



F·R·I·E·N·D·S

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

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

August 2025

Dear Friends,

It's August! and August 1 is International Childfree Day! I hope that means letting go of lots of adult responsibilities and being free to do something childish. I'd go for ice cream - being careful, of course, not to drip some on the mystery book I'm currently reading.... Another fun day to celebrate is National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day on Monday, August 4. My husband developed his own recipe for oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. They were to "die for!" And, they don't drip on the book I'm reading. Which leads me to the next important day for library lovers - National Book Lovers Day on Saturday, August 9. That's a pretty good start for the month, but I need to mention one more that fits me to a "T". Sunday, August 10 is LAZY DAY!

At Friends, we are excited to have requests for grants to assist with the startup of two new Friends groups. When groups reach out for assistance, it not only comes with a monetary grant, it also comes with some help from experienced Board Members. There are several federal forms to be completed for non-profit status. By-laws must be written. Deciding on how to recruit members and who will take leadership positions must be considered. Projects that would most benefit your library are all important tasks. If you'll forgive me... "that's what Friends are for..."

Here in the mountains, school will be starting in a few weeks. Coming from an educational background, I sympathize with all the teachers and school staff who will be busy with beginning-of-school tasks. It truly is an exciting time but will give our library a bit of a break. Our library staff, with financial assistance

from our Friends group and I'm certain yours has been busy as well with lots of summer programming to keep children and teens entertained and learning. Those of you who have Storywalk installations have probably found them busy and well-used. Please share with us some of the summer programming that you have helped provide at your local libraries. Pictures would be fun too.

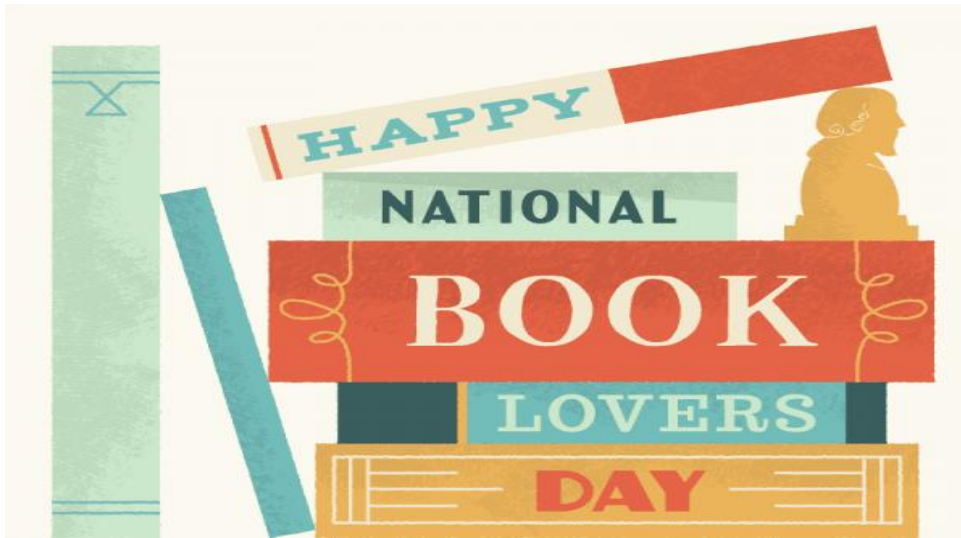
On a more serious note, please keep an eye on state and national legislation that impacts libraries and library services. We need to remind our representatives that libraries are important - no, Critical - to the health and well-being of our communities and state. Let us hear about some of the activities that your Friends group or individuals have taken in this regard. We'd love to hear from you about this issue or others that you would like to share.

Thank you for your interest and membership in Friends.

Yours in Friendship,

Joyce Speas, President





Applications Due 9/15/25 for Challenge Grants

The Friends of the North Carolina Public Library (FONCPL) will award Challenge Grants of up to \$250. FONCPL reserves the right to determine the number of these grants to be awarded in a calendar year.

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.

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 ([click here](#)) and email copy of application, cover letter and any supporting documentation as an attachment to Billie Lawson.

Examples of appropriate Friends projects include: StoryWalk, printing of Friends brochure or applications, lobby kiosk (Friends display), locking cabinet to store Friends' stuff, laptop computer for Treasurer, year subscription to MS 365, Zoom subscription, memorial plaque for library that lists Presidents of the Friends, kids' books for Christmas PK-5 project, patio bench commemorating Friends, credit card blanks for book shop gift cards, printing of bookmarks with Friends info, a Little Free Library box, year subscription to organizational management software, etc.

Nominations Due 9/30/25 for NC Friend of the Year Award

Any group member of FONCPL may nominate one of their members for the NC Friend of the Year Award. Friend of the Year is awarded to a member of a Friends group who made an outstanding contribution to their Friends of the Library in the past calendar year. All nominated will be conferred with this honor.

Please send us the name of your Friend, a photo and a concise paragraph on why your Friend is outstanding. How have they con-

tributed to your Group? When did they join your group? Send us all the fun facts and picture of the person nominated no later than September 30th. Email entry to Bil-lie Lawson.

We'd love to have one nominee from each of the Friends groups that are FONCPL members. What better way to recognize your member! Do it today!

Nominations for the “I Partner With My Public Library” Award

Do you work at a public library? Has a community partner made a difference by collaborating with you?

Submitting a nomination for the I Partner with My Public Library Award is the perfect way to thank your partners, and to celebrate the work you have done together. These annual awards also inspire new partnerships.

Nominations will be accepted through the end of August 2025. At that point, a team of volunteer reviewers will score the nominations, and those rated the highest will be notified by **October 15, 2025**, with a public awards ceremony occurring in **November, 2025**. Awardees will be publicly celebrated on the Let's Move in Libraries webpage in perpetuity, alongside winners from 2023 and 2024. Join us in this endeavor!

The call for nominations opened on June 1, 2025. Submit your nomination by clicking here, or learn more at the I Partner with My

Public Library webpage.

In addition to submitting a nomination, you can also serve as a reviewer. Reviewers will spend approximately 3-5 hours in **September 2025** reviewing nominations and filling out an online form. You can submit a nomination **and** serve as a reviewer: We'll make sure you don't review your own nomination! You do not need to work in a public library to serve as a reviewer.



Email Reply Etiquette

Sometimes when we send emails, we feel like they went down a black hole—there is no reply or acknowledgement. This can be especially annoying to a prospective member when your Friends use the email messaging module on your website. Here are some recommendations for handling email messages. 1) The very first rule of email etiquette is to always reply, never ignore! 2) If you can't respond yet—at least acknowledge the email. 3) Reply promptly—try to respond within 24 hours. 4) Don't skip questions—If you don't know—tell them you'll get back with an answer. 5) If your name is on the CC line—don't reply. 6) If your email program allows—do put an “out of the



office” message on it when you are not there—and remember to change the message when you return. 7) Don't waste the sender's time—reply succinctly—say the most important thing first. 8) Stay on topic—stick to the subject. 8) Don't forget the attachments (if relevant). 9) Use “reply to all” sparingly—use only when relevant. 10) Remember to spell-check your reply. 11) Avoid slang, abbreviations, and unfamiliar acronyms to prevent confusion. 12) Don't reply when angry—watch your tone. 13) Keep confidential information safe. These rules apply to businesses, Friends, and individuals.

Not a "Cheesy" Idea For Your Friend's Book Store or Book Nook

Submitted by Teresa Roop of the Friends of the Ashe County Public Library.

During the last month we have run a very successful promotional campaign that has greatly increased the number of patrons to our Friends' Corner. We would like to share our idea with our fellow Friends of the Library groups.

We went through Amazon and purchased their "Mouse reading Book, Wall Decor Sticker Decal". The decal was easy to remove from surfaces without any damage. Every day before the "Corner" opened we hid the mouse. Each day the first child to find the mouse received a \$2 gift certificate they could spend in the Friends' Corner. With the parents' permission we took the child's picture with either the mouse or their gift store purchase. We put up their first name on a card that said, "Today's winning mouse hunter was _____." With permission we also posted the picture on Facebook, Instagram and local media such as "Ashe County in the Know".

We realized very quickly that this was greatly increasing the numbers coming into

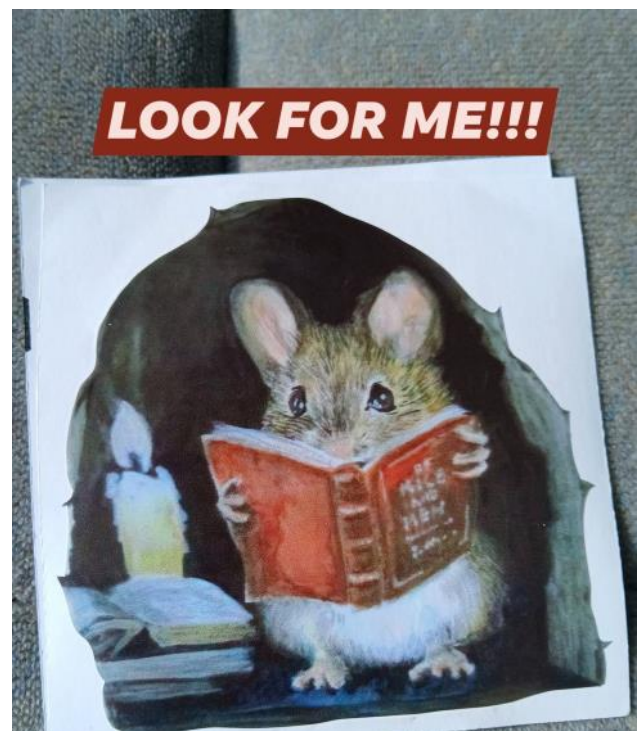
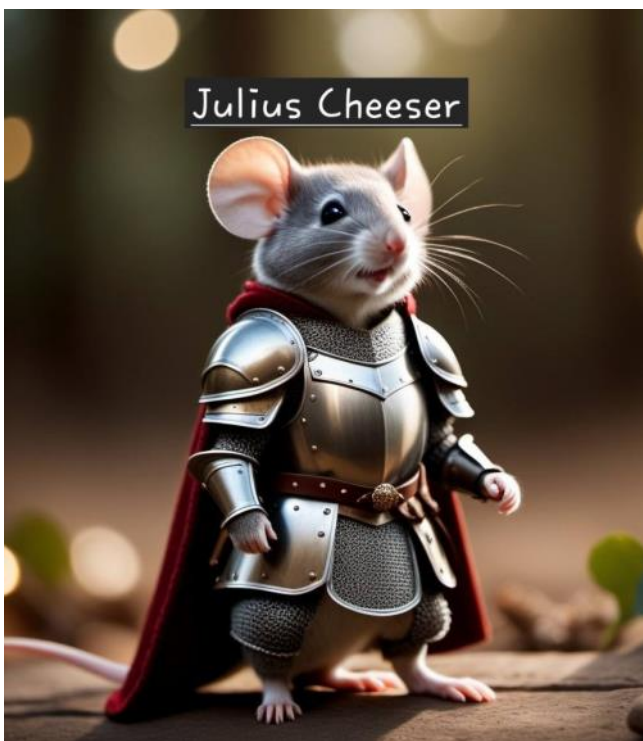
the "Corner," boosting our profits and growing greater good will throughout our community.

A week into our promotion we realized the mouse needed a name. We put up a basket and for a week people put their nominations for a name the mouse. We videotaped and posted the drawing and posted on social media. Julius Cheeser was selected and the girl who had suggested the name won a \$5 gift card. Even patrons who did not have children were approaching staff to tell them how much they loved the name and the contest.

At the end of the month, we put the names of all of our winning mouse hunters into a basket and drew for our grand prize. Through the generosity of our local Little Caesars that child's family was treated to a free pizza party.

This simple idea created so much excitement we wanted to share with other libraries.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Buttler, FOL President at 1-919-279-5555 or buttlercatherine@gmail.com



Non-Cash Contributions to Friends

Sometimes Friends have people or groups that want to donate items other than the types we typically sell at our book sales or book shops. Recently one Friends group in western NC had an individual who wanted to donate a car "to a victim of the flooding" to the Friends.

There are several issues with this prospective donation. The first and biggest being the donor specification "to a victim of the flooding." It is normal practice for a nonprofit to honor donor restrictions. Given that, the issue here is that the Friends are not in the business of directly serving "victims of flooding." How would they identify and qualify a recipient? Does this fall within their stated purpose?

Secondarily the IRS has specific guidelines for accepting non-cash contributions valued at \$250 or more—a written acknowledgement is required. The IRS does not require the charity's

written acknowledgement to include the value of the donated property.

Even beyond these issues, there is a lot involved in accepting a vehicle (title, tag, etc.). Would your group really want to get involved? We think not. Better to refer the individual to a group that routinely accepts donated cars. We recommend you refer the donor, rather than get involved in something beyond your capabilities to handle.

If your organization is a 501c3, we recommend you periodically review the IRS requirements and ensure that you are in compliance. And even if yours is not a 501c3, these are good guidelines to follow. [Click here](#) to view the IRS Charitable Contributions—Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements.

MICROSOFT 365 FOR NONPROFITS

This is not a promo for MS—just an opportunity for Friends to take advantage of MS 365 either for free or for a very nominal cost if more features are desired. One of the free features is Teams which functions like Zoom. [Click here](#) to read more about this.

North Carolina Public Library News...by Karen Robbins

This month I want to catch readers up on two ongoing changes at regional libraries in North Carolina. To keep it short, but clear, I will list the most important points. I focused on these specific public library changes is so that we, as members of the Friends of the North Carolina Public Libraries, can reach out to FOL's from those counties and lend support as they face challenges to funding, staffing, and programming in their hometown libraries.

It appears that both in Yancey County (AMY Regional Library) and in Jackson County (Fontana Regional Library) the libraries have withdrawn or may withdraw from long-standing regional systems and have become or may become county libraries. This means the loss of jobs, revenue and certain shared resources.

In both counties librarians and patrons have been told services won't be changed or interrupted, and that NC Cardinal books will still be available.

The argument given in part was that fewer NC libraries are in regional systems any more, but are under county control. This is a "local control" issue.

A community concern was the political make-up of the county commissioners and the library boards. Because commissioners may appoint trustees for the county library board, some residents were concerned that viewpoints and books and displays could be limited for political reasons.

One common factor in both regional systems was concern about LGBTQ displays and books, or books about or by people of color.

In both counties, local residents spoke up to support First Amendment rights, arguing that by

taking away materials for minority patrons, those patrons are finding themselves marginalized.

At this time, both libraries are in transition. However, people are still fighting the changes and may be looking at legal alternatives to fight the decisions.

"Ahead of Jackson County's vote to withdraw, public comments at commissioner meetings reflected an overwhelming desire among residents to see the county stay in library system." —Kyle Perrotti, Smokey Mountain News, Fontana Regional Library addresses upcoming issues ahead of split, July 16, 2025

Yancey County Residents are still fighting for remaining part of the regional system. They have a website < <https://www.ourlibraryyourvoice.org/> > All Yancey County library staff were fired and replaced as of July 1, 2025.

I reached out to the FOL in Jackson County. The reply was that they have been working to keep Jackson County part of the Fontana Regional Library for several years.

We all know about loss of funding, sharing of resources, and loss of staff, and how devastating those things can be. These counties are in far western NC, in mostly rural areas without adequate phone service, and they are still trying to recover after Helene caused so much damage. I hope we can reach out to those FOL's and provide support. I will keep you posted.



How One Librarian Got Involved...by Karen Robbins

Wondering what you can do about censorship, book challenges, and more? Then you need to read the essay written by India May from Parkersburg, Iowa. I found it in an issue of Literary Activism by Kelly Jensen.

In her article entitled "[How a Quiet Librarian Became a Loud Threat to the Iowa Legislature: Book Censorship News](#)", July 19, 2025—How one Iowa librarian went from being unaware of attacks on books and libraries to running for state-level office to turn the tide around" Jensen explained the context for May's involvement in politics, and includes May's essay about her journey. I recommend reading it.

Jensen mentions Run for Something as a place to visit if you might ever consider running for school board or to be a library trustee, or a state representative. According to Jensen, "Their numbers as of mid-June indicate 50,000 people have signed up to run for local positions since November 5, 2024."

Below are several excerpts from her essay:



"I used to believe that if I stayed out of politics, and focused on my work, then I could avoid ostracizing anyone and things would just work themselves out. But now, the work of helping my patrons feel safe, informed, and free is itself political, whether I want to participate in politics or not. Now, I'm willing to take the risk of being misunderstood."

"The fight for the future of our democracy is right here in our communities. Book bans aren't about "protecting kids." They're about silencing challenging ideas."
—India May

"I'm running for Iowa House of Rep because I refuse to let the loudest, most hateful voices dominate the story of our beautiful state. I'm running because our communities deserve better. I'm running because we deserve public servants who still believe in the public good."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Library Readers' Advisory by Cindy Shipley

Editor's note: *Cindy is an FONCPL Board member. She retired from being in charge of the US Marine Corps libraries worldwide. Cindy will be writing a monthly column on AI.*

Readers Advisory is a service provided by Library staff to bring readers and books together. Libraries use book lists, displays, newsletters, book lists, displays to recommend titles to their patrons at large. But when most people think about readers' advisory, they think of a librarian providing guidance to a patron, one on one, about what materials they might enjoy or need for a project at the reference or circulation desk. This could be as simple as "I've read all of Stephen King, what else will I like?" or "I'd like to read novels about World War I."

A useful way for Library staff to assist patrons with suggestions for what to read next is easily provided using AI tools. AI-based recommendation systems analyze user data, such as borrowing history, reading preferences, and ratings, to provide personalized recommendations tailored to each reader's personal interests. This personalized approach ensures that users are presented with suggestions that align with their interests. AI-based recommendation systems lead to serendipitous discovery by introducing readers to

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Library Readers' Advisory

new and unexpected materials that align with their interests. AI tools can lead to serendipitous discovery of new and interesting materials that encourages them to explore topics and genres outside their usual preferences.

In addition to the well-known Chat GPT for book recommendations, below are several Reader's Advisory tools for both Library staff and patrons to explore.

[Goodreads](#) is the world's largest site for readers and book recommendations.

Their service allows you to create a free account and to see what books your friends are reading. You can track the books you are reading, have read, and want to read. Goodreads also provides personalized book recommendations analyzing twenty billion data points to give you suggestions based on your reading tastes. Another search point is the community reviews provided with titles to see if a book is a good fit.

[The StoryGraph | Because life is too short for a book you are not in the mood for](#)

On The Story Graph site, you create an account and take a survey on reading preferences. From a list of genres, you can choose up to five areas of interest. You choose the type or style of writing you prefer and choose from an extensive list of subjects that you never want to read about. After submitting the survey, recommendations are returned within seconds showing book covers in carousel format. There is a carousel for each of your genres and writing styles.

[Discover Your Next Recommended Book | Readupnext.com](#)

Read Up Next allows the reader to Explore and find your next informative read. Books are recommended by over 700 influential people. The titles are handpicked by genre or curated for specific interests to discover the books that inspired and shaped the minds of some of the world's greatest minds, from entrepreneurs and artists to scientists and leaders.

[Whichbook | A new way of choosing what book to read next](#)

Whichbook is a UK site but is also useful for

readers in any country. There are a variety of unusual access points for finding your next read beyond the Bestseller. You can search for books by 12 moods and emotions, using a sliding scale. For example, between Happy and Sad or Optimistic and Bleak. Using the World Map feature you can choose a continent and narrow your search by country to provide a list of books. When searching for books by Character and Plot you choose from drop down menus on Race/Culture; Age; Sexuality; Gender and Plot. With the Books based on Bestsellers feature, you use your enjoyment of a current bestseller to see titles with a similar mood or theme that you might try next. Another feature provides a list of Quick starting points, such as "Gentle books to slow things down" and "Weird and unusual books to stretch the imagination."

Although this is a UK site where you search a local UK library for your book, there is also a link to OCLC World Cat which can provide a US library location for the title. Also provided are links to 5 online bookstores.

Using Chat GPT here is a sample of a request for titles based on a subject and book a patron provides.

*Prompt: Generate a list of time travel books like **Outlander** by **Diana Gabaldon** for a Library Book Club*

ChatGPT said:

If you enjoyed *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon and are looking for similar time travel books — especially those with a blend of historical fiction, romance, and adventure — here is a curated list of books and series you might love:

Time Travel Romance & Historical Fiction (Like Outlander)

1. The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Library Readers' Advisory

A poignant love story between a man with a genetic disorder that causes him to time travel unpredictably and his wife who waits for him. Emotionally intense and beautifully written.

2. **The Winter Sea by Susanna Kearsley**

A contemporary writer starts hearing the voice of a woman from 1708 Scotland as she researches a novel — past and present lives intertwine. Rich in Scottish history and romantic tension.

3. **A Knight in Shining Armor by Jude Deveraux**

A classic romantic time travel novel where a modern woman is swept back to 16th-century England and falls in love with a chivalrous knight.

4. **Time and Again by Jack Finney**

A man is sent back to 1880s New York through a government experiment. More nostalgic and atmospheric than romantic, but it has similar fish-out-of-water time travel charm.

5. **The River of Time Series by Lisa T. Bergren**

YA historical romance series where two sisters time travel to 14th-century Italy. Plenty of action, romance, and medieval detail.

Books With Reincarnation or Ancestral Memories (Outlander Vibe)

6. **The Bronze Horseman by Paullina Simons**

Set in WWII Russia, it is not time travel, but the sweeping, epic romance and historical richness will definitely appeal to *Outlander* fans.

7. **The Rose Garden by Susanna Kearsley**

Another Kearsley title — a woman mourning her sister finds herself slipping back to the 18th century Cornwall. Romance and dual timelines blend elegantly.

8. **Into the Dim by Janet B. Taylor**

YA time travel adventure to 12th-century England with strong female leads and romance. Great for fans of Claire's courage and intelligence.

Fantasy-Inspired Time Travel

9. **The Chronicles of St. Mary's by Jodi Taylor**

Historians at St. Mary's Institute do not just study history — they time travel to witness it. Fast-paced, witty, and with some romantic elements.

10. **Doomsday Book by Connie Willis**

A compelling, emotional time travel novel where a historian is sent to the 14th century and faces unexpected consequences. Deeply researched and haunting.

Would you prefer more Scottish Highland settings or more romantic/time travel combinations? I can tailor the list even more specifically if you would like!

Using this list to choose a book for a Library patron Book Club.

*Prompt: Generate 10 book club questions for **The Rose Garden by Susanna Kearsley***

ChatGPT said:

Here are 10 thoughtful book club discussion questions for *The Rose Garden* by Susanna Kearsley:

1. **Time travel is central to the story.** How does Susanna Kearsley manage the blending of historical fiction with elements of fantasy? Did the transitions between past and present feel believable to you?

2. **Eva's grief for her sister Katrina sets the story in motion.** How does her journey through time help her cope with that loss? In what ways does the past offer her something the present cannot?

3. **Discuss the setting of Trelowarth House and its gardens.** How does Kearsley use the Cornish landscape and the rose garden as symbols throughout the novel?

4. **Daniel Butler is both a romantic interest and a revolutionary.** How do
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AI & Libraries by Cindy Shipley (continued)

his personal values and actions influence Eva's choices? Do you believe their relationship is built on something real or an idealized connection?

5. **The concept of "where we belong" recurs throughout the book.** What do you think the novel suggests about the idea of home and belonging?

6. **The novel portrays two different historical periods.** How do the social and political tensions of the 18th century compare to the emotional conflicts of the 21st century in the story?

7. **Susanna Kearsley often uses strong female protagonists.** How does Eva's character develop over the course of the novel? Do you find her choices empowering or risky?

8. **Eva makes a major decision at the end of the book.** Do you agree with her choice? Why or why not?

9. **Secondary characters like Fergal, Susan, and Mark all play important roles.** Which supporting character stood out most to you, and why?

10. **What themes from *The Rose Garden* lingered with you after reading?** How does it compare to other time-slip or historical romance novels you have read?



Help Save Federal Funding for Libraries

As you all have likely seen in the news lately, federal budget negotiations are underway since the passage of the Big Beautiful Bill earlier this month. With rescission requests being approved by Congress to remove previously allocated funding for important public services like PBS and NPR, it is more important than ever to communicate the value of libraries to our representatives and our communities. The Library Advocacy and Legislation Section (LALS) is continuing to inform Congress members about the impact of federal funding via the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on libraries, but **we need your help with the actions below to protect federal funding for libraries in the coming year.**

Call and email your representatives using the [script at ReadFreeNC.org](https://www.readfreenc.org/script).

- o This can be intimidating if you've never done it before, but staffers are generally cordial and enjoy hearing from librarians!

Submit [letters to the editor](#) with your library story for local and regional news outlets.

- o Follow ReadFreeNC on Instagram and Facebook and share the posts about IMLS with your personal networks.

Send library stories and photos, especially about [programs or services that use federal funding](#), to advocacy@nclaonline.org to be posted on the NCLA social media accounts, or tag @nclibraryassociation in your library's Instagram posts so we can promote them.

Offer to host Legislative Library Visits with Congress members during the August recess. LALS will facilitate communications with representatives, so let us know at advocacy@nclaonline.org if your library would be willing to host a visit!

The NCLA Library Advocacy and Legislation Section can assist you, partner with you, or act on behalf of you or your library for any of the actions listed above. Please reach out to advocacy@nclaonline.org for support!

Community Gardening Program at Johnston County/Smithfield Library

Submitted by Billie Lawson. The Public Library of Johnston County & Smithfield kicked off its 2025 gardening education series this past Spring and it has been a success thus far. In collaboration with our local Johnston County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, PLJCS's gardening programs and classes are designed to engage the community in hands-on learning about gardening, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. This multi-faceted program offers educational opportunities for all ages and skill levels, featuring expert-led lectures, children's gardening activities, a new and expanded collection of books that cover a variety of gardening topics, and complimentary seed kits to encourage home gardening.

The gardening lecture series brings together Johnston County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers to share insights on a variety of topics, including Spring/Summer Gardening, Tomatoes, Hydroponic Gardening, Food Preservation, Seed Saving, and Fall/Winter Gardening.

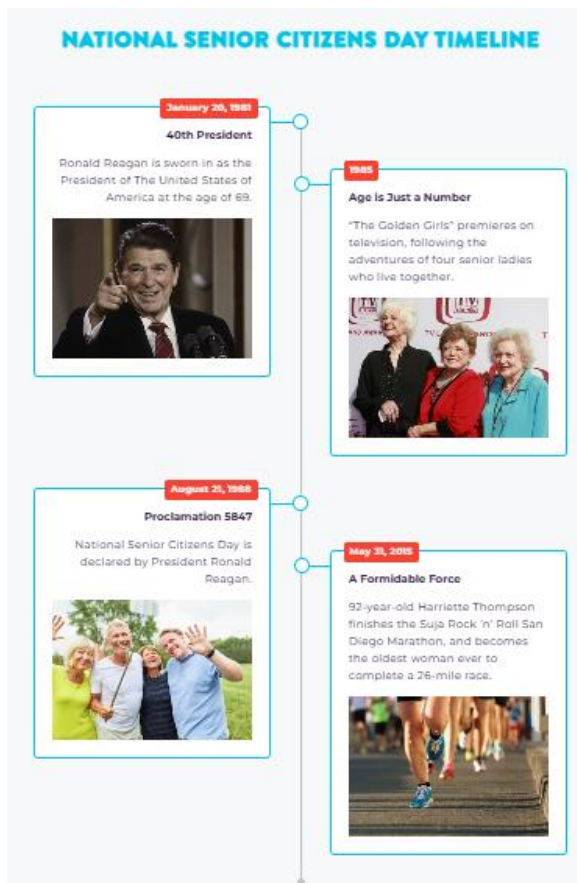
For young gardeners, there is a children's gardening program, which integrates hands-on learning activities led by Johnston County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Karen Wilson. Children's gardening activities all take place in the newly established children's garden, which is supported by

North Carolina State University's Steps to Health Program. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to learn about garden care, planting and harvesting, and nutrition benefits of fruits and vegetables in a fun and interactive environment. The goal of the Children's Garden is to foster an early appreciation for nature and sustainability within the young gardeners.

Additionally, the library has been distributing complimentary seed kits to encourage the library community to start their own gardens at home. These kits were sorted and donated by Johnston County Extension Master Gardeners and include a variety of seeds suited to local growing conditions. We make them available to the community at the library's Patron Services Desk. In the future, the library hopes to offer a seed library that community gardeners can both leave seeds and take seeds for use in their home gardens.

The gardening programs have been a big success and the library is grateful to the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers for this wonderful partnership. A full schedule of lectures, workshops, and children's programs can be found on the library's website at <https://www.pljcs.org/pljcs-gardening>.





The Debate: Does Listening to an Audiobook Count as Reading?

From NPR's All Things Considered.

According to an NPR-Ipsos poll in early 2025, 40% of American adults thought not. "It's older people over age 65, it's men, and it's those without a four-year degree that are more likely to say that listening to audiobooks isn't a form of reading," according to the poll.

"Beth Rogowsky is a professor at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania who studies auditory and visual learning styles. In 2016, she co-authored a study of adults comparing comprehension rates between listening to an audiobook and reading on an e-reader, like a Kindle. According to Rogowsky, "We found that there was no significant difference between reading a book using a Kindle or listening to a book or doing both - listening and reading simultaneously." But "the study was done using adults who knew how to read.

Rogowsky's done some further research looking at school-aged kids and learning styles and found that self-described auditory learners scored worse on comprehension rates across the board. That is, they did worse understanding and recalling information that they read and listened to."

So the bottom line, if you are adult reading or listening to a book results in the same level of retention, but for a child, learning to read a book is essential.

Have you ever listened to an audiobook? Here is a test, pick a book title where you have access to both the book and the audiobook. Read and listen to the book in that order. What did you discover about the experience? Which do you prefer and why? Perhaps this is a discussion point for your next book club meeting.

Indianapolis Public Library Most Borrowed Books This Summer

So far this summer, those 22,000 participating in the SRP at this library have logged nearly 14 million minutes of reading as of July 1st. The follow is from a press release by the library of most read books:

Adult Fiction

1. "The Women" by Kristin Hannah
2. "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore
3. "Happy Place" by Emily Henry
4. "The Housemaid is Watching" by Freida McFadden
5. "Sandwich: A Novel" by Catherine Newman

Adult Non-Fiction

1. "A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them" by Timothy Egan
2. "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson
3. "The New Menopause: Navigating Your Path Through Hormonal Change With Purpose Power and Facts" by Mary Claire Haver
4. "The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World" by Robin Wall Kimmerer
5. "We Can Do Hard Things: Answers to Life's 20 Questions" by Glennon Doyle

Adult Biographies

1. "Be Ready When the Luck Happens: A Memoir" by Ina Garten
2. "Elon Musk" by Walter Issacson
3. "The Tell: A Memoir" by Amy Griffin
4. "Cher: The Memoir, Part One" by Cher
5. "I'm Glad My Mom Died" by Jennette McCurdy

Teen Fiction

1. "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes" by Suzanne Collins
2. "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins
3. "Mockingjay" by Suzanne Collins
4. "Catching Fire" by Suzanne Collins

5. "The Inheritance Games" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Children's Picture Books

1. "The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!" by Mo Willems
2. "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!" by Mo Willems
3. "The Pigeon Needs a Bath!" by Mo Willems
4. "The Pigeon Will Ride the Roller Coaster!" by Mo Willems
5. "Pete the Cat Screams for Ice Cream!" by Kim Dean

Children's Fiction

1. "Dog Man 13, Big Jim Begins" by Dav Pilkey
2. "Hot Mess" by Jeff Kinney
3. "Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder" by Dav Pilkey
4. "Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea" by Dav Pilkey
5. "Kristy and the Walking Disaster: A Graphic Novel" by Ellen T. Crenshaw

e-Books/Audiobooks

1. "The Tenant" by Freida McFadden
2. "Onyx Storm" by Rebecca Yarros
3. "Funny Story" by Emily Henry
4. "Caught Up" by Navessa Allen
5. "Great Big Beautiful Life" by Emily Henry.





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Webmaster--Lyn Marsh

Newsletter Editor--Judy Hills

Grants & Awards Coordinator—Billie Lawson

Advocacy Coordinator—Karen Robbins

Membership Coordinator—Vacant

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CALENDAR

All material for the newsletter is due to editor Judy Hills by the 25th of each month.

Click here for the 2025 Calendar of National Events—use these to plan your activities.

FONCPL Board Zoom Meetings 10 AM on: 8/9, with annual meeting on 11/15.

Challenge Grant Applications due 9/15/25.

Friend of the Year nominations due 9/30/25.

Here are a few dates of note:

AUGUST

8/1 Anniversary of the World Wide Web (1990)

8/5 National Night out

8/7 National Lighthouse Day

8/7 Purple Heart Day

8/9 National Book Lovers Day

8/9 FONCPL Board meeting via Zoom

8/16 Tell a Joke Day

8/19 World Photography Day

8/21 Senior Citizens Day

8/22 National Tooth Fairy Day

8/26 Women's Equality Day

8/30 International bacon day

SEPTEMBER

9/1 Labor Day

9/6 Read A Book Day

9/8 International literacy day

9/7 National Grandparents Day

9/9 International Sudoku Day

9/11 Attack on America

9/13 Roald Dahl Day

9/16 National Step Family Day

9/17 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

9/19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day

9/20 National Dance Day

9/21 World Gratitude Day

9/21 World Alzheimer's Day

9/22 Autumn equinox

9/29 National Coffee Day