

Hello Friends!

The FONCPL Board hopes that you viewed one or more of the virtual workshop presentations. If you have not done so yet, we encourage you to do so either by yourself or with other Friends. If you do nothing else, at least view the Welcome video as it has important information about the FONCPL's new grant program and revised award program. In this edition of our newsletter, we are previewing one of the presentations to entice you to see the full YouTube video.

We have heard from a number of groups that they are struggling. Many libraries were partially closed (and some completely) for a long time and subsequently the Friends became dormant. Fundraisers and book sales were curtailed and membership dropped. Dues are not being paid. There are internal and external challenges - tough times. The question is: Can your Friends rise to the challenge?

We can't answer that question for you, but we encourage you to identify and address the issues head-on. The year 2021 may be the year for re-organization, re-vitalization, and renewal. It is an opportunity for you to build back better. What is one thing that you can do to rally the troops? Could you hold a "Welcome Back!" outdoor party for the library/Friends? Hold some book or literary-related contests with nice prizes? Hold an outdoor picnic for Friends? Collaborate with other groups to hold an outdoor event where you can recruit? While disbanding is an option, we hope you will use this as an opportunity to grow and learn. We're never too old for that! Here are some words of wisdom for you:

You need to be buried deep in the dirt before you can find your bloom. *Roz Inga*

Don't let the Muggles get you down. *J.K. Rowling*

All progress takes place outside the comfort zone. *Michael John Bobak*

If you are going through hell, keep going. *Winston Churchill*

This too shall pass. *Persian Sufi Poets*

Perhaps one or more of them will give you the hope you need to carry on. We thank each of you who labor on behalf of your library for all that you do. We recognize and appreciate your personal sacrifices. Remember that volunteering is as much for your own benefit as it is for the organization you choose to serve. Take care of yourself first.

In Friendship,  
Judy Hills, FONCPL President

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## Readers: Snap a Pic for a Chance to Win a Prize!



Kicking off on Read Across America Day, March 2 and running through July 16, FREADOM will select the best 100 places to read in America. Their goal is to promote reading and encourage literacy and reading. Just snap a picture that captures an amazing, inspired and creative place to read and upload it to their site. 100 winners receive a \$50 card to use for swag on their site. Click [here to read](#) all about it!

## Library Offers Remote Printing Service



The Fontana Regional Library system, with locations in Macon, Jackson and Swain counties, now offers remote printing services for their patrons.

Library administrators say that remote printing had been one of the library system's most frequent requests. Now patrons who wish to print their documents from their own laptop or mobile device can do so. The new service allows individuals to send documents, files, or photos from their own laptops, tablets, or smartphones to print at a library printer. And best of all, the print jobs can be sent from inside any of the libraries in the Fontana system or from any location.

Print jobs are held for up to 3 days and are printed at the library when the user comes in to pay for the job. The cost is 25 cents per page for either color or black-and-white.

While Fontana's new service was made possible through a federal grant administered by the State Library of North Carolina, similar projects in other libraries around the state could be funded by local Friends of the Library groups.



## Looking for Book-Related Gift Ideas?

[Idealbookshelf.com](http://Idealbookshelf.com) is an ETSY type of site that will create a custom print of the spines of your favorite books. There are also pins, charms, mugs, wrapping paper, totes, and apparel - all book themed.

[Penguinandrandomhouse.com](http://Penguinandrandomhouse.com) has a gift section on its website. Postcard from Penguin Box is a collection on 100 postcards, each featuring a different book jacket.

## Looking for Ideas to Improve Your Friends Group?

The virtual presentations from the FONCPL Spring Virtual Conference on April 12 are at your fingertips at FONCPL.org any time you need to refer to them. Just to recap, these were the topics covered during the conference and were viewed that day in 206 separate views!

- Welcome
- State Library Update
- How to Set Up a Book Storage Unit
- Smoothing Rocky Relationships
- How to Attract New Friends
- Endowments
- Grant Readiness
- Online Silent Book Auctions
- Getting Authors to Speak
- DIY StoryWalks and Beyond
- Setting Up a Little Free Library

“How to Attract New Friends” is always a popular topic and presenter Karin Curtin, President of the Friends of Chapel Hill Library, offers many tips and strategies for increasing membership in a Friends group. Several of her suggestions might work at your library.

One of the most popular programs her Friends group held was a Sip & Shop for members prior to a couple of their book sales. Members were encouraged to bring a guest for free, and the event was promoted both to members and beyond. Anyone could renew or purchase a new membership at the event and enjoy a wonderful social evening while browsing the sale.

At one of their book sales they offered a raffle basket filled with goodies. Tickets were sold in advance and on the days of the sale. People stopped and looked at the raffle basket, bought tickets and interacted with Friends members who were able to talk about the benefits of becoming a member.

During the pandemic, when the library was closed, the Friends moved their physical book store online, offered a periodic 20 percent discount and safe pick-up.

During November of 2020 and February of 2021, with tons of books on hand because the usual book sales hadn't been held, Friends members set up outside the library on several days with book carts holding store quality books for adults and children. Members were able to select a book for free. Non-members were invited to join the Friends and choose a book. Everything was done by credit card using Square on members' phones, so no cash was needed. The events brought in over 100 members, and Karin recalled that one person was so delighted she said, “I just wanted to touch books again.”

Anyone who has questions they'd like to pose to Karin can contact her at [info@friendschpl.org](mailto:info@friendschpl.org).

We intend to review other virtual presentations in future newsletters. Stay tuned, or better yet, go to <http://www.foncpl.org/conference.html> and watch the presentations yourself!

## Fundraising Idea\$ & Tip\$: One-Day Flash Fundraiser

Think of Giving Tuesday, but without the clutter of hundreds of organizations asking for a donation. Choose one day that has some importance or significance to your Friends (e.g., 8/22 Be an Angel Day or 9/6 Read A Book Day). Give it a cute name to draw people in. On the day of the blitz, send out a series of emails requesting donations that include an emotional story, appropriate imagery and a call to action that expresses urgency. You could also leverage the power of electronic fundraising by using social media as well. Set a dollar amount goal and provide updates through the day. Some might choose to tie the event to the organization's year end giving.



For additional ideas, access [Giving Tuesday](#) campaign planning.

— Courtesy of *The Regional Gam Newsletter*

## Have You Signed Up? Let's Move in Libraries Newsletter is Free!



If you are not yet receiving this free newsletter, we encourage you to subscribe. The following is taken from the website: <https://letsmoveinlibraries.org/>

“Let’s Move in Libraries exists to help public libraries make and keep these commitments by helping librarians discover new program ideas, sharing stories of success, and inspiring new community partnerships, like the one the Free Library of Philadelphia has with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health’s Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. Let’s get healthy, together!”

“Let’s Move in Libraries project focuses on supporting healthy living in public libraries. The project was inspired by Former First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! initiative, which focused on increasing Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) among Americans. Mrs. Obama worked to increase physical activity through museums. We continue her legacy by working to increase physical activity through libraries in the U.S., Canada, and other places in the world.”

The newsletter is a product of the UNC Greensboro School of Education. It is filled with program ideas, resources, stories, and practical advice. Past copies of the newsletter are posted on the website. We encourage you to explore them and the website. The May edition features “How Public Libraries are part of the solution to food insecurity.” There is an article on meditation, National Fitness Day and National Bike Month - and so much more.

So, what are you waiting for - subscribe today! And encourage your local library to do so as well. [Click here](#) to sign up.

## Take This Self-Paced Orientation Course for Friends Board Members

Are you a new Friends of the Library board member, or have you been on your local board for a while and would like a refresh on what your role involves? You're in luck! The State Library of North Carolina has made available a self-paced orientation course for North Carolina Friends of Library Board members. Here's what they say on their Welcome Page:

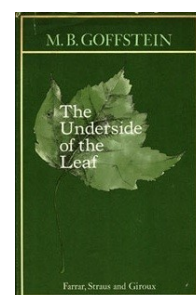
"We're so happy that you are volunteering your time to serve on your local public library Friends of the Library Board. The State Library of North Carolina has created this orientation module to enhance your understanding of public libraries and your roles and responsibilities as a Friend of the Library board member. This module also strives to increase your comfort level with and commitment to advocating for quality public library service within your community. This module should take you about one hour to complete and you can refer back to it at anytime as a resource. Voice-over options are available for each lesson."



To access the module, please click this [link](#). For additional resources available to NC Friends of Libraries, please check out the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries (FONCPL) resources page [here](#).

## Amazing Facts About Libraries

**It's never too late to return a book:** If you stumble across a forgotten library book that's been hiding on your shelf for weeks, months, or even years, don't be afraid to return it. In 2015, a former student at Wakefield High School Library in Wakefield, Virginia, named Eleanor Reed sent back a copy of *The Underside of the Leaf*. It was borrowed in 1981 and accidentally mixed in with the student's family collection. In 2016, the granddaughter of a man who had taken out *The Microscope and Its Revelations* from Hereford Cathedral School in the UK returned the title 120 years after it had been "borrowed."



**Not all libraries require silence:** The Tikkurila Library in Vantaa, Finland, has a Karaoke room with thousands of songs for guests to perform. (Finland is home to a lot of karaoke-loving citizens.) Fortunately, all that warbling doesn't rise to the level of a disruption: The room is soundproof.

**The New York Public Library offers up more than just books:** Members can borrow accessories like neckties and briefcases for people looking to complete an ensemble for a job interview.



**There's a library in Alaska that has a taxidermy collection (yes, you can use your library card to borrow them):** Patrons of the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services in Anchorage can borrow from their collection of taxidermy items, including animals, bones, and furs. Bear and wolf fur are among the more popular requests because they're often used in Boy Scout promotional ceremonies; Harry Potter fans opt for snowy owl mounts. Borrowers are asked not to remove specimens from their glass containers.

**Hundreds of thousands of Americans call a library their workplace:** As of 2019, there were approximately 184,500 librarians; 36,250 library technicians; and 87,000 library assistants working in the United States.

— Jake Rosen, *Mental Floss*