



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

March 2024 **F*R*I*E*N*D*S TALK**

**this
is it!**

**Join
us**

That's right.....this March issue is your last issue of **F*R*I*E*N*D*S TALK** if you have not joined for 2024. 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

Hello Friends!

Congratulations to the Friends of Albert-Carlton-Cashiers Community Library on being the winner of our random drawing for \$200. Those groups whose 2024 FONCPL dues were received on or before 2/28/24 had their names entered into the drawing. We hope you find a good use for that funding.

In this edition, you'll find an article about an opportunity to host other Friends groups in your area. FONCPL is offering \$100 to help defray the cost of a regional workshop. We hope your Friends will step up! We'll fund up to 14 groups.

April 7 to 13 is National Library Week and April 9th is National Library Workers Day. The topic of our March 7 Open Mic Night will be plans and ideas for those events. If you have ideas or if you need ideas, please join in the conversation, especially if you have never attended Open Mic Night before. We have several regulars who say they wouldn't miss it. Do check it out!

Our newsletter editor, Kathy Lambe has undoubtedly included material in the newsletter of some March special days that you can use as themes for events and celebrations. Barbie will be 65 years old on March 9th. She doesn't look a day over 15, if you ask me! You could have a showing of the movie and a Barbie display. Don't forget to Spring Forward on March 10th. Mr. Rogers' day is March 20th. You could have an Easter egg hunt (Easter is 3/31 as is National Crayon Day) with easter-themed books as prizes.

Start thinking about making an application for our fall \$250 Challenge Grants. You will need a project that aligns with the mission and purpose of your Friends and which directly benefits the Friends (not the library you serve). We hope this year we will receive lots of applications.

So, don't get too caught up in March Madness! We hope your plans for 2024 are progressing nicely and that you are able to fill all your Board slots. FONCPL is still seeking Board members, so if you are interested please [email](#) me.

Yours in Friendship, Judy Hills

I wanted to thank FONCPL again for awarding Friends of the Henderson County Public Library a challenge grant in 2023. We used this grant to purchase gift cards that we sell at our bookstore in Hendersonville. The gift cards are a great addition to our store and were especially popular around the holidays. To complement them, we had several current volunteers offer to make card holders for the gift cards. We offer these for sale in our store as well.

I've attached pictures of the gift cards along with the card holders, which I hope you can share with your board along with our appreciation for your support. Thank you again!

Jane

Jane Baird, Treasurer

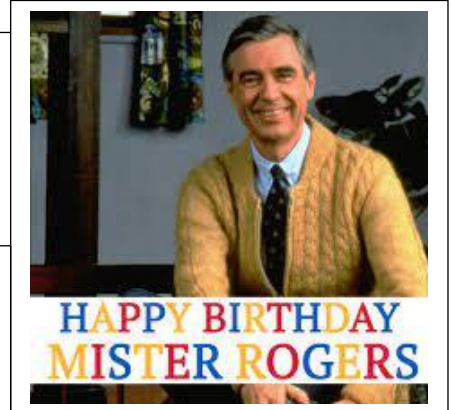
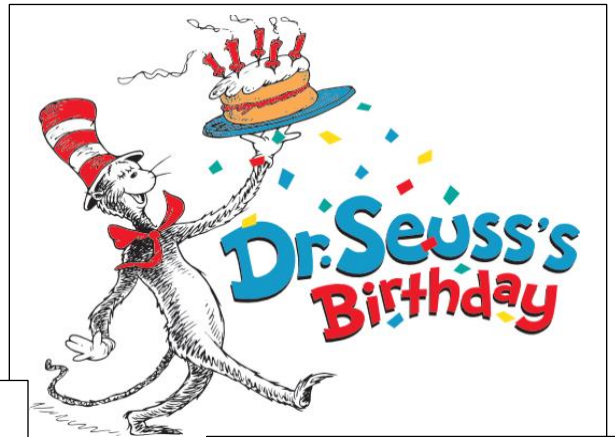
Friends of the Henderson County Public Library



Dates to Remember & Plan for in March & April

To Plan for March

- March 2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday
- March 7 Open Mic Night
- March 9 Barbie's Birthday (March 9, 1959)
- March 10 Spring Forward!
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 Mr. Rogers' Day
- March 31 Easter



To Plan For in April:

- April 7-13 National Library Week
- April 9 National Library Workers' Day
- April 12 Beverly Cleary's Birthday



There's still time to organize an Easter (3/31/24) event for your Friends or your library. Here are some ideas:

100 Easter Library Program ideas on Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/sandrasue08/easter-library-programs/>

The "how to" hold an Easter Egg Hunt:

<https://library.hccs.edu/outreach/egg hunt>

The Library Easter Egg Hunt—a short story:

<https://hinged.press/the-library-easter-egg-hunt-6a90a2d4016e>

Easter library programs: <https://adamscolibrary.org/easter-library-programs/>

Library Easter Ideas by Jennifer Robertson

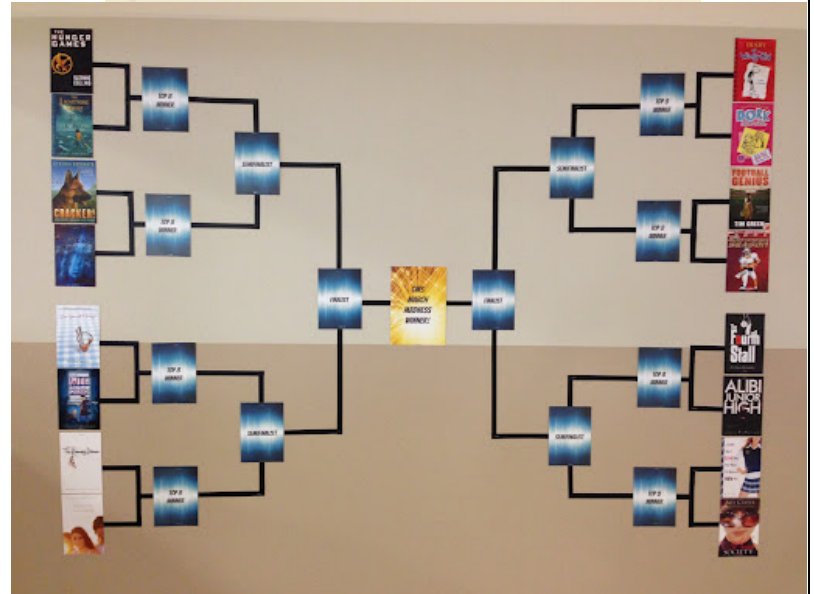
<https://www.pinterest.com/jrobertson/library-easter/>

Easter Digital & Print Activities

<https://www.stayingcoolinthelibrary.us/product/easter-print-and-digital-activities/>

Good Housekeeping 37 Best Easter Games

[Click here](#)

[illegible]

READ ACROSS AMERICA

The entire month of March is dedicated to reading. This program aims to promote reading through events and partnerships among children and teens across the nation.

WHY WE LOVE READ ACROSS AMERICA

- A. Reading is awesome – *Reading is an activity that has something for everyone. Whether you're looking for fiction or self-help, knowledge about a certain topic, or just a good time; there is a book for everything.*
- B. Reading is healthy – *Reading improves brain activity, aids sleep readiness, and reduces stress. Reading can lower your blood pressure and heart rate, and even fight symptoms of depression.*
- C. Reading makes you smarter – *Reading increases vocabulary and comprehension skills, stimulates the brain, improves memory, and even makes us better writers.*



Having just watched the Super Bowl, this is an interesting read:

“57 Super Bowl Rings, 57 Stories”

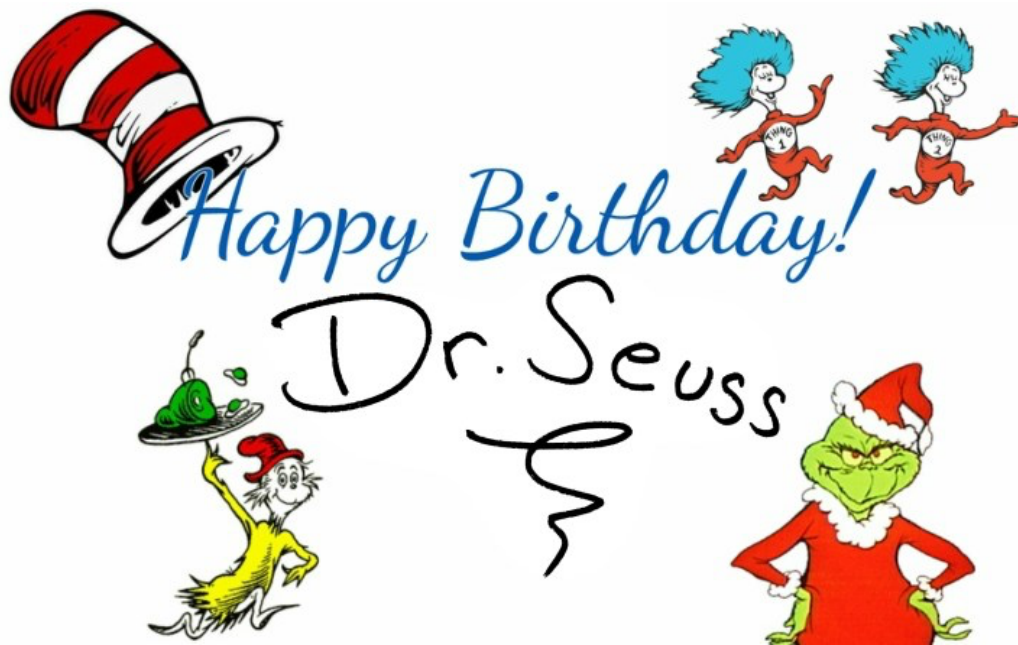
Big and small, lost and found, each ring has a unique tale to tell

https://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/28360921/look-championship-ring-every-super-bowl?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter

This is good to read since this is Tax Season:

“11 Tax Deductions You Can Claim Without Itemizing in 2023”

https://financebuzz.com/deductions-without-itemizing-ss-3?utm_source=optimism&utm_medium=paid-newsletter-rs&utm_content=&utm_term=ros&adgroupid=recommendedreads



Dr. Seuss 120th Birthday is on March 2, 2024.

Why not have a party?

**Dress as your favorite Dr. Seuss character!
Have stories read! Do crafts! Provide Cat in the Hat hats!**



Did you know? In the mid-1950s a debate raged about how best to teach reading. Many American kids were struggling to learn to read. Some people felt it was because teachers focused too much on sight words and not on phonics. Others felt it was because the primers used at the time were boring and unappealing to kids.

Publishers following the debate wondered what they could do. William Spalding, the director of Houghton Mifflin's education division, gave Dr. Seuss a list of 225 words from a teacher-approved vocabulary list for six- and seven-year-olds. He challenged Dr. Seuss to write a book kids couldn't put down using only these words. The result: THE CAT IN THE HAT. With only 236 words, Dr. Seuss created a new kind of limited vocabulary book for beginning readers. It had rhyme, repetition, outrageous illustrations, and a subversive story line. It was fun.

His next book was GREEN EGGS AND HAM, using only 50 words.

Open

Mic Night

with Judy!



Thursday March 7
7:00 pm

Discussion:

*Celebrating National Library
Week April 7-13*

To join in the discussion by computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86294385660?pwd=VmR0dTdNQytIUjNJVGEOZOVzc2RmUT09To>

join by phone:

301.715.8592

Meeting ID: 862 9438 5660

Passcode: 824713



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 7–13, 2024

ALA American
Library
Association

Library
Champions
Investing in America's Libraries

Celebration Days During National Library Week

National Library Week 2024 will be celebrated Sunday, April 7th through Saturday, April 13th. Days of note during that week are:

Monday, April 8: [Right to Read Day](#) is a National Day of Action in support of the right to read. The State of America's Libraries Report is released, including Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2023.

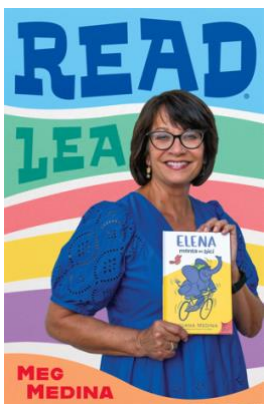
Tuesday, April 9: [National Library Workers Day](#), a day for everyone to recognize the valuable contributions made by library workers.

Wednesday, April 10: [National Library Outreach Day](#), a day the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

Thursday, April 11: [Take Action for Libraries Day](#), a day to rally advocates to urge members of Congress to protect the freedom to read.

The theme for National Library Week 2024 (April 7-13) is Ready, Set, Library! National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and Newbery and Pura Belpré-award winning author Meg Medina will serve as 2024 Honorary Chair.

*Meg Medina, the 2023–2024 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, is a Cuban American author who writes for readers of all ages. Her middle-grade novel *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* received a Newbery Medal and was a *New York Times* Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year, among many other distinctions. Its sequel, *Merci Suárez Can't Dance*, received five starred reviews, while *Merci Suárez Plays It Cool* received four stars, with *Kirkus Reviews* calling it "a fabulous finale to a memorable trilogy."*



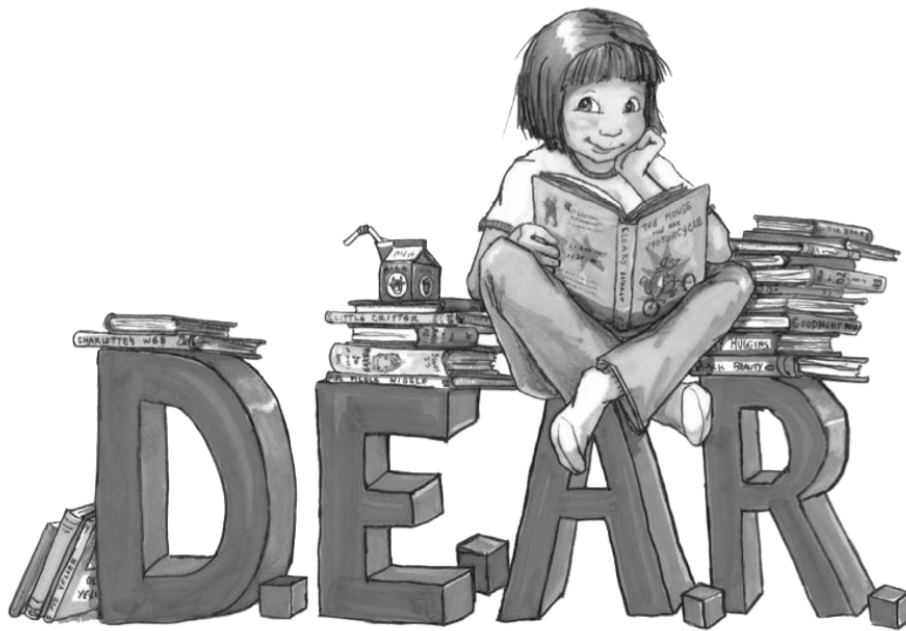
You're Invited To
Drop EveryThing and Read!

★ On April 12th ★

In honor of **Beverly Cleary's** Birthday

Ramona Quimby

invites families, friends, and communities
to come together for 30 minutes and read!



Sponsored by:



Spread the love of reading in your home, school, library, and community! Check out the website to access the official D.E.A.R. Day materials. You'll find reproducible activities, templates, and other resources to help you plan, promote, and host an exceptional D.E.A.R. Day event.



Time to drop everything and visit
www.dropeverythingandread.com



art by Tracy Dockroy

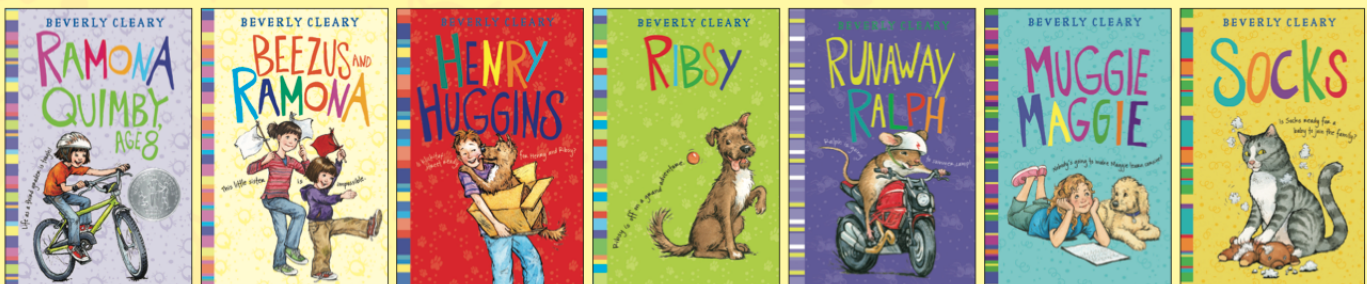
www.harpercollinschildrens.com



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MORE TO LOVE:
SPECIAL REPACKAGES IN
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108th BIRTHDAY



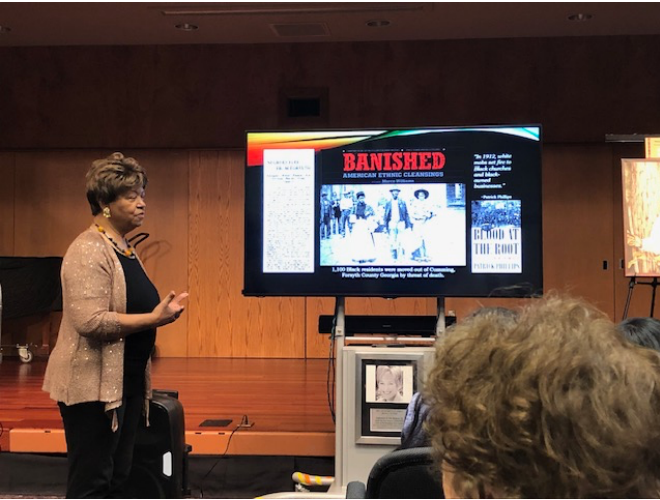
NEWBERY HONOR AWARD

www.beverlycleary.com • www.dropeverythingandread.com • www.facebook.com/beverlyclearybooks

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A Special Day at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Library

Our speaker was Ann Miller Woodford. Her talk was “Unique History of African American People in Far Western North Carolina. The talk was co-sponsored with the Cashiers Historical Society.



A Special Day at the New Bern-Craven County Public Library

The Friends of the New Bern-Craven County Public Library hosted a Local Authors Luncheon in late January. This was the 17th annual event but the first time that the Friends served as the host. The local chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women) were the original hosts until they disbanded in the spring of 2023.

The organizers approached the Friends to ask if we would keep the program alive by assuming sponsorship. They had already confirmed a 2024 date with the restaurant and selected the ten featured authors. The AAUW coordinators were justifiably proud that the luncheon featured different authors each year, a total of 170 local authors.

Authors were able to set up tables in a room separate from the dining room. Participants were able to visit the authors' tables before and after the meal.

Following a delicious meal, each author was given five minutes to speak to the attendees.

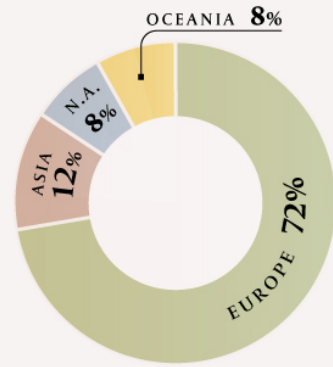
We sold 86 tickets to the event and paid for lunch for the ten authors.

Nine authors have already requested to be included in next year's event.



What are the Best Countries for Retirement?

Natixis analyzed 44 nations (IMF advanced economies, OECD members, and BRICS countries) on four main categories affecting retirement, each with their own subindices, from which they averaged scores out of 100 to create this index.



Here are the 25 countries that scored the highest in the following categories:



Health

Per capita health expenditure, life expectancy, non-insured health expenditure.



Quality of Life

Happiness, air and water quality and sanitation, environment biodiversity.



Material Wellbeing

Per capita income, income equality, unemployment.



Finances in Retirement

Government debt, old-age dependency ratios, interest rates, inflation, tax burden, governance.

AUSTRALIA scores well in retirement finances due to its superannuation pension fund system, currently worth \$3.5 trillion, fifth-largest in the world.

FRANCE gained one spot since last year, despite a worsening old-age dependency ratio that led to an increase in the retirement age in 2023.



Censorship, Challenges, and Book Banning

By Judy Hills, FONCPL President

We all had hoped that this would start dying down, but unfortunately, that is not the case. FONCPL VP Joanne Straight sent me a link to an ABC News Article entitled, “Librarians could be criminally charged over “obscene” books in West Virginia bill.” This bill passed the House of Representatives on February 16th and has just been introduced in the Senate. Yikes! Libraries and librarians need our support more than ever.

FONPCL encourages local Friends to pay close attention to what is happening elsewhere because your library might be next on the hit list. To assist you in preparing, **FONCPL has developed an Advocacy Kit—Responding to Freedom to Read Challenges.** It is posted on our website and there is a link on the home page in the What’s New or News section. Even if your library is not being challenged, we strongly recommend you review the recommendations in this document so you will be in a better position to defend your right to read should it become necessary. Be proactive!

Today I was reading a newsfeed article “Tools for Thinking about Censorship” by Ada Palmer. If you take the time to read this article and contemplate the material, you may find yourself thinking back to George Orwell’s 1984—Thought Police. The article is primarily about self-censorship and middleman censorship (e.g., publishers). Instilling fear is one of the two main ways powers cultivate censorship (e.g., “you are grooming our children to be deviants”). The other way is the projection of power. An example of the projection of power is the film industry rating of movies. While we don’t feel active fear of movie rating boards, these messages on the big screen are intended to feel its power, its presence, and its reach.

Censorship systems want to be visible. The article gives lots of examples of this. Deliberate unpredictability is a common tactic. They target a few people unpredictably and conspicuously (e.g., librarians who lack substantial political and economic power), so that everyone else in a similar situation will feel fear. This is an extremely potent and cost-effective tactic. This makes library trustees and local elected officials more likely to self-censor or middleman censor.

“This tactic is especially effective at frightening people outside a censor’s direct power into fearing possible consequences to friends, organizations, or themselves, psychological manipulation which allows regimes to coerce other nations’ citizens into becoming part of their outsourcing of censorship. Anyone can become complicit. Just as the price of freedom is eternal vigilance, one price of free speech is eternal humility, recognizing that none of us is immune to becoming a tool of censorship if we fail to recognize how its manipulative tactics shape and distort our thoughts and actions.” [Click here](#) to read this interesting article.

In closing, I urge all Friends to educate themselves on these issues, to review the FONCPL Advocacy Kit, and to be prepared to defend your library and your librarians. You have the power!

FONCPL Advocacy Kit

Responding to Freedom to Read Challenges

We, the Friends of the North Carolina Public Libraries, urge Friends groups to take a stand on book banning and censorship at public libraries. We offer this material for those interested in preserving our Freedom to Read. Keep in mind that the challenges might not only be about book titles, they may also include library displays, programs, and speakers.

PART 1 – Communities that have not been faced with book challenges should consider taking these proactive steps: Educate, Communicate, Document, Participate

Educate

- Educate yourself and your Friends about censorship, challenges, and banning. Be aware of what is happening around the country. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.
- Understand how your library is legally structured. Who makes the funding decisions? Who makes the management decisions? Your library is in one of three systems: regional, county, or municipal.
- Know your library's policies and procedures on the following:
 - Adding a book to the collection
 - Informal requests to remove a book
 - Formal challenge to remove a book
 - Reconsideration process to remove a book.
- Always use Banned Books Week to educate the public about intellectual freedom and the right to read.
- Become familiar with the NC Open Meetings Law; [Click here for a copy of the law](#). Every unit of local government is required to abide by this law—that includes regional governmental entities like regional libraries.
- Educate and prepare your book sale/shop volunteers to respond to challenges posed by customers or program attendees (Remember, you are not going to change a challenger's mind—try to avoid confrontation.)

Communicate

- As a regular part of your communication with your Friends Board and your members, provide information on what is happening around the state and around the country regarding libraries and book challenges.
- Keep a positive, open, ongoing dialogue with your library director or manager. Ask them to keep you informed of any developing challenges or other issues that might impact the library or the Friends. Strategize with them. Make sure they know your advocacy plan. Best to either call them or meet with them in person as emails and text messages are public records.
- Develop positive messages about the library. Do press releases to remind the public about the many benefits of their library.
- Display "Freedom to Read" posters and posters supporting the library at Friends book sales and in bookstores

Communicate, continued

- Don't reinvent the wheel! There are lots of models to choose from—but we caution you to be sure to personalize the message—make it your own.
- Keep your message positive and accurate:
 - Provide facts.
 - Be careful quoting ALA and United for Libraries as the opposition may use that against you. Best to find other sources.
 - Publicly praise the library staff, library trustees, regional board trustees, and elected officials who are upholding the rights of citizens to choose reading material for themselves and their children and ensuring that the libraries curate their collections to be diverse and inclusive.

Document

- Make your Friends either a 3-ring notebook or electronic copy with all pertinent information and copies of documents that you might need to reference.
- Prepare statements in advance of the need. You could use ones from the ALA and other sources, but be sure to personalize them for your group and your circumstances.
- Make a list of all the concerned groups who will be making decisions regarding the library: Name, members, contact information for the members, meeting schedule, and information. Keep this info updated.
- Create an action plan to put in place should it be needed. You will not be as effective if you have to cobble something together at the last minute.
- Maintain information about your opponents:
 - Get their names. If they spoke at a public meeting, generally they have to sign up to do so. Take a picture of the signup sheet. When they speak, they have to identify themselves as they begin—write down the name.
 - Google their names.
 - Create a dossier on each. Are they local or are they outsiders brought in to cause trouble?
 - Keep track of their activities (e.g., speaking out at meetings).
 - If possible, get copies of statement they have made at public meetings.
 - Analyze the arguments they present and develop strategies to address.

Participate

- If your community is served by print media (newspaper) or TV, identify key reporters and develop a rapport with them, so that if an issue arises, they might contact you for comment. Putting a press kit together in advance of the need for the issue is a good idea.
- Have a Friends of the Library representative show up at every local or regional library board of trustee meeting (if you have one). If you find out that someone has signed up to speak in the public comment period on this topic, the Friends rep attending the meeting should also sign up to speak—read a statement that has been prepared in advance.
- If you are in a county or municipal system, review the agenda for commissioner/alderman meetings. If the library is on the agenda—show up. If you find out that someone has signed up to speak in the public comment period on this topic, the Friends rep attending the meeting should also sign up to speak—read a statement that has been prepared in advance.
- Get on the list of those to be notified of meetings and to receive agendas (most local governments will permit this)
- If possible, ask someone passionate about defending the public's intellectual freedom to coordinate your advocacy efforts.

PART 2 – Communities that are facing book challenges may find the following resources helpful:

[Unite Against Book Bans Tool Kit from United for Libraries ALA](#)

(Includes information related to talking about book bans, contacting elected officials, petitioning decision makers, communicating with others and spreading the word, creating email/newsletter copy, and sharing on social media; the pdf contains numerous templates and examples.)

[Challenges to Materials and Programs: The Role of Friends of the Library \(United for Libraries\)](#)

(Provides suggestions and information related to the roles of Friends groups and the ways Friends can support the Library Director and staff prior to, or during, a challenge.)

[Book Riot Article: Methods and Tools for Combatting Censorship in Your Community](#)

(Provides information and suggestions about voting in local elections, serving on boards, attending relevant meetings, writing letters to key decision makers, talking to the press, correcting misinformation, submitting materials requests, reporting on hate groups, and donating money.)

[Everylibrary: How Are We Fighting Against Book Banning?](#)

(Everylibrary is the National Political Action Committee for libraries. They assist communities that are facing book bans and challenges by providing assistance, information, and monetary funding. The article contains a petition to sign and provides information about emailing State Representatives. It also documents recent stories of communities and libraries that have successfully responded to challenges.)

[Attempts to Ban Books Pre-emptively](#)

(It's not just about banning books that are actually in libraries—this article discusses a group's attempt to ban books pre-emptively.)

Do not take for granted the freedoms given to you. The fact is, those working to actively censor materials are working to take rights and freedoms away.

PART 3 – Communities that are facing challenges specifically to books for children and youth may find the following resources helpful:

[Book Bans and Their Impact on Young People and Society](#)

(This article by the ADL provides historical context related to book bans and identifies the top 10 most banned books. It also provides a list of questions for starting a conversation and for digging deeper, and it suggests a list of action items for responding to challenges or book bans, especially challenges to books for children and youth. The following is an excerpt from the article:

Books for young people should serve [as both mirrors and windows](#) to reflect and represent children and people in our society and world. This helps young people see themselves and feel valued (mirrors) and provides opportunities to learn about the experiences of people who are different than they are (windows). Over the last ten years, there has been progress in the [publishing of more diverse books](#) and by authors who represent that diversity. However, this pattern of challenging and banning books by authors of color and LGBTQ+ authors threatens those important advances.)

[Teens Today Spend More Time on Digital Media, Less Time Reading](#)

[Combatting "Child Grooming" Rhetoric](#)

[How Sex Education Books Protect Kids and Teens](#)

(The three articles linked above all provide information for combatting the rhetoric around books and libraries being used to groom children and teens. The articles address concepts such as the following:

- How the “grooming” argument can be turned around and used against books not on the challenged books list. For example: Do books about bullying groom children to become bullies? Do books about the prejudices faced by children with disabilities groom other children to hate the disabled?
- The actual definition of “grooming” and how difficult it would be to use a book to “groom” anyone
- The rights of parents to decide what is appropriate reading material for their own children
- The real sources of information most commonly used by children and teens: social media, streaming, cell phones, the internet, other kids
- The statistics on how much time children and teens actually spend reading and how many books they are likely to read in a year (spoiler alert: the numbers are dismally small and getting worse. Perhaps energy might be better spent addressing how little children and teens read. Are we grooming a generation of non-readers?)



FRIENDS GROUPS THAT HAVE JOINED 2024

Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library

Alleghany County Public Library

Bogue Banks Public Library

Caldwell County Library

Carteret County Public Library

Caswell Library

Catawba County Library

Goldston Public Library

Havelock-Craven County Library

Hickory Public Library

Hocutt Ellington Memorial Library

Kernersville Library

Lewisville Library

Marianna Black Library

Mars Hill Public Library

New Bern-Craven Co Public Library

New Hanover County Public Library

Orange County Public Library

Rourk Branch Library

Rube McCray Memorial Library

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library

Sneads Ferry Library

South Buncombe Library

Southport/Oak Island Library

Stanly County Public Library

Swansboro Public Library



INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE JOINED MARCH 2024

Tim Como
Kim Eaton
Julie Flick
Diana Fotinatos
Judy Hills
Jack James
Sylvia King
Katie Lake
Liz Martin
Bill Oelkers
Melissa J. Oleen
Lynda Reynolds
Karen Schrader
Joyce Speas
Cindy Stewart
Joanne Straight
Tess Thais
Trisha Wilkins

To join FONCPL, please visit:

<https://foncpl.org>

Group memberships are open to
Friends and public libraries.

Individual Memberships are available also.

Friends Organizational Structure

By FONCPL President Judy Hills

Periodically we like to remind Friends to evaluate their legal structure. Those Friends who have not incorporated as a nonprofit with the State of North Carolina have two guidance documents: a Constitution and a set of Bylaws. That structure is referred to as an unincorporated association. Those Friends who are incorporated with the State of NC have two guidance documents: Articles of Incorporation and a set of Bylaws. NO group should have all three documents. If you do, you should review your constitution and your bylaws and incorporate them into one document—the Bylaws.

Legal Reference: Charity Lawyer Blog: [Click here](#). Ellis Carter a nonprofit Lawyer with Caritas Law Group, P.C.

Below is a clipped section (Part II) from IRS form 1023—it is the document filed when requesting 501(c)(3) status. Note item 1—as a corporation they want to see your articles of incorporation. Item 5 wants to see that you have adopted bylaws.

The only place you see the word “constitution” is for an unincorporated association.

Form 1023 (Rev. 12-2017) Name: EIN: Page **2**

Part II Organizational Structure

You must be a corporation (including a limited liability company), an unincorporated association, or a trust to be tax exempt. See instructions. **DO NOT file this form unless you can check “Yes” on lines 1, 2, 3, or 4.**

1	Are you a corporation ? If “Yes,” attach a copy of your articles of incorporation showing certification of filing with the appropriate state agency. Include copies of any amendments to your articles and be sure they also show state filing certification.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2	Are you a limited liability company (LLC) ? If “Yes,” attach a copy of your articles of organization showing certification of filing with the appropriate state agency. Also, if you adopted an operating agreement, attach a copy. Include copies of any amendments to your articles and be sure they show state filing certification. Refer to the instructions for circumstances when an LLC should not file its own exemption application.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3	Are you an unincorporated association ? If “Yes,” attach a copy of your articles of association, constitution, or other similar organizing document that is dated and includes at least two signatures. Include signed and dated copies of any amendments.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4a	Are you a trust ? If “Yes,” attach a signed and dated copy of your trust agreement. Include signed and dated copies of any amendments.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
b	Have you been funded? If “No,” explain how you are formed without anything of value placed in trust.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
5	Have you adopted bylaws ? If “Yes,” attach a current copy showing date of adoption. If “No,” explain how your officers, directors, or trustees are selected.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Part III Required Provisions in Your Organizing Document

We hope this helps you understand your organizational structure better.

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FROM FONCPL

One of our members asked if FONCPL would re-institute the regional in-person workshops we used to host. The FONCPL Board discussed this at our meeting in February. While FONCPL isn’t set up anymore to do the workshops as we have in the past, we have come up with what we think is an acceptable option. Here is what we propose: FONCPL will give \$100 to any member Friends group that would agree to host a workshop and invite at least six other nearby Friends to attend. FONCPL will help you promote the event, give you ideas for topics, and if possible (depending on timing and location) we might be able to have one of our Board members attend. We can fund up to 14 regional meetings. If you are interested, please send an [email](#) to FONCPL President Judy Hills and provide the details. We look forward to working with your Friends of the Library to co-host a regional meeting!

Nutella, Porsche, and Other Mispronounced Brand Names

Word Genius 6/4/23

Nutella Correct: NOU-tella Incorrect: NUT-ella

This chocolatey hazelnut spread is beloved worldwide, and [it has roots in multiple European countries](#), so the pronunciation is naturally debated. According to the Nutella brand, the pronunciation is something like “NOU-tella” with an emphasis on the “NOU” (which sounds like the vowel sound in “newt” in American English, using a hard “oo”). If you’ve been saying it incorrectly, don’t worry — in a recent [poll](#) conducted by the brand, 78% of British people were pronouncing it incorrectly as “NUT-ella.” Nutella was also adamant that it doesn't care how consumers pronounce the product name, so long as they enjoy it.

Porsche Correct: PORE-shuh Incorrect: Porsh

This German car brand has ended the debate once and for all — “Porsche” is a two-syllable word. While plenty of Americans drop the “e” at the end, the correct German [pronunciation](#) is “PORE-shuh.” It comes from the brand’s founder, Ferdinand Porsche. The German [language](#) has far fewer [silent letters](#) than English, a difference that resulted in the incorrect anglicized version. In a recent [poll](#) on brand-name pronunciations, “Porsche” was the second-most-mispronounced name — around 65% of participants were incorrect.

Givenchy Correct: zhee-VAAN-shee Incorrect: gee-VIN-chi

Beating out Porsche in the [pronunciation poll](#) was Givenchy — more than 70% of participants got the name of this French luxury fashion and perfume house wrong, making it the most-mispronounced common brand name. The first syllable causes American English speakers the most grief. The “zh” or “sz” sound is [pronounced](#) like the “s” in the word “vision” — there is no American “g” sound in this word. The ending is also softer than an Americanized version would be, ending in “shee” rather than a hard “ch” sound.

La Croix Correct: la-CROY Incorrect: luh-KWAH

This one might be counterintuitive. “La Croix” looks like a French word, so it must be pronounced like a French word, right? Actually, it’s a Midwestern company, and the sparkling water brand stayed true to its roots when picking a name. It was first [produced](#) out of a brewery in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in the 1980s, and the city name was combined with the name of the St. Croix River, resulting in a portmanteau of the two Midwestern locales: La Croix. The brand suggests remembering this by using a helpful [saying](#): “La-CROY. It rhymes with ‘enjoy.’”

IKEA Correct: ee-KAY-uh Incorrect: eye-KEE-ah

If you’ve been saying “Let’s go to eye-KEE-ah,” you’re not totally out of bounds. While the anglicized [pronunciation](#) of the furniture store’s name is technically OK to use — even American IKEA commercials use it — the traditional Swedish pronunciation features different vowel [sounds](#). The first syllable is “ee,” as in “need”; the second is emphasized and pronounced as “KAY,” as in “OK”; and the third ends in an “uh” or “yuh” sound.

Hermes Correct: AIR-mez Incorrect: HER-meez

“H” is a silent letter in French when it stands alone as a consonant, so for this French luxury brand, go ahead and drop the first letter altogether. Typically, the “s” at the end would also be silent in French [pronunciation](#), but the accent mark on the second “e” (called an “[accent grave](#)”) changes the pronunciation of the “e,” and therefore the “s.” The accent calls for the “e” to be pronounced like the vowel sound in the English word “net.” Because of this, the “s” is also softly pronounced.

Sriracha Correct: sir-ROTCH-ah Incorrect: sri-ROTCH-ah

The trick to [pronouncing](#) this Thai chili sauce brand is to leave out the first “r.” As for the pronunciation of the first vowel, that’s up for debate. Some official sources, including Merriam-Webster and the Oxford Dictionary, say to pronounce the first syllable as the word “sir,” while in the Thai language, the first syllable is “see.” Both options seem to be acceptable for hot sauce fans, so long as that first “r” remains silent.

Versace Correct: Ver-sache-EH Incorrect: Ver-sach-EE

As confirmed by Donatella Versace herself, the correct pronunciation of this Italian fashion brand is “Ver-sach-EH,” with more of an “uh” or “eh” sound at the end (not an elongated “ee” as in “knee”).



Judy --

I wanted to reach out and ask if you could help out with [sharing this pledge](#).

As I'm sure you know, it's a big election year, and libraries are under attack. Many libraries are counting on voters to help them win ballot initiatives or elect legislators who care about libraries.

Without proper support, dozens of libraries are going to lose the funding they need to serve their communities. That means that many communities are going to lose access to storytimes, business support, and even the books in the library!

That's why we really need your help to build voter support and make sure that libraries are ready this November.

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If everyone who gets this email shares the pledge, we'll be able to reach millions of Americans with this simple call to action.

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