

## Genealogy Expo Funded by Friends

More than 150 amateur and professional genealogists attended the Genealogy and Family History Expo, sponsored by the Friends of York County Library on Oct. 15. The day-long event at the Courtyard Marriott, Fort Mill, was especially gratifying for YCL reference librarian and genealogist John Skardon. Originally scheduled for March 2020, the expo was cancelled because of the COVID lockdown. “A week and a half before the event, we had to pull the plug,” John said.

Fortunately, the Friends had committed \$10,000 for the project and that money was still available two years later.

John said the delay gave him the opportunity to study similar programs and pick up ideas on how to improve the YCL expo. For example, he made sure to include programs of local interest on the history and genealogy of the Catawba Nation, taught by Travis Blue; and a session on the “*Border Problem Between the Carolinas in the Colonial Period*,” by professional genealogist Brent Holcomb. Other presentations included such topics as: “*Researching Your Revolutionary War Soldier*,” “*Digital Library on American Slavery & More*,” and “*Build Your Case at the Courthouse*.”

John produced a 56-page program that contained speaker bios, presentation outlines and links to reference materials.

In addition to eight experts, who collectively gave 13 presentations, the expo featured 20 exhibitions by genealogy or historical societies and other nonprofit organizations.

While the goal of any genealogical group is to help ensure research adheres to the highest standards and methods of the profession, John said he wanted the program to be rewarding for newcomers to the field as well as seasoned researchers. One speaker, an expert on DNA research, gave two talks, each geared for a different experience level.

The free event, which included a buffet luncheon and door prizes, was publicized via social media, including that of YCL and various genealogical organizations in South Carolina and beyond. Several Friends volunteers helped staff the registration table.

(Photos by John Skardon and Terry Plumb)



Lunch is served! The free event included a buffet luncheon.



Checking out vendors at the Expo.



Packed house for the Expo!



John Skardon greets guests.



Faye Wyatt and Betty Plumb at the registration table.

## Website Update

Friends of YCL Board member Diane Ingersoll provided the following report on the Friend’s website ([yclibraryfriends.org](http://yclibraryfriends.org)), which went active online late last year:

We are seeing steady growth in usage every month. More than 40% of our users have bookmarked our site or type our URL directly into their browser. Almost 60% of our users are using their mobile devices, and the Books on Main tab is the most commonly visited. We have almost 300 users each month.

In late August, Friends Books on Main updated its point-of-sale system to use the PayPal Zettle hardware and application. The new card readers allow the bookstore to take credit cards with just a tap, accept Venmo and Apple or Google Pay from the customer’s phone or smart watch.



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## Friends Co-Sponsor Author Event

The Friends of YCL co-sponsored a presentation at the Main Library Sept. 24 by acclaimed author Judy Kurtz Goldman, who discussed her latest book, *Child: A Memoir*.

Judy grew up on Eden Terrace, not far from Winthrop College. Her father owned the Smart Shop, a women's dress shop on Main Street.

Her latest memoir, published by the University of South Carolina Press, talks about her relationship with Mattie Culp, the African American woman who served as the family maid and Judy's nanny.

Cross-examining what it was to be a privileged white child in the Jim Crow South, *Child: A Memoir* has been described as an incandescent book of small moments: heartwarming, heartbreaking, and, ultimately, inspiring. The book is a 2022 Katie Couric Media "Must-Read Book."

About fifty people, including some of Judy's longtime Rock Hill friends, attended the event, which was co-sponsored by YCL. Many bought a copy, which Judy graciously signed.

Donna Andrews, head of the YCL Reference Department, set up the event. Friends volunteers helped to promote the presentation and assisted the author in selling her book.

(Photos by Jim Beamguard)

## Friends featured on CN2 'Carolina Connection'

In August Friends Board member Terry Plumb appeared on CN2's "Carolina Connection" program, discussing how Friends Books on Main was part of the revitalization of downtown Rock Hill as a commercial and social hub. During the seven-minute section, CN2's Laurabee Monday interviewed Terry about the Friends recently installed book shelf at the Knowledge Perk Coffee Company, 130 W. White St., Rock Hill.

"I thought we were going to discuss just our bookshelf at Knowledge Perk," Terry said, "but Laurabee got us talking about recent development downtown and how Friends Books on Main is playing a key role in the ongoing transformation of downtown."

Reaction from viewers was strong. One person sent a \$175 donation for "Bucks for Books" fund, along with compliments to the Friends as a result of the interview.

Link to the interview: [www.cn2.com/carolina-connection-friends-of-the-library-making-reading-easily-available-in-downtown-businesses/](http://www.cn2.com/carolina-connection-friends-of-the-library-making-reading-easily-available-in-downtown-businesses/)



Judy Kurtz Goldman, author of *Child: A Memoir*



Friends volunteers helped sell the books. Shown is Friends VP Diane Ingersoil.



Judy was delighted to talk with her fans and sign her books.



An enthusiastic audience enjoying the presentation.

## Volunteer Workshop Held at Main Library

Twenty-two members of the Friends of YCL participated in the Annual Volunteer Workshop held in the Moore Room at the Main Library Oct. 19.

Topics ranged from how to handle dirty or moldy books and what to do when someone wants to donate several boxes of used books to the nuances of classification. By adhering to certain guidelines, explained Board member DeeAnna Brooks, volunteers can help make the job of sorting books easier for themselves and others.

The Friends maintain sales shelves at all five YCL branches and two coffee shops as well as online sales. Proper classification not only cuts down on handling but also increases the likelihood a book can be sold in timely fashion. For example, books about trains don't necessarily find much interest, but books about specific railroads such as the Delaware & Hudson RR or the B&O are considered desirable and should be set aside for online sales.

DeeAnna led the volunteers through a multiple-choice exercise in which they were asked to assign each of 18 non-fiction books to one of several categories. She later handed out a shorthand guide for sorting decisions. Participants learned, for example, that books in such categories as adoption, marriage/divorce, parenting or pregnancy should not be shelved if older than five years. Those books are considered dated, although they may be suitable for shipping to a wholesale book dealer or for donation to Little Free Libraries at local public parks.

"We have found that holding the Volunteer Workshop is a good way for us to examine operations, make collective decisions and streamline procedures," said DeeAnna, former Friends president and longtime volunteer. "Because we work different shifts at Friends Books on Main or any of five libraries, including the Friends Room at the Main Library, we otherwise wouldn't be able to discuss these issues together. Even better, it gives us the chance to get together with friends."



## Friends Hit Financial Targets Early

By Jim Beamguard, Treasurer, Friends YCL  
This has been a favorable year so far for the sale, by the Friends of the York County Library, of good, used books. With 2022 now 75% over, all Friends activities together have raised more than \$85,000. That is 93% of the income the board of directors expected for the entire year, with the Christmas season yet to come.

On-line sales, through both eBay and Amazon, already have exceeded annual budget expectations, as have total book sales in the five library lobbies: Clover, Fort Mill, Lake Wylie, Rock Hill and York.

Monetary donations, too, have been a pleasant surprise. We budgeted about \$1,000 in gifts but have collected more than \$3,000 to date.

Sales at Friends Books on Main, our retail book store open three days a week, had by the end of September nearly met its entire annual revenue goal. Book sales at coffee shops (Amelie's and Knowledge Perk) also were near annual budget targets.

Expenses generally have been kept within budget so far this year, but higher costs are anticipated next year in utilities, insurance, customer card fees, shipping and several other categories immune to ordinary belt-tightening.

In August we contributed \$34,000 to YCL for the Summer Learning program. But confidence is high that next year it will be possible to increase our financial support for the library above this year's \$57,500.

Continued strong sales across our many venues make us optimistic that readers will find plenty of treasures in the Christmas season and throughout 2023.

Everybody needs a **FRIEND!**

See how **YOU** can be a **FRIEND** on page 4!  
(Hint . . . look for the **HEARTS!**)

## Main Library's Recent Improvements Described

By Jason Hyatt Director, York County Library

YCL Director Jason Hyatt provided the Friends of YCL this report on recent improvements to the Main Library, 138 E. Black St., Rock Hill.

### Library Lockers

York County Library officially launched its new library locker service in late October. The outdoor units are similar to the Amazon lockers seen at QT gas stations and other locations. This project allows YCL to extend its hours of service by providing a convenient hold pick-up option any time of day. The lockers operate 24/7 and offer a fully contactless transaction. Patrons may select one of the lockers as their desired pick-up location just like they would for a regular library. They will receive a notification when the item is ready to be picked up and then can stop by at their convenience to retrieve their item(s).

Lockers are operational at all five YCL locations. Total project cost was approximately \$165,000 and was entirely funded by York County as part of the library's annual budget allocation. More information is available at [www.yclibrary.org/library-lockers](http://www.yclibrary.org/library-lockers).

### Landscaping and Outdoor Seating at Main Library

The Main Library in Rock Hill recently received updated landscaping around the entrance area. Thanks to facilities maintenance support from York County, new plants and trees are in place in front of the building. This allowed for the creation of new outdoor seating areas with benches. Further enhancements are coming soon, including solar-powered tables that patrons may use to charge their mobile devices.

### Vernon Grant Mural

A mural honoring the work of the late Vernon Grant recently was completed on the Black Street side of the Main Library. The largest mural in York County celebrates the life of the beloved artist, whose work graced magazine covers and was featured in national advertising campaigns for several decades early in the last century.

Grant was the creator of Kellogg's "Snap, Crackle and Pop" characters. He lived in this area for more than 30 years and served as director of the Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce. He also created Glen the Frog for the city's annual Come-See-Me Festival, which he helped establish. All those characters are depicted in the mural, which also features Santa Claus and Christmas elves, representing how Rock Hill continues to honor Grant's cartoons during the annual Christmasville celebration.

Muralist Osiris Rain created the mural, designed by illustrator Jill Pratzon. The mural is the latest in Rock Hill's Mural Mile project and was funded by contributions from the Christmasville and Come-See-Me festivals, the Vernon Grant Family Foundation, and a National Endowment for the Arts grant through YCL. The Vernon Grant Committee, Rock Hill Economic Development's Quality of Life Committee and the City of Rock Hill directed the project.

Mural honors the late Vernon Grant.



Outdoor lockers permit after-hours pick-up.



**Support YOUR Library the Easy Way!** 

Amazon offers an easy way to donate to the Friends of the York County Library. Since 11/2021, the Friends have received over \$725.73 from AmazonSmile, which enables customers to designate a favorite nonprofit group to receive a contribution equivalent to a half-percent of qualified purchases.

Go to **smile.amazon.com**. Follow the directions. Enter **"Friends of the York County Library"** as your charity. *You shop — Amazon gives! It's easy, helps your library and costs you nothing!*

**Need an idea for a Last-Minute Holiday Gift?**

How about a special something for your sweet patootie? Anyone on your list who likes to read good books? A gift certificate from Friends Books on Main could be the answer to your gifting issue.

Visit our bookstore at 206 E. Main St., Rock Hill, to purchase certificates in any amount of your choosing. Hours are Thursday to Saturday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM. (Photo by Julie Beamgrad)



Friends Books On Main is the perfect place for a last minute gift, whether it be the perfect book or a gift certificate. Pick up something for yourself while you are there!

**YCL INFORMATION**  
All Branches are closed on Sunday

**YORK COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY**  
138 East Black St., Rock Hill (803-981-5858)  
Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM  
Drop donated books in Donation Box to the left of the front door.

**CLOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
107 Knox Street (803-222-3474)  
Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM;  
Friday: 9 AM–6 PM; Saturday: 9 AM–2 PM  
Drop donated books at Circulation Desk

**FORT MILL PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
1818 Second Baxter Crossing (803-547-4114)  
Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM  
Drop donated books at Circulation Desk



**LAKE WYLIE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
185 Blucher Circle (803-831-7774)  
Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM  
Drop donated books at Circulation Desk


**YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
21 East Liberty Street (803-684-3751)  
Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM;  
Friday: 9 AM–6 PM; Saturday: 9 AM–2 PM  
Drop donated books at Circulation Desk

York County Libraries In-Person and Curbside Pick-Up at all of the Branches  
Monday–Friday: 10 AM–6 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM–2 PM

To join the Friends, fill out a membership form (See below. Also available on-line at [yclibraryfriends.org/](http://yclibraryfriends.org/)) and return it to any York County Library location or mail it to: Friends of the York County Library; P.O. Box 10032; Rock Hill, SC 29731.

**FRIENDS OF THE YORK COUNTY LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
(Please print clearly. Your information will not be shared.)

 Membership:  New  Renewal **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ 

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ 

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE 2 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 \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

The Friends of the YCL is a 501 (C)(3) 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** (addresses above on left)  
**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](http://yclibrary.org) or call 803-272-8303.

**News From the Friends**  
Fall 2022

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