

## Friends Founder Will Be Missed

by David Lyon

In the mid-1970's, I was the Director of the Cherokee County Public Library in Gaffney. We had a very active Friends group. They sponsored authors' visits and signings, published two books and led a tour group to London, among other activities.

One day I received a telephone call from Anne Harper, at that time the Acting Director of the York County Library. She invited me, on behalf of the York County Friends, to come to Rock Hill and talk with them about what the Friends were doing in Gaffney. They could provide no honorarium, but she offered to buy my dinner — an offer I couldn't refuse! It was at that meeting that I first met Joann McMaster, one of the founders of the York County Friends. What an incredible woman — boundless enthusiasm and energy!

It wasn't much longer before I became Director of the York County Library. Over the years, I became great friends with Joann. Because of her, we joined St. John's United Methodist Church, where she and her veterinarian husband, Rice, were members for many years. She encouraged me to join the Rock Hill Rotary Club.

If you ever wanted something done in Rock Hill, you only needed to call Joann. Besides the Friends of the Library, she was involved in founding the Rock Hill Arts Council and York County Hospice. She was a fundraiser for the Wayne Patrick Hospice House. And in recognition of her unceasing support of Winthrop University, she received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award for selfless contributions to her community.

At St. John's, she served on many committees, was secretary to the Administrative Board and a proud member of the Barber-Hardin Sunday School Class, whose members served as honorary pall bearers at her funeral,

In 2005 the Friends of the York County Library honored Joann by naming its Volunteer Service Award in her honor. She attended the award presentation, given at the Friends' Annual Meeting nearly every year so that she could personally congratulate and thank that recipient for service to the library.

Joann Woods McMaster was a truly wonderful lady who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

*David Lyon is a former Director of the York County Library*



**Joann McMaster — a truly wonderful lady who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.**

## Friends Revenue Rebounds In First Half of 2021

by Jim Beamguard, Treasurer, Friends YCL

Hard work by volunteers, generous donations of books, and a return to normal operations after the Covid slowdown have brightened the financial outlook for the Friends of the York County Library. At mid-year, our proceeds after expenses were 85% of the amount we expected for the entire year. The Friends had ample reserves to provide the promised \$27,000 for the library's Summer Reading Challenge, but now volunteers are hopeful they can do more.

The year started slowly with the pandemic-related closures of Friends Books on Main, but income from March through June exceeded expenses by an average of more than \$5,700 a month. Total expenses (*not considering the new awning for the store, which was paid for entirely by donations from several board members*) are slightly below budget.

On-line sales continue to be impressive. Amazon sales by volunteer Diane Ingersoll, at \$2,426, now surpass the budget estimate for the entire year. Through June, eBay sales by Jack Hutchins already were at 75% of his ambitious target of \$10,000.

If trends of the first half of 2021 hold steady, income after expenses could exceed our annual budget of \$34,750 by \$40,000.

A note of caution: A covid resurgence could affect sales. Members would be wise to shop enthusiastically now at the well-stocked Friends Books on Main and library lobbies. The prices are great, and remember, a good book has a very long shelf life.

A new outdoor patio/reading area recently was completed at the Lake Wylie branch library. The project was paid for by a trust fund established by the late Anne Carlton. Friends of YCL administered the bequest, which originally amounted to \$100,000. Other improvements paid out of the fund included a camcorder, projector, shelves and Carlton the Bear, the carved wooden sculpture that stands in front of the library.



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## Report to YCL Trustees

Each quarter, the president of the Friends of YCL issues a report to the York County Library Board of Trustees. The following covers highlights from Q1 and Q2 of 2021.

- Proceeds from book sales were depressed during the first quarter because of pandemic related closures of Friends Books on Main and lobby sales at all five YCL libraries. Although operations have resumed, various branches have been closed temporarily for renovations. Also, one of our best coffee shop locations was closed to table service for much of the year.
- After meeting online for months, in-person board meetings resumed in June.
- Orientation for new board members was held March 27 at the Main Library.
- In June, a new awning was installed for the front of Friends Books on Main, 206 East Main Street in Rock Hill. The cost was approximately \$2,000, which was covered by donations from several members of the Board.
- In June, the Friends contributed \$27,000 to YCL for the Summer Reading Challenge.
- Board member Glenn Ackerman announced his resignation in July because he and his wife were moving to Florida.
- Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Friends Newsletter was published on-line. A limited number of copies were printed and made available at Friends Books on Main, all YCL libraries and the Homebound program.
- Friends Books on Main held special sales of children's books and DVDs and CDs. Books on Main observed its fifth anniversary by offering a 15% discount to patrons.
- Books on Main participated in Rock Hill's Pride Week with flags and a display of relevant books. The YCL staff helped produce rainbow bookmarks, which proved so popular with patrons that we had to order a second printing.
- As of June 30, the Friends of York County had 223 members.

(Photo right) Adam Jenkins of City Awning installs a new awning for Friends Books on Main, 206 East Main Street in Rock Hill.

(Photo, below) The finished awning!

Contributions from several board members covered all expenses. The Board decided to buy a new awning because the old awning was stained and too faded to repair, according to Susan Lyle, Board Vice President.



**Friends Books on Main participated in Rock Hill's Pride Week June 24–27. In addition to books by select authors, we handed out these rainbow bookmarks, which proved so popular we had to order a second printing. Stop by and get a bookmark!**

**Friends Books on Main is a bookstore operated by the Friends of the York County Library. The store features thousands of donated books, DVDs, audiobooks, and CDs at great prices. All proceeds benefit York County Libraries.**

**Friends of the Library receive a 15% discount on purchases. Why not become a FRIEND at your next visit? The store has membership forms and credit card payment is available.**

**Friends Books on Main  
206 East Main Street  
Old Town Rock Hill  
Open Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays  
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

## Board Honors two Longtime Supporters

The Board of Directors of the Friends of YCL recently made memorial contributions to YCL on behalf of two long-time supporters.

A \$100 donation was made to the YCL *Bucks for Books* program in memory of John Curtis “Nik” Bramlett, 54, who died June 30. Nik was a longtime member of the York County Library Board of Trustees. He also was a member of the Friends.

In July, the board made a \$500 gift to *Bucks for Books* in memory of Joann Woods McMaster, 97, who died July 18. (See related article on Page 1) Joann was a founder of the Friends of YCL. The Friends annual Volunteer of the Year Award is named after her.

“Both Nik and Joann loved the York County Library and were enthusiastic supporters of the Friends, so it was only fitting they be remembered by contributions to *Bucks for Books*,” said Friends President Terry Plumb.

The YCL uses *Bucks for Books* donations to purchase books that would not otherwise be included through routine acquisition procedures.

## Books on Main Furnishes Books for Old Town Kitchen

When the owners of a new Rock Hill restaurant needed books to help create a library-like feeling, they turned to Friends Books on Main.

Debbie Turner, a Friends volunteer who was working at the store, said that Sean Potter, a partner in Old Town Kitchen and Cocktails, wanted to buy “vintage” books to fill book shelves at their new restaurant in the Lowenstein Building, adjacent to Rock Hill’s Sports and Events Center. Old Town Kitchen and Cocktails, which opened in July, is the second brick and mortar restaurant by the group that created The Goodyear House in the NoDa area of Charlotte.

Their Rock Hill eatery occupies space in the historic Lowenstein Building that previously was home to the White Horse Restaurant. The White Horse closed in October 2020 amid the pandemic after having been a Rock Hill staple for four decades.

Because of their restaurant’s close proximity to Winthrop University, owners of Old Town Kitchen hoped to create the historic feeling of a traditional library. Potter previously had purchased a few books on the Internet but found the price prohibitive, Debbie said. Books on Main had just what he needed: dozens of books that looked “vintage.”



Old Town Kitchen and Cocktails, a new restaurant in Rock Hill with their “vintage” books!

## Larry Marraccini Takes Over LW Sales

Larry Marraccini, an avid reader and patron of the Lake Wylie Library has agreed to maintain the Friends book sales at the Lake Wylie Branch. He inherited that job from Glenn Ackermann, a member of the Friends of YCL Board of Directors since 2019, who recently resigned because he and his wife moved to Florida.

“Glenn will be sorely missed,” said Terry Plumb, Friends President. His pet project was the Friends book sales shelves at Lake Wylie. Other than sales at the two largest branches, Rock Hill and Fort Mill, sales at the Lake Wylie branch are consistently the highest in the county, Terry said. “Glenn didn’t just fill the shelves randomly,” Terry said. “He knew what sort of books Lake Wylie patrons like, and he made sure they had plenty to choose from.”

Thanks to board member Diane Ingersoll, a capable replacement for Glenn has been found in Larry Marraccini. Larry, a retired high school band director, taught for 31 years, mostly in Woodstown, New Jersey. He is a classically trained musician (clarinet, oboe, voice) whose hobbies include reading, crossword puzzles, gardening and golf.

He earned his bachelor of science degree in music education from Indiana State Teachers College in Pennsylvania and holds master’s degrees in music education (Glassboro State College) and community counseling (Wilmington College).

Larry’s backup is his spouse, Bobbie Otto, a former music educator and arts administrator.

Larry and Bobbie retired to the Lake Wylie area in 2005. Both are active volunteers with the York County Democratic Party.



Larry Marraccini and his wife, Bobbie Otto, will keep the Lake Wylie Branch well supplied with books.

## Who is Your Favorite Fictional Librarian or Bibliophile?



We asked Friends members to tell us their favorite fictional librarian or bookstore character from a book, movie, play, etc. Here are their responses:

**Myrna Landers**, who runs the bookshop in Three Pines, the Canadian village in Louise Penny’s novels. Since the rather eccentric Ruth “borrows” books, Myrna qualifies as a librarian. *(Judy Gritzmacher)*

**Marian the Librarian** from *The Music Man*. She was the perfect person to change the traveling con man into a respectable guy. *(Ellie Ackerman)*

**Frank Doel** (Anthony Hopkins) in *84 Charing Cross Road*, my favorite movie about books and booksellers. It is based on a book by Helene Hanff, who is played in the movie by Ann Bancroft. *(Susan Powers)*

**Bunny Watson**, who was played by Katharine Hepburn in the film *Desk Set*. She was a very sensible and smart woman. *(Jim Beamguard)*

**Paris Minton**, narrator in several of the Walter Moseley novels. He runs a used book store, which never seems to have customers. No matter, Moseley is a joy to read. *(Terry Plumb)*

**Marion the Librarian**. I was a young clerk in my local library when *The Music Man* came out in 1962. I loved the song and dance in the library. *(Diane Ingersoll)*

Everybody needs a

FRIEND!

See how YOU can be a  
FRIEND on page 4!

(Hint . . . look for the HEARTS!)

**YCL Branch Hours, Addresses and Book Donation Locations**

All Branches are closed on Sunday

**YORK COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY**

138 East Black Street, Rock Hill  
803-981-5858

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Friday–Saturday: 9:00 AM–6:00 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: 9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM–6:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk

**FORT MILL PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1818 Second Baxter Crossing  
803-547-4114

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Friday–Saturday: 9:00 AM–6:00 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk

**LAKE WYLIE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

185 Blucher Circle  
803-831-7774

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Friday–Saturday: 9:00 AM–6:00 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk

**YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

21 East Liberty Street  
(803) 684-3751

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM–6:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Drop donated books at Circulation Desk

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



Monday – Friday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**News From the Friends  
Fall 2021**

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**FRIENDS 2021 BOARD  
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**www.yclibrary.org**

There is a wealth of information on the YCL website. Get a library card or get your current one renewed. Find research tools and get help using them. Entertain your child with Dial-A-Story. Watch programs from the YouTube channel. Get audio books, music, videos, eBooks and so much MORE! Check us out. **Check us out at www.yclibrary.org.**



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. For every purchase you make on Amazon, half a percent will come to your library! It won't cost you a cent and your library will benefit!

**BECOME A FRIEND TODAY!**

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

**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 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** or call 803-272-8303.