



F·R·I·E·N·D·S

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

September

2024

F***R***I***E***N*D*S

TALK

Happy Fall to All,

For many Friends fall is our busiest time. Between September and December, we hold events, sales, fundraisers, and meetings. We compete with other local nonprofits for our share of dates on the local events calendar. And advertising our events is becoming more complex than ever—yet we push on. We applaud all of you who persevere through these adversities.

FONCPL also has a full calendar for the balance of 2024. September 15th is the deadline for member Friends groups to apply for Challenge Grants. Remember these funds can only be used for projects of the Friends—not projects benefitting the libraries you serve (e.g., StoryWalks, Little Free Libraries, costs to design new brochures or new logos, etc.). [Click here](#) for more information on Challenge grants. September 30th is the deadline for you to submit your nomination for recognition as your Friend of the Year. Every nominee is a winner—this is not a competition, and the nominees receive \$50 this year—that's \$15 more than the cost of your yearly FONCPL membership! Surely there is someone you want to recognize for their achievements. [Click here](#) for more information.

September 22-28 is National Banned Books Week and October 20-26 is National Friends of the Library Week. November 10-16 is National StoryWalk Week. Of course, Thanksgiving and Christmas are thrown in the mix for good measure. What is your group planning? How can you use these events to reach out to the public to gain support, donations, and members?

Open Mic nights will be restarting on Thursday September 26th at 7:00 PM (via Zoom). [Click here](#) for the link. The topic for this meeting will be using the national calendar of events for ideas. This session is especially for those who are stuck and who keep reusing the same events over and over. We hope to reenergize your group with some outside-the-box thinking! If you have not yet participated, do join us!

In November FONCPL members will elect a President, Vice President, and Secretary. We also need two more Board members. Our Board meets via Zoom and there really isn't that much work. We keep asking for volunteers to step up and we hope that several of you will. [Email](#) President Judy Hills to discuss.

Several of you hosted regional Friends meetings supported with funds provided by FONCPL. We salute those of you who did. This funding is still available and January to March is a good time to host one. [Click here](#) to send a message to award coordinator Tess This.

Remember, as an FONCPL member your group may request a consultation. Just [email President Judy Hills](#) with your question or issue.

Wishing your group a successful September!

Yours in Friendship,

President Judy Hills



Oh! Look at this wonderful opportunity to honor that hard-working delightful Friend in your Group!!

Please send us the name of your Friend, a photo, and a concise paragraph on why your Friend is outstanding. How have they contributed to your Group? When did they join your group? Send us all the fun facts no later than **September 30th!**

Email entry to Tess Thais at Tessthais88@gmail.com

FREE MONEY! FREE MONEY!! FREE MONEY!

The Friends of the North Carolina Public Library (FONCPL) will award Challenge Grants of up to \$250. **The deadline is September 15, 2024.

**These grants are awarded to FONCPL member groups current on their FONCPL dues. Priority is given to a Friends group that has not received a Challenge Grant award previously. Groups that receive Challenge Grants are ineligible to receive another for a period of three years.

**Up to \$250 may be requested for any project or program that aligns with the mission and purpose of the Friends group and which directly benefit the Friends. Award funding may not be used to purchase goods or services for the library or library system.

Please complete the Challenge Grant application form and email copy of application, cover letter and any supporting documentation as an attachment to: Tess Thais at tessthais88@gmail.com

Questions?

Email Tess Thais at tessthais88@gmail.com

Click here for application

[Challenge Grant Application rev May 2024 fillable pdf](#)

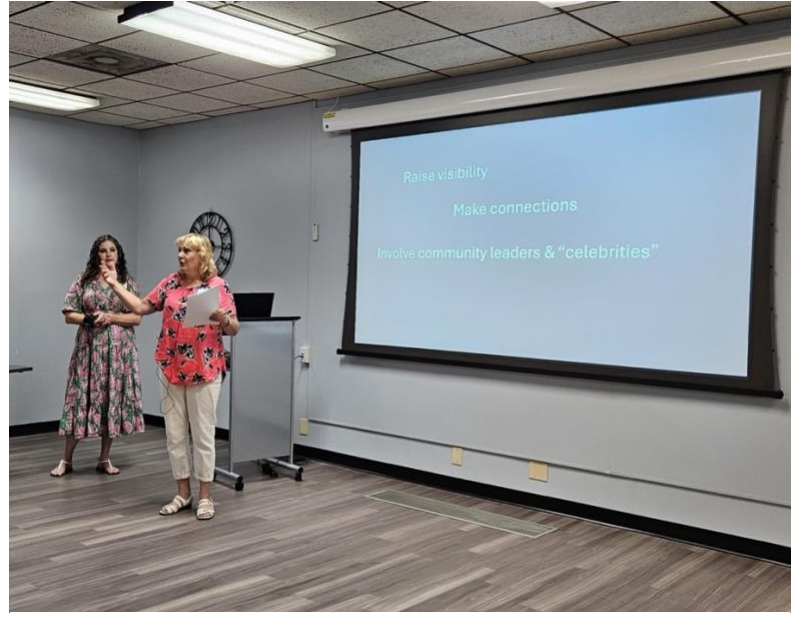


Stanly County Public Library Friends had a great meeting. 26 people attended from 6 counties. They all want to do it again next year! Thank you so much for the money - - it helped pay for breakfast.

~Carol Sasser



Joel Ferdon



Marica Morris & Amber Pope,
Friends of the Mt. Pleasant Public Library



Sara Hahn,
Stanly Co
Public
Library
Director

**Regional Friends Meeting
August 3, 2024
Schedule**

- 9:30 - 10:00- Registration and Breakfast**
- 10 :00 - 10:45 -Grant writing - Joel Ferdon**
- 11:00 - 11:45 -Raising Funds and Visibility: a Unique Fundraiser - Marcia Morris**
- 11:45 - 1:00 - Lunch on your own**
- 1:00 - 1:15 - Lyn March - Director FONCPL**
- 1:00 - 1:45 - Mini grants - Carol Sasser**
- 1:45 - 2:00 - Break**
- 2:00 - 2:45 - Round table discussion**



Possible Lunch places
Courthouse Pub 114 S 2nd St,
Five Points -304 E Main St
Glorybeans/Connie's 134 W Main St
all in walking distance



Fiscal Controls and Reporting for Small Nonprofits (2 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.

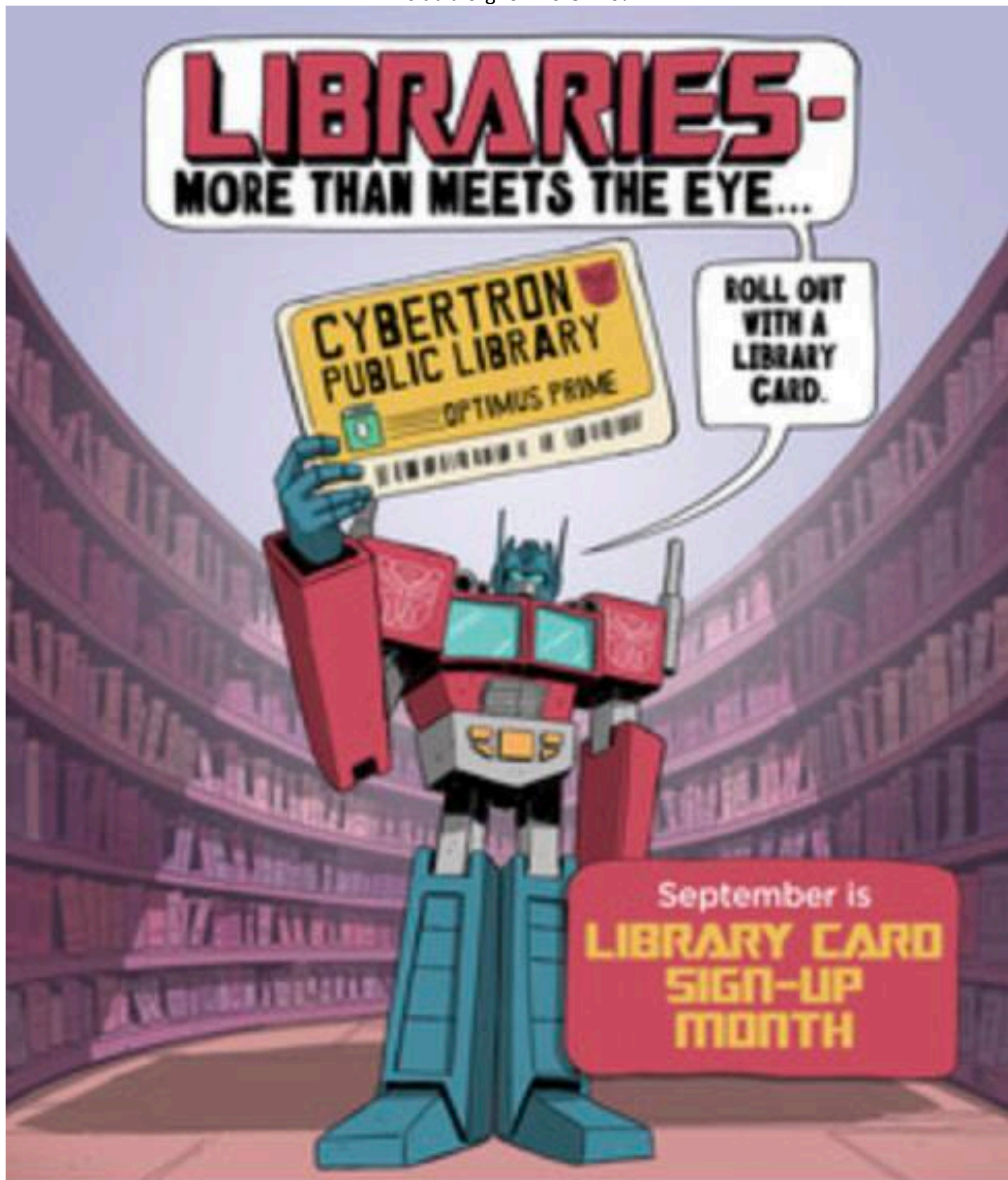
1. Adopt cash handling procedures. Ideally a cash register or multiple-copy receipt book should be used in the collection of cash. With respect to fundraising events or other situations in which the organization receives cash, it should arrange for two people to accept, record, and monitor the collection and a third person to arrange for its deposit. Cash transactions should be recorded into a journal or log to enable account reconciliation. It is important that any cash revenues be deposited to the organization's bank account as soon as possible, and that a member of the Board verifies that the amount deposited matches the amount collected.
2. Document income from sources other than cash. Revenue from sources other than cash (i.e. credit cards, checks, etc.), should also be entered into a journal or log, at the very minimum. Checks should be restrictively endorsed (for example: "for deposit only, ABC organization, First National Bank, account # 123456789) immediately upon receipt—this is generally a stamp. Checks and deposit slips should be copied before they are deposited. Organizations that receive noncash donations should also adopt controls similar to that for cash donations to ensure that such donations are properly received, recorded, and accounted for.
3. Control the use of credit and debit cards. Credit and debit cards are convenient, but each authorized user increases the possibility that the cards will be used for improper purchases. If the organization uses credit or debit cards, it should limit the number of users and set policies regarding their use. Credit card statements, bank statements, and supporting documentation should be reviewed monthly by someone who is not on the list of authorized card users. This can be done along with the scheduled financial report. The reviewer should confirm that each charge is supported by a receipt and documentation of the business purpose of the expense. Some financial institutions allow organizations to set and adjust strict limits on usage of electronic payment methods and to send automated notifications to reviewers in the event of any attempted or actual misuse. Such services are particularly valuable to smaller organizations who rely on volunteers or smaller professional staffs.

In the coming months we will continue to explore financial best practices. If your Friends do not have a financial policy & procedure manual, we strongly urge you to create one using the material we are presenting. Just stop and think for a moment, what if your Treasurer were to be unexpectedly incapacitated to the point where they could not assist in transitioning to a new Treasurer? Having an updated financial policy & procedure manual would go a long way toward getting a new Treasurer up to speed.

Autobots, roll out...to the library!

Whether you're upgrading your skills, scouting for knowledge and information, or connecting with other heroic readers, a library card is your key to an arsenal of resources. Spark your creativity as a builder or programmer by tinkering in your library's makerspace; mine the library's stacks and databases for new stories and adventures; kickstart your critical thinking skills to defeat the Decepticons of misinformation lurking online. Hitting the road? Use your library card to fuel your mind with books, e-books, audiobooks, and museum passes.

Visit ala.org for more info!





BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Sept. 22-28, 2024

ALA American Library Association

SEND PHOTOS TO US OF YOUR ACTIVITIES!

Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in libraries, bookstores, and schools. By focusing on efforts to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship. Typically (but not always) held during the last week of September, the annual event highlights the value of free and open access to information and brings together the entire book community — librarians, educators, authors, publishers, booksellers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas.

In a time of intense political polarization, library staff in every state are facing an unprecedented number of attempts to ban books. ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom documented **1,247 demands to censor library books and resources in 2023**. The number of titles targeted for censorship surged 65% in 2023 compared to 2022, reaching the highest levels ever documented by OIF in more than 20 years of tracking: **4,240 unique book titles were targeted for removal from schools and libraries**. This tops the previous high from 2022, when 2,571 unique titles were targeted for censorship. Titles representing the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals made up 47% of those targeted in censorship attempts.

The theme for Banned Books Week 2024 (September 22-28) is "Freed Between the Lines." We can find freedom in the pages of a book — but book bans and censorship threaten that freedom, along with many other rights and institutions. During Banned Books Week 2024 and beyond, let's share our love of right to read and the freedom found in books. Let's be Freed Between the Lines!

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek/ideasandresources/activity>

DISPLAY IDEAS

<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek/ideasandresources/display>

NEW FONCPL CONTEST FOR MEMBER FRIENDS

“Few educators have experienced the emotional highs and lows of Livingston Parish middle school librarian [Amanda Jones](#). In 2020, she was named [Louisiana School Librarian of the Year](#), and in 2021 she earned national accolades as a *School Library Journal* [School Librarian of the Year](#). But in 2022, Jones found herself at the center of a national controversy on library censorship and the subject of online vitriol, threats, and harassment. The rollercoaster ride, which has also included a public shoutout from Oprah Winfrey and an ongoing defamation lawsuit (in which she’s asking for \$1 and an apology), is described in Jones’ new book, *That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America*, which officially hits shelves Aug. 27.” Click here to read the full article about Amanda Jones.

“Amanda Jones started getting death threats, all for standing up for our right to read . . . but she's not stopped fighting against book bans, or stopped advocating for access to diverse stories.”

-Oprah Winfrey, in a speech at the 2023 National Book Awards.

"Amanda Jones clearly outlines how we got here, who's leading this false charge against qualified educators, media specialists, and authors-and most importantly, explores the steps we all must take to make the voice of truth and reason louder than their caterwauling."-Jodi Picoult.

To *celebrate* our Freedom to Read and support Amanda Jones, FONCPL is having a contest that any member of a FONCPL Friends group may enter. Individuals may enter multiple times, if they so desire and members of the same FOL may also enter, but only one prize will be awarded per person.

Here is the challenge: in a maximum of 500 characters, make a statement on your perspective of, reaction to, or response to library censorship. Those entering this contest must agree to allow us to print their statement if they enter. Name and affiliation will be withheld if so marked on the entry form. FONCPL will use these statements in our newsletter, on our website, and in presentations. The link to the fillable entry form is available on our website: [click here](#).

Entries are due via email by **September 30th**. Prizes are hard copies of Amanda’s memoir which will be shipped to the winners. FONCPL is buying copies to help Amanda defray the cost of her defamation lawsuit. The number of prizes awarded will depend on the number of entries. Let’s hear your thoughts! Enter today!

Write down your thoughts & send them to us!



Cleaning Your Book Collection

In a recent Better Homes & Gardens article by Shivani Vyas, cleaning expert Courtney Walsh recommends cleaning books regularly to eliminate dust, dirt, mold, mildew. Those of us who grade and sort the donated books can attest to this need.

When cleaning, most just dust the bookshelf sections that are visible. Cleaning isn't just about a tidy appearance. Cleaning will help prevent mold and insect infestations. It also helps to extend the lifespan of books as they can become discolored, fragile or even fall apart without proper care.

Allergy and asthma sufferers will benefit as cleaning books and books shelves will help reduce pet dander and dust mites.

How often? Walsh recommends a regular cleaning every month and a deep cleaning every three months—more frequently if dust tends to accumulate more rapidly.

Regular Cleaning: vacuum top edges of books, wipe down book edges, vacuum shelves and then wipe down the shelves.

Deep Cleaning: empty the shelves, wipe & vacuum, dust outer edges of your books and items on shelves, then put everything back. And while you have the books and items off the shelves, think about rearranging them to give them a fresh look.

Rule of thumb: Store books upright and use bookends. Keep books in a cool, dry area away from direct sunlight to prevent them from fading and warping. Also rotate them when deep cleaning to ensure even exposure to environmental factors.

Let's Talk About Dues

by Judy Hills, FONCPL President

Recently one of our member groups asked a question about how to structure their dues. The group is turning 50 years old this year and for as long as anyone can remember, the dues have been \$5 for an individual and \$10 for a family. When was the last time your Board discussed dues? Is it time for your Friends to reconsider your dues structure?

Dues can be paid on a calendar year, the Friends' fiscal year, or they can be based on the date paid (rolling). If your Friends are mailing reminders, that is a time-consuming and costly endeavor. Use mail as the very last resort. You could also consider using online payment of dues by subscribing to an organizational management program. Once you set it up, it sends the email notices automatically and tracks membership for you. This also allows for payment by credit card, which is something that few offer. Most everyone is used to paying with credit cards now and remember that there is a scam where your check is intercepted and the amounts changed (see April 2024 AARP Bulletin—Check Cooking). We all need to be moving away from paper checks as payment.

Some groups have lifetime members. This tactic is used when either the Friends are first getting established or they are trying to collect a lot of money to support a specific project. Usually, a minimum amount is set and anyone who donates over that amount is conferred with lifetime status. This means that you do not send them dues notices each year, but in some cases where there is a need, you may want to approach them about another sizeable contribution. If your Friends has a large project for which you need a lot of money, this would be one way to kickstart the campaign.

Don't forget to ask for a donation and about the employer's matching donation on your application.

Here are some examples of dues from NC Friends of the Library.

- Friends of the Ashe County PL: Individual: \$10 per year, Business: \$50 per year, Lifetime: \$200 per individual.
- Friends of the New Bern PL: Friend (Individual) \$10, Good Friend (Family) \$25, Dear Friend (Supporting) \$50, Great Friend (Sustaining) \$100, and Best Friend (Amount over \$100) \$_____.
- Friends of the Southport/Oak Island PL: Seashell (Individual) – \$10, Beachcomber (family) – \$25, Sand dollar – \$50, Pelican – \$100, Dolphin – \$250, Lighthouse – \$1000, and Sea Turtle – Select an Amount Over \$1000.
- Friends of the Alamance County PL: Household \$10, Poet \$25, Novelist \$100, Editor \$500, Publisher \$1,000.
- Friends of the Caldwell PL: \$10 annual membership.
- Friends of the Western Carteret PL: Individual \$25, Family \$40, Program \$100, Patron \$500/5 years) Lifetime \$2,500.
- Friends of the Durham PL: Individual \$15, Family \$25, Senior (65+) \$10, Youth (up to 18) \$5. Patron (\$30/\$50/\$100)

As you can see memberships vary. It is easy to justify raising the individual membership because the cost of a fast-food meal is \$10 today. You could give examples of what the membership amount would equate to in real life in your community (e.g., \$25—the cost of two movie tickets at Bear Cinema, \$50—the minimum cost of a dinner for two at Famous restaurant).

We the Friends of the Library.

NATIONAL Friends OF Libraries WEEK

OCTOBER 20–26, 2024

AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

You have 1 month to plan for

National Friends of the Library Week

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.

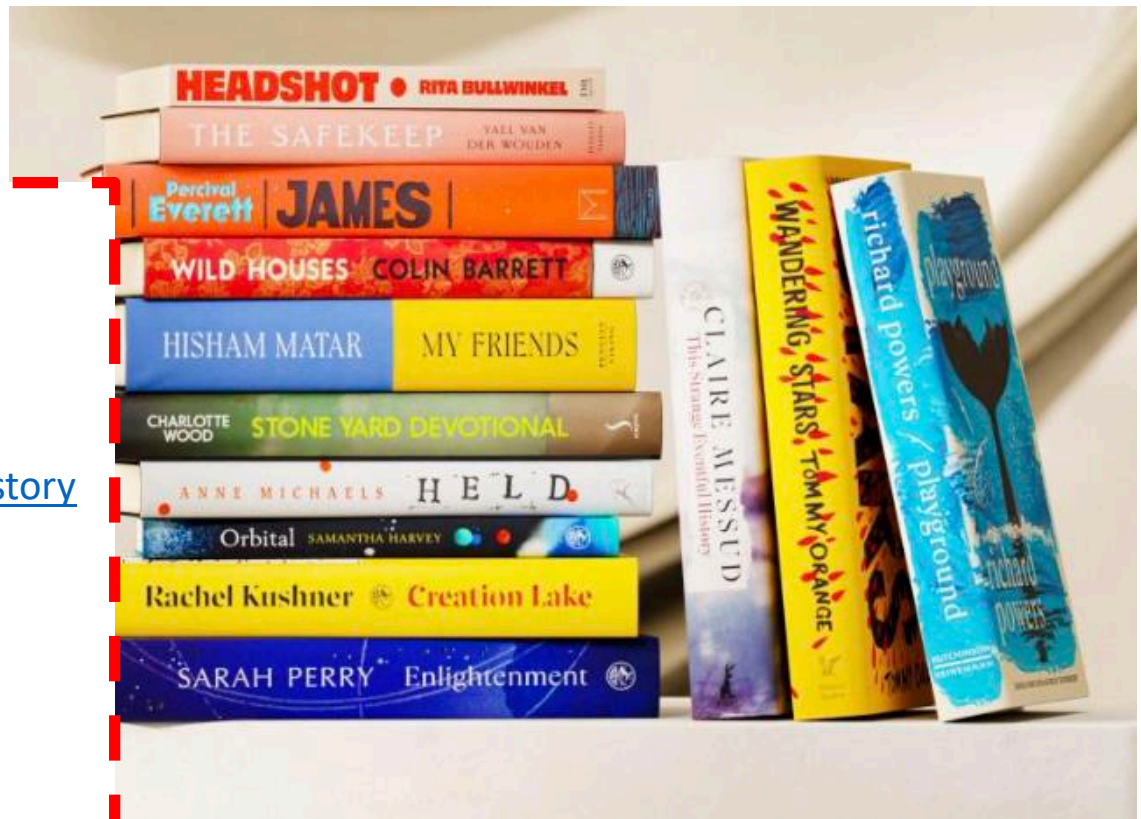
~Lib~raries that are supported by a friends group, consider hosting an event.

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

The International Booker Prize 2024

The Booker Prize, first awarded in 1969, recognizes the best novel written in English and published in the UK or Ireland. The 2024 prize considers books published between October 1st 2023 and September 30th 2024. They have just announced their **13-book longlist**. The 6-book shortlist will come out September 16th, with the winner announced November 12th. The winner will receive a £50,000 prize.

3 debut novels, 6 writers previously nominated for the prize, 1st Dutch and 1st Native American authors to be longlisted, 6 American authors, 8 women and 5 men, “blackly comic page-turners, multigenerational epics, meditations on the pain of exile – plus a crime caper, a spy thriller, an unflinching account of girls’ boxing and a reimagining of a 19th-century classic”



Longlist

[Wandering Stars](#)

[Wild Houses](#)

[Held](#)

[Creation Lake](#)

[This Strange Eventful History](#)

[Playground](#)

[Enlightenment](#)

[Orbital](#)

[James](#)

[The Safekeep](#)

[My Friends](#)

[Stone Yard Devotional](#)

[Headshot](#)

The Booker Prize 6 Book list will come out mid-September and the winner will be announced in November!

D, O, N, T, J, U, D, G, E, A, B, O, O, K, B, Y,

I, T, S, C, O, V, E, R,

T, R, Y,

T, H, E, F, I, R, S, T,

S, E, N, T, E, N, C, E, I, N, S, T, E, A, D,

Question in a good old British

A lot could change
in five years.

I left the letter with
the letter because I
did not know what she
to do.

She's old enough, at
eighty six, to remember
places in other places,
other lives but her son
is only eight years old.

T, H, R, E, E, P, O, U, N, D, S, E, A, C, H.

What a fun idea!!

The Authors Whose Movie Adaptations

HAVE EARNED THE MOST GLOBALLY

We analyzed 10,164 book-to-film adaptations from 473 authors to uncover the authors with the highest-grossing book-to-film adaptations worldwide.



*Total Worldwide Box Office

Dead Authors



Living Authors



Sources: IMDb, Box Office Mojo

Interested in knowing about much your Pokemon Cards are worth?

<https://blog.pricecharting.com/2021/01/how-to-tell-what-pokemon-card-you-have.html>



James McBride to Receive 2024 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction

The Library of Congress has awarded the 2024 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction to **James McBride**. One of the Library's most prestigious awards, the annual prize honors an American literary writer whose body of work is distinguished not only for its mastery of the art but also for its originality of thought and imagination. The award commends strong, unique, enduring voices that tell us something essential about the American experience.

ON THE LIFE-CHANGING JOY OF RE-READING BOOKS

By Jeff O'Neal July 19, 2024

I hardly ever re-read books. It's not that I am against it of course. It is only that there are so many books that I have not yet read, combined with the need (felt or real or some hazy admixture of the two) to keep up as best I can with new releases. And I haven't ever really felt a loss in this, [but a line in this piece on taking time to re-read stopped my eye for a moment](#): "Books are miraculous to me because unlike other pleasures involving tangible places, people and things, books can be re-experienced precisely the same way over and over again. You can go back and step into rich remembered landscapes and precisely nothing has changed.

This isn't true in the absolute sense. Half (at least?) of the equation has changed: you, the reader. But that is even more interesting to me: the fixed text of the book colliding again with my consciousness/mind/soul/neural network and producing, inevitably, a different reading experience offers perspective on oneself more than on any book. This can be done with movies or books or any other mechanically reproducible experience, but the cognitive richness of a book, the required effort to imagine, remember, interpret, and otherwise inhabit a book asks more of you than a movie or a TV show or album. In this way, there is probably no better way to mark not that book hasn't changed, but the distance you have traveled from that earlier version of yourself that first read it.

What do you notice now that you didn't then? What moments or lines or actions are not only remembered but reconsidered? Can you even recall what you thought and felt and believed about the book then? It is a terrifying and exhilarating prospect.

And in this same spirit, here's another article.....

WHY YOU SHOULD BUY PHYSICAL COPIES OF YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS

by Justin Pot July 21, 2024

New technology only sometimes completely replaces the technology that came before. We're well into the streaming age of television, for example, but broadcast TV still exists and likely will for decades to come. It's the same way for ebooks: The market is growing but paper books are still extremely popular.

And that makes sense to me. I [love reading ebooks](#), especially while traveling: It's hard to beat the convenience of hundreds of books taking up the space of one small e-reader. But sometimes, after reading a book electronically, I want to get a paper copy. Why? Because paper books are permanent and tangible in a way that ebooks just aren't.

If you really love a book, there's nothing like a paper copy. Here are a few things that paper books can do that ebooks just can't.

YOU CAN LEND THEM OUT

If you have a physical copy of a book there is nothing stopping you from lending it to a friend or family member. All you need to do is pick up the book and hand it to them. This can be annoying, sure—some people are terrible about giving back books. But lending out a book to someone you like talking to is great because you can now talk about the book you just lent them. It's a small thing you can do to build community.

Yes, it is possible to lend out some Kindle books, but there are limits. Only some publishers allow their ebooks to be lent out, and you can only lend them to people who also use Kindle devices. It's complicated—mostly for reasons that have more to do with lawyers than technology but complicated nonetheless. Paper books, meanwhile, are simple: You just hand them to another person and they can read. It's great.

YOU CAN WRITE IN THEM

I'm going to be honest: This one doesn't apply to me. I was raised to never write in books and I cringe when I see someone else do it. For many people, though, a big part of the appeal of a paper book is the ability to underline occasional text and write free-hand in the margins. Ebooks try to replicate this functionality, somewhat, but nothing that exists is currently as flexible as a pen in your hand. If you're the kind of person who writes in a book you should probably stick to paper copies.

YOU CAN SHOW THEM OFF

There's no way around this: A shelf full of books just looks great. Across the room from me right now, is a shelf I built with my wife full of books we both love—my cat is sleeping on them. It's cozy, and it's exactly the kind of thing an ebook collection can't give you. Even when my cat isn't asleep, though, it's something people who are in our house can look at to get a sense of who we are. I like that.

YOU CAN PASS THEM ON

Do you feel done with a book you've read? As in, you're pretty sure you never want to read it again? Well, if it's an ebook it just kinda sits there, in your digital collection, forever. You can delete the file from your device if you want to free up storage space and that's about it. That's not how paper books work. You can sell them, for one thing, or you can just give them away. You could stick them [in a little free library](#), or hand them to your friend. The book keeps existing when you're done reading it, basically. And another thing: Digital books can't be inherited by your family or other loved ones, [according to the AARP](#). That's because the licensing of the ebook belongs to you, and can't be transferred, even in death. That's different from a paper book collection, which could hypothetically stay in your family for generations or even be passed on to a library.



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Thursday September 26th 7:00 pm

Topic: Using a Calendar of National Events
for Ideas

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83643753406
?pwd=Wmt2iq0bnoYdIVaHjVRQw08sX3d
mll.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83643753406?pwd=Wmt2iq0bnoYdIVaHjVRQw08sX3dmll.1)

by Phone: 309.205.3325

Meeting ID: 836 4375 3406

Passcode: 843436

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 September 25, 2024.

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Days to Remember in Your Library in September:

Library Card Sign-up

September 6 – National Read a Book Day

September 13 – Roald Dahl’s Birthday

Sept 22 – Hobbit Day

September 22-28 - Banned Books Week

The 19th annual [National Friends of Libraries Week](#) will be held Oct. 20-26, 2024. Two Friends groups will be awarded \$250 each in honor of their celebrations during the week. The award application will be available in early November.

READING

What it looks like



What it feels like

