also, if you are not presently taking credit cards as payment, why not? It is relatively simple. If your Treasurer needs assistance in setting this up, contact FONCPL and we'll hook them up with someone who can help.

During February we consulted with a Friends group regarding being a sub-recipient of a state grant. We helped them think through the requirements of the award. Ultimately the decision to accept or not was up to the Friends. Let us know if you have a question regarding a grant.

We hope by now you have a plan of work for 2023 and that you included celebrations such as Library Snapshot Day (4/1) and National Library Week (4/23-4/29).

Until next month,

Judy Hills, FONCPL President

Friends Groups Compete in Trivia

The New Bern-Craven County Public Library, a branch of the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library, hosts a trivia competition one night per month. The Friends of the New Bern branch have had a team competing since the library began the sessions a few months ago, but in February, the Friends of the Vanceboro branch of the CPRL, joined the competition. Game on!

The two Friends groups were neck-to-neck for the lead throughout the evening with the Vanceboro Friends edging ahead by a point or two. We had lots of fun chiding each other. In the end, the Vanceboro Friends maintained their lead and beat out the New Bern Friends by one point (35 to 34) and won the competition with New Bern Friends getting second place. We agreed to compete again soon. There was also talk from the library staff about having a trivia competition just for the five Friends of the Library groups in the CPRL. That would be fun! How might Friends in your area have some fun together?

Picture: team on the left is Vanceboro Friends and on the right is New Bern Friends.





Open Mic Night Wednesday March 8th at 7:00 pm Via ZOOM

Fundraising - - what's new, different or exciting for FOLs?

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84412540265?pwd=A21wdG1uQ0t0Z09pL09G Rm1qTWJqdz09

Meeting ID: 844 1254 0265

Passcode: 093818

Call in number: 305 224 1968 US

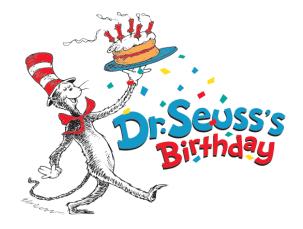
Party Time in March!

Paws to Read month



Go visit pawstoread.com

2 Dr. Seuss Day



9 Barbie's Birthday



12



17 St. Paticks Day



In Honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday..... and the start of **Read Across America Week.....**

TODAY YOU ARE YOU, THAT IS TRUER THAN TRUE. THERE IS NO ONE ALIVE WHO IS YOUR THAN YOU. A PERSON'S A PERSON, NO MATTER HOW SMALL. THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO. THINK LEFT AND THINK RIGHT AND THINK LOW AND THINK HIGH. OH, THE THINKS YOU CAN THINK UP IF ONLY YOU THINK. STEP WITH CARE AND GREAT TACT, AND REMEMBER THAT LIFE'S A GREAT BALANCING ACT. FUNIS GOOD. DON'T CRY BECAUSE IT'S OVER. SMILE BECAUSE IT HAPPENED. YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES. YOU CAN STEER YOURSELF IN ANY DIRECTION YOU CHOOSE. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. AND YOU ARE THE GUY WHO'LL DECIDE WHERE TO GO. YOU OUGHTA BE THANKFUL. A WHOLE HEAPING LOT. FOR THE PEOPLE AND PLACES, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE NOT. UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU CARES A WHOLE AWFUL LOT, NOTHING IS GOING TO GET BETTER. IT'S NOT. inkhappi.com

And you could sponsor this in March...

Dr. Seuss Reading Challenge

Do ALL of the activities, and we'll add your picture to the READ wall of fame! Open to all readers, birth to 102!

Your Choice	Read with a HAT on.	your favorite stuffed friend.	Read to a friend.	Read upside down.
Read under a table.	Listen to someone read to you.	Your Choice	Read out loud!	Read in bed.
Read a Dr. Seuss book.	Read a book about animals.	Read a book that rhymes.	Read a book that is true.	Your Choice
Read to someone small.	Read under a blanket with a flashlight.	Read in the bathtub without water!	Your Choice	Read while having a snack.
Read in the car.	Your Choice	Read lying down.	Read a book you have never read before.	Read standing up.

Read to

Read, Discover, Connect at Your Library!

And hand out these cute bookmarks!!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
-Dr Seuss



You can find magic wherever you look.

Sit back and relax,
all you need is a book.

-Dr Seuss

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. -Dr Seuss



Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you.

- Dr Seuss



Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh the thinks you can think up if only you try! - Dr Seuss





A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue

By Elisabeth Egan and Erica Ackerberg

• Feb. 14, 2023

Step into a public library and you know what to expect.

First, there's the smell: a paper bouquet of nothing and everything, including notes of vanilla, sawdust, wet coats, rubber soles and school. Then there are the spines lined up like soldiers, snug in plastic jackets. There are the shelves — metal, wood, sturdy as trees — stretching in every direction.

There are the rolling step stools. The windowsill ferns. The free bookmarks. The bulletin board papered with fliers advertising firewood, a 10-speed bike, free kittens, CPR class.

There are the sturdy armchairs, the picked-over magazine racks, the award-winning dioramas on loan from adolescent creators, the study carrels etched with decade-old graffiti. There's the water fountain spouting the coldest beverage in town, a different vintage from the lukewarm dribble in the school gym or the violent torrent at the Y.M.C.A.

There are the overhead lights casting their fluorescent glow, occasionally flickering, flattering no one except people who live on the page. Still, they get the job done.

And above it all — hovering over the murmurs and coughs and scraping of chair legs and gurgle of fish tanks and crackle of plastic covers — there is a weighted blanket of quiet, that reassuring hush we're hard-wired to expect from our inaugural visit to the children's room. Whether you first crossed that threshold in the scrum of a class trip or clutching your mom's hand; whether your hometown library was on a country road or at a busy intersection; whether you put your library card to good use or used it to pick locks; odds are good that, at some point, someone touched an index finger to their lips and shared the universal password for the kingdom of words: "Shhhh."

But this sentiment doesn't really apply anymore. It hasn't for a long time.

Just as reading has changed (from paper to pixel to audio) and tools for research have streamlined (sorry, World Book), so have the places that house the goods. Silence is no longer a requirement; versatility is.

It's easy to romanticize libraries. But, the fact is, they're not "just" about the written word. Were they ever? As local safety nets shriveled, the library roof magically expanded from umbrella to tarp to circus tent to airplane hangar. The modern library keeps its citizens warm, safe, healthy, entertained, educated, hydrated and, above all, connected.

Imagine a teacher who's responsible for a mixed-age classroom where students are free to wander in and out as they please, all opinions are welcome and detention is not an option. This person is also the principal, the guidance counselor, the school nurse and, occasionally, the janitor. This person is your local librarian.

Yet somehow librarians still find time to match people with the books they need. These selections may be second-guessed by irate taxpayers who don't know the difference between F. Scott Fitzgerald and L. Ron Hubbard or don't understand that ideas and stories aren't contagious; the only disease they'll infect you with is empathy. Nevertheless, librarians persist. One could argue that they distribute more wings than an airline pilot. Put yours to good use and you can fly anywhere.

Libraries have always been a place of worship for a certain type of person, but they're also community centers, meeting houses and pop-up medical clinics, offering vaccines, homework help, computer classes, craft sessions and tax advice. Perhaps you need fresh needles, marigold seeds, a loaner guitar, a hammer, a venue for your knitting club or a donation box for your old eyeglasses? Head to your local library. It might have you covered and, if it doesn't, someone there will know where to send you.

Best of all, you never need a reason or an invitation to go to the library. You aren't required to make a reservation ahead of time or purchase a cup of coffee while you're there. You can pop in when your Wi-Fi is on the fritz or you need a break from your roommates. You might go there to dry off or to cool down. To study for algebra or to read a romance novel. To stock up on thrillers or to take stock of your less-than-thrilling life. To meet a friend or to be alone. For a bit of excitement or for a moment of calm.

Last fall, The New York Times sent photographers to cities, suburbs and rural areas in seven states to document how different libraries respond to the needs of their communities, and the many ways in which patrons find a haven in each one.

At the time, the news was full of grim dispatches from the land of letters. In Colorado, two branches <u>closed because of meth contamination</u>. In McFarland, Calif., city leaders debated whether to <u>convert a library into a police station</u>. In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams proposed massive budget cuts that would <u>slash library hours and programming</u>. The American Library Association announced that attempts to <u>ban books were accelerating across the country</u> at a rate never seen since tracking began more than 20 years ago.

It was enough to make you wonder if the ancient tradition of book lending was going the way of card catalogs.

Then the photos started to roll in, and they told a different story. In this version, toddlers tried to catch bubbles on the loose in the library. Grateful seniors welcomed monthly deliveries of movies and crime novels. Teenagers strummed guitars together. Children and caregivers gathered beneath technicolor trees to listen to a picture book read by a beaming librarian. In a different time zone, another librarian worked contentedly in the cozy oasis of a bookmobile.

It was impossible to look at these pictures and not feel hopeful about the state of humanity, especially with several seasons of isolation still fresh in our minds. Remember when you were craving the casual comfort of strangers? Remember when the simple act of checking out a book felt like a small miracle?

Sitting in a windowless room in Times Square, scrolling from library to library, state to state, we were unexpectedly moved by the color, light and joy at our fingertips. These glimpses into lives of strangers were a reminder that copies of the books piled on our desks at the Book Review will soon land on shelves in libraries across the country and, eventually, in the hands of readers. You'll pass them to other people, and on and on.

We all know that books connect us, that language has quiet power. To see the concentration, curiosity and peace on faces lit by words is to know — beyond a shadow of a doubt, in a time rife with shadows — that libraries are the beating hearts of our communities. What we borrow from them pales in comparison to what we keep. How often we pause to appreciate their bounty is up to us.





Host a Board Game Tournament!



If your donors love to read, we think there's a great chance they'd love to play board games, as well! Pay-to-play tournaments for a popular word or Trivia games like <u>Bananagrams</u>, Scrabble, <u>Code Names</u>, or <u>Linkee</u> are sure to get your donors invested.

Make sure to sell tickets to the tournament and offer great prizes for winners; you can also approach <u>schools</u> and colleges for selling more tickets. The prizes can be donated by local affiliates (e.g. gift cards to <u>restaurants</u>, tech stores, or bookstores). Have light music playing (our board gamers need to focus!), snacks, and beverages available for those who attend.

If hosting tournaments for multiple games on one night is too much, consider hosting one game night tournament per quarter (or bi-monthly – whatever is best for your schedule of events) featuring a different game each time. Boardgame lovers both young and old will LOVE this idea!

Have some fun in your library!!









The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. 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, and the projects can be used indoors and outdoors.



Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries held a drawing for a free StoryWalk® on February 16. 2023. The lucky winner is Friends of the Kernersville Library ~ the Paddison Memorial Branch, which selected the book *Giraffes Can't Dance*.

Production of the StoryWalk® is underway, hopefully to be installed and ready for use during National Library Week (April 23-29). Another FONCPL member group, Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library, will provide virtual assistance for the process and offers interested groups the opportunity to purchase an a StoryWalk® set (production and shipping costs only). Please direct queries to FONCPL President Judy Hills at jahnbnc@gmail.com

By Paula Patselas

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a Triple Treat Valentine's Day-themed trio of happenings at the Swansboro Branch Library on Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The Swansboro Branch Library at 1460 West Corbett Ave. will host the Love Your Library event.

The event will feature the Friends' popular used book sale, a community outreach meet and greet and membership opportunity, as well as a showcase of four local authors onsite to sign, share and sell their latest publications.

An additional event will be the Friends Members Only Preview used book sale on Friday, Feb. 10, 3-5 p.m. Now is the time to renew or come by the library to join the Swansboro Friends and help support the Swansboro Branch Library. Membership sign up is also available at the door on Friday.

The Feb. 11 event begins at 9 a.m. when Friends member Lorri Moore launches the "Love Your Library" experience encouraging membership signup with handouts, treats and a library map to direct you towards guest authors and the book sale.

The four authors, Lori Closter, Barry Fetzer, Barb McCreary and Sarah Maury Swan will be on hand, displaying and sharing their books, with an opportunity to purchase and have a new book signed by the author

The conference room, as well as the satellite outside book sales room will be open for browsing and finding great deals on the always large selection of used books, as well as DVDs, CDs and audio materials. The library staff will

be on hand at the main desk throughout the day to assist with book check out, sign up for a library card, and to answer questions about upcoming programs or event materials.

Fetzer is a former Hubert resident and past president of the Swansboro Friends of the Library. A Tideland News contributor, he now lives in Southern Pines with wife Arlene. They are loyal lifetime members of the Swansboro Friends of the Library. Fetzer and his brother. Bruce Fetzer have written and published a children's book, "I love you all the time," a story of unconditional love that will warm the hearts of children and adults alike.

The book is a pay it forward project with all book sale proceeds in support of the Methodist Home for Children in Raleigh, NC.

McCreary lives in Pine Knoll Shores and enjoys learning and writing about the history and culture of Eastern North Carolina.

In 2022 she published a historical fiction book, "Ebb and Flo: Lewis's Story of Shackleford Banks." This heartwarming story revolves around the central character, 11-year-old Lewis Smithson and his family and what led to their decision to leave their village on Core Banks following a devastating hurricane in 1899. With the migration of the Core Bankers to the mainland area of Morehead City, the book explains how the area known as the Promise Land got its name.

Closter is a lifelong writer and native New Yorker. She is a graduate of Cornell University and Temple University and has served as a writer and assistant producer on various projects, including an educational film series for National Geographic. She now lives with her husband in coastal North Carolina, fulfilling her dream of giving people hope and faith through stories. Closter has written in the young adult genre, "Topping the Willow," published in 2022, about a female teen character Brittany Warner and the struggles and challenges she faces in the relationship with her mother. Swan lives in New Bern where she is an active participant as a coordinator of multiple authors showcasing books regularly at an Author's Event at the New Bern Farmers Market, which is open year round. Swan has written and told stories most of her life but only began to publish in her 70s. Her concentration has been children's and young adult genre but she has delved into the adult genre as well. She has written three books, "Emily's Ride to Courage," "Earthquakes" and "Terror's Identity," as well as having written for a number of literary publications. She belongs to the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators. North Carolina Writers

Network, Carteret Writers and a number of critique groups. The Swansboro Friends of the Library is a nonprofit volunteer organization of community members whose efforts, events and fundraising directly support the functions of the Swansboro Branch Library, which in turn, benefits the entire community. Community members and library patrons play a vital role towards the success of the Friends and the library itself through used book donations throughout the year, monetary donations, raffle donations and

sales, Friends membership

dues, networking and

"LOVE YOUR LIBRARY" Book Sale & Local Author Book Signing Swansboro Branch: Feb. 11, 9AM - 1PM

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I love you all the time!

By: Barry R Fetzer & Bruce R. Fetzer Former Tideland columnist and Hubert resident, Barry Fetzer, has written a children's book, "I love you all the time!" along with his brother, Bruce, who illustrated the book.

Ebb and Flow By: Barb McCreary

Barb McCreary is a retired elementary school teacher, librarian and current resident of Pine Knoll Shores, NC. Barb enjoys learning about the history and culture of Eastern NC.





Topping The Willow By: Lori Closter

Lori Closter is a lifelong writer who is fulfilling her dream of giving people hope and faith through stories. A native New Yorker, she now lives with her husband in coastal NC. She has degrees from Cornell (BA) and Temple Universities (MA), she served as writer/assistant producer on various projects, including an educational film series for National Geographic.

By: Sarah Maury Swan Earthquakes Emily's Ride To Courage

Sarah Maury Swan has written or told stories most of her life but only started to publish them in her 70's. Since then she has been published in many magazines, most recently in all issues of the Next Chapter Literacy Magazine, including the just released 7th issue.





Main Branch 58 Doris Ave. E. Jacksonville, NC 28540 910-455-7350 Mon.-Thu. 9AM-9PM Fri.-Sat. 9AM-6PM Sun. 1-5 PM Richlands Branch 299 S. Wilmington St. Richlands, NC 28574 910-324-5321 Mon-Wed, Fri: 9AM-6PM Thu: 10AM-7PM Sat: 9AM-3PM Sneads Ferry Branch 1330 NC Highway 210 Sneads Ferry, NC 28460 910-327-6471 Mon-Wed, Fri: 9AM-6PM Thu: 10AM-7PM Sat: 9AM-3PM Swansboro Branch 1460 W. Corbett Ave. Swansboro, NC 28584 910-326-4888 Mon-Wed, Fri: 9AM-6PM Thu: 10AM-7PM Sat: 9AM-3PM



LOOKING AHEAD INTO APRIL.....

Plan for **Library Snapshot Day** on April 1st... a Day that enables library advocates to prove the value of their libraries to decision-makers (mayors & council members), their community, and increase public awareness. What happens in libraries in a single day? How many books are checked out? How many people receive help finding a job? Doing their taxes? Doing their homework?

Choose your publish day, document your statistics, encourage participation, collect data & photos and share your results on your website, Instagram, Facebook, Tumblr, etc

Here are some Examples:

- Mississippi Library Commission: https://mlc.lib.ms.us/advocacy/snapshot-day-2020-2/.
- Missouri Association of School Librarians: https://maslonline.org/2019-library-snapshot-day/.
- Wyoming Libraries: https://wyomingsnapshot.weebly.com/.
- 2 National Library Week April 23-29. Theme: There's More to the Story

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.



3 National Library Workers Day Tuesday April 25, 2023



Lynda Reynolds, Acting Director Library Development/Public Library Management Consultant, asked that we share with you this site for National Library Worker's Day which falls on April 25, 2023. Please visit this site now so you have time to really celebrate your library staff.

https://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/NLWDPubTools

If you have pictures or write ups to share, please send them by March 25th to klambe@me.com.



MAY YOUR TROUBLES
BE LESS AND YOUR
BLESSINGS BE MORE
AND NOTHING BUT
HAPPINESS COME
THROUGH YOUR DOOR

