



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

I know we're all looking forward to putting the worst of the pandemic behind us as vaccinations roll out this year. While it will still be some time before we're able to safely resume our in-person book sales and related events, we will continue to find ways to share our books and love of reading with you!

Volunteers have been busy adding lots of great new books to the [Friends Online Book Store](#). If you haven't looked lately, now is a good time to check out our inventory and find some bargain reading material for online purchase and contact-free pickup.

In February, you will see Friends volunteers on the Library plaza every Saturday, weather permitting, with a selection of store-quality books. Friends members who stop by—including members who join that day—will be able to choose a book to take home and keep. It's our way to say thank you for your membership.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our efforts through book donations, volunteer activities, online store purchases, memberships and donations. You are each helping us make a difference for the library we all love.



Thank you,

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

If you've used the Library's Park & Pick Up Service, then you know that there are some new parking spaces in the upper parking lot. You may not know how they came to be...



Friends funds! Those additional parking spaces were made possible by a generous gift of \$185,000 from the Friends of the Library. The gift was given pre-COVID, when we received daily complaints about the lack of parking and how it created a barrier to access for so many users. With this gift, the Friends were able to help remove this barrier and make the library more accessible to more of our community.

While those spaces stand empty now, we know that once move past COVID, our community will need us more than ever. I like to imagine the day when we return to normal operations, with smiling faces streaming through our doors. I think they'll be smiling because their beloved library is open again – and because it was so easy to find a parking space!



With gratitude,

Susan Brown
Library Director

Follow us on Facebook!

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!](#)

Events

Love Your Library. Join the Friends!

We are celebrating love throughout February! From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday in February (weather permitting), Friends volunteers will be stationed at a table near the Library's Park and Pickup door. Friends members are invited to stop by and choose a free book from the selection we'll have on offer.

February is also a great time for you to show your love of the Library by becoming a Friend! [Join online](#) or at the table where you can choose a book as a thanks for becoming a member.

Each week, we'll do a random drawing among all new and renewed members for a \$20 gift certificate to the Friends Online Book Store. Just another way that we show our love for our members who help us help the Library!

We'll post on our [Facebook](#) page if inclement weather prevents us from being at Park and Pickup.



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 Online Book Store is today's way to browse and buy great books at the best prices and it's as easy as a few clicks on your keyboard or phone. In addition to the safety and convenience of online shopping, you'll enjoy safe and quick socially distanced pick up that includes designated easy access parking places.

In the coming weeks, you will find a selection of timely features starting with some romance for Valentine's Day. There will also be special selections for upcoming celebrations like Presidents' Day, Black History Month, Women's History Month and Poetry Month as well as spring holidays. These stay-at-home winter days are the perfect time to start looking for special gifts for moms, dads and grads. Not sure what they'd like to read? Gift certificates, which are also available, are the perfect gift that keeps on giving.

If your children's year-end holiday gifts are starting to lose their luster, it's a perfect time to start or refresh their reading habit. In addition to perusing favorite individual titles, be sure to look at the online store's "bundles" which are carefully curated collections selected by Marj Moe, a retired children's librarian who manages children's inventory.

For a break from reading - if ever you need one - we also have jigsaw puzzles and games to keep your mind and hands busy!

As an added bonus, Friends members receive a monthly discount that makes the great prices even better. Plan to visit often - and keep checking back if you're looking for a special book. Because remember, if you haven't visited the Friends Online Book Store *today* - you haven't visited the [Friends Online Book Store](#) - inventory changes daily!

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.



Neena Sodhi

Friends Volunteer

Favorite Genre(s): [Fiction](#) - all genres!

Favorite Authors/Books: *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver, *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Siddhartha Mukherjee

Currently Reading: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama and *The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China* by Jonathan Kaufman

Want to Read: I keep trying to read *Moby Dick* but cannot make it past the first few pages!

Book I'd Want on a Desert Island: *The Lord of the Rings* - I would finally have time!

Book Recommendation Resource: Friends and *The Wall Street Journal* book review section.

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

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Friends of Chapel Hill Public Library
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