

Friends Nominate Skardon for FOSCL Award

As he was about to begin one of his popular classes on genealogy March 7, John Skardon, MSLS, York County Library reference/genealogy librarian, was surprised by a gaggle of board members from the Friends of YCL. Led by Diane Ingersoll, president of the Friends, the delegation came to announce that John would receive the 2024 Public Library Employee Excellence Award from the Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) at its annual meeting March 23.



John listens to Diane read the 2024 Public Library Employee Excellence Award

The Friends have been the principal sponsor for the annual YCL Genealogy and Family History Exposition, which John founded and has organized since its inception. The Friends commit \$10,000 a year to underwrite the event, which draws as many as 200 attendees from several states.

“Since joining YCL nine years ago as a circulation clerk, John steadily has taken on greater responsibilities,” according to the nomination statement submitted by the Friends. “In June 2018, he was named a reference librarian, specializing in local history and genealogy. His hands-on assistance to patrons needing help in researching family history and his monthly classes on genealogy soon became widely known.”

In addition to creating the Genealogy and Family History Exposition, which this year will take place Oct. 12, John’s accomplishments include:

- After microfilm of *The Herald* became unavailable, John arranged to have current copies scanned by a microfilm service and to obtain a microfilm reader.
- Achieving “Affiliate Library” status with FamilySearch.
- Teaching a genealogy course for Rock Hill’s Lifelong Learning program.
- Producing a book of abstracts of early York County deeds (1801–1815).
- Re-cataloguing local history and genealogy books to make them more accessible.
- Scanning maps so that patrons may consult them without fear of damage.

“We can’t think of a more deserving person to receive this award,” said Diane. “John is a great ambassador for the York County Library, and the Friends are proud to help recognize his achievements.”

Friends on Track for Meeting 2024 Budget

By Chad Lynch

The midyear financials for the Friends of the York County Library are right on track with projections. Through six months, our income and expenses are both approximately 50% of the budget. Sales in *Friends Books on Main* and *Amelie’s and Knowledge Perk*, the two coffee shops where members maintain sales shelves, have done exceptionally well. They are at about 69% and 121% of year-end projections, respectively.

Consignment sales from our Florida-based partners returned this year, following a lengthy hiatus. As of June 30, the Friends have received over \$3,200 in income from our partners with another quarterly payment expected soon.

To date, we have provided \$73,183.99 to the York County Library, most of which paid for the Summer Reading Program and the purchase of a used vehicle to replace an older one. (*See related stories on page 2.*)

The majority of our sources of income are exceeding or are in-line with last year’s midyear numbers. There are no current surprises in expenses, and we anticipate expenses to continue following budget projections for the remainder of the year.

Random Highlights:

- June lobby sales were highest of the year to date; \$1,332; \$501 of that came from the Fort Mill branch.
- Ebay sales were almost \$1,700 in June.
- Knowledge Perk contributed \$512 in sales in April.
- The Coastal Community Foundation donated \$500 to the Friends in April. (*Thank you to Dr. Paul W. Holmes of Rock Hill*)
- YCL Genealogist John Skardon directed a \$100 donation to the Friends, also in April.

(Chad is Treasurer of the Friends of YCL.)

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Help the Friends support YOUR library! Donate your used books, shop at our book store

(Friends Books on Main) and become a Friend of the Library! For more information on donating books, see page 2. See page 3 for information on becoming a **FRIEND** of the Library! Cause everyone needs a friend!

Library Card a Constant In Her Peripatetic Life

The Friends' newest board member, Cynthia Bradford, has led a peripatetic existence, having lived in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas before locating to her husband's home state of South Carolina.

During much of her busy life as wife, mother and assistant to her lawyer/spouse, Charles, Cynthia has retained her love of reading, books and libraries. She joined the Friends Board of Directors in February after being approved unanimously to fill the unfinished term of Deborah Weigand, who retired after many years of loyal service.

Cynthia was born in Fort Smith, Ark., but spent much of her childhood in Oklahoma City, Okla., before moving to Nassau, Texas, during middle school. She finished high school in New Orleans and enrolled at LSU but switched to the University of Texas-Austin, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology.

She met Charles Bradford, from Greenwood, S.C., in New Orleans. Charles later earned his law degree at the University of South Carolina Law School, and in 1981 the young family moved to Rock Hill, where he had accepted a job at the law firm of Ridley & Ridley, P.A. Four years later, their next move was a short one; Charles joined the York law firm of Spratt, McKeown and McCrae, where he would work until establishing his own practice in 1996.

The Bradfords have two children: Emily, who lives in Sitka, Ak., and Joseph, who calls Salt Lake City, Utah, home.

Cynthia's record of volunteerism is notable. She has worked at the Museum of York County and Historic Brattonsville, where she served as docent and volunteer scheduler. She even sewed costumes for Brattonsville's annual Christmas Candlelight Tour. For several years, she volunteered at PATH, York's human-assistance agency, including at their Tender Hearts Thrift Store.

During a life that has led to many states and jobs, Cynthia says that one constant has been the public library. "Mom took me to story time in Oklahoma City," she said.

Cynthia can't remember when she didn't have a library card, and when they moved to Rock Hill in 1981 one of the first things she did was to sign up for a card at the Main Library, then located on Oakland Avenue.



Friends newest board member, Cynthia Bradford

Reading Programs a Big Deal

By Julie Ward, YCL Director

York County Library had an eventful first half of 2024, starting with another successful *Winter Reading Challenge*. More than 1,422 participants read for a total of 1,658,661 minutes, which works out to 19 hours of reading PER PERSON over six weeks! Thanks to a generous contribution by the Friends of YCL, we were able to provide great incentives for signing up and for completions, including grand prize drawings for gift cards from Books-A-Million.

Also, thanks to the Friends, YCL purchased a secondhand Chevy Traverse (two years old with 23,000 miles on the speedometer) in March for our Outreach staff. Unfortunately, the hail storm that ransacked Rock Hill in April caused the car to be totaled. We are waiting to hear from York County government regarding a possible replacement. (*An ironic footnote: our beloved Bookmobile was spared hail damage only because it was in the shop at the time of the hail storm.*)

Another thoughtful and much-appreciated gesture by the Friends to YCL was the successful nomination of John Skardon for the *Public Employee Excellence Award*, from the Friends of South Carolina Libraries for his outstanding work in local history and genealogy. John received the award at the annual FOSCL meeting in Columbia.

Finally, we are mid-way through our best and most well-known Friends-sponsored event, the *Summer Reading Challenge*. Since registration opened in May, we have had 6,364 people register for the program with 1,032 participants already completing their reading hour requirements (10 hours for children, 15 hours for teens and adults). The total minutes read so far is 1,550,814. Amazing!

Some may wonder why we make such a big deal about the success of our Summer Reading Program. Ask any school teacher and they will say that "summer slump" is a well-known setback to a child's literacy development. By incenting children to read during their vacation, we help them to keep their reading skills sharpened, thereby reducing the amount of remedial work needed the following term.

In other library news: YCL's Board of Trustees and I have been meeting with County Council members and mayors of several towns to discuss growing population needs and how YCL can better serve York County residents.



Friends President Diane Ingersoll, right, and YCL Director Julie Ward, second from right, accept a two-year-old Chevrolet Traverse in March. The Friends purchased the vehicle for YCL, to replace another vehicle used by the Outreach Department. Unfortunately, the severe hail storm that hit Rock Hill in May caused extensive damage to the vehicle, which was judged a total loss. YCL is awaiting a county decision on replacing it. Also pictured are Brannon Nance, YCL Outreach Assistant, left, and Martin McKinley, General Manager of Fred Caldwell Chevrolet, second from left.



A Zumba class at the Rock Hill Library.

Summer Reading Program Plug

York County Library's Summer Reading Program received a plug on *York County Now*, in June. York County Public Information Officer Greg Suskin, produces "snapshots" of various county departments or events, which follow broadcasts of York County Council meetings on social media.

Suskin interviewed YCL Director Julie Ward and took footage of a Zumba class at the Rock Hill Library and of a magic show at the Lake Wylie branch. The Summer Reading program, which is funded by the Friends of YCL, also was discussed.

If you would like to view the interview, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/uqPEQjgVDzo>.

News From the Friends Summer 2024

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You Just Never Know!

Volunteers who work in The Friends Room at the Rock Hill Main Library often find unexpected treasures. In recent months, two first edition copies of the children's book, *The Brave Little Toaster*, by Thomas M. Disch, sold separately on Ebay for a total of nearly \$300, according to Board member Jack Hutchins, who handles Ebay sales for the Friends.

Also, a donation of Beatrix Potter collectibles, including figurines, a stuffed Peter Rabbit and books, netted about \$400.

Jack says we normally don't sell materials other than books online, but if a generous donor wants to donate her collection of treasured Beatrix Potter collectibles, why not?

Anyone with gently used books or related items is welcome to donate them *to any branch* of the York County Library during normal hours. Because of space limitations, the Friends request that donations not be taken to Friends Books on Main.

(See page 4 for a list of the five branch libraries and where to leave your donations.)

Thank You to Our Wonderful Patrons!

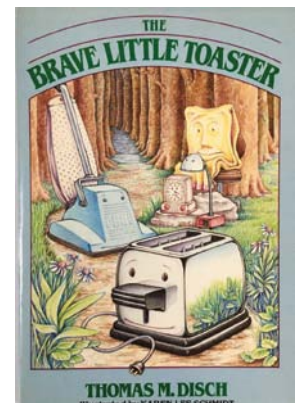


What do we do with all of the books that you donate? The books are collected at our five branches and brought to the "Friends Room" at the Main Library in Rock Hill. Volunteers go through the books, weeding out the ones that we won't be able to sell. (*There are many reasons why the books won't sell. See the list below.*) After making the "cut," the books are sent to the Friends bookstore, *Friends Books on Main*, located in downtown Rock Hill at 206 East Main St. Once at the store, more volunteers shelve the books. The end result? Books, DVDs, audiobooks and CDs at great prices to the public.

Friends Books on Main is not the only place we sell our donated books. All five branches offer donated books for sale. Payment is made at the Circulation Desk. The Friends also have community partners helping us. We have a rack of used books at *Amelie's French Bakery* (157 East Main Street, Rock Hill) and *Knowledge Perk Coffee Company* (130 West White Street, Rock Hill). If you find a book you like, just pay the cashier.

The best part of selling your used books? Besides providing great books at low prices? The book proceeds from our store, our branches and our community partners all benefit all YCL branches. Thanks to you, we are able to help our libraries in so many ways. So thank you, all of you!

Looking for more books to read after you donate? Be sure and stop by Friends Books on Main to replenish your stock! We are open Thursday through Saturday, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Help us help YOUR local libraries!



One of the donated first edition copies of a loved children's book.



Some of the donated Beatrix Potter collectibles.

Donate your books to YOUR Library!

Your used **BOOKS** help us to raise money for **YOUR** library! Curious about what to donate? Here are some hints!

What **TO** Donate!

Books with dust jackets
Paperbacks in good condition
CDs and DVDs
Children's books
Old, rare and collectible
Recent fiction

Anything that looks good and interesting!

What **NOT** to donate!

Magazines
Reader's Digest Condensed books
Recent fiction without dust jackets
Encyclopedia Sets
Out-of-date medical books
Old school and text books
Water/fluid damaged books
Books with loose/damaged pages or covers

ANY materials in poor condition!

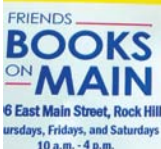


Friends celebrate Pride Day

Volunteer Monika Dost, right, and Friends' member DeeAnna Brooks hand out bracelets, bookmarks, candy and other promotional items in front of Friends Books on Main during the annual Rock Hill Pride Festival June 22. The Friends have participated in the festival since its inception. The store front window featured a display of books on diversity topics. Member volunteers Bobbie Otto and Larry Marraccini staffed the table during the afternoon.

FRIENDS BOOKS ON MAIN . . . used books for everyone!

206 East Main Street, Rock Hill
Open Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays
1:00 AM — 4:00 PM



YCL Branch Hours and Book Donation INFORMATION

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

YORK COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY

138 East Black Street, 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

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

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)
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.yclibraryfriends.org or call 803-272-8303.