

Pandemic Inspires Library Innovations

by Jason Hyatt, YCL Director

Among other challenges, the 2020 pandemic caused York County Library (YCL) to find new ways to serve patrons, and some innovations will outlast the health crisis, according to the YCL executive director Jason Hyatt.

Speaking to the Friends Annual Meeting on January 24, Hyatt said that the library was on track for record usage prior to the pandemic lockdown. Since then, “as numbers dropped off, we have had to look for new ways to tell stories of library successes,” he said.

All branches closed in March and reopened in October, with limited hours and following social distancing and other pandemic protocols.

Even before the libraries were reopened, however, the YCL staff began developing new ways to interact with patrons. E-cards were introduced that allow access to the library’s virtual library and other online resources. “We made a big push to expand our virtual library,” Hyatt said. New or expanded offerings include hoopla, Freegal Music and Flipster, among others. He estimated that the YCL virtual library has access to more than 1 million items. In addition, curbside pickup was introduced so that patrons could still borrow books and other materials without entering the library.

Last year electronic/downloadable circulation totaled 82,808. During the current survey year, that number hit 164,943.

Because YCL still is unable to offer in-house programs, such as children’s story time, the staff had to develop new methods to interact with the public. YCL already had its own YouTube channel, and staffers now use smartphone technology to create original programs.

Last year the staff produced 56 hours of programming, including such features as Virtual Story Time, Dial-A-Story and Your Next Read. That represents an increase of 300% from 2019, Hyatt said. “We gained 322 subscribers and 23,829 new views, and viewers spent 59,923 minutes watching our videos.”

The annual Summer Reading Program looked different from past years, but thanks to financial support from the Friends, the program registered more than 5,200 readers, who logged 3,663,331 reading minutes.

“Both of these figures are down about 50 percent from 2019, but considering that the whole Summer Reading Program moved entirely online with relatively little notice, we are very pleased with the outcome,” Hyatt said.”

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Summer Reading Program and Patchwork Tales, which will observe its 20th anniversary in March, will be virtual.

While personal interaction with actors and musicians will be missed, the new way of doing things has advantages, Hyatt

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Jason Hyatt

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Past Winners of the McMaster Volunteer of the Year Award

- 2019 Deborah and Jack Hutchins
- 2018 DeeAnna Brooks
- 2017 Mac Lyle (posthumous)
- 2016 David Needham
- 2015 Faye Wyatt
- 2014 Martha Ferguson
- 2013 Nancy Coleman
- 2012 Connie Newland
- 2011 Janie Matson
- 2010 Jane Kasemersky
- 2009 Deborah Wiegand
- 2008 Joan King
- 2007 Michael Simmons
- 2006 Marianne O’Neill
- 2005 Jinny & Jinilyn Anderson

Lois Stimax 2020 Volunteer of Year

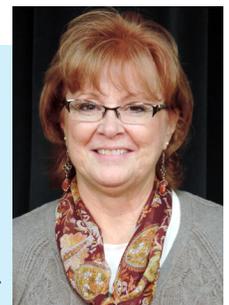
Lois Stimax, outgoing member of the Friends of York County Board of Directors, is the 2020 Joanne McMaster Volunteer of the Year. The award, named for our founding president, was announced at the conclusion of the Friends Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24.

The award honors individuals who have contributed to the Friends and/or the York County Library at an extraordinary level of dedication.

Stimax, who recently moved with her family to Florida, is a longtime volunteer. She served two three-year terms on the Friends Board of Directors and for the past nine years worked in the Sorting Room at the main library, selecting paperbacks for the library. She also served on the Publicity Committee.

A talented seamstress, Lois taught a sewing class for teens and participated in many craft classes offered by YCL. Always generous with her talents, Lois has been an enthusiastic supporter of both YCL and the Friends.

Lois’ name has been engraved on a plaque honoring past winners of the Joanne McMaster Volunteer of the Year Award, which hangs in the lobby of the main library. She also was given a \$50 gift certificate in gratitude for her service.



Lois Stimax

Everybody Needs a Friend!

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



Friends Hold Annual Meeting via Zoom

The Friends Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition was held via Zoom on Sunday, January 24. President Terry Plumb welcomed attendees and introduced the keynote speaker, Judy Goldman. (See related article on page 3).

Vice President Susan Lyle announced the 2021 Executive Committee and presented the Nominating Committee's slate for the 2021–2023 Board of Directors. Board terms are for three years, and members may serve two consecutive terms, if re-elected. According to our bylaws, the Executive Committee is appointed by the previous year's Board of Directors, while board members are elected by the membership during the Annual Meeting.

Returning to the Executive Committee are: Terry Plumb, president; Susan Lyle, vice president/president elect; and Jim Beamguard, formerly secretary, now treasurer. He replaces outgoing treasurer Cindy Marcelais, who decided not to accept another term because of other commitments. Board member Judy Gritzmacher is the new secretary.

By voice vote, the following members were unanimously elected to the board: DeeAnna Brooks, Diane Ingersoll and Debbie Turner.

All three bring previous service with the Friends. Brooks, former president (2017–2019), served as an ex-officio board member last year. Ingersoll last year assumed responsibility for Amazon book sales. Turner, former marketing director of YCL, is a longtime volunteer at Friends Books on Main.

In addition to Marcelais, members rotating off the board are: Martha Ferguson and Lois Stimax. Lois has moved to Florida, but Martha will continue to serve as a lead at Friends Books on Main, shift scheduler and membership coordinator. The president thanked the outgoing board members for their service.

Treasurer Marcelais gave a brief financial report, noting that because of the pandemic 2020 income was down from 2019, without a corresponding reduction in expenses. Nevertheless, the Friends are in sound financial shape and should be able to weather the pandemic.

Among major contributions in 2020 were a \$50,000 donation to YCL to buy a new van to serve senior citizens and final disposition of a bequest for the Lake Wylie branch.

In reporting 2020 Milestones, Plumb noted that although temporary closures of both Friends Books on Main and all YCL branches depressed revenue in 2020, sales have been robust whenever public access was restored.

Forty-eight volunteers provided 3,312 hours of service in 2020. The Friends contributed \$208,818.56 to YCL. Our contributions paid for programming and special projects, including the Summer Learning Program, the Winter Reading Challenge and Patchwork Tales.

Under the editorship of Cindy Schafer, the Friends launched an online quarterly newsletter in 2020. A limited number of print copies were made available at YCL branches or distributed via the Bookmobile or the YCL's Homebound program.

Plumb reported that a \$100 gift was made to the York County Library in memory of Ann Casada, past President of the Friends and chair of the YCL Board of Trustees, who died in 2020.

The Library Annual Report was given by Jason Hyatt, YCL executive director. (See related article on page 1).

During the Volunteer Recognition portion of the meeting, supervisors thanked volunteers and briefly described what they do, including:

- Sorting, cleaning and pricing donated books.
- Stocking our shelves at Amelie's in Rock Hill, Virgin Bean in Clover and the Roastery in York.
- Volunteering at Friends Books on Main, 206 East Main Street, Rock Hill.
- Maintaining sales shelves at YCL branches.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of the Joann McMaster Volunteer of the Year. (See related article on page 1)

Report to YCL Trustees

Each quarter, the president of the Friends of the York County Library issues a report to the York County Library Board of Trustees. The following article covers highlights from the fourth quarter of 2020.

◆ The Friends donated \$208,817 to YCL during 2020, including \$89,089 for improvements to Lake Wylie Branch (this represents the close-out of a bequest from estate of Anne Carlton) and \$50,000 toward a new Sprinter van.

◆ Because of pandemic-related temporary closures of most of our retail outlets (Friends Books on Main, library lobby sales and coffee shops), revenue for the year was 57% of budget. For 2021, we have approved YCL requests for \$27,000 for programming and materials.

◆ We launched a Quarterly newsletter but published only three issues because of the pandemic. The newsletter is distributed online to members; a limited number of print copies are distributed to YCL branches and the Homebound program.

◆ Board members surprised T Cobb on her last day at work as Clover Branch manager.

◆ The Friends made a memorial contribution to YCL's Bucks for Books program in memory of Ann Casada, former chairman of the YCL Board of Trustees and former president of the Friends.

◆ The Friends Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 2:00 PM, via Zoom. Charlotte author Judy Goldman will be keynote speaker. Highlights: Election of 2021 officers, announcement of the Executive Committee appointments and of the 2020 Joann McMaster Volunteer of the Year Award.

◆ As of December 31, 2020, our membership stood at 220.

We're BACK!

Friends Books on Main will reopen Thursday, March 4, at 10 AM. Fill a bag, supplied by the Friends, with all the paperbacks you can for just \$10! Bags generally hold 35–40 books. This sale is for adult, fiction and non-fiction, mass-market paperbacks. The sale runs March 4–6 from 10 AM–4PM.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our customers (don't forget your mask!). Stay healthy and thanks for your continued support of the Friends of the YCL!



Author Describes Hometown Library's Influence by Judy Gritzmacher

Author Judy Goldman says she loved the old Rock Hill Library on Oakland Avenue. When she walked up the steps and through the front door, her first thought was “How many books can I check out?”

A Rock Hill native and longtime resident of Charlotte, Goldman was keynote speaker for the Friends of York County Library Annual Meeting on January 24. This year the meeting was virtual because of the ongoing pandemic crisis. In her talk, Goldman spoke of experiences and relationships that nurtured her imagination and influenced her career path. The library's old-fashioned card catalogue “held the mysteries of the universe.” Writing was encouraged by her teachers in school and by her parents, both good letter writers, Goldman said.

(The library building still stands on Oakland Avenue next to St. John's United Methodist Church. The structure, which originally housed the U.S. Post Office, was moved from the corner of Main and Caldwell Streets in 1930. The York County Library system was established in 1966, and the current main branch on Black Street was dedicated in 1968.)

From these early relationships, she learned how important it is to write things down as well as that creativity matters. Along with her older sister, Goldman produced a neighborhood “newspaper,” which they circulated to neighbors along Eden Terrace and nearby streets. She also staged plays in a converted chicken coop in a next-door neighbor's backyard.

She spoke about her recent book, *Together: A Memoir of a Marriage and a Medical Mishap*, about facing the challenges brought on by a medical procedure gone wrong that temporarily paralyzed her husband from the waist down.

One person described the book as a “meditation on what happens to love over time and all at once.” For the author, among key lessons from her experience were: “How do we adjust? How do we forgive?”

Through her talk, Judy Goldman's love for and appreciation of Rock Hill was evident. She cherishes having grown up in Rock Hill, she said, and has never written a book that doesn't include her hometown — and never will.



Judy Goldman

Pandemic Inspires Library Innovations . . . (continued from page 1)

said. In addition to not having to pay for presenters' travel, YCL can expand its talent search. This year, for example, Patchwork Tales will feature presenters from other countries, including one from India.

Hyatt said that in addition to expanding its virtual collections, YCL will continue to expand its collection of “real books” in the new year.

Popular innovations, such as curbside pickup, will continue even after the pandemic has subsided, Hyatt predicted. One thing is certain, he said: “We will continue to look for new and interesting ways to engage with the public.”

Donated Books Reveal the Darnedest Things . . . by Julie Beamguard

Readers expect to find many things in books — ideas, inspiration or just distraction from real life -- but often something tangible falls right out.

Anyone who has borrowed a book from the library or bought a book from a used bookstore probably has discovered a makeshift bookmark left by an earlier reader. Some items may have been tucked away in pages for decades and came to light only when the reader's personal library was packed up for the last time.

Friends volunteers who sort donated books or work at Friends Books on Main routinely find such mementos. DeeAnna Brooks, one of the store leads, or managers, began collecting some of the more interesting items and pinning them to a *Found in Books* bulletin board she created and keeps in the office of Friends Books On Main.

Among these relics are a yellowed newspaper clipping about Prince Charles's polo injury and a list of preferred colleges, with the top choice misspelled!

There's a holiday punch recipe that looks pretty tasty. The extensive list of “Things to Do in Paris” might have renewed happy travel memories for the next reader or possibly made them wonder whether taking in all those sights would be exhausting.

Then there are things unsuited for use as bookmarks and perhaps unsuitable for display. Thick strands of hair fall into that category. (A librarian told us of once finding a slice of bacon in a book. We hope it was cooked.)

The occasional dollar bill shows up as a bookmark, but it took a fake \$100,000 bill to merit a place of honor on the *Found in Books* board. On one occasion a few crisp and very real bills were discovered in a children's book. Perhaps the intended recipient never read the book, and a disappointed grandma wondered why she never got a thank you.

While many forgettable things show up in used books, including pressed flowers and business cards, every now and then, one will give the finder pause. That list of Christmas gifts might include some good ideas. A grocery list could provide inspiration for a delicious supper. Certainly, the faded family photo from the 1950s could invoke personal memories from the finder's own childhood.

And it's too sad that a cute mermaid drawing hanging on the *Found in Books* bulletin board isn't gracing the refrigerator in an unknown family's kitchen. (Volunteer Julie Beamguard serves as a lead at Friends Books on Main.)



The Friends 'Found In Books' Bulletin Board

News From the Friends Winter 2021

News From the Friends is a publication of the
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Editor and Designer: Cindy Schafer

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FRIENDS 2021 BOARD OFFICERS

President: Terry Plumb

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Treasurer: Jim Beamguard

Secretary: Judy Gritzmacher

Glenn Ackerman Connie Newland

DeeAnna Brooks Cindy Schafer

Diane Ingersoll Debbie Turner

Deborah Hutchins Deborah Wiegand

Getting "Right Book" Motivates New Clover Head Librarian

by Diane Ingersoll

Amanda Antonacci, new head librarian and branch manager for the Clover Public Library, and her husband, Tyler, moved to Rock Hill in 2017 from northeast Tennessee, where she grew up. Amanda was a school librarian in Lancaster before joining the Lancaster County Library as youth services librarian, where she was the programmer for two of the system's three branches. She was hired for her current job in November, replacing longtime head librarian Terry Cobb.

As a school librarian, she found satisfaction in getting "the right book into the right kid's hands." Teaching school translates well into being a public librarian, she says. Indeed, public librarians have more freedom to work with children because they are not restricted by curriculum or protocols.

Amanda is passionate about customer service and is looking forward to more hands-on work with the collection and displays. Part of the appeal in her new job is the management experience she is gaining as head librarian.

For fun Amanda and Tyler like to try new places to eat and book stores to explore. While the pandemic has cut into their pastimes, the self-described "home-body" has coped with the isolation better than most, she thinks. She and Tyler own a 70-pound dog, Copper, who thinks he weighs 15 pounds! They are hoping to adopt a child.

Amanda describes her first months as head librarian as "action packed." Since she came onboard, the Clover branch has experienced flooding, two covid-related shutdowns and HVAC problems. Her first major challenge was to hire a new branch assistant. On the brighter side, the branch was recently blessed with a makeover, including new furniture and carpeting.

Amanda says she and the Clover staff look forward to when — post-covid — they can resume programming and patrons once again will be able to "sit and stay awhile." Although the pandemic has been challenging, she says, her staff has learned how much can be accomplished remotely. In the end, the Clover branch library will be the better for the experience, she says.

(Editor's note: the author recently was elected to the Board of the Friends of York County Library.)



Amanda Antonacci

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 go to the York County Library!

♥ 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.)

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 _____ 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: _____

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
(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.

York County Libraries In-Person, Curbside Pick-Up and Phone Service Hours

CLOVER, LAKE WYLIE & YORK LIBRARIES
Monday – Friday: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

FORT MILL & ROCK HILL LIBRARIES
Monday – Friday: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM