



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

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

HERE'S JUDY

Happy Spring, Friends!

It is finally warming up and we hope your Friends are as well. Spring is generally a busy time for most groups. We hope you have some wonderful events and fundraisers planned. If not, do take a look at the FONCPL website and newsletter for ideas.

FONCPL has one piece of good news this month—the FONCPL board voted on a new Director. Please join us in welcoming **Karen Robbins**. Karen is the President of the Friends of the Brunswick County Library, Rourk Branch—near Wilmington. We asked Karen why she agreed to accept this position and she responded, *“I have a dear friend and colleague who happens to be the finest librarian and library advocate I know. She encouraged me to step up and participate at the state level in order to help this wonderful organization continue to provide support to FOL’s statewide.”* We thank Karen for stepping up and hope that a few others of you will as well. Welcome aboard, Karen!

We announced the availability of funds to help defray the cost of a workshop for Friends of the library. If your Friends would agree to host six other nearby Friends and hold a meeting with them, FONCPL will provide \$100. So far there are only two Friends groups that have expressed an interest—all in the eastern part of the state. Please step up—this really isn’t much work and our Board members will assist if we can. Just [email me](#) if interested.

Also, we remind you that later in the year we have funding available for Challenge Grants. [Click here](#) for that information so you can think of a project to propose. There is an opportunity to nominate a Friend of the Year from your group as well. [Click here](#) for that information.

The April 22nd Open Mic night topic will be on Board responsibilities, terms, training, and more. We suspect that some Board members have never had any training other than on-the-job. There is always something new to learn on this subject so do tune in at 7:00 PM. [Click here](#) for the Zoom link.

We also want to remind you that our new FONCPL Advocacy Kit is available on our website. Book challenges are still on the rise, so we urge you to be proactive. [Click here](#) to access that document.

We’d like to know what experience you have had in renewing your Charitable Solicitation License exemption. Our FONCPL Treasurer has had some issues. Please email your comments to [Tim Como](#).

April 7-13 is National Library Week. Please do something nice for your library staff either during that week or on Tuesday April 9th which is National Library Workers’ Day. Take pictures and [email](#) them to our newsletter editor Kathy Lambe.

I leave you with this quote, “The most important asset of any library goes home at night—the library staff.” Be sure to let them know how much you care!

Yours in Friendship,
Judy Hills, President



Some Facts about the Month of April

*Did you know that April is:
National Pickleball Month
National Financial Literacy Month
Parkinson's Awareness Month
National Soft Pretzel Month
National Jazz Appreciation Month

*Did you know that April is the best month of the year to look up to the skies and watch meteor showers?

This year, be sure to look for the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16 – 26th. There's another one called the Eta Aquariids meteor shower that can be seen onwards from April 21st.

*There are quite a few notable historical people born in April, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Shakespeare, and Queen Elizabeth II.

*On April 14, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sank on her first and only voyage.

*George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.

*On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched and ran into difficulties about two days later. It was then that the famous line "Houston, we've had a problem here" was said, and is today usually misquoted.

*After a 1,500-year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6, 1896, in Athens.

*The explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine occurred on April 26, 1986, which forced everyone within a 300-mile radius to be evacuated.

*For all the car enthusiasts out there, Ford unveiled their first Mustang on April 17, 1964, costing \$2,368.

*The first battle of the Revolutionary War Lexington, and Concord, broke out on April 19, 1775.





FRIENDS GROUPS THAT HAVE JOINED 2024

Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library

Alleghany County Public Library

Ashe County Public Library

Bogue Banks Public Library

Caldwell County Library

Carteret County Public Library

Caswell Library

Catawba County Library

Cleveland County Memorial Library

Concord Library

Cove City – Craven County Library

Cumberland County Library

Goldston Public Library

Havelock-Craven County Library

Hickory Public Library

Hocutt Ellington Memorial Library

Jackson County Public Library

Kernersville Library (Paddison)

Lewisville Library

Lexington Library

Marianna Black Library

Mars Hill Public Library

Midland 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

Topsail Township Library

Transylvania County Library

Union County Public Library

Watauga County Public Library

Western Carteret Public Library



INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE JOINED APRIL 2024

Christine Alyea

Tim Como

Kim Eaton

Julie Flick

Diana Fotinatos

Judy Hills

Jack James

Sylvia King

Katie Lake

Kathy Lambe

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.



Top baby names of 2024

< 2023

All years

Just interesting to read....

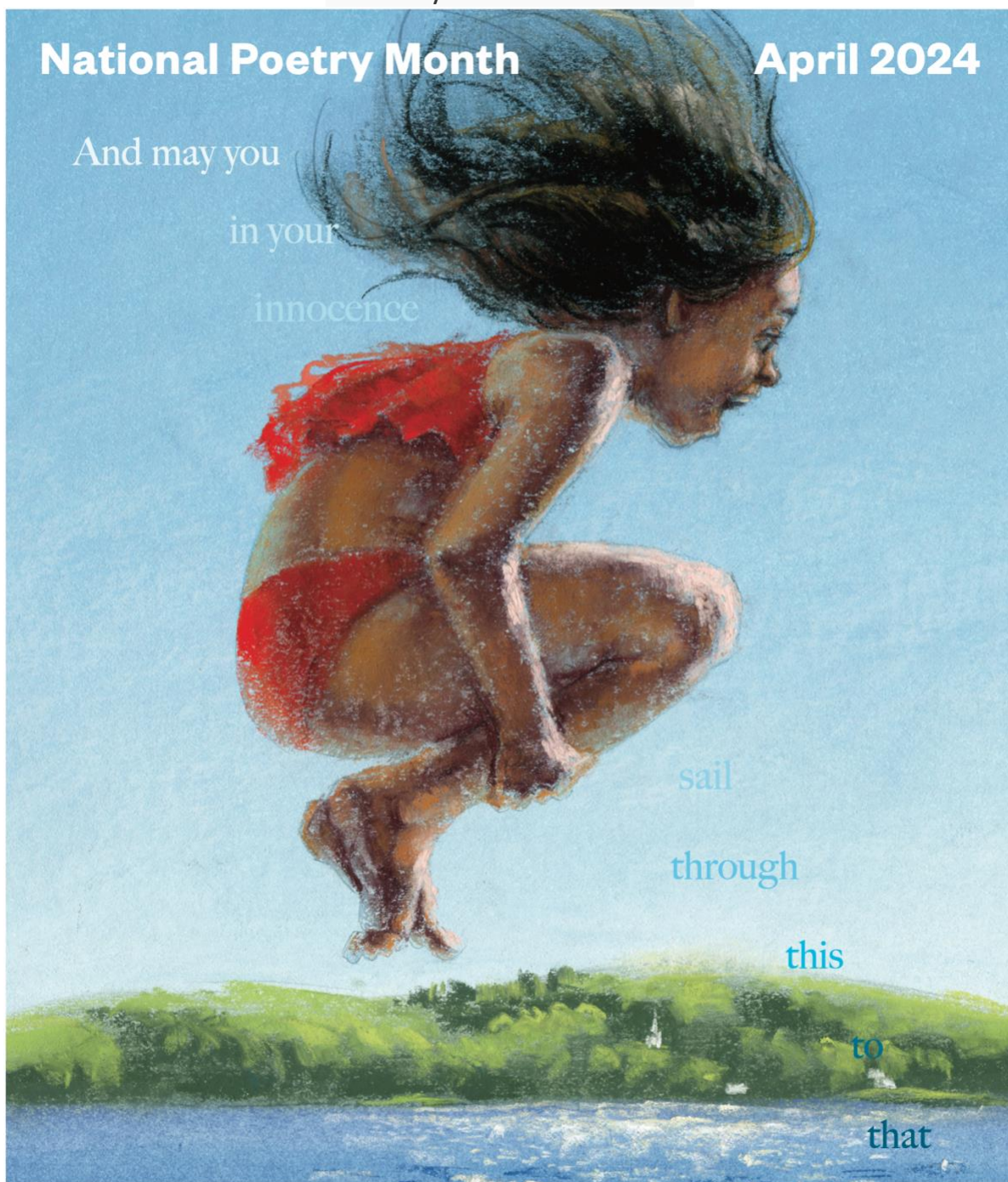
Based on [true popularity](#) [?]

	 Girls	 Boys
1	Olivia	Noah
2	Isabella	Liam
3	Sophia	Oliver
4	Amelia	Elijah
5	Charlotte	Asher
6	Ava	Ezra
7	Emma	Mateo
8	Aurora	Lucas
9	Ellie	James
10	Luna	Leo
11	Eliana	Carter
12	Mia	Henry
13	Aria	Isaiah
14	Evelyn	Levi
15	Gianna	Michael

April is National Poetry Month

Initiated in April 1996 by the [Academy of American Poets](#), [National Poetry Month](#) is currently the largest world-wide literary celebration. It encourages booksellers, libraries, poets, publishers, and schools to promote the importance of poetry and its significance to society and culture.

The 2024 poster features artwork by award-winning children’s author and illustrator Jack Wong, and lines from “[blessing the boats](#)” by beloved poet [Lucille Clifton](#). Wong 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.



Want to show your support for National Poetry Month?
Order a free National Poetry Month poster [here](#)!



What are the Girl Scout cookie flavors in 2024?

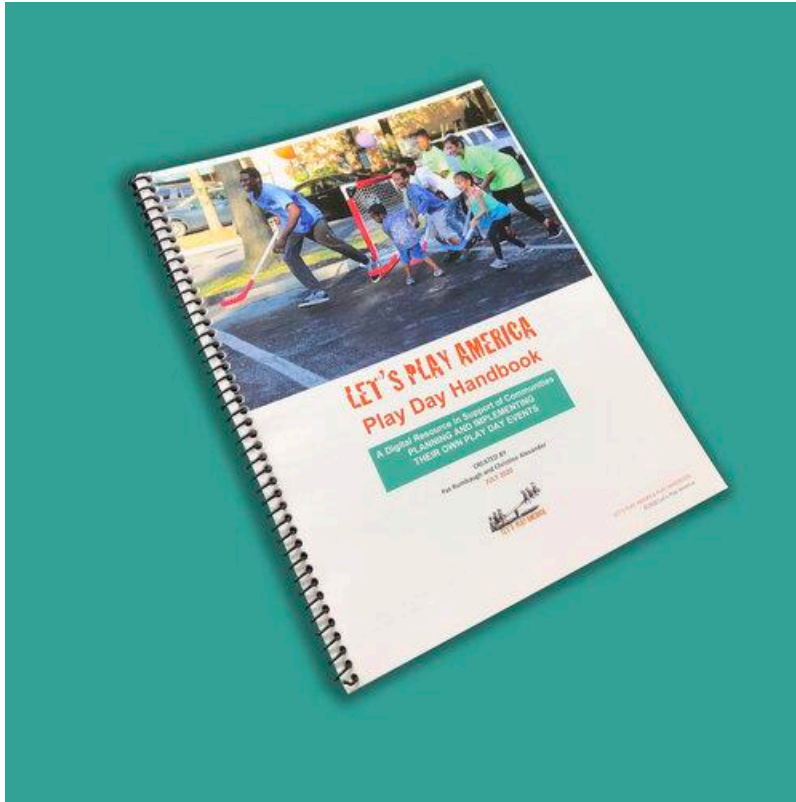
The 2024 lineup of flavors is as follows:

- **Thin Mints:** a crispy chocolate-mint wafer coated in chocolate
- **Samoas:** crispy coconut and caramel-coated ring-shaped cookies with chocolatey stripes
- **Tagalongs:** crunchy cookies topped with a layer of peanut butter and dipped in chocolate
- **Trefoils:** shortbread cookies
- **Do-Si-Dos:** a peanut butter sandwich cookie
- **Adventurefuls:** a chocolate, brownie-ish cookie with a dollop of caramel “creme” in the center.
- **Caramel Chocolate Chip:** Gluten-free, chewy cookies with caramel and chocolate chips.
- **Lemonades:** lemon-iced shortbread cookies
- **Lemon-Ups:** also a lemon cookie, but with “inspirational messages” printed on it.
- **Girl Scout S’mores:** graham cracker sandwich cookies stuffed with chocolate and marshmallow fluff.
- **Toast-Yay:** icing-dipped, French toast flavored cookies
- **Toffee-tastics:** a gluten-free buttery toffee cookie



Visit
thebookfest.com
for more info

How to Bring a Play Day to Your Community



A Play Day is a playful event in communities that is a free event organized around resources, skills, and interests inherent to the community.

The Play Day Project is open to communities around the world, and some locations have funding available through ChangeX. The Play Day Project was inspired by the nonprofit LetsPlayAmerica.org based in Takoma Park, Maryland USA. Let's Play America believes everyone deserves to play.

We recently spoke with Pat Rumbaugh, co-founder of Let's Play America, and we'd love to invite public libraries to consider learning more about Play Days and consider bringing one to your community.

Through their partnership with ChangeX, you can get free [guides](#) and [resources](#) on how to bring the Play Day idea to life.

Depending on where you live there may even be funding available to help you get started!

Learn more at ChangeX.

You can also download the [Play Day Handbook directly at the Let's Play America webpage](#).

Let's play together!

How FONCPL has helped our FOL

by Karen Robbins



The Friends of the North Carolina Public Libraries was a breath of fresh air for the Rourk Branch FOL here in Brunswick County. The first time I opened the website, I couldn't wait to begin learning and using the materials to help me as the new president of our local FOL.

I am so grateful to the organization for sharing resources such as this. The wealth of ideas has contributed to our growth and development as an organization. I will share some of the exciting things we learned and borrowed from the FONCPL.



Workshops from Spring of 2021 had several timely videos that we used as resources to get started. We liked “How to Set up a Book Storage Unit”; “DIY StoryWalks® and Beyond”; and “Getting Authors to Speak”. Although we haven't gotten a proper storage solution for our book donations, we are exploring several possibilities. We created several StoryWalks® that the community enjoyed, partnering with Kiwanis for Veterans Day, and the town of Shallotte for Earth Day. We made another to use for pollinator gardens. We also began an Author Series, and we are planning our third Author Visit this fiscal year. Thank you FONCPL!

Earth Day Storywalk at
Shallotte's Riverwalk



NORTH CAROLINA AUTHOR WILEY CASH SPOKE AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING LAST FALL.

AUTHOR LYNN COOK BETZ AND LOCAL LEGEND CRAZY DALE VARNAM SPOKE AT THE LIBRARY IN JANUARY. SPECIAL GUEST SAM CURREN, THE FORMER PROSECTOR FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NC JOINED THEM.

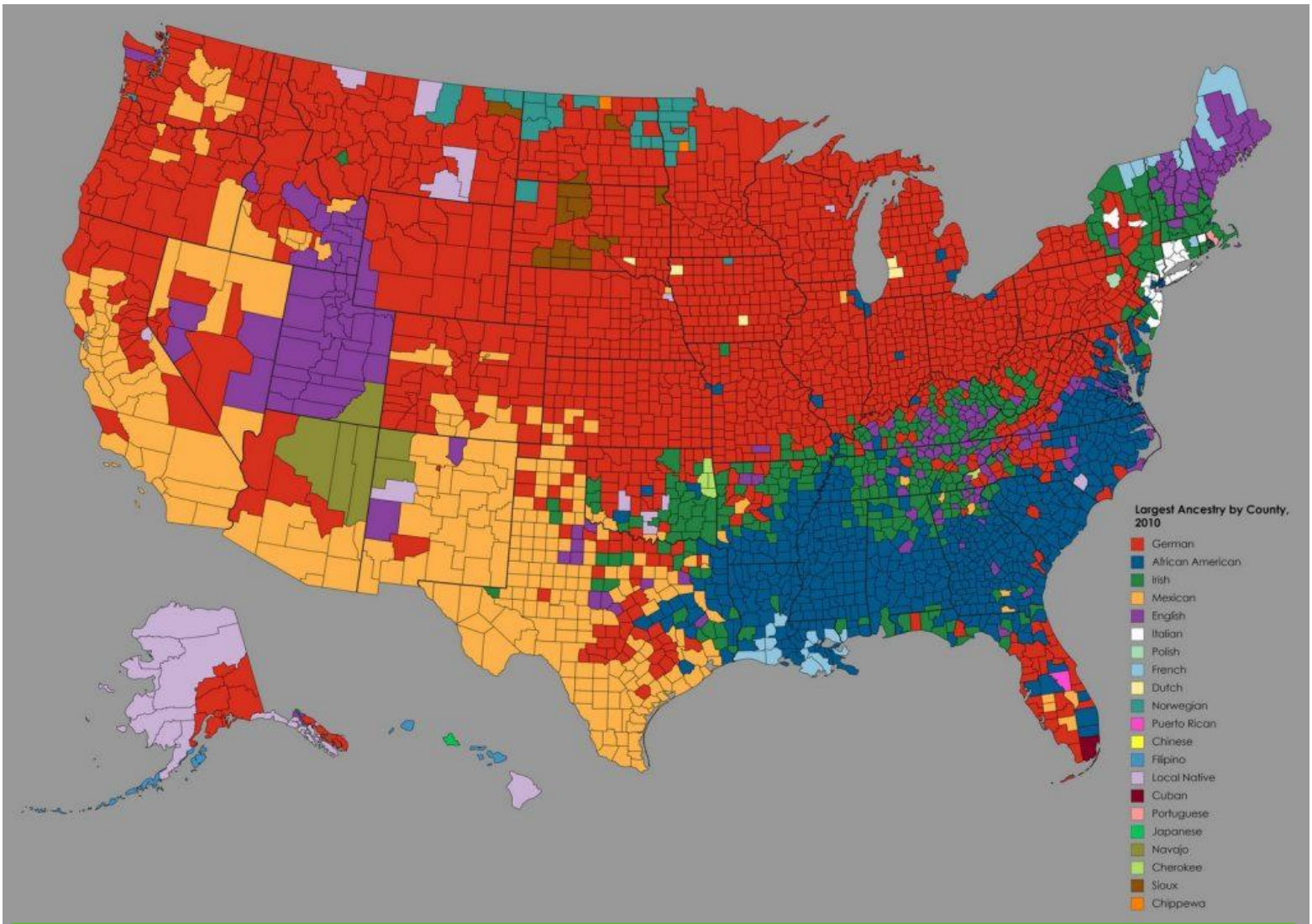
From the Fall 2021 Workshops we learned about logo design, annual reports, and developing a website. Our logo came from a local high school student, who won a contest for the logo design. facilitated by the high school publications adviser. The annual report has become a key to our work. It allows us to celebrate our accomplishments, explain our income and expenses, and track our activities and goals. Finally, we created a communications committee that developed both a website and newsletter, which we use both to inform and to recruit members.

Finally, **Workshop Spring 2022** helped us very much as we used “Money Matters” to guide us as we revised the By Laws and planned a Memorandum of Understanding with our Brunswick County Library Director. We also revised our budget accordingly, reflecting what we had learned about expenses directly impacting the FOL and those designated for the library purchases. “Money Matters” helped us immeasurably as we tightened our business model and budget.

I hope that if you haven't revisited the website in a while, that you look over the offerings there. Even one small idea can kick start an energetic reimagining of your FOL role in the community.

LARGEST ANCESTRY BY COUNTRY IN EVERY COUNTY

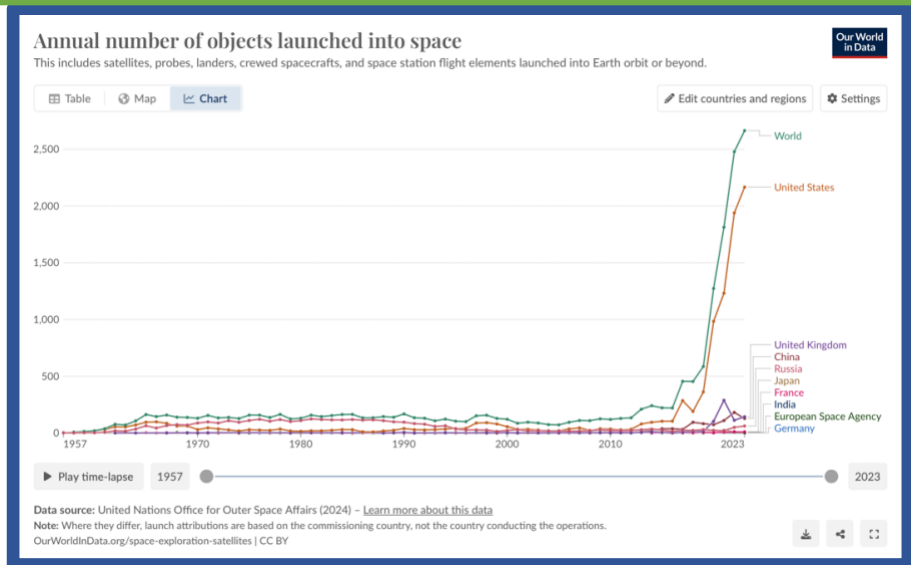
<https://vividmaps.com/largest-ancestry-by-us-county/>



This is really interesting!! Share with adults & children!
HOW DO LEAFCUTTER ANTS CUT LEAVES OFF OF TREES?

https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/leaf-cutter-ants-time-lapse?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter

A record number
of
objects went into
space last year.





NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 7–13, 2024



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."



Braille Is Alive, Well, and Ever-Evolving

An excerpt from an article by Sophia Stewart July 21, 2023



A few times a day, a strange, pulsating sound fills the Boston headquarters of the National Braille Press. *Thun-thun. Thun-thun.* This is what employees of the nonprofit braille publisher call the office's "braille heartbeat," generated by an assortment of printing presses—50-year-old Heidelberg presses and modern big-roll embossers alike—pumping away in the basement, producing books and other reading materials for blind readers.

NBP has been at the forefront of braille publishing since 1927, when it was founded by the blind Italian immigrant **Francis Ierardi**—a classmate of **Helen Keller's** at the Perkins School—as a weekly newspaper serving Boston's blind community. Demand was so great that it went national after just three months. Since then the organization has expanded far beyond a single publication. Today, NBP produces and distributes braille books, reading materials, and technologies for the nation, with clients ranging from individual blind readers to the Library of Congress.

In 1983, NBP launched one of its flagship programs, the Children's Braille Book Club. The first-of-its-kind subscription service pioneered the "print/braille" book format by distributing mainstream children's books with added braille.

When *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* was published in 2007, NBP drew headlines by hosting a midnight release party, complete with accessible editions of the book. Scholastic sent NBP the manuscript early in order for it to be transcribed, and the office had to cover its windows and employ an armed guard to protect what was at that point the most valuable manuscript in the world. Staff worked around the clock to ensure the braille volumes were ready in time.

Since the 1980s, many blind readers have used electronic braille displays, which have refreshable braille composed of small pins that shift as the reader progresses. Over time, these displays have become more sophisticated and less expensive.

"With an electronic braille display, it's possible to turn a huge number of digital books into braille," Leland said, adding that both the Apple Books and Kindle apps are accessible through these displays. He prefers to read electronic braille and gets most of his digital books from the accessible e-book library Bookshare, as well as the Library of Congress's National Library Service.

"To call hard-copy braille bulky is an understatement," he said. "It takes several hulking volumes in braille to reproduce what in print would be an unassuming paperback." For reference, NBP's braille edition of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* comprised 12 volumes, totaled 1,100 pages, and weighed 12 pounds.

... electronic braille is "the future" and when many are saying that "braille is like Latin—a dead language." (In fact, braille is a code, not a language.)

To read the complete article. https://themillions.com/2023/07/braille-is-alive-well-and-ever-evolving.html?utm_source=recommendedreads.com

Open

Mic Night

with Judy!



Monday April 22
7:00 pm

Discussion:

*Board responsibilities, terms,
training*

To join in the discussion by computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82439503072?pwd=cVQzSnR3L2tKQ05Ya3ZsOUtITWhBQT09>

To join by phone:

305 224 1968

Meeting ID: 824 3950 3072

Passcode: 952837

SLNC Oral History Workshop



Join us for an in-person workshop on the art of oral histories, presented by the [SLNC Government and Heritage Library](#), in partnership with the [Institute for the Study of the Americas](#) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the “New Roots: Voices from Carolina del Norte” initiative.

During this session, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of what oral histories entail and how to conduct them effectively. Focusing on the preliminary stages of preparation, including selecting a thematic focus and crafting thought-provoking interview questions, the workshop features an exploration of various question types that contribute to the creation of compelling oral histories, accompanied by insightful demonstrations through sample audio clips. Moreover, attendees will receive valuable guidance on recommended equipment and best practices for capturing high-quality oral history interviews.

Join us as we delve into the art of storytelling, capturing the diverse and rich narratives that form the cultural tapestry of North Carolina.

Webinar Details:

SLNC Oral History Workshop

Date/Time: April 27, 2024, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

SLNC Government & Heritage Library
[Department of Natural and Cultural Resources](#)
[109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601](#)

Register

A save-the-date for StoryWalk® Week 2024



We're thrilled to share that for the fourth consecutive year we are teaming up with the [Association of Bookmobile & Outreach Services \(ABOS\)](#) for the Fourth Annual StoryWalk® Week celebration!

This year the fun will be November 10-16.

And we'd like to invite you to [share your stories](#) as well! We feature them online and in our newsletters to inspire others.

To participate, all you need to do is share a photograph of your library's StoryWalk from the year 2024, along with a brief caption. We'll be opening up the call for participation in October 2024.

To get ideas and inspiration check out the webpages for

[StoryWalk Week 2023](#)

[StoryWalk Week 2022](#)

[StoryWalk Week 2021](#)

And our [StoryWalk resource page](#).

Let's get moving outside!

Units sold
750,789



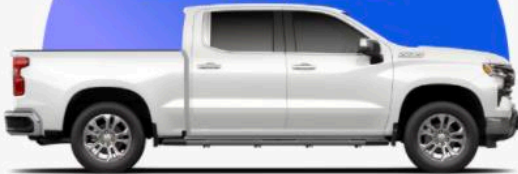
 F-Series

The 10 Best-Selling

Cars

in the U.S. in 2023

555,148



 Silverado

444,926



 RAM Pickup

434,943



 RAV4

403,897



 Model Y*

361,457



 CR-V

295,737



 GMC Sierra

290,649



 Camry

271,458



 Nissan Rogue

244,594



 Jeep Grand Cherokee

*Tesla does not break out sales by region. Figures based on estimates by EVAdoption.com. Source: Motor1



- 1 Add a **NoveList Search Box** to the home page of your library's webpage. Get started by emailing novelist@ebSCO.com.
- 2 Search illustration types like "Big and Bold" or "Black and White" in **NoveList Plus** to find the perfect picture book for kids or graphic novel for teens and adults.
- 3 Use NoveList Plus **Book Club Resources** to discover new titles and tips for your book clubs.
- 4 Use NoveList Plus **Diversity Resources** page to be intentional about the books you feature and promote.
- 5 Is a big event coming up? Feature a table for in-person reading recommendations! Bring a laptop and use NoveList Plus right there.
- 6 Inspire your readers to try new types of books with NoveList's **2024 Reading Challenge**.
- 7 Sign up for alerts in NoveList Plus to stay on top of new books.
- 8 Wow your readers with expert insights into books right in your catalog with **NoveList Select**.
- 9 Set a reminder to check your NoveList Select **Analytics Dashboard** monthly to see the titles, authors, and series that are most popular with your readers.
- 10 Mix and match terms in the NoveList Select **Story Finder** to find titles and read-alikes right from the catalog as you help patrons.
- 11 Evaluate, select, and find titles to order with **Core Collections**.
- 12 Make weeding decisions easy by using Core Collections **recommendation levels** to decide if a title is essential to keep or reorder.
- 13 Want to start or build a Spanish-language collection but don't know where to start? **Core Collection en Español** has unbiased, expert guidance you can trust.



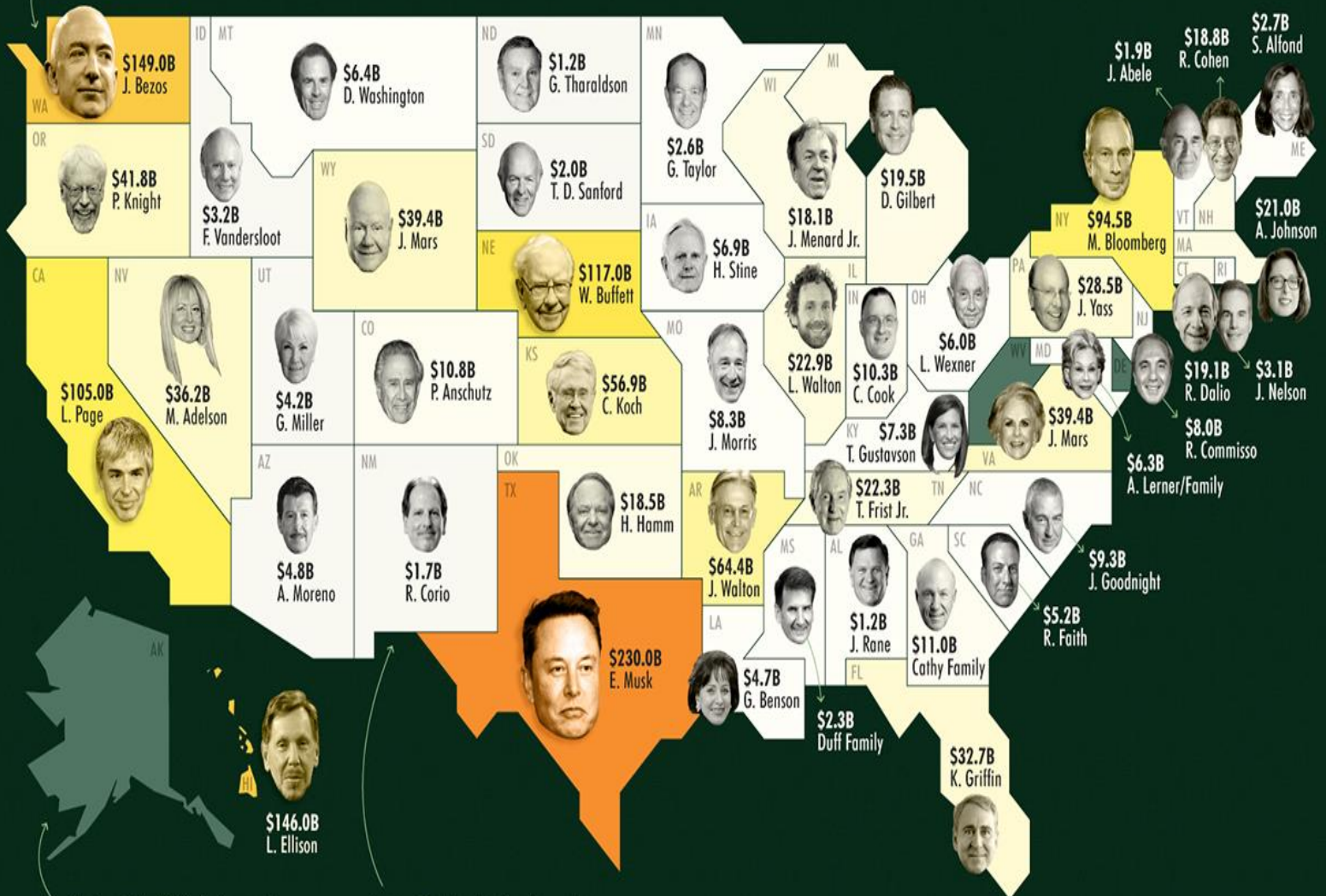
- 14 Enhance your form-based readers' advisory requests by turning to the **BookChat** librarians when you need help crafting the perfect personalized recommendation.
- 15 Place a widget on your website homepage so patrons can easily find BookChat for **real-time book recommendations**.
- 16 Use "For Fans of ..." templates in **LibraryAware** for timely recommendations to print or post.
- 17 Take advantage of the **book display templates** in LibraryAware to easily promote titles.
- 18 Plan promotions in one afternoon for big library programs like **Summer Reading**. Just create a folder in LibraryAware and save all the ready-made themed templates in one sitting.
- 19 Select interesting points from **annual reports** and rework them into infographics using LibraryAware. Studies show visual information is easier to digest.
- 20 Reach readers in the inbox by downloading **this free email newsletter guide** from NoveList.
- 21 Promote your collection! Use the **Multiple Records blocks** in any LibraryAware Drag & Drop email to quickly insert a list of books or AV titles by keyword, ISBN, or UPC.
- 22 Drive engagement on your **social media** platforms by posting a Social Media Question graphic from LibraryAware.
- 23 Provide expert training for all staff on the core skills they need, available on their schedule, with a **Learn with NoveList** Subscription.
- 24 Keep track of the many trends in reading and books by taking the course **Keeping Up with Books** from Learn with NoveList.
- 25 Learn more about the genres readers love (even if you don't) by taking a Crash Course from **Learn with NoveList**.
- 26 Get the most out of your NoveList subscriptions with our free, recorded training, available 24/7 on **EBSCO Connect**. Just search "NoveList" to find them.
- 27 **Take a quiz** to find out what kind of learner you are, then match your unique learning needs with courses from Learn with NoveList.
- 28 Make planning your next in-person staff day easy by hiring a **Learn with NoveList** instructor to deliver up to four hours of interactive, fun, and valuable training.
- 29 Get help paying for training for library staff by applying for the **Institutional Educational Support Program** developed by our partner, **LibraryReads**.
- 30 Sign up for **NoveList News** to get the latest trends, tips, and training so you can get the most out of your subscription.

Richest Billionaire

in Every State

There are 775 billionaires living in the United States, up 5% from 2022. This map showcases who the richest billionaire in each U.S. state is.

Bill Gates is the second richest billionaire in Washington state, behind Jeff Bezos.



Alaska, West Virginia, and Delaware are the only states without any billionaires.

Array Technologies founder, Ron Corio, recently became New Mexico's first billionaire.





Have a lovely April - enjoy our Spring season!

**2024
FONCPL
Board**

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Judy Hills (Craven)
jahnbc@gmail.com

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Please remember to send in any articles or pictures to klambe@me.com.