

Spring 2020



News From the Friends

Newsletter of the FRIENDS
of the York County Library

YCLibrary.org/library-news

Volume 1
Issue 2

BOOKENDS **Lockdown Poses Unique Issues for Friends of the Library**

Message from the President . . . TERRY PLUMB

When this newsletter was launched in late January, everything was coming up roses for the Friends of York County Library. Your Board projected record revenues, which gave it the confidence to budget record donations to the York County Library.

All bets changed in mid-March when YCL Director Jason Hyatt announced all branches would be closed to the public until further notice because of the statewide pandemic lockdown. The volunteers responsible for operating our retail store, The Friends Books on Main, reached a similar decision.

Because the closures also shut down used-book sales at all branches, the Friends faced a potential immediate loss of 73% of budgeted revenue during the lockdown's duration.

Not only were our volunteers denied access to the Friends Room at the Main Library, but consignment sales (representing another 11% of revenue) also were interrupted. Even our newest source of sales, coffee shops, which account for just .5% of earnings, ended abruptly with the statewide lockdown.

The only sector of Friends' sales that are not shut down are online sales, and even there, dedicated volunteers Jack Hutchins (eBay sales) and Diane Ingersoll (Amazon) face a major hurdle because they cannot access inventory at the Main Library. Even if they could, YCL has halted further donations of books at all branches.

In short, like everyone else, the lockdown has put a major kink in operations. Unfortunately, this affects our ability to assist YCL — our reason for being.

One silver lining is that because of closures, the library system may not need all the \$126,500 in contributions we budgeted for 2020. (\$50,000 of that total is a one-time donation for a new Sprinter van and will not be affected by the lockdown.)

It is too early to say how much less YCL will feel it needs this year. As Director Jason Hyatt indicates in an article on the right, library staffers are developing or expanding online services during the lockdown, so the administration may seek help in funding those initiatives.

President's Message continued on page 2

YCL Director Describes Closure Challenges, Calls for Friends Continued Support

. . . JASON L. HYATT, DIRECTOR, YORK COUNTY LIBRARY



In the midst of what was on track to be a record-breaking year for library program attendance and circulation, our physical services were forced to stop abruptly due to the global health crisis. YCL is committed to being a critical connection point for the community in service to our goal of being Your Community Link. With that in mind, we have taken a number of steps to expand our digital and online services.

A few of the highlights include:

- Increased limits of the number of items patrons can borrow through Hoopla.
- Remote access to resources previously available in the library only, such as Ancestry.com.
- Availability of new ecards for anyone without a current library card to gain access to the Virtual Library and other online services.
- Promotion of expanded offerings available through DISCUS, the statewide online database service.
- Relaunch of the YCL YouTube channel to include storytime videos, technology tutorials and other staff-led virtual programs.
- Even though our facilities are closed, we are working hard to maintain the buildings and grounds. Multiple branch enhancement and beautification projects are slated for completion during the extended closure. Branch managers and administrative staff regularly stop by the libraries to make sure everything is secure and the collection is being properly maintained.

As we keep an optimistic eye on our future reopening, we are also looking into alternative ways of delivering our programs. The Summer Reading Program team is acting quickly to adapt the popular annual program to a fully online experience.

Our regular programmers have been asked to think of ways to continue adapting their sessions for both revised in-person, social-distancing guidelines and online distribution. Book clubs and teen programs are also launching online in different formats that allow for remote participation

Though we have not yet been asked to make budget cuts, we have been advised that county revenue projections are down. Annual per-capita funding administered through the South

Director's article continued on page 3

The Story Behind Carlton the Bear

Patrons of the Lake Wylie Branch of the YCL are familiar with Carlton the Bear, the branch mascot that stands in the parking area. Many library visitors love to have their photo taken posing with Carlton.

This is the story of the woman for whom the bear is named. The late Anne Carlton left a trust fund in excess of \$100,000 for the benefit of the Lake Wylie branch. The Board of Directors of the Friends of the YCL was charged with administering the funds and over the years has approved expenditures as requested by the library administration.



In March, the Board closed the Carlton Trust account and transferred the remaining \$89,059 to YCL to pay for an outdoor patio that will be in front of the Lake Wylie branch. Plans call for a pergola and seating. Any remaining money will be used for materials or programming at the branch, according to Jason Hyatt, YCL director.

In addition to Carlton the Bear, improvements funded by the Carlton trust over the years include a camcorder, a projector, two laptop computers, a computer chair and table, and industrial-style storage shelves.

Nancy Monts-Rayfield, former manager of the Lake Wylie Branch, said that Anne Carlton, a retired businesswoman, was an avid reader. After a debilitating illness kept Carlton from coming to the library, Monts-Rayfield would visit her at her home, dropping off or picking up books. The bequest came as a surprise. A close friend of Carlton, who knew of her affection for the library, suggested she establish the trust. Monts-Rayfield said she learned of the gift from the lawyer handling the estate.

The idea for Carlton the Bear originated with YCL Building Superintendent Mike Hyde, who thought a sculpture might be just the thing to top an unsightly tree stump in the library parking lot.

The carving was done by Rusty Rayfield (no relation to Nancy) of Wild Wood Chainsaw Carvings. Carlton was such a hit that other carvings were approved for the York (lion) and Clover (owl) branches.

Would Anne Carlton have approved? "Definitely," said Monts-Rayfield. "She had a great sense of humor. She would have loved Carlton."

Hyatt said a plaque would be installed to honor Anne Carlton once the patio was completed.



Friends Report to Trustees (For January–March) . . . TERRY PLUMB

Each quarter, the president of the Friends of York County Library issues a report to the York County Library Board of Trustees. The following report for the first quarter of 2020 excludes items reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

♥ Friends activities, including operation of The Friends Books on Main store, branch book sales and Sorting Room activities were halted in mid-March as all York County libraries were closed due to the corona virus quarantine.

♥ The Friends allocated \$2,500 for improvements to the Main Library lobby. So far, we have spent \$674 for such items as a bench, rolling carts and signage. Addition of wall signs awaits YCL approval and reopening of the library.

♥ In February, Kalyani Veeraraghavan, manager of the YCL Main Library, organized a tour for new board members. Prior to the March board meeting at the Lake Wylie Branch, Manager Rae Lovvorn led a tour of the branch.

♥ The board approved a new annual membership category for students, at \$10.

♥ The Friends donated \$1,000 to YCL for the Winter Reading Challenge.

♥ Friends Books on Main won \$100 for third prize in the annual Christmasville window display.

♥ Our current membership is 285.

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

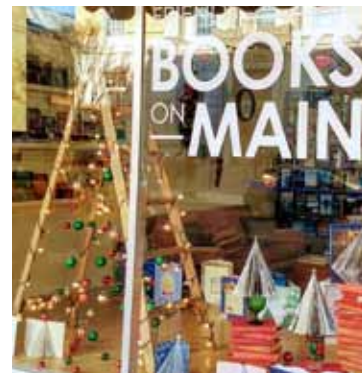
I don't want to mislead. Because we are a nonprofit, all-volunteer entity, our fiscal situation is nowhere near as gloomy as that faced by most businesses or nonprofits with a paid staff and high overhead. Actually, if it weren't for the monthly rent (\$2,000) for The Books on Main store, we could rest on our laurels until after Governor McMaster lifts the statewide lockdown. That ain't gonna happen!

While we have sufficient cash reserves to cover the rent at 206 East Main Street for the remainder of this year, our volunteers have worked too hard to sit back and watch those dollars dwindle without taking action.

In coming days, we will be contacting members with ideas on how we can make the best of a bad situation.

In the meantime, please share any suggestions you may have by contacting me directly. (803-372-2400 or terry.plumb@gmail.com).

Stay tuned.



The Christmas Window Display that won 3rd place in the annual Christmasville contest

Whatcha Readin'?

It goes without saying that Friends of Libraries are avid readers, right?



During the ongoing social isolation, like everyone else, Friends volunteers have largely been stuck at home for weeks on end. We thought it would be fun to ask them what book they either are reading currently, have just finished or intend to pick up next. Here are their responses:

Barefoot Contessa recipe books
by Ina Garten (Glenn Ackerman)

The Destroyermen Serie
by Taylor Anderson (Jim Beamguard)

Growing Up by Angela Thirkell
(Julie Beamguard)

Contagion by Robin Cook (Susan Brown)

Three Women by Lisa Taddeo
(DeeAnna Brooks)

The Classics by Caroline Taggart
(Jed Bryan)

The Cruellest Month by Louise Penny
(Judy Gritzmacher)

Being Mortal: Illness, Medicine and What Matters in the End
by Atul Gawande (Debra Hutchins)

The Nautical Chart
by Arturo Perez-Reverte (Jack Hutchins)

Mitch, Please! How Mitch McConnell Sold Out Kentucky (and America, Too) by Matt Jones with Chris Tomlin (Diane Ingersoll)

God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible by Adam Nicolson
(Jane Kasemersky)

The Girl They Left Behind
by Roxanne Veletzos (Susan Lyle)

Devoted by Dean Koontz (Karen Manera)

The Book of Lost Things
by John Connally (Lora Matthews)

Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Callahan
(Connie Newland)

George Mason: The Founding Father Who Gave Us the Bill of Rights
by William G. Hyland Jr. (Jerry Padgett)

Dreams From My Father
by Barack Obama (Terry Plumb)

The Last Plantagenets
by Thomas B. Costain (Claudia Ray)

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett
(Cindy Schafer)

The Ambassador's Daughter
by Pam Jenoff (Linder Tucker)

Running Scared by Lisa Jackson
(Faye Wyatt)

Friends' Amazon Lady Passes the Baton

According to Greek Mythology, the Amazons were a tribe of warrior women known for their fierce warlike behavior. Our Amazon Lady would never be mistaken for a ferocious warrior, but she has fought the good fight for the YCL Friends for 15 years, the last nine as coordinator of used-book sales on Amazon. During that time, Jane Kasemersky's efforts netted more than \$40,000 for our organization.



Jane joined the Friends in 2005, after retiring from Royal Insurance in Charlotte. "I had cleaned every closet and drawer in my house and was ready to do something else," said the former Brooklyn, New York, native. She remembers seeing an item in *The Herald* about the Friends seeking volunteers. At the time, the Friends made most of their money from quarterly book sales. "We worked out of the garage at the Main Library," she said. "We froze during the winter and baked in the summer." She remembers "little critters" scattering when boxes were shuffled about.

Jane said she got the idea of selling books online after noticing some books were worth much more than the asking price. "We would sell a book for \$2 or \$3 that I would look up online and see going for \$30 or more," she said.

The late Janie Matson helped her set up an Amazon account. Two fellow volunteers, Jed Bryan and Rob Gustafson, volunteered to be "shippers." Since Amazon requires that any book ordered must be shipped within 48 hours, the three of them came in on alternate days to pack and ship the orders. "I would email them with the information, and they would go to the Sorting Room and take care of mailing the book."

Jane (the 2010 Joann Wood McMaster Volunteer of the Year) decided to give up her job, in part, because the merchandizing behemoth was making it more and more difficult for a small-volume seller to make money. Also, high-volume dealers use automatic pricing tools to ensure they undercut competitors. "I would list a book at a low price, then come back the next day to find several listed for less."

During the peak, Friends' sales on Amazon would net more than \$8,500 some years. Last year, they brought in a little over \$2,000 after expenses.

The good news is that sales on eBay have more than made up the difference. eBay sales, conducted by Jack Hutchins (winner of the 2020 Volunteer of the Year Award, along with his wife, Debra) brought in more than \$9,500 last year. The biggest difference is that eBay does not charge nonprofit organizations a per-item fee.

Diane Ingersoll, who retired from IBM in 2019, has taken over the Amazon sales post for the Friends. She and her husband, Doug, moved to South Carolina from Minnesota to escape winter. About her new duties, she says, "I enjoy discovering books among the thousands donated that are unique enough that they might be sold on Amazon. It's a thrill to pack one up and send it on its way."

As for Jane Kasemersky, the Friends have not seen the last of her. "As soon as the libraries reopen, I'll be in there sorting books or doing whatever needs to be done," she said.

Director's Article (cont. from page 1)

Carolina State Library has also not been finalized.

Now more than ever, we value the support of the Friends of the York County Library. The library has weathered difficult budget years in the past thanks, in part, to that support.

Please continue to support York County Library through maintaining your Friends membership, following and sharing our Facebook posts and spreading the word about the library with other community members.

YCLibrary.org

Shopping From Home?



If you are shopping at Amazon, why not support the Friends **AND** help your library! Sign up for **AMAZON SMILE** at smile.amazon.com and follow the directions, selecting **“Friends Of the York County Library”** as your charity of choice.

After doing that, when you log onto the Amazon website, just type in smile.amazon.com instead of “Amazon.com.” You will be on the **SAME** Amazon website — **BUT** for every purchase you make on Amazon, half a percent will come to your library.

The York County Library — **YOUR** library — needs **YOUR** help recovering from the lockdown.



There are 5 YCL Branch libraries — Rock Hill, Clover, Fort Mill, Lake Wylie and York — **ALL** are part of the **York County Library system**. They are **ALL YOUR** local libraries and need **YOUR** help.

Help your library by becoming a **FRIEND** of the Library. It's easy! Just fill out the form on the right and you will be a **FRIEND!**

News From the Friends Spring 2020

News From the Friends is a publication of the Friends of the York County Library, Rock Hill, SC

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♥ **BECOME A FRIEND!** ♥

The Friends of the York County Library is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) volunteer organization formed in 1975 to provide advocacy and financial support for the York County Library.

Annual membership starts at just \$10! As a Friend, you will receive:

- ♥ Advance notice of book sales and special events
- ♥ A 15% discount on purchases at Friends Books on Main
- ♥ Invitation to the annual Volunteer Recognition Event

Through funds raised via book sales, memberships, and other activities, the Friends support a variety of library functions:

- 👉 Summer Learning Challenge, promoting literacy for all ages
- 👉 Bucks for Books campaign, adding new books to library shelves
- 👉 Non-budgeted library special projects

(See articles on pages 1-2 to see more of what the Friends support at your library.)

Friends of the York County Library ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print clearly. Your information will not be shared.)

Date: _____ Membership: New Renewal

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____ CVC: _____

CHOOSE A MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Friend (Individual): \$15
- Family Friend: \$25
- Good Friend: \$50
- Supportive Friend: \$100
- Best Friend: \$500
- Student Friend: \$10

LIST THE NAMES TO INCLUDE IN THIS MEMBERSHIP. (Adults must live at the same address and are limited to 2 per \$25 membership and 4 per \$50 and up)

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

CHOOSE ONE OF THE TWO PAYMENT OPTIONS

① Enclosed is my check made payable to: Friends of the York County Library

② Charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Name as it appears on card (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

The Friends of the York County Library is a 501-C3 organization. Your membership is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

I am interested in volunteering my time and talent. My areas of interest are:

- Friends Books on Main book store
- Library branch book sales
- Sorting donated books and materials
- Other. Please contact me so we can talk.

Return completed application and payment to any York County Library branch

(Clover, Fort Mill, Lake Wylie, Rock Hill, or York)

OR MAIL TO: Friends of the York County Library, PO Box 10032, Rock Hill, SC 29731

For more information or to contact us, please visit yclibrary.org or call 803-272-8303.