



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
May 2023

HERE'S
JUDY

Hello Friends,

Can't believe it is already May! The older I get; the faster time seems to fly.

This month we had six people on our Open Mic Night session. I was about ready to throw in the towel with the poor attendance we have had, but felt better after this session. We started out talking about purchases for the library and the various ways that occurs. After that discussion, the conversation branched off. Joyce told us about her Friends and their chocolate feast. Sounded like a yummy fundraiser. We hope she'll share the details in an upcoming edition of this newsletter. We talked briefly about options to discard books we can't sell. Betsy, another individual on the call, told us about a small branch library in Carteret County (Down East Library in Otway) that is facing closure. The Friends of the Down East Library are politically active and working hard to forestall the action. The issue is that the library leases the retail shopping center location from a county commissioner who was appointed in 2020 upon the death of a longtime Down East representative. This created a conflict of interest. The lease expires June 2023. It is a complicated situation with few, if any alternative locations. This is an example of Friends advocating for the needs of the local citizens. [Click here](#) to read more about it. We applaud them for their efforts and hope the situation can be equitably resolved. We also discussed how Forsyth County Library System handles honorariums for speakers when the Friends are paying the cost.

This year's Summer Reading Program theme is "All Together Now" reflecting kindness, friendship, and unity. Be thinking how you might incorporate Random Acts of Kindness into the program. What role will your Friends play in the SRP? How might you help promote participation? I'm sure our editor, Kathy Lambe will be providing ideas and resources for you.

Thought it was interesting that the cover of the May Readers' Digest was "Friends are the Best!" I absolutely agree with that statement.

May 4th is Star Wars Day—May the 4th be with you!

Yours in Friendship,

Judy Hills, FONCPL President



5 Strange but Insightful Foreign Idioms We Should Bring Into English

By Jonny Thomson, High Culture March 27, 2023

Key Takeaways:

The world's languages each have unique nuance and richness. Idioms are a great way to demonstrate that. Some expressions – like these examples from Swedish, Arabic, and Mongolian – serve as a window into other cultures.

Every language in the world has its idioms. Speak to anyone learning a language, and they'll tell you idioms are often the hardest things to learn. These foreign idioms are strange, exotic, and funny in their own right (at least to the non-native speaker). Here, we've collected five of the best for you to appreciate the linguistic richness that is the non-English idiom and what they can teach us about their culture of origin.

“There's no cow on the ice” – Sweden

This means something a bit like, “don't worry about it.” What you think is a problem, or what you're getting all flustered about, is actually not a big deal at all. Don't sweat the small stuff and don't tilt at windmills – the cows are fine.

“God bless you and may your mustache grow like brushwood” – Mongolia

If you find yourself in Mongolia (ever a possibility), then make sure you say this to someone after they sneeze. While most of us are familiar with “God bless you,” Mongolia has decided to add its own bristly, whiskery twist. We say, “God bless you,” because people used to believe that sneezing might expel your soul, so getting God in to help will stop the Devil from stealing it. But why would Mongolians want a brushwood mustache?

Well, the Fu Manchu – the long, drooping mustache you see on Genghis Khan – is somewhat of a fashion stereotype in Mongolia and has been for a very long time. It's a sign of power and masculinity. After all, if the greatest warlord of all time had a strong tash, we all should (I can only assume this is true for Mongolian ladies, too).

“Not my circus, not my monkeys” – Poland

It means “this isn't my problem, so I don't care.” It's thought that the original Polish version was, “Not my cows, not my horses” – meaning if they weren't your livestock, you didn't care what diseases they got or what misfortune befell them. I much prefer monkeys, though.

“To wear a cat on your head” – Japan

As cute as it might be to have a cat on your head, this Japanese idiom is all about what the cat is hiding – sharp claws, piercing teeth, and a violently contrary nature. To wear a cat on your head is to appear cute and loveable . . . Don't trust someone who's all smiles and niceness. It's all an act. It's a cat on their head.

“Stretch your legs as far as your blanket extends” – Arabic

This idiom is a wise reminder for us all to live within our means. Don't lift more than you can lift, work more than you can work, or spend more than you can spend. We each have limits and certain resources – recognize that, and live accordingly.

The expression evokes an image of cold desert nights, huddled in a tent, with your entire body tucked into the blanket. We've all been there – trying to sleep in a cold room with the duvet wrapped tightly – and this Arabic expression reminds us that if our feet or extremities leave the blanket, they'll be exposed to the night's cold. Tuck your legs in and know your limits.

Books and my European Vacation by Judy Hills

I am going on four-score years of age and just went to Europe for the first time. My husband Alan and I also took our first cruise on a big commercial ship. Thank goodness we had our son, daughter-in-law, and our teenage grandson to help guide us through the process (as well as helping to lug our bags around!).

The plan was to fly to Rome and spend a few days exploring there before boarding the Costa Tuscana in Civitavecchia (just north of Rome). The cruise ship stopped in the following ports: Genoa, Italy; Marseille, France; Barcelona, Spain; Cagliari, Italy; Naples, Italy and then back to Civitavecchia. Then we flew back home. We left New Bern on April 2nd and returned home on April 14th. It was a whirlwind tour!

Given that I help sort books donated to our Friends, I keep an eye out for books on Italy, Rome, Marseille and Barcelona in the month preceding the trip. I did find two relevant ones: one on Rome and one on Italy. I scoured those two books for possible day trips. Also, I read a little of the history of Rome which gave me a greater appreciation of the places I was to visit.

In preparation for the journey, I loaded up my e-reader with books. I am a voracious reader when travelling and sometimes finish a book a day. Before I had the e-reader, on car trips I would load up a box of books, so I am grateful for these electronic gadgets. They also allow me to easily read in all light levels (or without any light at all). I estimate I read eight books while on vacation—some of them real tomes.

We came across many “liberia” establishments. At first, I thought that meant “library” but found out that these were bookstores. The Italian term for library is “biblioteca.” The only library I came across was in Naples--the Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III which is one of the largest libraries in Italy with around 19,000 manuscripts and around 1.8 million printed volumes. Regrettably, I did not have time on the tour to check it out.

My husband ran out of books to read and decided to check out a bookstore in Cagliari, Italy. He asked the owner (with some difficulty communicating) if he had any books in English. He got directed to a small dusty upstairs space in the far corner of the store. There was a very limited collection of what looked like 20+ year old books. My husband spied a Lee Child book and got excited. He thought he might have run across a Jack Reacher book, but alas, it turned out to be in German. No joy! He ended up reading a book that our daughter-in-law had finished. I gave her the one hard copy book I had brought since she was also out of reading material.

While on the cruise I saw lots of adults and children reading books. I have one memory of a young boy who looked to be about 6 years old. He was reading a graphic novel and his eyes were as round as saucers. Would have loved to have a picture of that.

All this got me to thinking that the cruise ship needed a Little Free Library that could be used both by the passengers as well as the crew. Since the ship did not sell books and since the passengers and the crew spoke many languages, I thought it made sense. I intend to send that suggestion to the Costa Cruises.

We had a marvelous time. The weather cooperated, the cruise ship was great, the seas were light, and the day trips and the guides were fantastic. I don't know if we'll ever have another adventure such as this, but it was definitely worth it!

5 Books Recommended by Harlan Coben

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| | <p>Mary Higgins Clark started this book, a followup to her novel "Where Are the Children?", two years before her death. Coben says Clark would be "so proud" of the final product, calling it "a blistering page-turner in the tradition of the original."</p> |
| <p><i>Where Are The Children?</i> – Mary Higgins Clark</p> | |
| | <p>"The brilliant author of such classics as 'Mystic River' and 'Shutter Island' returns in this scorching historical thriller set in the frenzy and rage of Boston's school desegregation crisis. This is a searing, unforgettable, infuriating tale about a boy found dead, a girl gone missing, and a city on the brink," Coben says.</p> |
| <p><i>Small Mercies</i> – Dennis Lehane</p> | |
| | <p>"Boy, is this one hard to classify — and I mean that in the best of ways," Coben said of Kelly Link's short story collection. Link is known for her playful and imaginative short stories that go to truly unexpected places, as Coben notes. "Kelly Link reimagines old fairy tales in shocking, modern, and unpredictable ways. This is speculative fiction at its best — whimsical, absurd, and totally original," he says.</p> |
| <p><i>White Cat, Black Dog</i> – Kelly Link</p> | |
| | <p>Coben calls Sittenfeld's books an "autobuy." He loved "Prep" and "Eligible," but said this might be her "best yet." It's a modern-day romance set in the world of a "Saturday Night Live"-esque sketch show. "Sittenfeld both skewers and pays homage to the rom-com tradition. I loved every page," he says.</p> |
| <p><i>Romantic Comedy</i> – Curtis Sittenfeld</p> | |
| | <p>Gretchen Rubin wrote about the path to happiness in "The Happiness Project." Coben calls her next book one about "practical mindfulness," and how to achieve a sense of well-being using your five senses to guide you, rather than your brain. "Gretchen Rubin is the perfect guide for those seeking new ways to find joy and fulfillment in our daily lives," he says.</p> |
| <p><i>Life in Five Senses</i> – Gretchen Rubin</p> | |

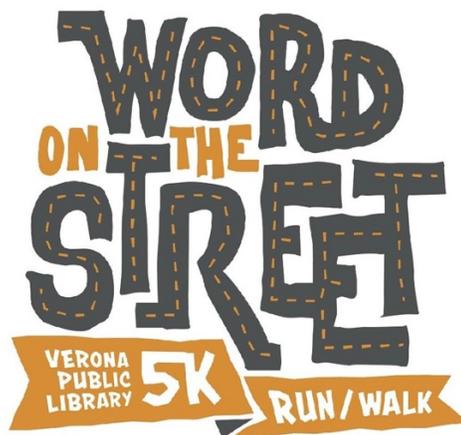
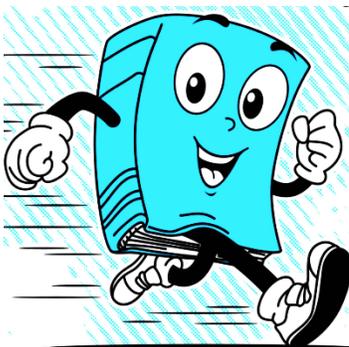


Just another Fundraiser Idea!!



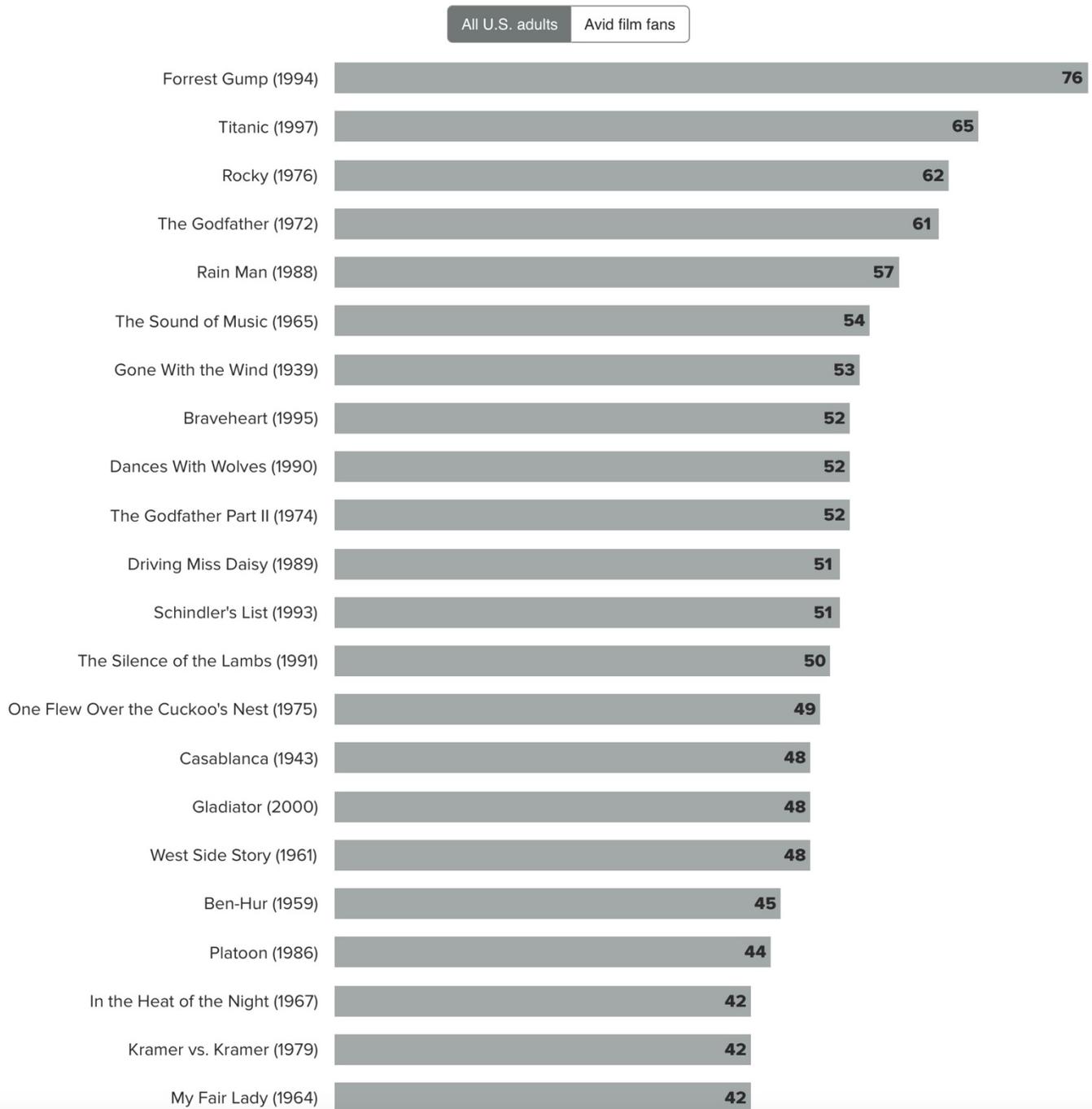
Races, “Fun Runs”, and Walks –

Nonprofits of all types and stripes will tell you that races (competitive and otherwise) can be an excellent way to generate funds. In addition to charging a fee to participants, you can hunt corporate sponsors – as well as solicit in-kind support from other community partners in order to minimize your expenses. Standouts worth mentioning – both in terms of sponsorship success and for sheer creativity in naming – include “Word on the Street,” benefiting the Verona (WI) Public Library, and “Bookin’ It Fun Run,” benefiting the Corvallis-Benton County (OR) Public Library. Note that this one can be hard to pull off without adequate support from key civic stakeholders, including local government. Forge strong partnerships with the city’s parks and recreation department, the area’s chamber of commerce, and other such organizations as early as you can.



Oscar Best Picture Winners, Ranked by Favorability

Net favorability rating* of the following previous best picture winners:



Start thinking now--

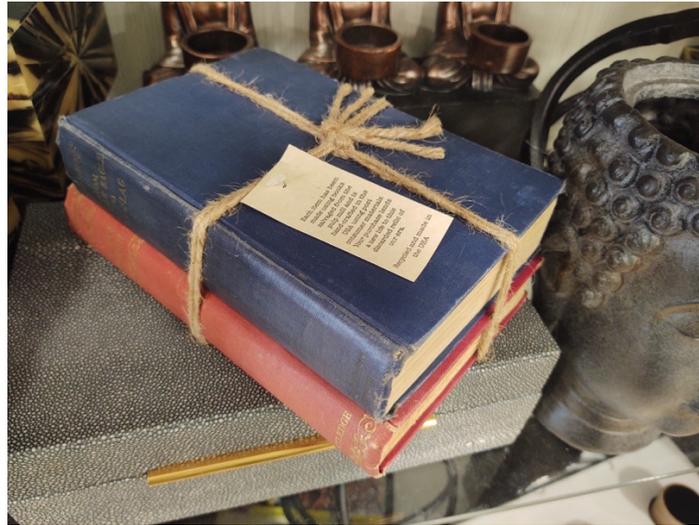
what would your Group like to do with the **\$250** Challenge Grant money that your FONCPL gives away in October. The Deadline is September 15, 2023.

Criteria on which grant applications will be evaluated include:

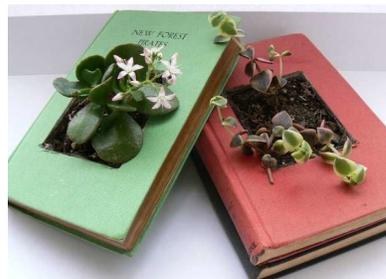
- *Innovative & creative project or program proposal
- *Potential for achieving objectives
- *Quality of the application (planning, conciseness, financial soundness, & clarity)

Visit foncpl.org today and look under the GRANTS/AWARDS tab.

Judy saw this item in Home Goods this month. It is two old books tied with twine. The price tag: \$16.99. So, if you have old books to sell, why not try to reposition them and sell them as art instead of just an old books. Google “repurpose old books” and you’ll find some great ideas. If the members of your group are aging out and hauling books to set up sales is getting beyond their physical capabilities—why not work on book crafts. You might even consider an ETSY store. Think about it!

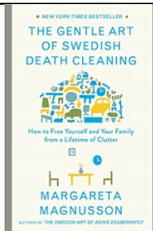
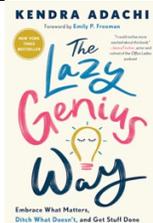
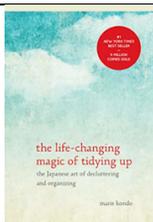


OTHER IDEAS to repurpose old books....



Books to Help You Achieve Your Spring Cleaning Goals

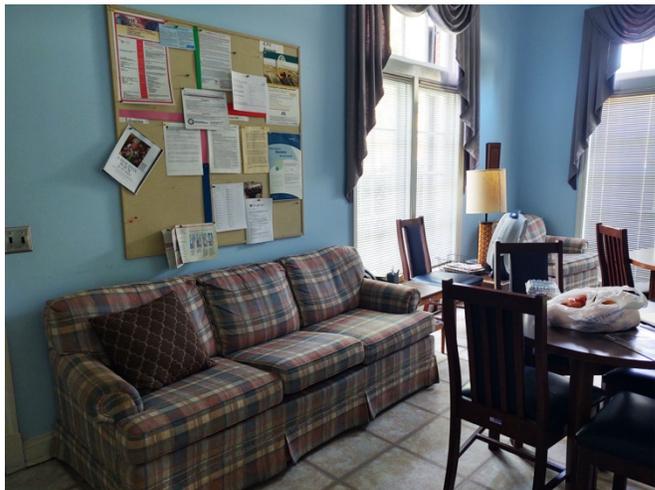
(excerpt from) by Angela Erickson – 4/27/23 – BookBub

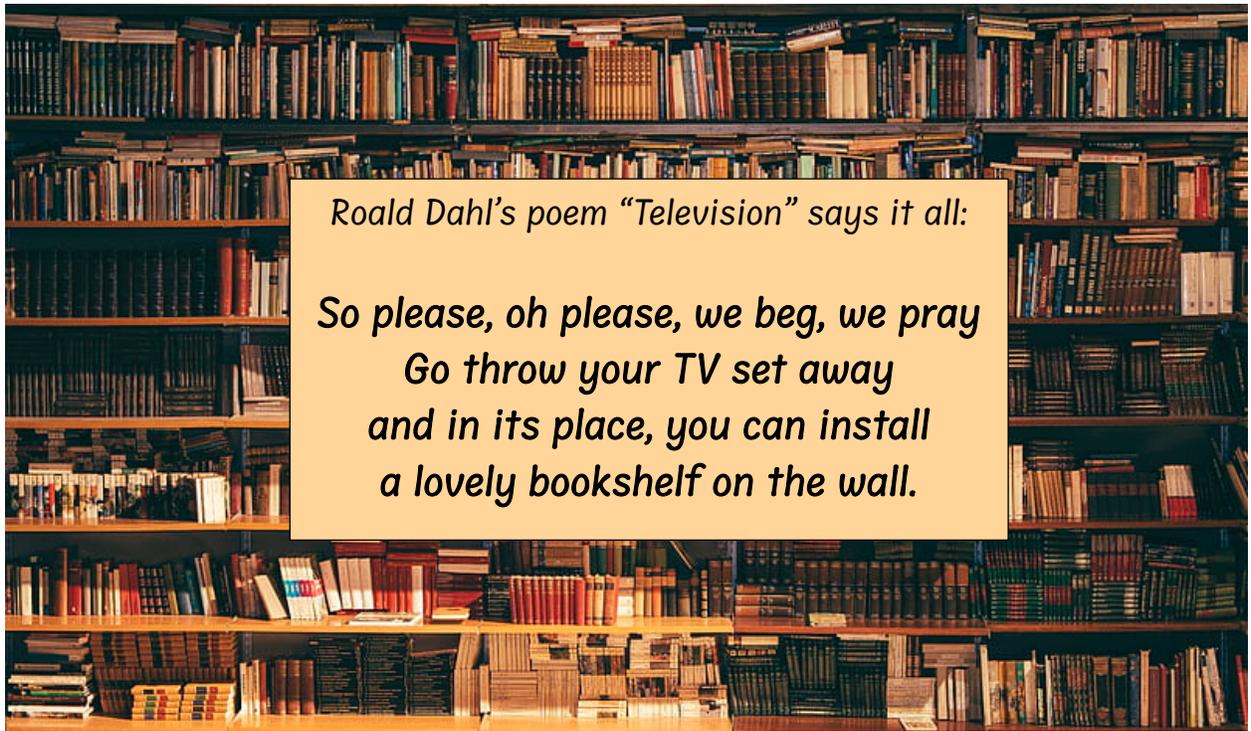
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|  | <p><i>The Home Edit</i> – Clea Shearer & Joanna Teplin</p> | <p>Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin have organized home spaces for Hollywood stars like Reese Witherspoon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Rachel Zoe, Lauren Conrad, and Mandy Moore. This title was their first book, released to share their methods of decluttering and arranging the items in your home so that they are functional and look great. Readers will take in their process of paring down belongings, organizing them in stylish ways, and finding systems that will work to keep your home in order for the long haul.</p> |
|  | <p><i>The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning</i> – Margareta Magnusson</p> | <p>For folks living in Sweden, there exists a type of decluttering called <i>döstädning</i>, where <i>dö</i> means “death” and <i>städning</i> means “cleaning.” The goal of this concept is to keep your home and belongings tidy, neat, and minimized, at any age – before others have to do it for you. While readers might assume this is a darker topic, author Margareta Magnusson shares her tried-and-true methods for organizing things from the past while looking toward the future in a way that makes the whole process an uplifting and joyous experience.</p> |
|  | <p><i>The Complete Book of Home Organization</i> – Toni Hammersley</p> | <p>Whether you live in a small apartment or a large house, this book will give you the tricks and shortcuts you need to keep your surroundings organized. With <i>The Complete Book of Home Organization</i> and its 15-week challenge, the 30 main spaces of your home will be cleaner and neater in no time. Find everything you need, including illustrations, step-by-step instructions, and checklists for every space!</p> |
|  | <p><i>The Lazy Genius Way</i> Kendra Adachi</p> | <p>Kendra Adachi is all about inspiring others to be a genius about what matters and lazy about what doesn't – and she emphasizes this philosophy in her <i>New York Times</i> bestseller, <i>The Lazy Genius Way</i>. With her 13 Lazy Genius principles, you will learn how to do what is most important to you, and not feel guilty about streamlining or even skipping the things that aren't necessary. You'll feel motivated to apply these principles to your living space, and schedule in some needed rest time along the way!</p> |
|  | <p><i>The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up</i> Marie Kondo</p> | <p>Read the book that got everyone talking about finding things that “spark joy” – which was listed as one of CNN's most influential books of the 2010s and inspired a hit Netflix series. Marie Kondo's KonMari method of decluttering will take your home to a whole new level of organized. With step-by-step, practical tips for every category, small pieces of progress can turn into lasting success.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Cozy Minimalist Home</i> Myquillyn Smith</p> | <p>The author of The Nesting Place wants you to know that it doesn't take a perfect home to have a beautiful home. Learn how to take each room and rebuild it step-by-step in your own unique style and with a function that fits your specific needs. On any budget, and with any design preferences, anyone can make intentional decisions to create a warm and inviting living space.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Organizing for the Rest of Us</i> Dana White</p> | <p>If the minimalist life and intense organization systems aren't for you, author Dana K. White has discovered some secrets to share. Fans of her podcast, A Slob Comes Clean, can already vouch for her practical and attainable tips. Learn how making progress in organization can take less effort and time than you'd expect – and gain peace of mind when it comes to your home, even if you don't like spring cleaning.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Simply Clean</i> Becky Rapinchuk</p> | <p>Becky Rapinchuk of the Clean Mama blog loves to share resources about cleaning and homekeeping, and she is here in print to share a simple, easy-to-use schedule for tidying your home in less than 10 minutes a day. From a seven-day kick start to a 28-day challenge – including a catch-up day each week – plus recipes for organic cleaning supplies, this method can be used to fit any personality or schedule. No matter how messy you are, everyone can build neat habits!</p> |

The Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library wanted to do something special for the library staff in honor of National Library Workers' Day—April 25th. We consider several options and decided that the staff breakroom was in sorry shape and needed a makeover. This was something that the staff could enjoy for many years versus a luncheon which would only last a few minutes. The Friends officers convened and assessed the breakroom. They made recommendations to the Board. At the Board level we discussed the scope of this project and agreed to not only freshen up the paint, but to purchase new furniture, accessories and small appliances as well as other things. Of course, we cleared our plans with the Regional Director and the Library Manager. It took several hours to prep the room and then another several hours to paint it. On Monday April 24th we staged the room with the new furniture and accessories. On Tuesday April 25th we held the big reveal with a ribbon cutting. The staff knew we were working on the room and they thought it would have commercial library furnishings so they were astounded when they first walked into the beach retreat we created. We were so pleased that they were as happy with the results as we were. Here are some before and after shots.

Before

& After:





Roald Dahl's poem "Television" says it all:
*So please, oh please, we beg, we pray
Go throw your TV set away
and in its place, you can install
a lovely bookshelf on the wall.*

Does anyone play Wordle?? !!

The 10 Hardest Wordle Words of 2022

1. PARER (#454)
2. FOYER (#304)
3. CATCH (#483)
4. WATCH (#265)
5. MUMMY (#491)
6. CATER (#270)
7. COYLY (#409)
8. TRITE (#396)
9. FOUND (#282)
10. TACIT (#246)

THE TEN BEST BOOKS I'VE READ (FOR FUN!)

By Jenna Kutcher

The Golden Couple by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen

It follows a couple who seem to have it all. The perfect life, perfect home, perfect family — until Marisa cheats and her infidelity leads her to connect with an unconventional therapist who's trying to put their marriage back together again. This one had twists and turns and kept me guessing until the very end!

City of Likes by Jenny Mollen

This one is a witty social media satire that follows an Instagram influencer from the outside and what can really go on behind the scenes! It was a page-turner and the ending totally caught me off guard (in a good way!)

Summer Island by Kristin Hannah

Summer Island tells the story of two sisters who must face their fears and confront the secrets of their past after they are unexpectedly reunited on an island off the coast of Maine.

Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid

It's about a famous tennis player — and I don't know much about tennis, but this book totally hooked me in. Carrie Soto is Back presents readers with an endearing tale about second chances, forgiveness, and following your dreams

This Time Tomorrow by Emma Straub

Alice, who's turning 40 wakes up and she's back in 1996, reliving her 16th birthday. She sees things in a new light and starts to piece together what sort of future she really wants. This is a great book for people feeling like they are at a crossroads or aren't truly fulfilled in their current life.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

It's witty, feminist-driven, and an interesting look at how women have had to pave their own paths for decades. It follows one woman's journey from lab assistant to scientist as she fights against sexism to pursue her dreams.

Book Lovers by Emily Henry

This is a charming romantic comedy about two people in the publishing world who find themselves intertwined in unexpected ways as they both search for true love.

The Club by Ellery Lloyd

This one was a thriller (and sort of dark – fair warning!) It's a story about a celebrity members' club where the rich and famous can party hard and then crash out in its five-star suites, far from the prying eyes of fans and the media. But this launch party goes awry and there's a mystery that happened. This one is a pageturner that keeps you guessing with every page.

The Soulmate Equation by Christina Lauren

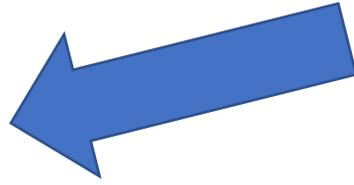
The perfect blend of science fiction and romantic comedy! This story follows one woman who must choose between relying on technology or trusting her own gut instincts when it comes to finding love. In our world that tries to create formulas and algorithms for love, who really knows best? You'll have to read it to find out.

Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult

It follows a couple who seem to have it all. The perfect life, perfect home, perfect family — until Marisa cheats and her infidelity leads her to connect with an unconventional therapist who's trying to put their marriage back together again. This one had twists and turns and kept me guessing until the very end!



Here is a fun reminder on how important the work of our libraries is!



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Open Mic Night Monday May 15th 7:00 PM

Topic: **Separation of Operations: Library and Friends**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88522619951?pwd=RVdVeXhCOHZFUxBEejFFV0ovUUU12dz09>

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

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.

HAPPY
Mother's Day
