

October NC F* R * I * E * N * D * S TALK 2024



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

Hello Fellow Friends,

Our hearts and prayers go out to all those impacted by that behemoth Hurricane Helene. Who would have thought that in these days and times storms that previously only damaged only coastal areas would have such impacts on other inland areas? Please send us your storm-related library stories and pictures for the November newsletter. Those of us who have been through such situations know how hard recovery will be and how long it will take. Life will never be the same for some.

September was an incredibly busy month for me personally. I had six days where I was engaged in helping set up, run, and take down our Friends of the Library big fall book sale. During that same week, I did a PowerPoint Presentation on responding to book challenges for the Friends and Trustees of Rourk Branch of the Brunswick County Library in Shallotte. Several other local Friends groups sent representatives as well. FONCPL Board member Karen Robbins coordinated the event. It was well attended and well received. Then on September 25th, I was invited to attend an informal gathering of Friends of the Library groups in Onslow, Carteret, and Craven counties. This was coordinated by Paula Patselas of the Swansboro Library FOL. I pitched FONCPL membership and benefits and talked about our efforts, resources, and opportunities. It was a lovely event that took place in their local Heritage Center.

We hope your Board and especially your Treasurer are reading the 4-part series on Financial Management. In this newsletter, you can read part three of this series. Some groups that have not made any changes to their processes in years should really review the material and consider how they might tighten up their fiscal policies and procedures.

FONCPL had several opportunities in September that were open to members. We had six FOLs apply for challenge grants—not bad. We only had three Friend of the Year nominations, but hope we get a few more before the end of the month which is the deadline to submit. We did not have any submissions for comments on book challenges by either Friends or library staff. So sad! Surely you have an opinion on this topic.

Banned Book Week 9/22 to 9/28 was a great opportunity to promote the Freedom to Read and we hope your FOL celebrated this in some way.

October 20 to 26 is National Friends of the Library Week. How will your FOL acknowledge and celebrate your successes? We hope your library recognizes your group's contributions in some way, but it would be a good week to promote FOL membership.

So, stay the course and keep the faith!

Yours in Friendship,

Judy Hills, FONCPL President



TEENtober

[TeenTober™](#) is a nationwide celebration hosted by libraries every October and aims to celebrate teens, promote year-round teen services and the innovative ways teen services help teens learn new skills, and fuel their passions in and outside the library.

We  the Friends
of the Library.

NATIONAL **Friends** OF **Libraries** WEEK

OCTOBER 20-26, 2024

AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

This is a great time to promote your Friends!!

Increase awareness about membership opportunities, goals, projects and more.

SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHERS ON HOW TO OBSERVE THE WEEK

~Visit your local library and volunteer.

~While visiting the library, learn more about programs offered through library friends groups.

~Support library friends groups.

~Find out how to become a member.

~Donate to their programs and support their efforts.

~Libraries that are supported by a friends group, consider hosting an event.

Thank your friends group and help promote their membership, too!

Just look at the fun at Swansboro on September 25th!



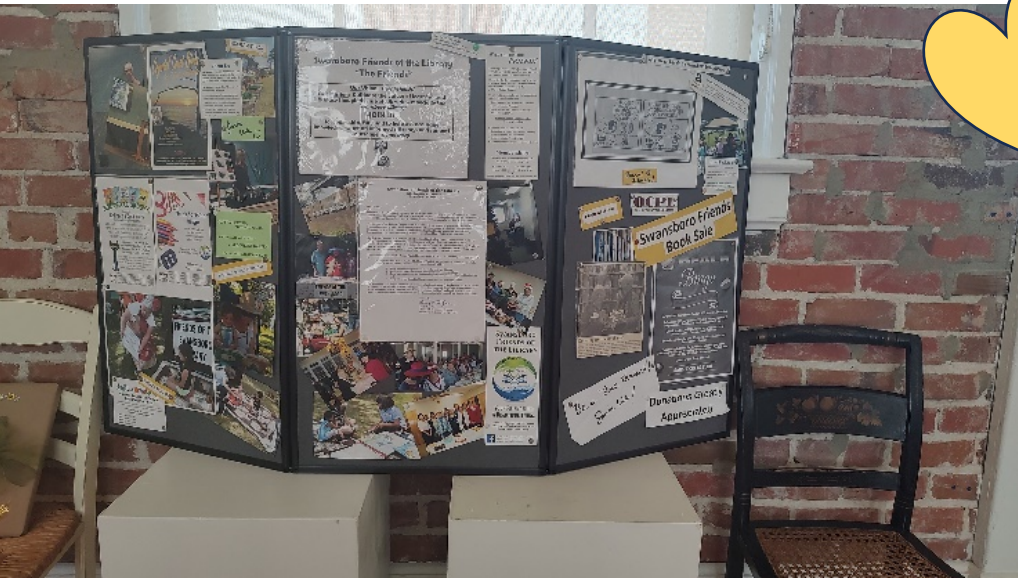
These good used books were wrapped and set at each seat. We could swap with others.



FONCPL Secretary Joanne Straight wearing her Banned Book Week shirt.



Censorship causes blindness—appropriate since this was Banned Books week.



Great way to tell your FOL story, highlight your activities, and promote membership.



The 2024 shortlist for the Booker Prize – the world’s most influential prize for a single work of fiction – was announced on 16 September 2024. The shortlist includes the largest number of women in the Booker’s 55-year history, with five women and one man represented. Authors from five countries appear on the list, including the first Dutch writer to be shortlisted, the first Australian in 10 years, as well as British, Canadian and American authors. Two of the authors have been shortlisted previously.

The books shortlisted for the [Booker Prize 2024](#) are:

[James](#) by Percival Everett

[Orbital](#) by Samantha Harvey

[Creation Lake](#) by Rachel Kushner

[Held](#) by Anne Michaels

[The Safekeep](#) by Yael van der Wouden

[Stone Yard Devotional](#) by Charlotte Wood



7 FAVORITE FALL CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Fiscal Controls and Reporting for Small Nonprofits (3 of 4)

By Judy Hills, FONCL President

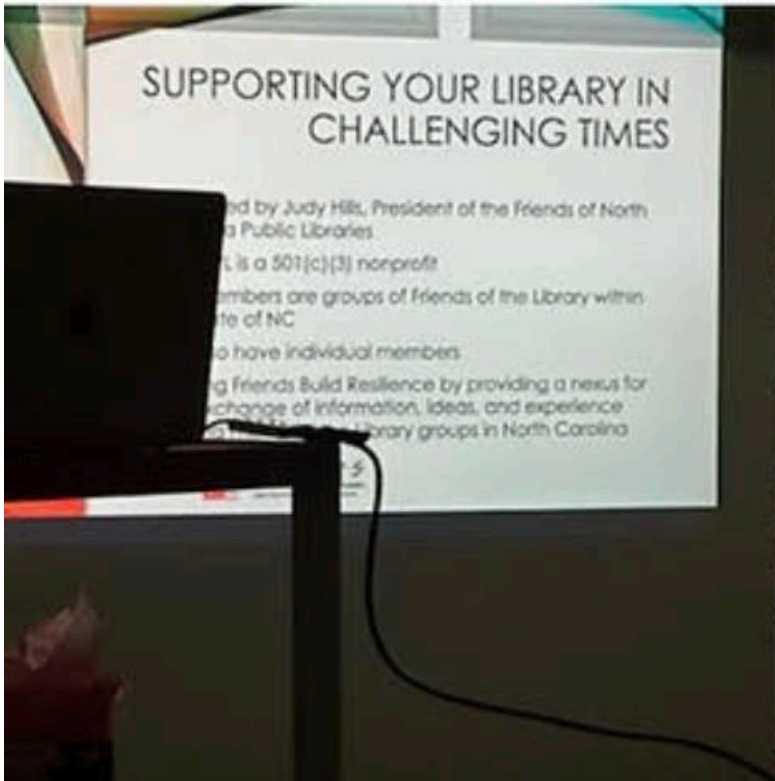
This is a series of articles which will tackle one financial topic at a time. The basis of this material is taken from the State of Oregon Department of Justice Law & Guides for Charities. Although written for Oregon nonprofits, the basics are the same. [Click here](#) to read all the recommendations.

Preserving charitable assets is one of the most important responsibilities of nonprofit board service. Many organizations experience asset losses related to thefts, embezzlements, or other diversions of assets and these trends are mirrored in charities throughout the country. We have found that most situations leading to charitable asset diversion are directly related to an organization's maintenance of reasonable financial records and implementation of meaningful financial controls.

Most financial losses could be easily avoided or quickly identified if organizations implemented basic financial controls, such as regular independent review of bank statements or following a proper expenditure review process. Financial controls are often referred to as internal controls. The following is a list of minimum internal controls that should be in place in any non-profit organization, regardless of size. Additional internal controls should be considered and adapted to the circumstances and operations of the nonprofit.

1. Control the disbursement process. All disbursements, whether made by check, positive pay, or an e-pay system, should be approved by someone other than the person who physically makes the payment. The approver should confirm that the payment is supported by an appropriate check request, invoice and/or purchase order, that the same invoice is not paid more than once, and that the stated amount of goods or services were truly received by the organization. The organization's list of vendors should be reviewed for reasonableness, duplication, and "ghost vendors" on a regular basis. Cash expenditures should be avoided to the extent possible. Consistent with the proper segregation of duties, a single person should not be responsible for the collection, deposit, and reconciliation of cash receipts or other sources of income. If it is necessary to make payments in cash, those payments should be fully documented through advance approval, signed receipts by persons receiving cash, and expense vouchers or other documentation that the cash was used appropriately.
2. Control expense reimbursements. Organizations should require all reimbursable expenses to be preauthorized. Preauthorized expenses should only be reimbursed if original receipts and other supporting documentation are submitted with the reimbursement requests. Reimbursement payments should only be necessary when organizational funds cannot be used to pay for the expense in the first instance. Under no circumstances should anyone ever write their own reimbursement check. Check stubs or copies of reimbursement checks should be retained along with authorization forms, reimbursement requests, and receipts. If an organization fails to maintain adequate documentation to demonstrate that the reimbursement was for legitimate organizational expenses, the reimbursement could potentially be treated as a form of prohibited inurement or taxable income to the recipient.
3. Utilize budgets. Every organization should develop an annual budget process in which it estimates incoming revenue and outgoing expenses for the year. The budget should be tracked and actual results compared to budgeted projections. Unexplained variations from projections can be an early warning signs of potential problems. For example, a drop in cash income could be a sign of skimming. Budgets help organizations identify goals and potential problem areas so that they can build on those successes or take corrective action to resolve problems. For example, if an organization has an annual fundraising event, a budget provides a revenue target for that event and also enables the organization to set planned expenditures.

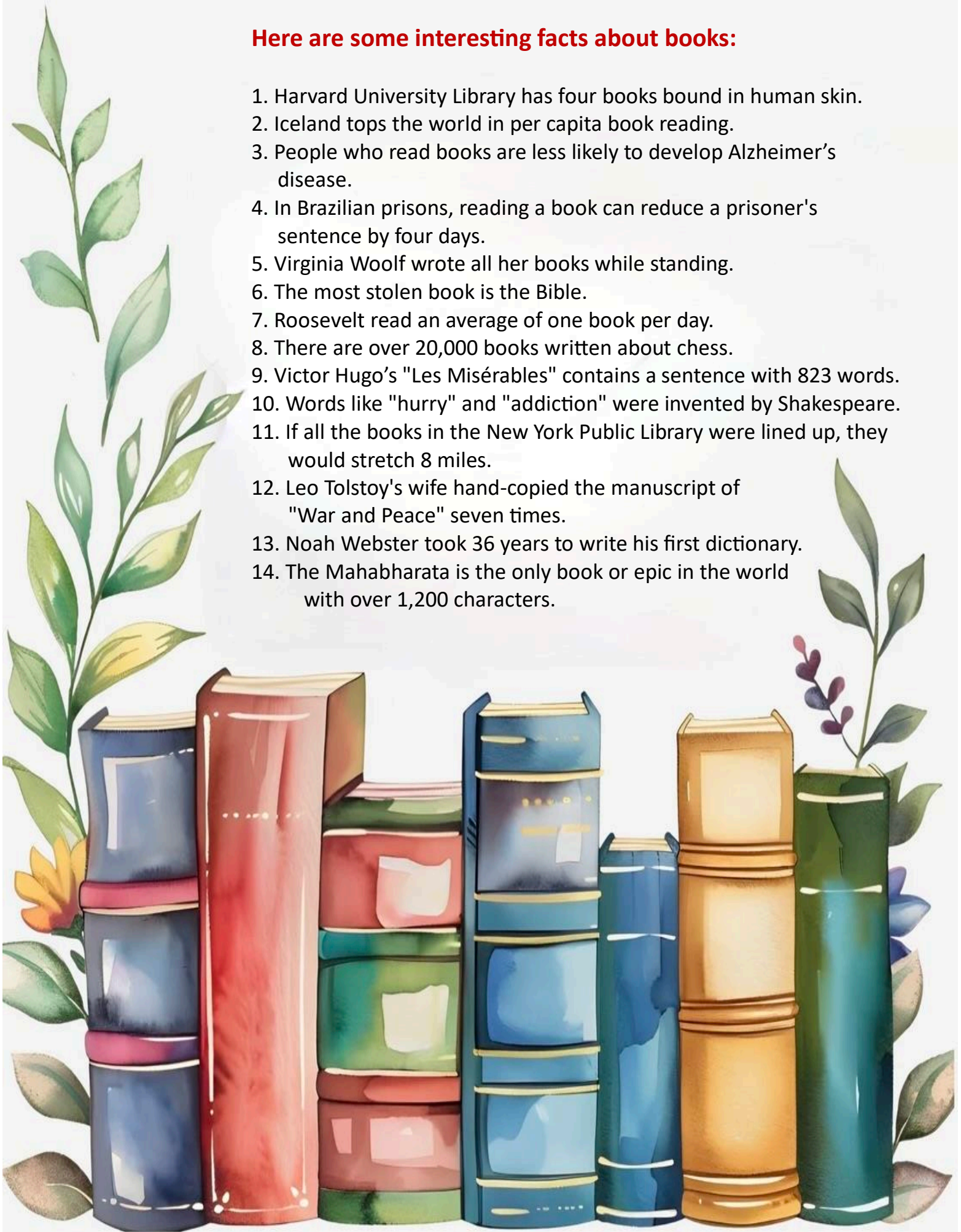
What an informative meeting Karen Robbins coordinated for the Friends & Trustees of Rourk Branch of the Brunswick County Library.

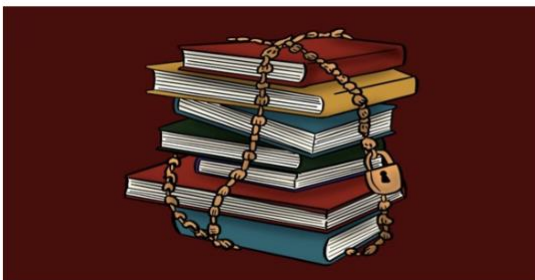


Our Annual Meeting was held on September 12, 2024, and was well attended by our FOL Board Members, FOL Members, County Library Director, Patricia Dew; Library Board of Trustees members, as well as many other interested friends. Our guest speaker, Judy Hills, President of the Friends of the North Carolina Public Libraries, spoke of the challenges facing libraries. Her presentation was followed by many questions and discussions concerning the banning of books. A special thanks to Kathy Kiefer of Fresh Baked who provided us with incredibly, delicious cookies and cupcakes!

Here are some interesting facts about books:

1. Harvard University Library has four books bound in human skin.
2. Iceland tops the world in per capita book reading.
3. People who read books are less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.
4. In Brazilian prisons, reading a book can reduce a prisoner's sentence by four days.
5. Virginia Woolf wrote all her books while standing.
6. The most stolen book is the Bible.
7. Roosevelt read an average of one book per day.
8. There are over 20,000 books written about chess.
9. Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" contains a sentence with 823 words.
10. Words like "hurry" and "addiction" were invented by Shakespeare.
11. If all the books in the New York Public Library were lined up, they would stretch 8 miles.
12. Leo Tolstoy's wife hand-copied the manuscript of "War and Peace" seven times.
13. Noah Webster took 36 years to write his first dictionary.
14. The Mahabharata is the only book or epic in the world with over 1,200 characters.





Our Monthly Censorship Update

by Karen Robbins,

President, Friends of the Library Rourk Branch

How are books reinstated in the library following a ban?

Karen Robbins

It is no secret that book challenges, reconsideration and bans have increased exponentially in the last several years as organized groups have targeted schools and libraries with the idea of “protecting” children from ideas or situations that those groups find offensive. But there is a darker side to this wave of book censorship. By undermining the way that citizens can access information and ideas, small groups of organized people can control the narrative. Taking away historical facts and perspectives and limiting exposure to lives different from our own hinders children and adults from finding and learning about facts and ideas, gaining empathy, questioning and thinking independently, and deciding for themselves what they believe. When books have been removed from the shelves, it remains for us to find ways to reinstate those materials to the library shelves. Is it possible? When can it be done? How can it be done?

The answers to those questions vary and I found it under-reported when researching statistics regarding the issue. What I gathered is incomplete, but I offer it as a starting place for discussion in your FOL meetings or committees.

If your library has a reconsideration policy that includes a means for appeal, and a time frame for the appeal, please share that information with me at robbinska31@gmail.com.

If your library has reinstated a book or materials once removed from the shelves, please email me at robbinska31@gmail.com with the details, the name of the book, the date when it was removed, the process for reinstatement and when it was reinstated so I can compile data to share with the members of FONCPL. Thank you.

Can Books Be Reinstated After Being Banned?

Reconsideration policies have or should have an appeals process. If yours does, after a book has been removed, someone may appeal the decision. It may be a patron, a librarian, parents or community members. The body who reviewed the book and made the original decision can review the book and reverse the decision.

How long does material remain removed from the library?

The reconsideration policy may include a timeline for reinstatement. The policy may allow the librarian to return the censored material without further review if it deemed necessary for the collection or the material may need to be reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees before reinstating it.

If your library reconsideration policy has no time frame for reinstatement, then it is up the trustees, librarian or concerned community members to reassess the situation to determine if the conditions that led to the censorship have significantly changed over time. For example, have the members of the Board of Trustees changed? Have the county commissioners changed? Have the people who challenged the material left the area?

Nov 10, 2007 (<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/how-long-does-a-book-stay-banned/>)

How Are Courts Involved?

A community group supporting the freedom to read may file a law suit against the school or library asking that the process be overturned and books replaced on shelves. In that case the court decision, including legal appeals, will direct whether or not the book is reinstated.

“The courts have repeatedly upheld the role of the librarian to decide what content belongs in a public library collection and how it is displayed, not parents’ groups or any other subset of the community.”

If a library thinks a parental preference policy would help prevent more books from being challenged, the default wording should read “every child can have access unless your parent indicates you cannot have access to the content.” Sometimes a simple change of wording can prevent a cascading amount of administrative headaches.

8/5/22 American Libraries Thomas Lipinski

Local Control, Local Support

Local battles over book content are as significant as state and federal laws dealing with banning materials. Stay informed, gather information, and compile credible sources.

Local public libraries may help when school libraries and classroom libraries come under fire by having the book available to student regardless of the school policies. Librarians are trained professionals. They use annual updates and lists of literature to ensure a diverse and comprehensive collection

8/10/23 Los Angeles Times Giselle Medina

Kelly Jensen at Book Riot concurs. she reminds us, “At the end of the day, we know none of this is about books. It’s about people. This kind of update to collection policies shifts the policy from one about materials to one about the people represented by and depicted within them.”

“Libraries are not neutral. Libraries are non-partisan. Spelling it out helps articulate this crucial difference.”

Sep 8, 2023 Kelly Jensen “Championing Inclusivity in Library Collection Policies”



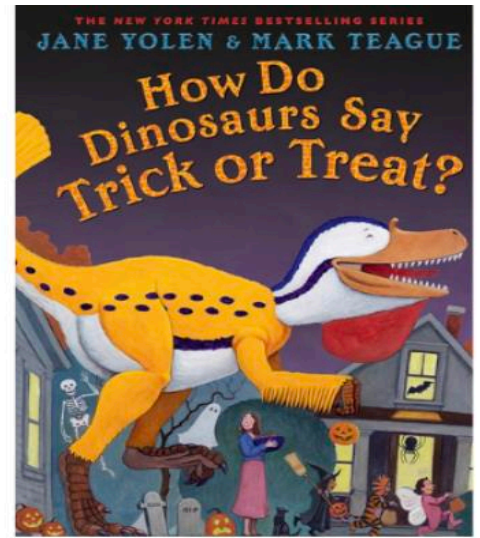
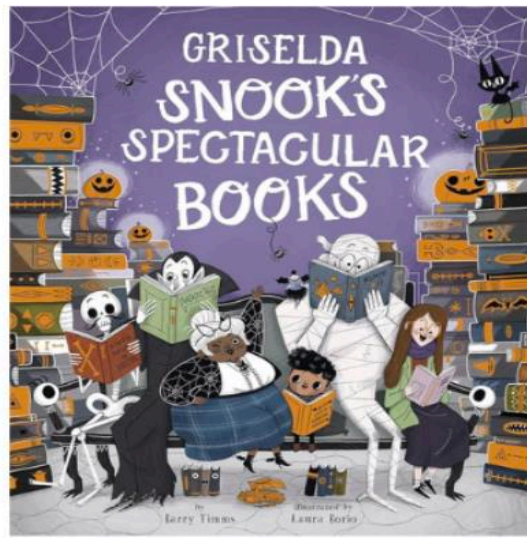
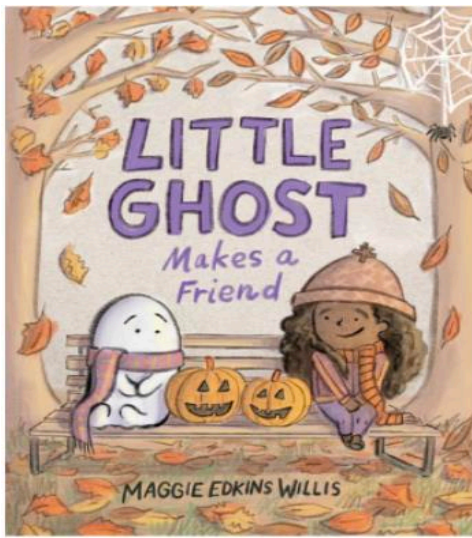
<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/right-to-read-day/#action2>

If you have time, please visit United Against Book Bans. This page has a step-by-step guide to ways that individuals and FOL groups can advocate for the freedom to read and advocate for their library. There are many links to tool kits, how-to’s, guides and more. Since you are already a member of the Friends of the Library, you owe it to yourself to learn as much as you can in order to advocate with reason, intelligence, and information.

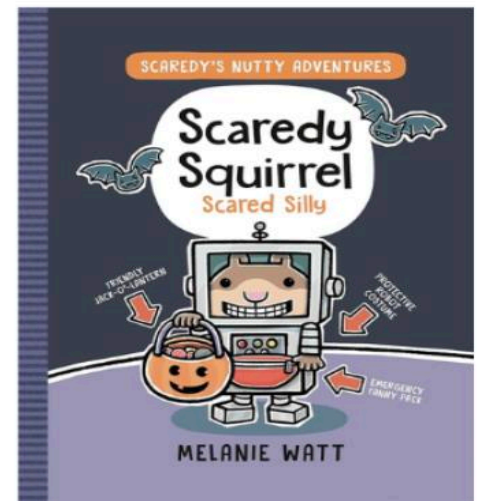
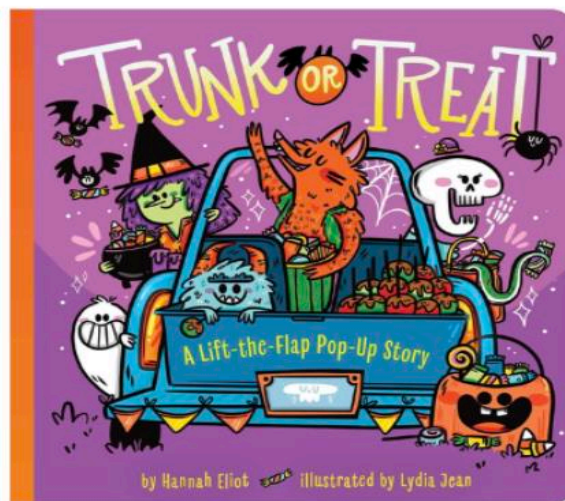
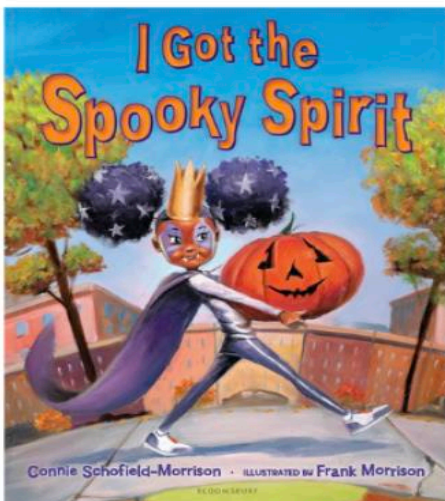
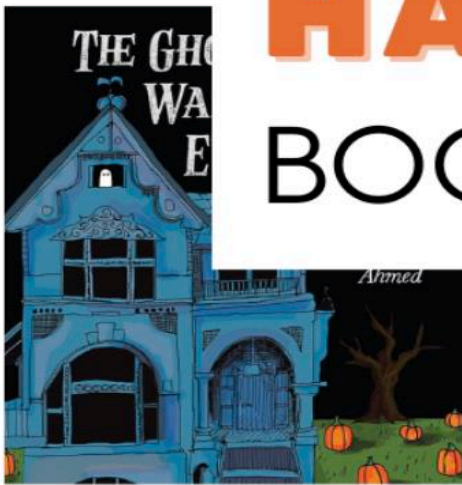
Suggestions include:

- Thank a library worker
- Contact a decision maker
- Register to vote
- Make a donation
- Read a banned book
- Report censorship
- Attend a library board meeting
- get to know your local candidates
- Get involved at your local library library

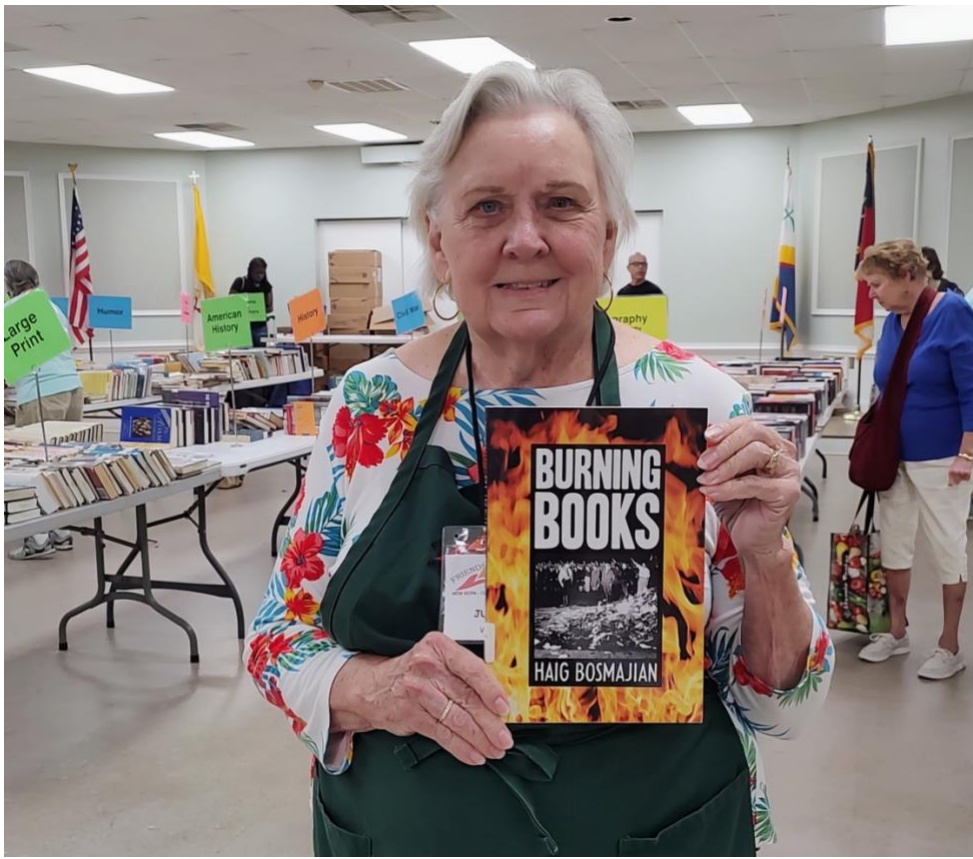
Celebrate your FOL in October!



14 NEW KIDS HALLOWEEN BOOKS FOR 2024



<p>Griselda Snook's Spectacular Books by Barry Timms Henry isn't really into books – or maybe he just hasn't found the right one yet. So when he stumbles into Griselda Snook's Spectacular Books (a Halloween-themed bookstore), could the perfect book be there waiting for him?</p>	<p>How Do Dinosaurs Say Trick or Treat? by Jane Yolen This beloved series is packed with books about dinosaurs who do all sorts of things, from using their manners to going to bed, and now there is a brand new installment perfect for Halloween! It's all about the does and don'ts of trick or treating.</p>
<p>I Got the Spooky Spirit by Connie Schofield-Morrison In this continued series, Halloween is coming and you bet there will be a celebration! Pumpkins will be carved, houses will be decorated, and Halloween parties will be attended. You can't go wrong with a Halloween book all about the joy and fun of the holiday!</p>	<p>Trunk-or-Treat! by Hannah Eliot Even though this is a lift-a-flap book geared for younger readers, I was so invested and eager to see what was hiding inside each monsters' trunk. I loved this rhyming book about trunk or treating and think it would be perfect to build excitement if you do your own trunk or treating.</p>
<p>Scaredy Squirrel Scared Silly by Melanie Watt My girls love these books about how things turn out not to be as scary as Scaredy Squirrel imagined. In this fun Halloween graphic chapter book, Scaredy Squirrel realizes Halloween in FULL of things to be scared of, but with the help of his friends he might just enjoy it.</p>	<p>The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything by Nadia Ahmed Finn, the ghost, was afraid of everything! So much so, that he even misses out on Halloween. But when he decides to muster up the courage to face his fears, he finally is able to fly with his family and go trick or treating!</p>
<p>The Little Witch Who Lost Her Broom by Elaine Bickell When Little Witch loses her broom, she embarks on a big hunt to try and find it. She even goes as far as trying other methods of transportation like a scooter! But will Little Witch and her broom ever be reunited?</p>	<p>Millie Fleur's Poison Garden by Christy Mandin When Millie Fleur La Fae comes to town she decides to take a very unconventional approach to gardening. While every yard on the block looks exactly the same, Millie's is unique and different, and she will find those who appreciate it, even when some refer to it as "poison".</p>
<p>Crick, Crack, Crow by Janet Lord I was so amazed by how much I did NOT know about crows! Although this book is not your classic Halloween book, crows are a popular symbol for holiday (a lot like bats). In this informational picture book, a clever and crafty crow takes you through his day of play and mischief while seeing just how capable they really are.</p>	<p>How to Haunt a House by Carolyn Crimi This rhyming book is so much fun! Three young ghosts, Groana, Moana, and Shrieky, must test their "ghost technique" by haunting three houses. The first two houses are easy – they are inhabited by humans and the normal spooking works wonders. But the last house proves more of a challenge, as it involves scaring a monster family. They quickly realize they need a different approach if they want to cause the monsters to go shrieking into the night.</p>
<p>Cookie & Broccoli : Scariest Halloween Ever! by Bob McMahon I'm always on the lookout for more graphic novels for younger readers and this one, about two elementary school friends, Cookie and Broccoli, is a delight. In this installment of the series, Broccoli learns the true meaning of bravery when a Halloween prank becomes a little scary, and Cookie must learn about what matters most....friends or Halloween candy.</p>	<p>Little Ghost Makes a Friend by Maggie Edkins Willis This is the perfect non-scary Halloween book for getting into holiday spirit. Little Ghost really wants a friend but is worried everyone won't like him because he's...a ghost. But then Little Ghost learns the real secret to making friends is being your own spooky sparkly self!</p>



Look at President Judy & her find at the Friends of New Bern-Craven County Public Library Book Sale!



While on her travels around the state, President Judy snapped this picture – what a grand find!!

This is in Bath NC.

Doctor Asks Terminally Ill Kids What Really Matters In Life –

[Click here](#) for full list

5. Reading makes a big difference.



Alastair McAlpine

@AlastairMcA30

Follow

ALL of them loved books or being told stories, especially by their parents:
'Harry Potter made me feel brave.'
'I love stories in space!'
'I want to be a great detective like Sherlock Holmes when I'm better!'

Folks, read to your kids! They love it. /5



WOW! What a great idea!!!

Here is an idea from the Swansboro Friends of the Library. It is a magnetic board to which they add the magnetic logos of businesses that support the FOL. This board is moved and displayed at various events sponsored by the FOL. This could be a perk to entice companies to be business members (at a higher membership rate) or it could be to acknowledge businesses that have contributed in some way. Kudos to this FOL for this nifty idea!

SUCH CLEVER OCTOBER BOOK DISPLAYS!!!



This display will scare the pants off you!



Get wrapped up in a good book this Fall.



Witch's brew & books, too!



Ghosts love a good book, too!



This is a monstrously clever book drop!

A slimy good display of books



The only way to stay healthy



Books to drive you batty



Monochromatic monsters



Would you kill for a good thriller?



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Wednesday October 16th 7:00 pm

Topic: Rewards, Awards, & Recognitions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81301487992?pwd=0jGNsvHn1a7m5EaJZycXdkpWbkyQgg.1>

by Phone: 309.205.3325

Meeting ID: 813 0148 7992

Passcode: 298639

If you wish to share some photos or an article with us
for the November F*R*I*E*N*D*S TALK,
Please email your information to klambe@me.com
by October 25, 2024.

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Days to Remember in Your Library in October:
October: TeenTober – it's all about teens!
National Friends of Libraries Week – Oct 20-26th

Storywalk Week
November 10-16
<https://letsmovelibraries.org/storywalk/>

In a world as noisy as ours, we need the quiet space of libraries for solace and safety. They are community hubs that serve whoever walks through the door but they also foster hope – in the power of words and in the people who write and read them. ~ • Jodi Wilson is a mother of four and the author of *Practicing Simplicity*. She writes weekly on Substack.