



MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

Thank You Friends!

We enjoyed having so many Friends members visit us on the Library plaza in February. All members were invited to browse and select a free store-quality book from our inventory as our way of saying thank you for your annual [membership](#) support.

During the month of February, we welcomed 67 new members to the Friends. Each week in February, all new and renewing members were entered into a raffle for a \$20 gift card to the [Friends Online Book Store](#). Congratulations to raffle winners Amy Ware, Susan Gall, Amelie Coelho and Julie Ricker!

Supporting the Friends is supporting the Library and all of its wonderful books and other resources available to everyone in our community. If you are not already a Friends member, please [join us](#) today.

Stay tuned for more fun in April when we are bringing back our fabulous Friends raffle baskets. You will be able to view the baskets and buy tickets at our [online store](#). See the article later in this newsletter for more details!



With thanks,

Karen Curtin

President

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Library



Be A Friend

Membership in the Friends of Chapel Hill Public Library is a low-cost/high-impact way to support one of our community's treasures. An all-volunteer organization, the Friends uses all of the money we raise to support the library's programs, services, and collections.

Membership starts at just \$25/year (\$10 for students). While we can't hold in-person events and offer members benefits related to our Big Book Sales during the pandemic, we are pleased to offer members a monthly discount at our Online Book Store. Best of all, your membership gives you the benefit of knowing that you are supporting your community through the library. Please join or renew today!

Friends Funds at Work

The Library got some big news this month! We have been named a finalist for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Medal, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries.



We're one of 15 museums and 15 libraries named as finalists, with six medals to be awarded in May (three for museums, three for libraries). This is an incredible honor and a real testament to our staff, our community, and our Friends!

What do the Friends have to do with this honor? Friends funds are at work in almost all of the projects and programs we highlighted in our submission:

- Creating "A Place for Everyone," both in how we welcome people into our building and how we go out into the community, working on both fronts to identify and remove barriers to access. From our Lobby renovation to supporting The Circulator to expanding our parking capacity, Friends funds have played a huge role.
- Responding to Town Council interests and community goals, especially in the areas of local civil rights history and environmental stewardship. The Friends have helped us in these areas, providing funding for our community history website and for a variety of Explore More programs and projects.
- Pivoting our services and operations during COVID, being responsive, nimble and flexible to meet the needs of our community. The Friends have been with us, being just as responsive, nimble, and flexible in continuing to raise funds to support all programs and services outlined in our submission.

The IMLS medal celebrates the excellence of two vital and important American institutions, libraries and museums. In turn, my staff and I celebrate The Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library, a vital and important local institution. Thank you for all you do to support us and our community.



With gratitude,

Susan Brown

Library Director

Follow us on Facebook. And now you can follow us on Instagram!

Want to keep up with the latest Friends events? Need to know the newest items in the Friends Online Book Store? Follow us on [Facebook](#) and on our new [Instagram](#) account!

Events

GET READY FOR THE FRIENDS SPRINGTIME ONLINE RAFFLE!

It's a winning combination: buy raffle tickets for the opportunity to win a fabulous prize while supporting the Friends!

The springtime raffle offers something for a wide range of interests: wonderful crafting supplies for adults and children; a cart packed with games and puzzles; everything you need to make your own sushi; a gardener's canvas tote filled with treasures; and everything you need to make Mother's Day special, including breakfast in bed.

You can purchase raffle tickets (one for \$5, three for \$10) from April 9 through April 30 in the [Friends Online Book Store](#). Mark your calendar for April 9 so you can be among the first to buy tickets! Volunteers will also sell tickets on the Library plaza on Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (weather permitting). As a special bonus, everyone who purchases a ticket on the plaza may select a free book from our collection of store-quality fiction, non-fiction and children's books!

From April 9 through April 30, the raffle items will be displayed in one of the large windows on the left side of the Library plaza. You can't miss it on your way to Park and Pickup. We will announce the raffle winners during the first week of May and make arrangements for contactless pickup at the Library.



A Great Place to Shop!

Do you miss being able to browse the shelves of the Friends Book Store? Now you can shop 24/7 at the [Friends Online Book Store](http://www.friendschpl.org).



YOU CAN EXPLORE MORE IN OUR ONLINE BOOK STORE INCLUDES CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND GRAB BAGS WITH VERY AFFORDABLE PRICE TAGS

Apologies to Amanda Gorman—the most recent (and youngest!) inaugural poet laureate—for that headline attempt! We just want to remind you that April is Poetry Month. If you'd like to read some poetry, look in the Friends Online Book Store by clicking on the poetry category under fiction or entering your favorite poet or poem in the search box. And if poetry isn't your cup of tea, it's no April Fools' Day joke that April 2 is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day and April 3 is Chocolate Mousse Day. Enter "chocolate mousse" in the search box and you'll find *Chocolate, the Cook's Encyclopedia* and *Chocolate Desserts Look & Cook*. Or click on "food and cooking" under "activities" on the drop down menu and an amazing collection of cookbooks will pop up to tempt you.

These are just a few of the 3,000 books available at any given time in our Online Book Store. And there are another 3,000 books in inventory just waiting for "shelf space." The selection changes daily so check back often!

If you're unsuccessful in finding a specific book or author, the same search box service available in the original Friends Book Store is now available online. Just send an email to nammarell@friendschpl.org with the subject "search box." Natalie will check all inventory and watch for what you are looking for as new books arrive. When your desired title shows up, you'll get an email from Natalie asking if you still want it and letting you know the price. We'll then arrange for contactless pickup.

The hardworking dedicated online staff—led by Friends volunteers Natalie Ammarell, Marj Moe, Erin Handley and Pat Langelier—want your feedback about their efforts. Please send your comments to

info@friendschpl.org and tell us how the Online Book Store could serve you better. Our volunteers would also love to hear about any unexpected treasures you find in our store.

Great book shopping at unbelievable prices is at your fingertips. Just enter friendschpl.org in your browser, browse and buy knowing your purchases will be ready for easy pickup in two or three days. Best of all, all proceeds benefit the Chapel Hill Public Library's collection, programs and outreach.

By Martha Brunstein

SHOP NOW

Reader Recommendations

*In each issue of this newsletter, we feature the reading recommendations of a Friends member. We would love to include you! **Email us** if you'd like to be featured.*



Jennifer Stanley

Former Friends board member who continues to serve as Co-Chair of our Events Committee.

Jennifer is the writer behind Ellery Adams, the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of over 30 mysteries. Her current series are The Book Retreat Mysteries and The Secret, Book & Scone Society. When not working on her next novel, she reads, bakes, gardens, spoils her three cats, and rearranges her bookshelves. She lives with her husband and two teenagers known as "the trolls" in Chapel Hill. For more information on her books, visit ElleryAdamsMysteries.com.

Ellery's latest release is **Ink and Shadows**, the 4th installment in The Secret, Book & Scone Society series. Set in a fictional town near Asheville, the series features a bookstore owner with the ability to help people by recommending the perfect book.

"Lovers of reading and strong women will be impressed by this entertaining cozy packed with mystery, romance, and sisterhood."—**Kirkus Reviews**

Favorite Genre(s): Historical Fiction, Women's Fiction, Literary Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, and Horror.

Favorite Authors/Books: *Jane Eyre*, *The Hobbit*, *The Woman in White*, *The Color Purple*, *The Crystal Cave*, *The Secret Garden*, *Death on the Nile*, *Persuasion*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Betty*.

Currently Reading: *The Bad Muslim Discount* by Syed M. Masood and Kristin Hannah's *The Four Winds*

Want to Read: Ha! That's a very long list! But my immediate TBR pile includes a reread of Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams, and *The Wolf Den* by Elodie Harper.

Book I'd Want on a Desert Island: *The Hobbit*. No matter how many times I read it, I'm still moved and delighted by the story, characters, and message.

Book Recommendation Resource: I am constantly adding to my TBR pile thanks to all the beautifully bookish posts on Instagram. The Bookstagram community is extremely friendly and a wonderful place to discover new authors and book friends.

Intrigued by these books? Search for these titles or similar ones at the [Friends Online Book Store!](#)



Best of the Triangle

Help us help more people learn about the Friends Online Book Store by nominating it as “best bookstore” in this year’s [Best of the Triangle](#). There are lots of categories in this annual event sponsored by IndyWeek. The top four bookstores—nominated between Friday, March 26 and Sunday, April 25—will advance to the final voting. (If we make it, we’ll let you know in the next newsletter so you can vote for us during the finals, May 17 through June 13.)

The 2021 winners will be announced in the July 14 issue of the INDY. Thanks to Friends member and volunteer Debbie Suchoff for suggesting this!

This newsletter was sent to you by the Friends of Chapel Hill Public Library.
If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Library
100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 USA