



**FRIENDS**  
OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

Hello Fellow Friends,

We send our continued prayers to those affected by Hurricane Helene. The rebuilding process will be long and arduous. Our memories of what was will live on in our hearts. As people are re-housed, utilities restored, roads rebuilt, and services resumed, lives will begin anew. Nothing will be the same, but we hope that the libraries that were destroyed will be built back better. We'd like to hear your library and Friends storm-related stories.

This past month you had three opportunities to submit entries to FONCPL for various awards. Tess Thais reports in this issue about the awards for the Challenge Grants and the Friend of the Year. We only had four Friends comment on book challenges and three of those were FONCPL Board members. So disappointing! We are really curious as to why more don't participate.

The FONCPL Board decided that since we have had only a small number of applicants for Challenge grants, we will change the entry requirements. Presently FONCPL member Friends may only apply every three years for this award. We decided to eliminate that requirement. Member Friends may apply every year for this funding, but based on the number of applications and funding availability in a given year, preference will be given to those groups who have not received an award in prior years.

This past month I created a YouTube video for students in the UNC-CH School of Information and Library Science at the invitation of Dr. Joseph Winberry. I tried to help the students understand how nonprofits function and how Friends work with libraries and library staff.

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, at 10 AM we will hold the FONCPL Annual Meeting via Zoom. We request one member from each Friends group to "attend." PLEASE join us that day. The link can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM will be Open Mic Night. The topic: Grooming New Board members. Due to the very small number of participants who have been attending, this will be our last Open Mic session. PLEASE join us. The link can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

And speaking of Board members, FONCPL has been struggling to identify and recruit Board members. The Board elects the FONCPL officers. I will be stepping down as President and Joanne Straight will be stepping down as Secretary. The Vice-President position has been unfilled for a number of years. We have two Director positions that we have been unable to fill and we have one Director whose term is up (Kathy Lambe) and she needs to step off the board as well. Kathy is also our newsletter editor so that puts a big hole in our lineup. This means that **of 11 Board positions, only 5 positions will be filled** when these Board members step down. **This is an urgent call for Friends with leadership skills to step up and take a turn on this Board.** The organization is running smoothly and the finances are in good shape. Membership is steady. So, there are no fires to put out and the Treasurer is staying onboard. We especially need someone with the skill and interest in doing the monthly newsletter. **Please contact me for information or to volunteer ASAP!!!** It would be a shame to have to dissolve this needed organization after all we have achieved in the past five years.

Yours in Friendship,  
Judy Hills, President



# YOU ARE INVITED

10:00 am

**On Saturday November 16, 2024**  
**we will have our FONCPL Annual Meeting.**

**Please join us:**

10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86558386278?pwd=cMOZxt7jBwxVbkrRXWaz2SaMUls3b5.1>


Meeting ID: 865 5838 6278

Passcode: 320286

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86558386278#,,,,\*320286# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,86558386278#,,,,\*320286# US





## Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library FOL Fall Book Clearance

This picture was taken in September on their set up day. Due to Hurricane Helene they lost power after Day 1 so they boxed up their books for the next sale in June!



# Challenge Grant

## WINNERS!

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the  
FONCPL 2024 Challenge Grants!

Challenge Grants up to \$250 are awarded to Friends groups for projects or programs that align with the mission and purpose of the Friends Group and which directly benefit the Friends.

**Congratulations to all the Friends groups listed below:**

**Friends of the Albert Carlton Cashiers Community Library:** Awarded a \$250 grant to create targeted promotional materials to attract business and corporate Friends memberships.

**Friends of the Stanly County Public Library:** Awarded \$90 to cover the cost of creating a colorful banner to advertise their Friends used book sales.

**Friends of the Wren Memorial Library:** Awarded \$250 to purchase a canopy tent and rolling carts to extend the space available for their Friends used book sales.

**Topsail Township Friends of the Library:** Awarded \$250 to cover postage and printing for their main fundraising campaign, a targeted mailing.

**Havelock Friends of the Public Library:** Awarded \$250 to purchase promotional items branded with the Friends logo to use as giveaways to increase community awareness and to promote Friends membership.

**Friends of Malloy Jordan East Winston Heritage Center—Forsyth County Public Library:** Awarded \$250 to purchase puzzles to be used by the Friends for community outreach programs.



## Isn't this a fun idea for your Group on November 12<sup>th</sup>!!

In addition to a lunch of homemade chicken soup, you could purchase a 5 pack of pre-owned good quality Chicken Soup for the Soul books with no repeat titles for \$11. [Click here](#) to see the deal. You could wrap them in brown paper—decorate them—and write the topic on the cover so individuals can select topic of interest. These make nice place settings.



### FRIENDS OF THE NEW BERN LIBRARY

*Invite our wonderful library staff to lunch on  
Chicken Soup for the Soul Day  
Tuesday, November 12th at Noon*

*Menu: Homemade Chicken Soup, Caesar Salad,  
Fruit, Desserts, and Drinks*

## Using the National Calendar of Events to Enhance Your Friends' and Library's Event Planning

By Judy Hills

Every year FONCPL updates the next year's national calendar of events. These range from recognized holidays to lesser-known celebrations, to outright obscure events. Some are serious and some are just plain fun. Still, all of them represent an opportunity for your Friends and your library to seize the day and host an event that could raise awareness, be a fundraiser, or be a community event. Most would need to be advertised one to two months in advance. Some could be more spur of the moment, but you should consider how you will market the event. Think about adding your event to an already existing event. For example, if the local birding group has already planned a field event, ask about adding a children's component to it sponsored by either the Friends or the library.

If your library has an outreach program, consider how your Friends might help either expand or enhance that program using these ideas. Here are the January celebrations from the 2025 calendar.

1/1	New Year's Day
1/2	National Science Fiction Day
1/3	J.R.R. Tolkien Birthday
1/4	Trivia Day
1/5	National Bird Day
1/7	Zora Neale Hurston Birthday
1/8	Stephen Hawking Birthday
1/9	Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
1/14	Dress up your pet day
1/15	National Hat Day
1/18	National Thesaurus Day
1/19	National Popcorn day
1/20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/20	Civil Rights Day
1/21	Squirrel Appreciation Day
1/23	National Pie Day
1/25	National Compliment Day
1/25	National Seed Swap Day
1/27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
1/28	National Lego Day
1/29	National Puzzle Day
1/29	Curmudgeons Day

Here are some program/event ideas from those celebration dates:

### **New Year's Day**

Make this a month-long event—invite people to use Post-it notes to write down one new year resolution. Cover a short span of a wall with colored wrapping paper and let the public place the Post-it note on it.

### **Science Fiction Day**

Consider an event linked to Sci-Fi Day: host a sci-fi author, show an iconic sci-fi film, host a book discussion on an award-winning sci-fi book or series. Host a discussion about how ideas from early sci-fi books have come to fruition.

### **J.R.R. Tolkien Birthday**

Host a Hobbit Party or a Lord of the Rings Party. Think costumes, food with hobbit names, decorations, games or contests, and readings from the book by characters in costumes.

### **Trivia Day**

When was the last time your library did trivia night? When was the last time your Friends fielded a trivia team? Don't want to reinvent the wheel? [Contact Travis Green](#) at the New Bern-Craven County Public Library. He creates the questions and runs the monthly low-tech Trivia Night for the library.

### **Bird Day**

Invite a local birding group to do a workshop. Have a workshop where children make peanut butter and seed pinecones to hang in the trees for the birds. Provide coloring book pages featuring different local birds. Have a library display of bird and birding books.

### **Stephen Hawking Birthday**

Showing of the video (YouTube): A Brief History of Time: The Pioneering Work of Stephen Hawking OR Can We Time Travel? Genius by Stephen Hawking. Host a discussion after the film.

### **Dress Up Your Pet Day**

Hold a contest for the best-dressed pet (cat, dog, other) with various prizes. Have a contest for children—give them a coloring book picture of a dog or cat on which they have to draw and color a costume. Gather a bunch of pet costumes (thrift store?) and ask children to bring their pets in and dress them in costumes provided. Take a picture of the child and the pet in costume and give them a printed copy. (To prevent mishaps, you could schedule times and use a small room for dressing and taking pictures OR just use a therapy dog.) You could also collaborate with the local animal rescue group. You could give books about animals as prizes (e.g., This Farm is a Family—about abused farm animals that were rescued—a great tie-in with an animal rescue group).

### **Lego Day**



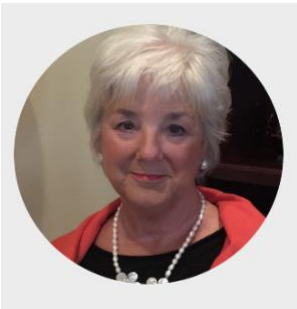

Get a donor to buy a huge number of Legos. Have a Lego party. Continue to use the Legos at the library after the party.

These are just a few examples of ideas. Some are going to work and some might not. You need to consider the day, time, space, advertising, supplies, refreshments, and other things required to pull the event off. And, of course, consider the staffing, time, effort, and cost. Some ideas might be too costly or too labor-intensive with too little potential return. But just think of all the fun that could be had—even just the planning.

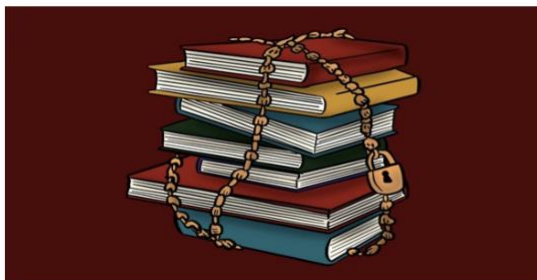
Take a look at the 2025 Calendar posted on the FONCPL website. Select a few interesting celebrations. Start planning today! [Click here](#) to access the 2025 calendar.



## Friend of the Year Awards 2024

	<p><b>Barbara Kaelin</b></p> <p>Friends of Havelock Public Library</p>
	<p><b>Ellie Toombs</b></p> <p>Friends of New Bern's Public Library</p>
	<p><b>JoAnn Bass</b></p> <p>Friends of the Library Rourk Branch, Brunswick County</p>
<p>No Picture provided</p>	<p><b>Carol Sasser</b></p> <p>Stanly County Friends of the Library</p>
	<p><b>Margo Sizemore</b></p> <p>Friends of the Wren Memorial Library</p>





## **Our Monthly Censorship Update**

*by Karen Robbins,  
President, Friends of the Library Rourk Branch*

Libraries and librarians have been under fire from people who want to decide for us all what we should have access to at our library. As we are approaching the final day of voting, I want to urge anyone who has not voted yet to do so. Researching book challenges this month, I found several disturbing news items.

To begin with, Utah passed a law this year that banned 13 books from all public schools in Utah. The schools are not the final judge of what is or isn't pornography, but rather the county prosecutor makes that call, and may prosecute those who are considered to provide access to that material. As a result those who own or curate Little Free Libraries in Utah worry of they will be accused of providing pornography or materials with "sexually explicit" content to minors. Brooke Stephens, a leader of Utah Parents Unite has already called for parents to report librarians to the police, and that owners of Little Free Libraries should face prosecution as well. (Alberty, Erin, Axios Salt Lake City, Oct 4, 2024.)

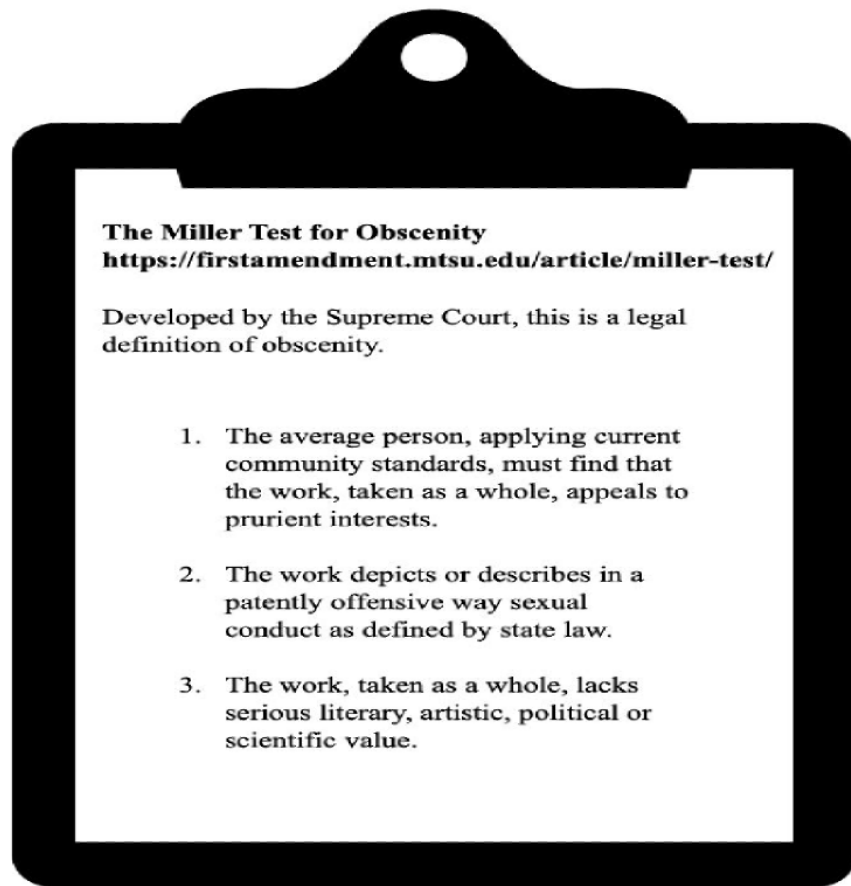
Recently, York County SC Library Board of Trustees voted not purchase any new library books for those under 18 years of age until "the State better clarifies what is or is not permitted in public libraries". The moratorium was voted into effect on October 10, 2024 by the Board of Trustees, in response to Proviso 27.1. This proviso states that libraries must be in compliance with the collection development policies to receive funding. York Libraries were found to be in compliance earlier this year. Yet the trustees' votes were split regarding the moratorium, with four in support of the moratorium, and three opposed. The county leaders had made the decision to shrink the board from 10 members to seven, allowing a smaller number of people to have more control over the outcome of votes. This change occurred when a councilman wanted to eliminate books with references to gender or sexual content. He didn't get his way, so he used his office to change the size of the board, ensuring a majority who would vote in his favor. (Jensen, Kelly. "South Carolina Public Library Won't Buy New Books for those under 18", Literary Activism, Oct. 14, 2024.)

Finally, in Texas, the Montgomery County Commissioners Court ordered librarians there to reclassify the nonfiction children's book *Colonization* and the *Wampanoag Story* as fiction. The author of the book is the Wampanoag writer Linda Coombs. Her book is highly regarded. It has been classified throughout the country as nonfiction, including at the Library of Congress. Last March, the Montgomery County changed the book review process and took it away from certified librarians and instead formed a "Citizens Review Committee" who meet behind closed doors, offer no explanation for its decisions, and does not allow decisions made by the Citizens Review Committee to be appealed. If a group of individuals who are not trained professional librarians, and who have an agenda they want to force on others, what is there to prevent them from reclassifying any book of nonfiction with which they disagree?

(Anne Russey, co-founder of Texas Freedom to Read Project, Laney Hawes, co-founder of Texas Freedom to Read Project and Frank Strong, co-founder of Texas Freedom to Read Project. "We fight book bans in Texas. This county's latest move stunned us." MSNBC, Oct. 19, 2024)

## Libraries Do Not Buy Books Considered Obscene

In the newsletter Literary Activism, Kelly Jensen writes that books published and available for purchase will not contain obscenity because it is against the law. Obscenity has a standard court-issued definition, called the Miller Test. Publishers are careful to follow those guidelines.



She goes on to describe the steps a manuscript must go through to get published.

They are:

- The Agent—first an author must find an agent to represent them
- The Editor—the agent must then sell the book to an editor
- Publisher—the Legal Department of the publisher will let the book
- Reviewers for trade publications—not all books are reviewed in trade publications
- Librarian reads reviews
- Library professionals assess whether or not to purchase the book after reading it —
  1. Is there a need in the library collection?
  2. Is there an interest in the community?
  3. Budgets constraints

Jensen concludes that for a book to actually make to the library, it has undergone a rigorous process and has already been determined not to be obscene before it ever reaches the library.

This is a good way for Friends of the Library to talk to those would-be censors to help diffuse their fears and refocus their frustrations. Without political innuendo, the business of publishing itself has many safeguards already in place. If censors truly want to protect children or their communities by deciding what can be read or placed in schools or libraries, help them see how pornography and obscenity are not the issues.

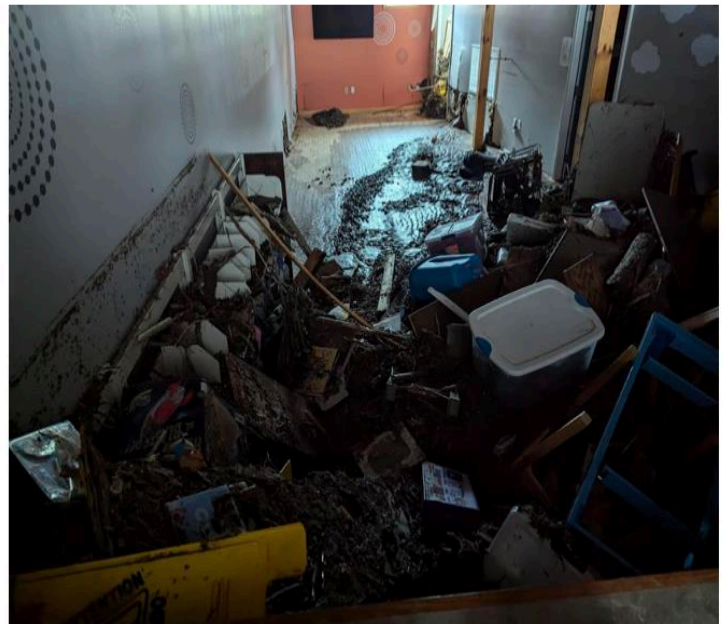
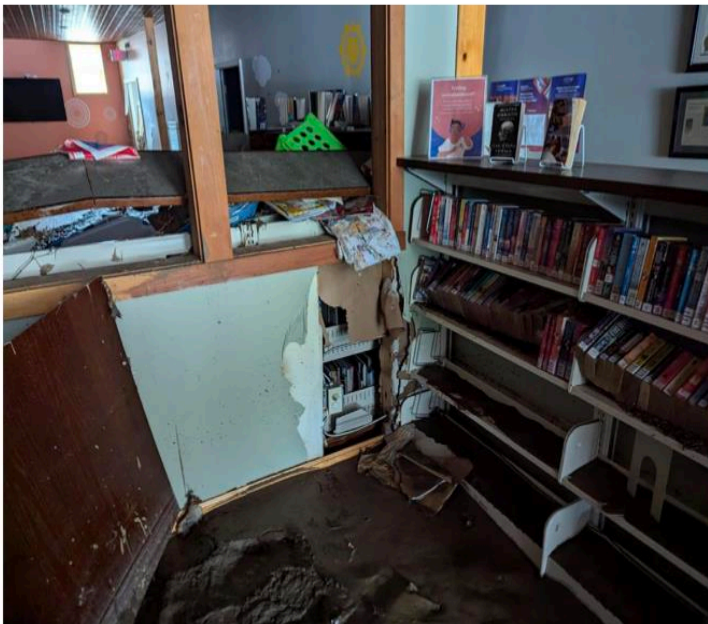
(Jensen, Kelly. "Books Don't Just Appear on Library Shelves", Literary Activism, Oct 11, 2024)



## Western North Carolina Friends of the Library Need our Support

After Helene, I reached out to as many Friends of the Libraries in the Western counties as I could. As of this writing, I have heard from two members. I appreciate their time as they are contending with so much right now. I am copying what they told me so that throughout North Carolina, we can rally our FOLs to provide a supportive community as these libraries and Friends groups try to get back to some kind of normal.

Thank you for reaching out to Western NC. I am currently Treasurer for the Friends of South Buncombe Library in Asheville. Our branch is closed due to lack of running water, as are all Buncombe County branches. Therefore we are offering no programming or book sales. We are basically in a holding pattern until November (hopefully). Even our book discussion group, which we have held at a different location at times, was postponed because readers couldn't put the title on hold or circulate the 4 copies provided by the Friends. I also had to mark a furniture delivery as "undeliverable" due to the closures. On a happy note, our branch has not sustained damage and the Community Room will open for Early Voting starting Thursday.



Anita Koupal

I am the President of the Mars Hill Friends of the Library in Madison County. The area I live in was impacted only slightly by the Hurricane. However, the library in Hot Springs was devastated by the flood. The river essentially ran right through it and they are now overwhelmed with the extent of the damage. I am attaching a few pictures that give you the sense of what they are going through.

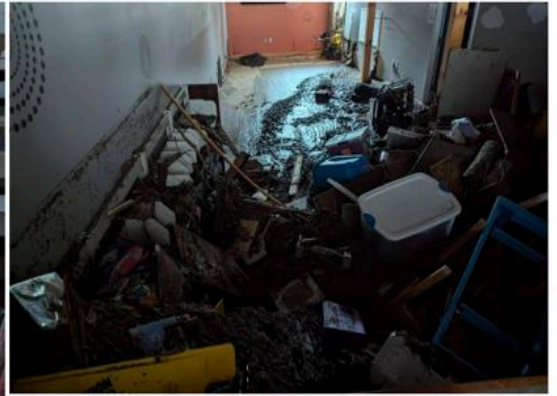
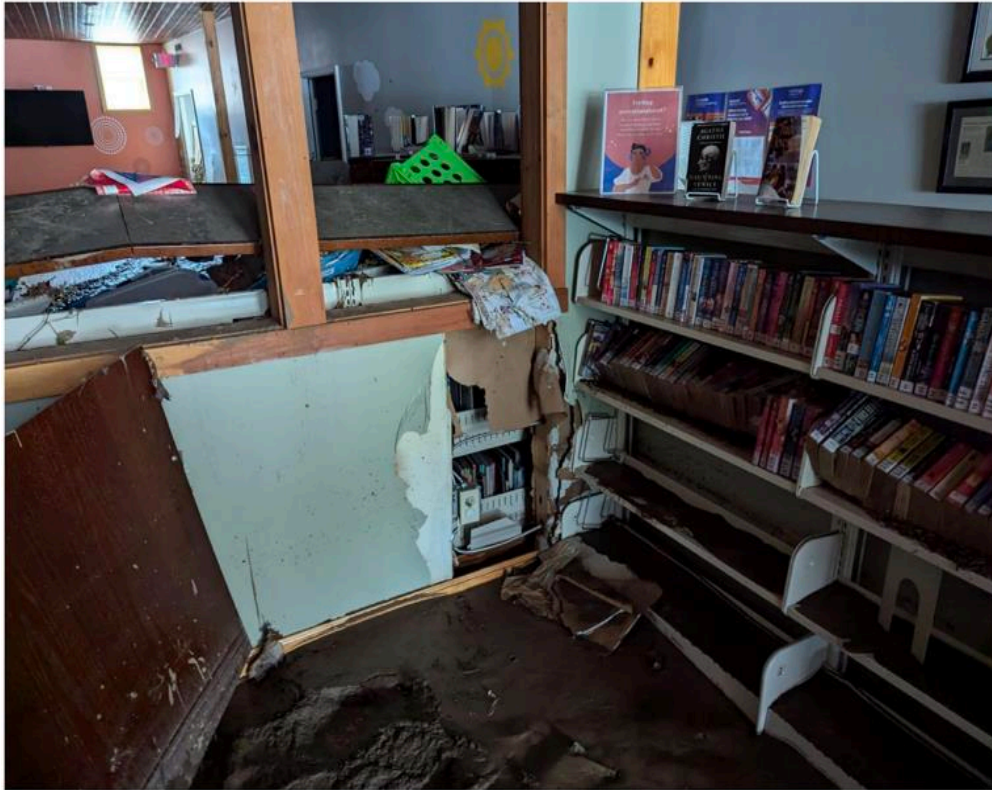
**\*If your group wants to make a donation to the library it can be made to the Hot Springs Library directly at [Home | Friends of the Hot Springs Library \(friendsofhotspringslibrary.org\)](https://friendsofhotspringslibrary.org)**

Thank you for reaching out to us. It is truly devastating! Nancy Larkin



# How Can We Help?

## Libraries in Western North Carolina



The library in Hot Springs , North Carolina was devastated by Hurricane Helene. The river essentially ran right through it and they are now overwhelmed with the extent of the damage.

If you want to make a donation to the library it can be made to the Hot Springs Library directly at [Home | Friends of the Hot Springs Library \(friendsofhotspringslibrary.org\)](#)

Or use the QR code above.

Thank you for helping. It is truly devastating!



# Preliminary Data on Book Challenges in 2024 Released

by Phil Morehart/September 24, 2024/Banned Books

<https://ilovelibraries.org/article/preliminary-data-on-book-challenges-in-2024-released/>

## CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

### WHERE DO CENSORSHIP ATTEMPTS TAKE PLACE?

Public library collections came under increased scrutiny in 2023. A significant factor in the increase was that groups who had previously targeted materials in school libraries began bringing challenges to the same titles at their public library.



**54%**

Public libraries



**39%**

School libraries



**5%**

Schools



**2%**

Higher education / other

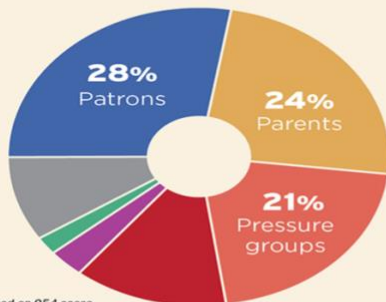
Statistics based on 1,247 cases with known locations.



ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

## CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

### WHO INITIATES ATTEMPTS TO CENSOR BOOKS?



Statistics based on 954 cases.

**13%** Board/administration

**3%** Librarians/teachers/staff

**2%** Elected officials/government

**9%** Other/unknown

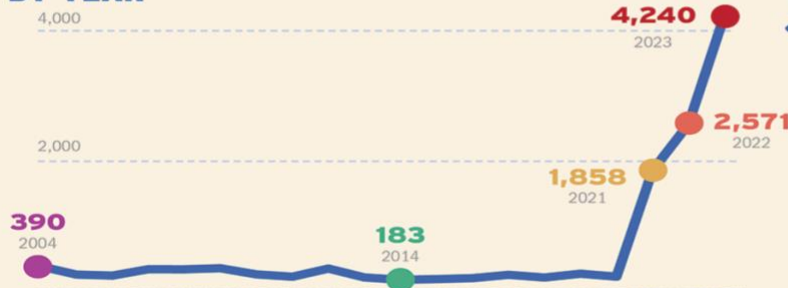
In 2023, organized pressure groups used their power to try to empty library shelves of all books they deem inappropriate.



ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

## CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

### NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR



### CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The record-breaking number of unique titles targeted in 2023 marked a 65% increase over 2022. Prior to 2021, the average number of unique titles targeted per year was 273.



ALA.ORG/BBOOKS

# Fiscal Controls and Reporting for Small Nonprofits (4 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. Utilize general ledger accounting and regular financial reports. Organizations should use a system of general ledger accounting which enables categorizing and tracking income and expenditures. In addition to regular budget reports noted above, organizations should also regularly prepare and distribute statements of activity (commonly known as income statements) and statements of position (commonly known as balance sheets) for the board's review and consideration.
2. Get it in writing. Remember to document all internal control procedures in writing or in a protected digital format. For example: if you review and approve the payroll report, you should immediately sign and date the report; or if you review and approve the online monthly bank statement, you should immediately send an email to the Treasurer to that effect. If you perform an internal control procedure but fail to document that fact, the organization cannot prove that its internal controls are being implemented.
3. Appoint a grants manager. Organizations should appoint a dedicated individual who is responsible for reviewing all grants and/or contracts received by the organization, understanding the "fine print," and ensuring that all grant/contract terms and deadlines are met. In smaller organizations with few or no paid staff, this responsibility is generally fulfilled by a volunteer board or committee member. The requirements for each funding source may be unique and complex. The organization risks the loss of important financial support if it fails to study, understand, and adhere to grant requirements such as timesheet tracking, expense budgets, quarterly reports, or other obligations.
4. Adopt a conflict of interest policy. Organizations should have a written policy that clearly states how conflicts should be disclosed, how a majority of disinterested board members make decisions, and how a conflicted board member would be excluded from any situation that might prevent them from being impartial or from appearing to be impartial. Written record of how and when this policy is implemented should be recorded in board minutes. Director conflict-of-interest issues are addressed under ORS 65.361.
5. Implement a data back-up plan. Organizations should ensure that they are backing up any electronically-stored financial data in the event of a computer failure, security breach, or other catastrophe. Organizations should also ensure that they have alternative arrangements in place to address a situation in which the person who is normally responsible for the organization's finances becomes suddenly unavailable.





## Decorations for November



## Some Interesting Presidential Elections Facts

Only 13 US Presidents have been elected to office for two terms.

John F. Kennedy is the youngest elected US President at 43. Joe Biden is the oldest elected President at 78.

The tallest US President was Abraham Lincoln at 6'4". The shortest was James Madison at 5'4".

Eight Presidents have died in office:

- William Henry Harrison (pneumonia)
- Zachary Taylor (gastroenteritis)
- Abraham Lincoln (assassin)
- James Garfield (assassin)
- William McKinley (assassin)
- Warren Harding (heart attack)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt (cerebral hemorrhage)
- John F. Kennedy (assassin)

Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump are the only divorced men to be elected President.

Barack Obama was the first African American President.

James Buchanan is the only bachelor to be elected president.

Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. [Constitution](#) has only three requirements for a president. (1) Must be at least 35 years old, (2) have lived in the United States at least 14 years, and (3) be a natural-born citizen.

The US Marine band has played at every presidential inauguration since 1801.

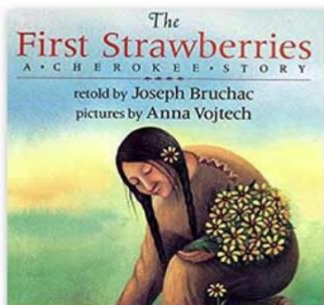
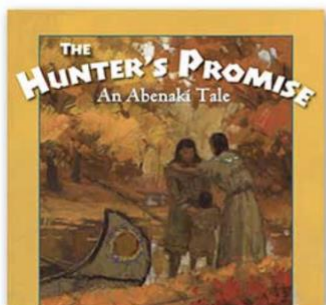
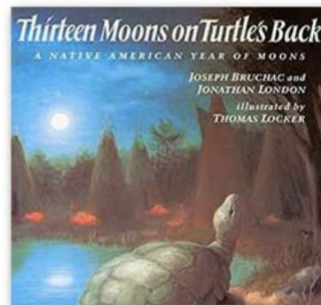
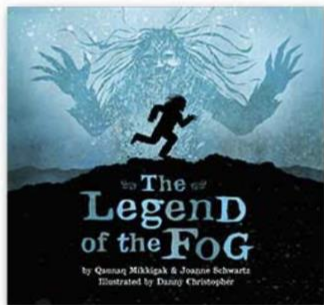
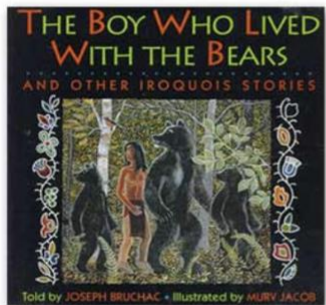
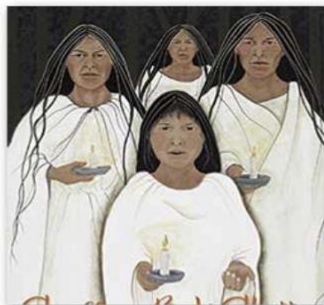
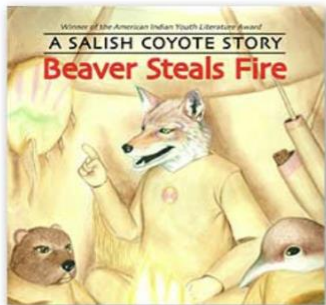
Victoria Woodhull became the first woman to run for President in 1872.





# NOVEMBER NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is designated as National Native American Heritage Month. This observance commemorates the history, heritage, and culture of Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. It is during this month we acknowledge the vast achievements of America's original indigenous people.



Children's Books  
about  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
FOLKLORE





# FOLDERAMA- BOOK CRAFTING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 AND  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024  
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

NEW BERN-CRAVEN COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Learn how to fold discarded books into crafty cute figures. All supplies provided. Sign up for 1-2 sessions.

Please register at Adult Services desk, call 252-638-7800, or email to [NBAAdultPrograms@mycpri.org](mailto:NBAAdultPrograms@mycpri.org).

Ages 16 years old and up.

New Bern-Craven County Public Library  
408 Hancock Street  
New Bern, NC 28560  
[www.mycprl.org](http://www.mycprl.org)  
(252) 638-7800 #CPRLConnects



**What a fun activity to offer at your library!!**  
**Way to go New Bern-Craven!!**



# OPEN MIC NIGHT

Thursday November 14th 7:00 pm

Topic: Grooming Leader

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81036977101?pwd=ipRTzPQcdPuZFuyRcMz6e6NACQ8v2.1>

by Phone: 309.205.3325

Meeting ID: 810 3697 7101

Passcode: 781840

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](mailto:klambe@me.com)  
by November 25, 2024.

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## Days to Remember in Your Library in November:

November: Native American Heritage Month

November 1: National Authors Day, Family Literacy

## Storywalk Week

November 10-16

<https://letsmovelibraries.org/storywalk/>

***Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day.***

~Robert Caspar Lintner

***We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count.***

~Neal Maxwell

*In this month where we focus on Thanksgiving, as Friends here is something in which to be thankful!*

I think the public library system is one of the most amazing American institutions. Free for everybody. If you ever get the blues about the status of American culture there are still more public libraries than there are McDonald's. During the worst of the Depression not one public library closed their doors.

David Mccullough



I am a part of  
everything that  
I have read.

Theodore Roosevelt

