

### YCL Director Chose Libraries Over Classroom

By Terry Plumb



Julie Ward

The new director of the York County Library remembers reaching a crossroads in life when she had to decide whether to become a teacher or a librarian. After losing her job in a corporate shuffle at a nonprofit charter school company based in Boston, Julie Ward decided she needed to follow a new career path.

"I was burnt out," said Julie, who replaced former YCL Director Jason Hyatt shortly before last Christmas. (After nine years as head of YCL,

Jason assumed the top job in the Buncombe County Library, in Asheville.) "I took an aptitude test, which indicated I was best suited either to be a teacher or a librarian," Julie said.

While she wanted to work with children, the thought of standing in front of a classroom all day appealed to her less than the programming aspects of being a children's librarian. The scales may have been tipped by childhood memories. She recalls her excitement upon receiving her first library card when she was in first grade. "I loved even the smell of books," she said.

She credits her love of reading to her parents. She still owns one of her first books, a tale of Uncle Wiggily, the principal character in a series of books by Howard R. Garis. Her father had a knack for mimicking voices of Uncle Wiggily, a rabbit, and other characters. Her first position as a professional librarian, after obtaining a master's degree in library science from Simmons College in Boston, was as children's librarian at the South County branch of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. She chose Charlotte to be near her younger sister, Erin, a single mom.

She would spend 13 years with CML, moving up the ladder before accepting the assistant director's job with YCL in January 2017. She already knew Jason Hyatt. He had been her boss at ImaginOn, the collaborative venture between CML and the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, which is rated one of the best children's libraries in the US.

*(YCL Director continued on page 2)*

### Friends Fund & Participate in Patchwork Festival

By Joy Price



The York County Library's Patchwork Tales Storytelling Festival returned in a new, mixed format for its 22nd year April 24-29. The Festival, affected for the last several years by budget cuts and COVID restrictions, is gradually returning to its former glory as a well-attended, multi-day event.

Events included local school performances by legendary storyteller Donna Washington, whose Family Ghost Stories were accessible virtually all week on the public library's YouTube channel. Storyteller and puppeteer Lona Barrett visited elementary-aged children to present her folk and fairy tales.

The Friends contributed \$10,000 for the event, one of the major library programs our organization pays for during the year. Others include the Summer Reading Program, the Winter Reading Challenge and the Family History and Genealogy Workshop.

Culminating the festival was an all-day event held on Saturday, April 29, at the Anne Springs Close Greenway. Dire weather reports might have affected the numbers of families attending, but the rain held off and a beautiful day was enjoyed by all. Members of the Friends assisted by handing out our brochures and selling books and CDs on behalf of the performers. They included Diane Ingersoll, Susan Lyle, Connie Newland, Joy Price and Faye Wyatt.

Attendees enjoyed an array of performers. Entries in the Student Visual Art Contest were on display, and Fun Zone activities included crafts provided by the library Bookmobile and The Schiele Museum, face-painting by Sadie Bridges and balloon creations by Donelle Tison.

*(Joy is a member of the Friends of YCL Board of Directors and a former member of the YCL Board of Trustees.)*

Connie Newland, Faye Wyatt and Diane Ingersoll waiting at the YCL table for the popular Patchwork Festival. Photo by Domino Miller, YCL Staff.



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## Former President Took Reins at Key Moment — April 2016

Former Friends of YCL President David Needham, who passed away at age 86 in March, played a key role in the Friends history. Needham, a native of Rochester, N.Y., served as president during the development and opening of Friends Books on Main, said Debbie Turner, who was community relations manager for the York County Library at the time.

She first met Needham when he was a customer at a quarterly book sale the Friends conducted prior to opening the bookstore.

"We approached Dave about joining the Friends. He later became treasurer and served in that position for a couple of years before agreeing to move up to vice president," Debbie said.

In 2016 the person who was slated to serve as president resigned from the board unexpectedly," Debbie said. "It fell to me to call Dave and break that news. To my surprise, he quickly agreed to be president. We will be forever grateful to him for taking on a leadership role as the bookstore was getting ready to open."

She added that the late Mac Lyle, who preceded Needham as president, had worked diligently to find a home for what would become Friends Books on Main. "Mac spent months looking at different locations and found the one that the store is currently in," Debbie said. "If it hadn't been for his persistence, the store wouldn't have happened. Mac and Dave played different roles, but both were very important in getting started."

Dave brought a wealth of business experience to the Friends. In 2005, he moved to York County from Aiken, where he had volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, the hospital auxiliary and the symphony guild. He was an avid reader who also loved the outdoors, especially kayaking and camping.

Dave was recognized for his efforts for the Friends in 2016 when he was awarded the Joanne Woods McMaster Volunteer of the Year Award.

Following his death, the Friends Board of Directors made a contribution of \$100 to the YCL Bucks for Books fund in his memory.



Debbie Turner, David Needham and Mayor Doug Echols cutting ribbon for Friends Books on Main.



Dave Needham with his 2016 Friends of the YCL Volunteer of the Year Award.

## New YCL Director (Continued from page 1)

She treasures her 13 years at CML. Julie credits a mentor, Irish McNair, manager of the Beatties Ford branch for opening her mind about what being a librarian meant. "She showed me how to take on a facility, how to deal with conflict, how to handle racial tension..."

As director, Julie is over five libraries, the central administration and various departments, including Outreach, which operates the bookmobile. Altogether, YCL employs 111 people.

Since assuming the reins of YCL late last year, Julie's plate has been full. From having to complete evaluations on 18 direct reports, to introducing a new circulation/cataloging system, she has not had much opportunity to spend time in the branches, much less reach out to the communities YCL serves.

And then there's the ongoing campaign focused on placement of children's books dealing with human sexuality. Julie ardently has defended the way YCL selects materials and makes them available. "A public library must represent the entire community it serves," she said. "It is up to parents to decide what they allow their children to read."

Asked about the partnership between YCL and the Friends, she said, "We love the Friends. Without their efforts, we would not be able to hold our summer and winter reading programs, Patchwork Tales or other programs."

*See related article below for more information on Julie Ward.*

*(A version of this article appeared in The Herald on June 19, 2023.)*

## Pay for Friends Membership **ON LINE!**

Current or prospective members of Friends of the Library may now pay for their annual membership online. Here is the link for online memberships: [yclibraryfriends.org/membership](http://yclibraryfriends.org/membership)



## A Conversation With New YCL Director Julie Ward

### *How did growing up in Europe affect your perspective on life?*

We lived in the country, 30 minutes from Brussels. My family rode horses, and we traveled around Europe on school vacations. My mother loved art and made sure we visited fantastic museums. Living in Europe gave me a sense of being a part of a more connected and diverse world...and the food! I don't think I would have developed my love of diverse cuisines had it not been for living in Europe.

### *What are your interests outside work?*

Reading, of course, cooking, traveling and watching a good disaster movie.

### *What do you read for pleasure?*

My favorites to read are mysteries, cookbooks, travel writing and biographies.

### *Who are some of your favorite authors?*

Anne Tyler, Barbara Kingsolver, Louise Penny, Ann Cleeves, Bill Bryson . . .

**Membership**  
Annual membership starts at just \$10! As a Friend, you'll 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

**Pay Online**  
You may visit a new membership or renew your current one online using PayPal with a credit or debit card.

After you select your membership level and checkout, you will receive an email with information about your membership.

[New Member](#) [Renewing Member](#)



## Friends On Track to Meet or Exceed 2023 Budget

By Jim Beamguard

At mid-year, Friends of YCL appear to be having a good year. Friends Books on Main at 106 E. Main St., Rock Hill, had nearly \$65,000 in sales as of June 30, well over half of our projected annual budget. Another \$17,000 has been raised through other outlets maintained by volunteers of the Friends of the York County Library, including lobby sales in all five county libraries; on-line sales through eBay and Amazon; and sales at Amelie's and Knowledge Perk coffee houses in Rock Hill.

Expenses continue to creep upward, despite the all-volunteer staff and generous donations of like-new books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs. There are unavoidable costs involved in getting books from the donation bins in the libraries to shopping bags or mailboxes. To offset higher expenses, including an increase in the monthly rent on the Friends on Main Bookstore, the cost for hardcover and trade paper-back books was increased from \$3 to \$4. The price increase, the first in five years, occurred in April. Prices for children's books, mass market paperbacks, CDs and DVDs were unchanged.

Friends Treasurer Chad Lynch gave the Friends Board of Directors a reassuring report at its July meeting that all budget targets remain on-track. While total revenue raised through June was not quite half the Friends' annual projected budget for 2023, December typically provides our biggest monthly sales.

To date in 2023, the Friends have given \$60,000 to the York County Library and plan to contribute \$18,000 more by year's end. That's an increase of more than one-third over last year's contribution. Volunteers are proud of this accomplishment. They also have the satisfaction of saving books from forgotten places, perhaps a landfill, and sending bargain-priced treasures to the homes of new, appreciative readers.



Teens lemonade sale raises \$254 for Friends  
Photo taken by Abbie Towson of YCL.

Highlights of the first six months include:

■ Ava and Kevin Jordan, owners of Keva Books, LLC., a Florida based consignment sales firm, with whom the Friends have done business for years, resumed visits during the second quarter. The Jordans suspended operations for health reasons last year. Pre-pandemic payments to the Friends had exceeded \$5,000 during some years.

■ An anonymous benefactor recently dropped off several boxes of cookbooks at the Rock Hill Branch. Many were sold during a special cookbook sale at Friends Books on Main or online. The remaining volumes were consigned to Keva Books (see above).

■ In late February, we received a donation of books from the estate of the late Loretta Davis, former chairman of the Winthrop University Biology Department. Dr. Davis died last December at age 90. His friend and colleague, Dr. Paula Mitchell, Ph.D., offered his collection of books to the Friends. Lyle Back, Dr. Davis's financial advisor and a former student of his, helped Paula sort the books and haul them to the main library. Among the boxes of books donated to York County Library were many volumes about UFOs, an interest of Dr. Davis.

■ At the July directors meeting, YCL Young Adult Services Manager Abbie Townson, presented the Friends \$254. The money represented proceeds from the More Than Lemonade sale, conducted by participants in the YCL Teen Entrepreneur Camp, June 26-30. Under the direction of Dr. Charlotte Brown, the teens learned about social entrepreneurship. After visiting small local businesses and the Open for Business Department at City Hall, the teens were challenged to create a project to benefit the Friends. They designed a logo, discussed promotion and pricing, taste-tested drink selections and worked with business donors, offering drinks and homemade goodies for sale in front of the Rock Hill Library.

*(Jim is a member of the Friends of YCL Board of Directors and former treasurer.)*

## Friends-Sponsored Video To Air on SCETV Channels

"A Community Place," the prize-winning documentary sponsored by the Friends of YCL, will be aired statewide on the SC ETV network at 6:30 PM, Sept. 3, and again on Sept. 21 at 8:30 PM. It will air locally on WNSC-TV. The 25-minute video focuses on modern libraries and the services they offer patrons. It was directed by Rock Hill videographer Terry Roueche. Featured are interviews with librarians from public libraries in Spartanburg, Aiken, Mount Pleasant and Columbia.

The video was funded in part by the Friends of York County Library and the Friends of South Carolina Libraries. It was premiered at the annual meetings of the sponsoring organizations.

Here is a link to *A Community Place*:  
[vimeo.com/manage/videos/789858231](https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/789858231))

## Pride Festival Participants

The Friends of York County Library proudly participated in Rock Hill's annual Pride Festival, held in June, in support of the LGBTQ community. In addition to being a sponsor and observing Pride Week with a front window display at Friends Books on Main, several volunteers worked during the Outdoor Festival on Saturday, June 24, which drew thousands of people.

DeeAnna Brooks, Bobbie Otto and her husband, Larry Marraccini, staffed a table on the sidewalk in front of the store. Working inside were Susan Lyle, Martha Ferguson, Debbie Turner, Julie and Jim Beamguard, and Connie Newland. A total of 436 visitors were recorded. Sales totaled \$833. Both statistics were virtually unchanged from 2022.

The Rock Hill Pride Festival describes itself as a "grassroots festival solely supported by and run by Downtown Businesses and Individuals."



Julie Beamguard, Susan Lyle and Martha Ferguson handle the steady stream of customers at Friends Books on Main at Rock Hill's annual Pride Festival.

Photo taken by Jim Beamguard



Friends Board of Director member Terry Plumb (photo, right) presents Gary Simrill, former majority leader of the S.C. House of Representatives, with the 2022-2023 Outstanding Public Official of the Year Award from the Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL).

The Friends of YCL nominated Simrill and two other legislators for their role in thwarting an amendment to the state budget that critics said would have facilitated censorship of S.C. public libraries. Simrill, now special assistant to the president of Winthrop University for community engagement, was unable to attend the FOSCL annual meeting in April when the award was announced.

(Photo by Judy Longshaw, Winthrop University)

## YCL INFORMATION

**Unless otherwise stated, please drop donated books at Circulation Desk.**

### 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

### FORT MILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

1818 Second Baxter Crossing (803-547-4114)

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

### LAKE WYLIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

185 Blucher Circle (803-831-7774)

Monday–Thursday: 9 AM–7 PM; Friday–Saturday: 9 AM–6 PM

### 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

**York County Libraries In-Person and Curbside Pick-Up at all of the Branches (Closed Sundays)**

Monday–Friday: 10 AM–6 PM; Saturday: 10 AM–2 PM

## News From the Friends Summer 2023

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

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## FRIENDS 2023 BOARD OFFICERS

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## Volunteers Take on Important Missions

Two new volunteers have taken on important missions for the Friends.

Samantha “Sam” Bradner, a native of Charlotte, has worked as a shelver at Friends Books on Main and recently assumed the role as Facebook administrator.

Sally Ficklin, who recently retired as a media specialist at Springfield Elementary School, in Fort Mill, is responsible for delivering mass market paperback books for inmates at the York County Detention Center.

About every six weeks, volunteers at the bookstore fill grocery bags with unsold paperbacks, which Sally drives to the jail just outside York. With more than 500 inmates at any time, books are in high demand, according to Sgt. Sandra Darby, programs manager at the Detention Center.

The book ministry began more than a decade ago, before the Friends became involved. Totty Wilkerson already had been taking books to the jail for several years when in 2016 the Friends rented the bookstore space from her husband, Forrest. She persuaded Martha Ferguson to provide surplus paperbacks to the cause. Totty continued to make regular deliveries until personal circumstances recently forced her to give it up.

Sally, mother of three daughters and six-time grandmother, says catching up on reading was one of her top retirement priorities. Sam, a graduate of Winthrop University who works as a software technical writer, says her goal as Facebook administrator is to share everything posted on the York County Library page as well as upcoming events at Friends Books on Main, information that customers frequently ask about, gift/holiday ideas, or resources our followers might be interested in. “And the occasional funny book-related thing, but not too often,” she said. “Too many posts like that can seem kind of spammy.”

In addition to being a Friends volunteer, Sam is involved with the York County Choral Society, Rock Hill Theatre, Parkrun, and a recreational kickball league in Tega Cay. She lives in Fort Mill with her husband and two rescue dogs.



Sally taking books to the York County Detention Center



Sally Ficklin



Sam Bradner

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**TO PAY ONLINE, GO TO [yclibraryfriends.org/membership](http://yclibraryfriends.org/membership)**

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 **[www.yclibrary.org](http://www.yclibrary.org)** or call 803-272-8303.

