



# 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

September 2025

Dear Friends,

Please forgive me for a trip down memory lane, and I promise I will get to the point. When teaching a winter term course in London while on the staff at Elon College (university status came later), I devised a math course that I hoped would attract students. I called it Patterns Around Us. While recruiting students and describing the course, I got lots of puzzled looks. Once we got to London, the first class introduced the concept of patterns and all the places they exist around us. We explored the "What comes next?" idea with numbers, pictures, shapes, etc. We took field trips around the city looking for patterns. It was great fun for me when a student would exclaim, "There's one!" and go on to describe it and identify it for the group. They devised their own for the rest of us to complete and solve. We became the talk of the whole group! Students from other courses would literally accost me with, "Mrs. Speas, do you know what you have done!?! I can't look at anything without seeing a pattern!" I just smiled.

The point of that story is to alert you to do the same, but, also to tell you that I had *de ja vu* when I came across a book titled, "The Butterfly Alphabet"! In the first place, I LOVE butterflies and was so thrilled to shelter to emergence of six monarch chrysalis last year. It was a first time for me. But, now back to the book. When I opened the cover, the first three pictures displayed were an A, B, and C in butterfly wings! The book is a Scholastic hardcover published in 1996 and written and photographed by Kjell B. Sandved. I don't know where it has been

all this time. I hope it's been in your library. Ms. Sandved says, "Butterflies truly are the 'symbol of the soul.'" The A in the alphabet shows a beautiful Birdwing Butterfly with the letter A clearly on the smaller parts of the wings. She says, "On wings aloft across the skies -An alphabet of butterflies."

And so the book of lovely butterflies proceeds with pictures of the butterflies and all the letters of the alphabet and the numbers from zero to 9. It's not a new book, but I hope you can find it and enjoy it as much as I do (again and again).

Now, on to the rest of this most informative newsletter! There are so many fun and useful articles I hope you will share with colleagues, friends, and family. September is filled with days that are special to me. For instance, 9/6 is "Read a Book Day." I think that requires more than one day! September 9 is "International Sudoku Day." I'm addicted but not all that accomplished. September 13 is "Roald Dahl Day." You should see my collection! "World Gratitude Day" is September 21. We really need more than one of these days! Looking forward to October with National Friends of the Library Week. Don't you agree that we deserve a whole week!?! And then there is Halloween. You really don't want to be around the "witch" on this day....

Yours in Friendship,

**Joyce Speas, President**

## New Seed Grant Applicants

FONCPL awards Seed Grants to groups desiring to initiate a Friends of the Library or to those desiring to reorganize a dormant group. We award up to \$500 and offer one year of technical assistance as well as a free one-year membership in FONCPL.

Billie Lawson and Judy Hills have been working with Annie Bogani who is the President of the newly



formed Friends of the Afton Ridge Library in Concord (Cabarrus County). This is a new branch of the Cabarrus County Library System. They have a strong group of organizers. See article on the facility on the next page.

We also had another group apply, but after we asked a few clarifying questions, they withdrew their application.

## 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 [Billie 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!



## New Concept: A Library Combined With a Recreation Center

Cabarrus County has a new facility in Concord. The Facility is called the "Afton Ridge Active Living Center." It is 40,000 sf and is a combination of a library and an indoor/outdoor recreational space that includes a variety of fitness equipment and rooms for classes and other activities. [Click here](#) to see some more pictures.



## Preparing for GivingTuesday December 2, 2025

If your Friends have not yet participated in GivingTuesday, this is the year to start-and you have plenty of time to prepare. Here are ten tips to get your creative juices flowing:

**1. Take time to be inspired.** You're starting earlier than most, so take advantage of this opportunity to see what ideas, approaches, and tactics resonate with you and your cause.

- **Tip:** Look around on social media to see what campaigns near you or causes similar to yours have done.

**Resource:** Visit [givingtuesday.org/participate](https://www.givingtuesday.org/participate) for inspiration from other campaigns across a variety of communities and issue areas

**2. Understand your audience.** Clarify who you want to activate for your campaign, then spend time understanding what's important to them. From there, you can communicate how your campaign helps to meet their needs.

**3. Determine a clear, actionable, and measurable goal.** Clarify exactly what you want to achieve, by when, and how you will measure your impact.

- **Tip:** You can use the SMART goals technique to develop a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

**4. Crystalize your core campaign idea.** Clearly understand and articulate how you'll approach your GivingTuesday campaign this year, making sure that the creative idea builds up to your goal and resonates with your audience.

**Resource:** To see how others have approached GivingTuesday campaigns in the past, visit <https://www.givingtuesday.org/generosity-toolbox-lp/>

**5. Connect with other campaigns.** The more people, groups, and organizations that participate in GivingTuesday, the greater our collective impact. Find other campaigns that relate to your issue and/or in your local area to work together in building each other up!

- **Tip:** You could work together behind the scenes, or you can publicly collaborate to help increase awareness of your campaigns within your local community and/or the online community surrounding your issue area!

**6. Get loud on social media.** There is huge value to sharing your GivingTuesday campaign early and often on your social media channels. Encourage your team, friends, and volunteers and donors to do the same!

- **Tip:** Always use #GivingTuesday and tag us at @GivingTuesday so that your posts join the broader GivingTuesday conversation!

**Resource:** For data about why it's so important to talk about generosity on social media, read this blog post: <https://www.givingtuesday.org/blog/the-transformative-power-of-shared-moments-10-reasons-to-share-your-generosity-online-and-offline/>

**7. Create memorable, emotionally engaging content.** The best way to activate people is to speak to what matters to them - create content for your campaign accordingly. Tell stories that communicate the importance of your work and use visuals that humanize your efforts.

**Resource:** If you need templates for any graphics, visit our Canva profile for easy-to-use designs: <https://www.canva.com/>



## Preparing for GivingTuesday December 2, 2025 (continued)

**8. Engage with local or cause-specific journalists.** Find journalists who write for local or niche publications and share with them your campaign idea, the reason behind it, and stories of those who are impacted.

**9. Share the data behind generosity.** Donating, volunteering, and raising awareness is not just a nice idea - there is science behind its benefits. There's also ample research about generosity across cultures, issue areas, and seasons. Use this information to best craft and communicate your campaign!

**Resource:** Our Data Visualizations Library is a one-stop resource for myriad facts and figures that you can use internally and externally: <https://www.givingtuesday.org/data-commons/visualizations-library>

**10. Measure your impact.** Now that you've defined what success is in your goal(s), be sure to communicate your impact during and after your GivingTuesday campaign.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## Focus on the Positive by Karen Robbins

Tired of the gloom and doom of censorship? Tired of statistics that point to a growing trend for censorship in communities and schools and libraries? This month, because advocacy is so important and needs our thorough commitment, let's focus on the positive things happening right now.

For background, last May, according to an article by Olivia Empson, in The Guardian dated August 16, 2025, the school Board of Hillsborough County, FL warned the schools that if they did not remove books deemed "pornographic" legal action would be taken. The schools pulled 600 titles, at a cost of \$350,000. This action prompted nine other school districts to follow suit. Bad news, right? But...

According to Kelly Jensen of Literary Activision, in an article dated August 14, Judge Carlos Mendoza of the U.S. District Middle Court of Florida ruled in favor of plaintiffs that the state law used to remove books from Florida public schools was "over broad and unconstitutional." The plaintiffs included Penguin Random House and other publishers; authors Laurie Halse Anderson, John Green, Julia Alvarez, Jodi Picot and An-

gie Thomas; 2 students, and 2 parents. They filed suit a year ago. This is a big win!

Another win for kids! Long Beach Public Library, Long Beach, CA, joined with other libraries to be part of Books Unbanned, an online library card program started by Brooklyn's Public Library. Kids from 13-26 can get free online library cards. This gives children access to free e-books and audio books, no parental permission needed, and no challenges at local libraries.

Users cite some of the reasons they like the program: "It restored their love of reading, increased privacy in the reading choices and helped improve their learning." Annie Goodykoontz, "More and More Books are Being Banned SoCal Libraries Find a Solution" LA Times, August 14, 2025.

The library hopes to roll the program out in October to coincide with Banned Books Week. \*The Long Beach Friends of the Library will help provide funds to purchase more online materials. Their group was founded in 1963 to ward off book censorship then! [Click here](#) and [here](#) for more.

## LSTA Expenditures...by Karen Robbins

An LSTA library grant is a type of federal funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This funding is then administered by the respective State Library agencies to support libraries within their state.

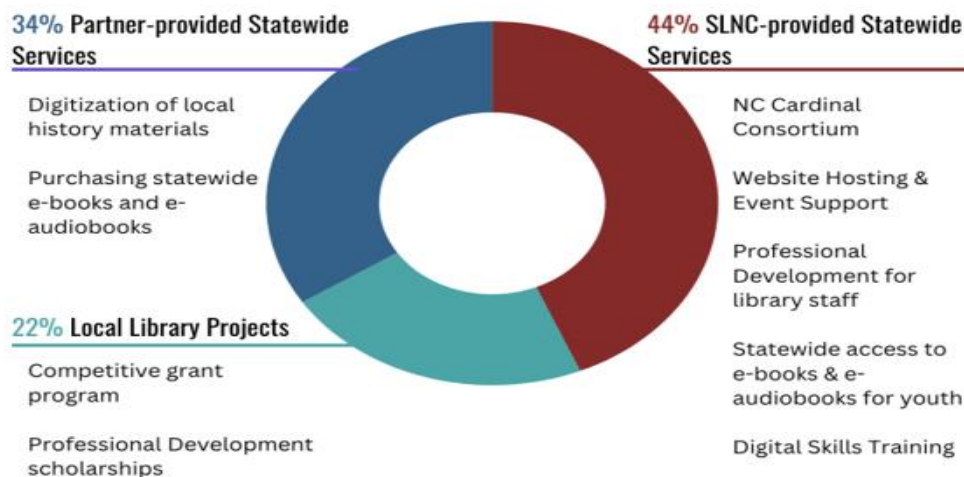
LSTA grants aim to achieve several key purposes:

- Enhance and expand library services: This includes improving access to information, resources, and programs.
- Promote literacy and lifelong learning: LSTA supports initiatives that foster reading, education, and the development of essential skills like digital literacy.
- Support workforce and economic development: Libraries leverage LSTA funds to help individuals acquire job skills, prepare for interviews, and connect with employment resources.
- Enhance technological infrastructure and digital inclusion: LSTA helps libraries provide access to computers, high-speed internet, and digital resources, bridging the digital divide.

- Preserve and digitize library collections: LSTA funding can be used to safeguard historical and cultural resources and make them accessible to a wider audience through digitization efforts.
- Strengthen the library workforce: LSTA supports professional development, continuing education, and training opportunities for library staff to improve their skills and leadership capabilities.
- Encourage partnerships and collaboration: LSTA facilitates cooperation between libraries and other community organizations to deliver more impactful programs and services.

In essence, LSTA grants enable libraries to adapt to evolving community needs, leverage technology, foster learning, and promote civic engagement, ultimately strengthening their role as vital community hubs.

## 2023-24 LSTA Expenditures by Service Type



**In 2023-24 North Carolina received \$5,085,881 federal LSTA funds and awarded 90 grants to organizations throughout NC**

# Compilation of Advocacy Websites to Visit by Karen Robbins



## NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Inform. Connect. Support.

<https://nclaonline.org/advocacy>



## ALA National Friends of the Library Week

<https://www.ala.org/events/2025-national-friends-libraries-week>



## WE FIGHT CENSORSHIP AND SUPPORT GRASSROOTS GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

<https://www.everylibrary.org/about-everylibrary>



United for Libraries Resources for Friends Groups

<https://www.ala.org/united/friends>



## Show Up for our Libraries

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries>



**PEN America** stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect free expression in the United States and worldwide.

<https://pen.org/report/beyond-the-shelves/>



The Assembly launched February 2021 with the audacious idea that we could tell ambitious, challenging stories about North Carolina, and build a sustainable business plan to support that work. We tell compelling and nuanced stories about our state, without fear or favor to any party or power structure. Key areas of coverage include politics, courts, higher education, culture, and accountability.

<https://www.theassemblync.com/>



## State Library of North Carolina

<https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lsta-federal-funding-north-carolina>



**ALA toolkit** Many resources in one place!

<https://www.ala.org/pla/advocacy>

YANCEY COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



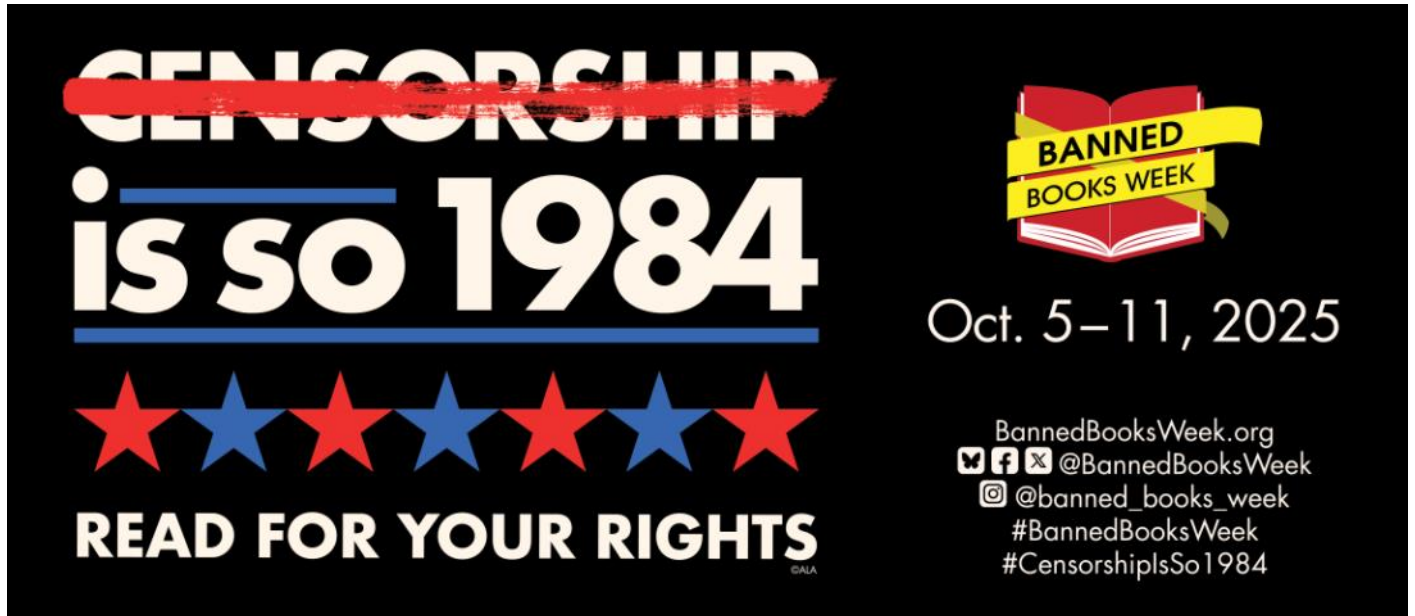
**Yancy County North Carolina**

<https://www.ourlibraryyourvoice.org/>

<https://www.theassemblync.com/politics/yancey-county-library-lgbtq-books/>

## Banned Books Week October 5-11: What Are Your Plans?

The theme for Banned Books Week 2025 is "Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights." This theme, announced by the [American Library Association and Banned Books Week Coalition](#), emphasizes the importance of defending the right to read and the dangers of censorship, drawing a parallel to [George Orwell's novel "1984"](#). Banned Books Week 2025 is scheduled for October 5-11.



Just for fun: [Click here](#) for the 3-minute scene on book banning from Field of Dreams.

Thirteen classic movies based on banned books: [Click here](#) for an interesting 14-minute video on these books.

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Carrie* by Stephen King
- *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
- *Sophie's Choice* by William Styron
- *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell
- *Are You There God, It's Me Margaret* by Judy Blume
- *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess
- *American Psycho* by Bret Easton Ellis

- *Brokeback Mountain* by Annie Proulx
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle





## AI & Libraries 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 this topic.*

### Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for Libraries. General-purpose chatbots and writing assistants.

There are a variety of free AI tools available to help librarians enhance patron services, automate tasks, assist with marketing, and create content. Options range from large language model (LLM) chatbots to specialized programs for content creation.

**ChatGPT:** Perhaps the most well-known chatbot, ChatGPT can help with brainstorming ideas for library programs, drafting email templates, summarizing articles, or writing social media posts. ChatGPT is a versatile conversational AI assistant developed by OpenAI that uses LLM to understand and generate human-like text in response to user prompts. It can answer questions, summarize content, draft text, translate languages, write code, brainstorm ideas, and perform other complex tasks through text, voice, and even image inputs and outputs. For marketing and content creation, ChatGPT can help overcome writer's block and accelerate the development of promotional materials, press releases, and event posters.

**Google Gemini:** As Google's AI assistant, Gemini can assist with tasks like summarizing documents, creating presentations, or extracting key information from materials you upload. It

functions as an AI assistant and chatbot, integrating with Google products like Gmail, Docs, and Chrome to help users with tasks such as research, content creation, coding, and planning. Gemini can understand and generate content from distinct types of data, not just text. Applications for library staff include streamlining collection development, enhancing search, and managing repetitive tasks.

### **Microsoft Copilot: Your AI companion:**

Integrated into the Microsoft ecosystem, Copilot can assist with writing, content creation, summarization, and data analysis. Libraries using Microsoft 365 as their platform can use Copilot to quickly locate information across Microsoft apps like SharePoint, Teams, and Outlook. Copilot in Outlook helps staff write concise and effective messages to colleagues and external partners. The tool can quickly digest long threads on Microsoft Teams, helping staff catch up on what they missed in an easily digestible format. Staff can use Copilot to start the first draft creation of a wide variety of content, including reports, presentations, and applications for grant funding.

**Continued on next page**

## AI & Libraries by Cindy Shipley (Continued)

**QuillBot: Your complete writing solution:** A writing assistant with a free tier that offers paraphrasing, grammar checking, and summarization to help perfect written communications, newsletters, or grant proposals that enhances communication and efficiency. Public libraries use QuillBot, to rephrase and simplify text for signage, newsletters, and emails that can help make complex information more accessible to a wide range of patrons. Library staff writing grant applications can use QuillBot to help refine and polish their text, ensuring it is clear, concise, and persuasive for funders. Library staff can use it as a marketing tool for crafting short, engaging social media updates to create content that effectively engages the community.

**Grammarly: Free AI Writing Assistance:** This well-known writing assistant offers a free plan that suggests spelling, grammar, and style changes in real time. It also gives customized checks for different document types, a plagiarism filter, and a function to

help expand vocabulary. The app checks your writing against its database of content and style errors, then underlines critical spelling and grammatical mistakes in red, stylistic errors in yellow. Hovering the cursor over any mistake brings up a detailed explanation of the error and gives the option to correct. Grammarly is far more detailed than the built-in grammar checkers of Google Docs and Office 365.

Keep the following considerations in mind before implementing any AI tool. AI can provide incorrect information, so always verify critical details. Understand the limitations of a free tool, such as the monthly usage limits or excluded features. Check the tool's privacy policies to ensure any sensitive patron data entered will be handled ethically and appropriately. Some free tools may not offer the same data security as paid enterprise-level versions.



# The Library of Things

The Norfolk Public Library has a "Library of Things" (also called "Stuffbrary") where you can borrow items beyond books and media, including tools, musical instruments, and more. This allows you to try out items before buying or borrow items for occasional use.

Here's a more detailed look at what you can check out:

What's available:

- **Tools:** A variety of tools are available for various projects around the house.
- **Musical Instruments:** You can borrow instruments like guitars, keyboards, and more.
- **Seasonal Cake Pans and Candy Molds:** For specific baking needs.
- **Camping Equipment:** Borrow items like tents, sleeping bags, and other essentials for your next outdoor adventure.
- **Sewing Machines:** For your sewing projects.
- **Air Fryers:** To try out this popular cooking appliance.
- **Nintendo Switch Console:** Includes accessories like controllers, dock, and cables.
- **Other items:** The library also offers a variety of other interesting items, like toys.

How to check out items:

**Library Card:**

You need a valid Norfolk Public Library card to borrow items.

**Eligibility:**

Most items are available to adults with a full-service library card (residents, workers, or property owners in Norfolk, or those who have paid the annual fee).

**Reservations:**

You may need to place a hold on items and pick them up at your preferred library branch.

**Return:**

Items should be returned to the library for inspection, even if they're returned by other members of the same household who have previously reserved the item.

**Availability:**

Items not picked up within 48 hours of the reservation start date may be released for other patrons.

**Benefits of a Library of Things:**

- **Cost Savings:** Borrow items instead of buying them, especially for one-time use.
- **Experimentation:** Try out new hobbies or tools before investing in them.
- **Reduced Clutter:** Avoid accumulating items you don't use frequently.
- **Community Resource:** The library provides access to a wide range of resources for everyone.



More info on their Library of Things: [click here](#). For more ideas, [click here](#). [Curtis Memorial Library \(ME\)](#) has over 500 items to loan in their library of things.

**What if your Friends were to purchase stuff for the Library of Things for your library and set up a check-out system like the above. There are lots of other examples on the web. This might be an especially good project for a rural library. Discuss it with your library staff.**



## Spredge: The latest new tool in book marketing

The old adage goes, "You can't judge a book by its cover" but what about the page edges? Sprayed bright colors, stenciled with ornate imagery, this new marketing ploy has taken the publishing industry by storm. Think how the new book page edges will look on your bookshelf when turned outward! [Click here](#) for an example. The term being used for the new look is "spredges." So use this catchy word at your next book club meeting and impress your Friends with this new knowledge.



### Friends Tip:

When is the last time you checked your Friends' information on the [IRS nonprofit website](#) to check the date your required 990 was last filed?

## Is Your Library Struggling with Program Attendance? By Judy Hills

One evening this past month I attended a "Book Café" program at the library. It was a drop-in affair—just an opportunity to discover some new genres and talk authors with staff. The staff had made some "mocktails" from recipes found in novels. They had done an excellent job, but hardly anyone showed up which led to the discussion: How can we get better attendance? This led to online research of the topic. What I learned can also be applied to programs presented by Friends.

Angela Hursh, a Library Marketing Expert, has a website that addresses this subject, among others. She offers some basic advice: "The libraries that get a lot of people to attend their programs focus on providing high-quality programs that meet specific community needs at a time and place most convenient for their patrons. They require registration, and they go out of their way to remind registrants to attend." She goes on to suggest: 1) fewer overall programs; 2) more quality, community-focused programs; and 3) more effective and efficient marketing. Who is your target audience and how can you get to them? "And your marketing will be more effective with focus and a little help from Friends."

She recommends a brief question on a survey for starters: what categories of programs that would be of interest, how long should the programs be, and where should they be held?

You need to research what is already being offered in your community so that you don't duplicate, but instead find ways to collaborate or build on those other offerings. For example, your library might start a knitting or crafting-themed book club where participants read books related to knitting, crafting, or fiber arts. Then you can approach the community center and ask them to help you promote that program to their knitting program attendees!

**Also remember that your Friends need to help the library promote these programs. Attendance helps show library usage which relates to funding. Encourage each member to grab a few family, friends, or neighbors and take them to the library programs. You might actually have some fun!**

## Funding Opportunity: James G. Hanes Memorial Fund

The James G. Hanes Memorial Fund primarily supports nonprofit organizations in Winston-Salem, across North Carolina, and, secondarily, in the southeast and nationally. The Fund's areas of interest are wide-ranging, including arts and cultural initiatives, community-based programs, environmental conservation, health and education, and social services. Grants are awarded for diverse purposes such as project support, seed funding, land acquisition, equipment, facilities, matching and challenge

grants, planning, research, and general operating needs.

**Application deadline:** **October 1, 2025**

**Geographic scope:** First Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, and the Triad area; Second other regions within NC.

**Median grant:** \$30,000

<https://hanesmemorialfund.org/>

## Celebrating Oktoberfest at a Senior Care Facility

This is a fun project that Friends could host at Senior Care Facilities. It takes 2 hours and once planned, it can be repeated at several facilities. The cost would vary depending on how much you want to invest and what you plan. Oktoberfest is officially between September 20 and October 5th, but any October date would work. In addition to this "trip" to Oktoberfest, two other "trips" are ready to implement. These include a 4-day, 2-hour per day trip to Italy (cruise) and one to western National Parks (train/tour bus). [Email Judy Hills](#) for specifics.

Set up a festive activity room. Long tables to simulate a biergarten. Blue & white decorations, banners.

Welcome—create fun name tags

[Video—Visit Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany 2024 \(30 minutes\)](#) travel video—sights and sounds

Video: [Official opening—tapping of the keg by Lord Mayor of Munich](#)

[Video Must-Know Songs for Oktoberfest](#) (7 min)

Play music while residents eat and play games: [Echoes of Bavaria 9](#) (music only 30 minutes),

### Oktoberfest food and drinks:

Warm, soft pretzels with coarse salt, mustard, cheese, and other dips

Desserts: Black Forest cake, Apple Strudel, German chocolate cake

Drinks: Beer (if permitted), hard cider, tea, soda, water

### Games/Contests:

[Gingerbread heart decorating](#) contest.

Ring toss - get 3 metal bracelets—toss onto a 6-pack of empty beer bottles in carton

Ping-pong ball toss into a glass. Win prizes by score or number.

Cornhole

**Prizes:** Candy, bag of chips, granola bars, soda (6 pk or 2L), nuts, dried fruit, pudding cups, single serve food items

Video-- [Wienerlympics](#) (Cute and funny wiener dogs video)—(15 minutes)

### Singing & Dancing:

#### [Yodeling Contest](#)

#### [Chicken dance](#)

[Das Fliegerlied Dance Instruction](#) (8 min—instead of jumping—shoot arms into the air)

#### [Sing along Fur die Liebe](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9jhd+HIH2U>

#### [Sing along "Ein Prosit"](#)

#### [Bayern, Des Samma Mia](#)

#### [Beer Barrel Polka](#)

[German Bavarian Traditional Folk Dance Music](#) (30 minutes).

Drawing for prizes left over from the games (to encourage them to stay for singing and dancing).



## Celebrating National Friends of the Library Week Oct 19-25

The ALA will award \$250 each to two Friends groups during the 20th **annual National Friends of the Library Week**. The application period will open after National Friends of the Library Week. Now is the time to be planning for your celebration. [Click here](#) for the ALA webpage with resources and ideas.

We  the Friends  
of the Library.

**NATIONAL Friends OF Libraries WEEK**

**OCTOBER 19-25, 2025**

AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES

Friends of Libraries groups have their very own national week of celebration! United for Libraries will coordinate the 20th annual National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 19-25, 2025. The celebration offers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate Friends. Use the time to creatively promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. This is also an excellent opportunity for your library and Board of Trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support of the library.



## 2025 Astounding, Lodestar, and Hugo Award Winners

- Astounding Award Moniquill Blackgoose
- 2025 Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book Sheine Lende, by Darcie Little Badger
- Best Poem "A War of Words," by Marie Brennan
- Best Fan Artist Sara Felix
- Best Fan Writer Abigail Nussbaum
- Best Fancast Eight Days of Diana Wynne Jones, presented by Emily Tesh and Rebecca Fraimow
- Best Fanzine Black Nerd Problems, editors William Evans and Omar Holmon
- Best Semiprozine Uncanny Magazine, publishers and editors-in-chief: Lynne M. Thomas and Michael Damian Thomas; managing editor Monte Lin; poetry editor Betsy Aoki, podcast producers Erika Ensign and Steven Schapansky
- Best Professional Artist Alyssa Winans
- Best Editor, Long Form Diana M. Pho
- Best Editor, Short Form Neil Clarke
- Best Game or Interactive Work Caves of Qud, Freehold Games
- Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form Star Trek: Lower Decks: "The New Next Generation," created and written by Mike McMahan, directed by Megan Lloyd
- Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form Dune: Part Two, screenplay by Denis Villeneuve and Jon Spaihts, directed by Denis Villeneuve
- Best Related Work Speculative Whiteness: Science Fiction and the Alt-Right, by Jordan S. Carroll
- Best Graphic Story or Comic Star Trek: Lower Decks: Warp Your Own Way, written by Ryan North, art by Chris Fenoglio
- Best Series Between Earth and Sky, by Rebecca Roanhorse
- Best Short Story "Stitched to Skin Like Family Is," by Nghi Vo
- Best Novelette "The Four Sisters Overlooking the Sea," by Naomi Kritzer
- Best Novella The Tusks of Extinction, by Ray Nayler
- Best Novel The Tainted Cup, by Robert Jackson Bennett

### REPORTS:

[2025 Hugo Administrator's Report v2 \(262 KB .pdf\)](#)

[2025 Hugo Voting Statistics v2 \(3 MB .pdf\)](#)



**Friends of North Carolina  
Public Libraries**

**Helping Friends Build Resilience**

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**Newsletter Editor--Judy Hills**

**Grants & Awards Coordinator—Billie Lawson**

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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 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:**

**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

**OCTOBER**

10/1 Random acts of poetry day

**Oct 5-11 Banned Books Week**

10/6 Child Health Day

10/11 National coming out day

10/11 National Chess Day

10/12 Farmers Day

10/13 Navy Birthday

10/13 Columbus Day

10/13 Indigenous People's Day

10/16 Boss's Day

**Oct 19-25 National Friends of the Library Week**

10/25 National Make a Difference Day

10/31 National Magic Day & Halloween