



JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

Exciting Announcement: Diverse Books for a Diverse Community

A big thanks to our amazing Library staff members who have done yeoman's work during the pandemic. In addition to providing excellent service to our community through Park and Pickup and outreach efforts, staff undertook the critical task of auditing the Library's collections to determine if the books on the shelves represent the diversity of our community. Like most libraries that have begun this work, our library found that our collections are not as representative and diverse as they should be.

To address this need, the Friends are pleased to launch our "[Diverse Books for a Diverse Community](#)" campaign. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 before the campaign ends on Labor Day, for the sole purpose of purchasing diverse books and materials for everyone, especially children. You can [donate online now](#) to the campaign with the designation "Diverse Books." We will be tracking campaign progress with a thermometer on the home page of our [website](#).

While the Library can address some of its need for more diverse books through the Town's annual budget process, the need is great and the cause is greater. **Readers of all ages - especially children - deserve to have books on the shelves that reflect their lived experiences. And readers of all ages - especially children - need to have books on the shelves that allow them to understand the lived experiences of others.**

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the Friends' efforts to raise money for the Library during this challenging period through your [membership](#), [donations](#), patronage of our [online store](#), and participation in our online auction and raffle. And thank you in advance for your support of this important campaign to ensure more diversity in the Library's collections!



With appreciation,

Karen Curtin

President

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Library

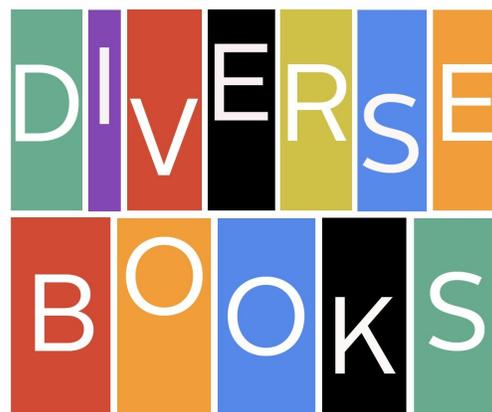


Be A Friend

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 - Letter from
the Library Director**



For A Diverse Community

Since the library re-opened in 2013, we've had a strategic goal of becoming "A Place for Everyone." This is a big, broad goal that's led to many initiatives – from removing overdue fines to adding parking to taking The Circulator out into the community.

Last year, we started another initiative to move towards being more inclusive, welcoming, and truly becoming that place for everyone. We began a diversity audit of our collections, examining what we are buying and what voices and experiences are represented in those purchases. We found, like many other libraries that have done this work, that our collections are not reflective of the diversity within our community or our world.

Why does this matter? Quite simply, books have power. Books have the power to affirm and uplift the reader's lived experience. Books have the power to make us more understanding and empathetic for people whose lived experience is different from the reader's. Books are mirrors, books are windows, books are powerful.

I am so pleased that the Friends have created the "[Diverse Books for a Diverse Community](#)" campaign. Our annual budget allows us to take some small steps in this area, and the money raised during this campaign will allow us to take a leap. With these funds, we'll purchase picture books that feature differently-abled kids. We'll purchase books in languages other than English. We'll purchase YA books about Black teens, written by Black authors. We'll purchase diverse books for our diverse community.

There's a national movement called [We Need Diverse Books](#) that asks us to "Imagine a world in which all children can see themselves in the pages of a book." With this campaign, the Friends of the Library will help create that world right here in Chapel Hill and help the library continue on our journey to be "A Place for Everyone."



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!

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](#).



The Friends Book Store pick up location and days have changed! You now pick up your purchases in the Library's lobby, inside the main entrance of the Library, on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

Summer Beach Reads and More -- [All at the Friends Online Book Store!](#)

With Memorial Day behind us and Flag Day and the Fourth of July on their way, there is no doubt that summer is just around the corner! Summertime for you may mean the feel of sand between your toes or cleaning the outdoor furniture or hitting the road. Or, as Mason Cooley says, "Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are."

Whichever describes your summer plans, you'll want to stock up on "beach reads" – those books that are easy to read and hard to put down. The [online book store](#) is featuring your favorite authors and maybe some new ones. Best of all – you can browse and buy 24/7 and pick up is quick and convenient. Prices are so low that neither sand nor BBQ sauce becomes a financial disaster...maybe another reason current research shows that print books are still outselling electronic devices.

If the holidays inspire you to patriotism without politics, there will be a featured selection of Americana about this amazing country we call home.

The bookstore is also a great place to find a Father's Day gift he's sure to enjoy. If you're looking for a special author or book, try the search box to help you. Or if you have the time, feast your eyes on the over [3,000 books in stock](#). Don't forget - inventory changes almost daily.

And best of all, the online book store is an all-volunteer effort so all proceeds go to support the collections, programs and outreach of Chapel Hill Public Library.

Thanks to everyone who has discovered and shopped the [Friends online book store](#). We hope you'll visit us again soon. Oh, and if you've wondered why your credit card bill identifies your purchase as a PayPal charge, it's because PayPal is the company that processes our online store credit card purchases. You haven't inadvertently opened a PayPal account or taken money out of one you may have; the charge goes to the credit card of your choice.

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.



Valeria Martinez

Our thanks to Valeria, who just finished her junior year at UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, for serving as the communications intern with the Friends for the spring 2021 semester. We are grateful for her innovative thinking, hard work, and commitment to the Friends. We thank Valeria for the Friends' new Instagram page and creative new partnerships!

Favorite Genre: Fiction

Favorite Authors/Books: Anything by Jane Austen. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

Currently Reading: *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

Want to Read: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë.

Book I'd Want on a Desert Island: *Pride and Prejudice* or *Emma* by Jane Austen.

Book Recommendation Resource: Goodreads and my friends.

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

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