

FOCUS

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER



2024 Friends Book Sale Dates Released

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The 2024 Book Sale will be held from April 1st through April 6th (see full schedule below). Last year, the Friends added several new categories: travel, poetry, health and fitness, business and finance, and crafts. This year, we have a very nice collection of African American history, stories, and biographies. In addition to the wide selection of books, we have a beautiful collection of coffee table books at reasonable prices. We will also continue to accept high quality donations leading up to the sale.

Included in this newsletter is a coupon for \$5.00 off on a purchase. We will also continue our new tradition of having coupons available for a free book for children 10 years and under.

Soon, you will receive an email with a link for volunteer sign ups. This will allow you to select the days, times, and position(s) of your choice. It will also give you a brief description of each position.

As always, thanks for your help and interest. Our success is because of you!

2024 Book Sale Schedule

Monday, April 1 – 10AM to 8PM
Tuesday, April 2 – 10AM to 8PM
Wednesday, April 3 – 10AM to 6PM
Thursday, April 4 – 10AM to 8PM
Friday, April 5 – 10AM to 5PM
Saturday, April 6 – 10AM to 5PM

Thoughts from Your President

Greetings and Happy New Year,

What a year it has been! As we continue to celebrate our 40th Anniversary, you have exceeded all previous expectations in fundraising, in community outreach, and in growth of membership. Bravo! As we move forward into this new year, let us continue this extraordinary momentum and challenge ourselves to achieve even greater success.

To that end, our Annual Book Sale will take place Monday, April 1- Saturday, April 6, 2024. You will hear from us very soon asking you to volunteer. We cannot do this without you! Last year we raised an unprecedented \$35,000. If we work together, I am sure we can match or surpass that amount this year!

The following weekend, the Community Foundation Run will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at CaroMont Health Park at 9:00 am. The Foundation will begin accepting donations Thursday, February 1 through Monday, April 22, 2024. With the generosity of the Ralph S. Robinson Family Foundation and so many of you, we raised nearly \$18,000 last year. Let's set our sights on exceeding that amount this year. You can donate at the Community Foundation website, <https://cfgaston.org>.

I also want to take a moment to reiterate the 40th Anniversary Challenge. Please help us continue to grow our membership by inviting at least 4 friends, neighbors, etc. to join us. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Finally, I invite you to donate to our ongoing fundraiser to put a new digital sign at the Main Library in Gastonia. To donate visit our website, www.friendsofgcpl.org. See you soon!

~Melinda Pierce, President

SAVE THE DATE!

*GCPL Comic-Con
returns*

Saturday, June 1, 2024



Seed Banks to Reopen at Library Locations



The Gaston County Library Seed Banks will reopen early February. Seed Banks are available at all 10 branches of GCPL as well as at the Gastonia and Mt Holly Farmer's Markets. Seeds are changed seasonally and in February will be stocked with cool season crops including carrots and greens as well as those summer crops that should be started early such as tomatoes and peppers.

Along with the seed banks, once monthly classes will be offered on a variety of gardening topics. These classes are free and open to the public. The first class of the season will be February 3 and will cover garden planning.

If you have attended any of these classes or used the seed bank, we would love to hear from you! We welcome any feedback and want to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community.

Gardening Class Schedule

February 3 – Garden Planning

March 16 – Growing Herbs

April 13 – Native Plants

May 18 – Small Space & Container Gardening

11 AM

Gaston County Public Library

1555 E Garrison Blvd

Carol K Reinhardt Auditorium

All classes are free and open to the public

NC STATE

EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Gaston County

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

- **Staff Development Day** - Monday, February 19, 2024
- **Good Friday** - Friday, March 29, 2024
- **Easter Saturday** - Saturday, March 30, 2024

IN DEMAND LIST

Here's a list of book titles currently in demand at the Gastonia-Main Library.

FICTION

FIRST LIE WINS by Ashley Elston. Evie Porter has everything a nice, Southern girl could want: a perfect, doting boyfriend, a house with a white picket fence and a garden, a fancy group of friends. The only catch: Evie Porter doesn't exist.

HOLMES, MARPLE, & POE by James Patterson and Brian Sitts. In New York City, three intriguing, smart, and stylish private investigators open Holmes, Marple & Poe Investigations. Who are these detectives with famous names and mysterious, untraceable pasts?

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB by Robyn Carr. Four women come together at a tumultuous time in their lives, forging an unbreakable bond that will leave them all forever changed.

UPSIDE DOWN: A NOVEL by Danielle Steel. Danielle Steel delivers a poignant novel about a mother and daughter who must repair their relationship and find a way to follow their hearts.

THE HEIRESS by Rachel Hawkins. When Ruby McTavish Callahan Woodward Miller Kenmore dies, she's not only North Carolina's richest woman, she's also its most notorious. But in the aftermath of her death, her adopted son, Camden, wants little to do with the house or the money - and even less to do with the surviving McTavishes.

NON-FICTION

MISTRESS OF LIFE AND DEATH: THE DARK JOURNEY OF MARIA MANDL, HEAD OVERSEER OF THE WOMEN'S CAMP AT AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU by Susan J. Eischeid. The first-ever biography of SS Overseer Maria Mandl, the highest-ranked woman in the Nazi killing machine and one of the few female perpetrators of the Holocaust.

BECOMING ELLA FITZGERALD: THE JAZZ SINGER WHO TRANSFORMED AMERICAN SONG by Judith Tick. A landmark biography that reclaims Ella Fitzgerald as a major American artist and modernist innovator.

COME HUNGRY: SALADS, MEALS, AND SWEETS FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE TO EAT by Melissa Ben-Ishay. From Melissa Ben-Ishay—the co-founder of Baked by Melissa and creator of the viral Green Goddess Salad—comes an irresistible,

veggie-packed cookbook with over 100 flavorful, nourishing recipes to inspire you to eat delicious meals that make you feel great.

MY NAME IS BARBRA by Barbra Streisand. The long-awaited memoir by the superstar of stage, screen, recordings, and television.

BEHIND THE SEAMS: MY LIFE IN RHINESTONES by Dolly Parton. A beautiful celebration of Dolly Parton's iconic sense of style through entertaining personal stories and 450 full-color photographs, including exclusive images from her private costume archive.

DVDs

OPPENHEIMER. Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Robert Downey Jr., and Matt Damon. The story of American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb.

WHAT HAPPENS LATER. Meg Ryan and David Duchovny. Ex-lovers reunite when they both become stranded in an airport overnight. They find themselves drawn together to revisit their past to discuss what could have been and what may happen in the future.

THE HOLDOVERS. Paul Giamatti, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Dominic Sessa. A cranky history teacher at a remote prep school is forced to remain on campus over the holidays with a troubled student who has no place to go.

SPECIAL OPS: LIONESS SEASON 1. Zoë Saldana, Laysla De Oliveira, Michael Kelly, Morgan Freeman, Nicole Kidman. Inspired by an actual US Military program, follows the life of Joe while she attempts to balance her personal and professional life as the tip of the CIA's spear in the war on terror.

JOAN BAEZ I AM NOISE. Neither a conventional biopic nor a traditional concert film, this documentary is a raw and intimate portrait of the legendary folk singer and activist that shifts back and forth through time as it follows Joan on her final tour and delves into her extraordinary archive, including newly discovered home movies, diaries, artwork, therapy tapes, and audio recordings.

Upcoming Events



February Movie Night

Join us for a free showing of An
Affair to Remember.

Date: Monday, February 5, 2024

Time: 6pm

Location: Main Library (Carol K.
Reinhardt Auditorium)



Easter Egg Hunt

Create a craft, find Easter Eggs,
and enjoy a snack at Common
Ground in Stanley.

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024

Time: 10am

Location: Common Ground in
Stanley

Valentine's Day Party

Celebrate Valentine's Day with crafts, food,
and fun!

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Time: 4pm

Location: Stanley Branch Library

Percy Jackson Necklace Crafting

Wooden bead painting and necklace
crafting based on the Percy Jackson
series.

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Time: 4pm

Location: Stanley Branch Library

Author Visit with Katherine Reay

Join us for a discussion with national
bestselling and award-winning author
Katherine Reay.

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024

Time: 11am

Location: Main Library (Carol K. Reinhardt
Auditorium)

Bob Ross Painting Party

A stress-relieving painting session.

Date: Wednesday, April 10

Time: 4pm

Location: Stanley Branch Library

Visit the [Calendar of Events](#) on the Gaston County Public Library website for the
complete list.

GCPL Book Clubs

A Novel Idea Book Club

2nd Tuesday of the month - BC@BC

As the Page Turns Book Club

Monthly - Union Road

Book Club at Dallas

Monthly - Dallas

Bookies Book Club at Belmont

1st Wednesday of the month - Belmont

The Last Chapter Book Club

Monthly - Main Library

*Contact your local library
branch for more information.*

Friends Seek Donations for Community Foundation Run



This year's Community Foundation Run will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 9:00 am at CaroMont Health Park.

The Foundation will begin accepting donations February 1, 2024. David Poston has once again graciously agreed to be our designated runner.

Monday, April 22, 2024 is the deadline for donations to qualify for the MATCHING FUNDS. To donate, visit the Community Foundation's website, <https://cfgaston.org>.

Last year, with the matching funds, the Friends made nearly \$18,000. Our challenge to you is to surpass last year's success. Let's shoot for \$20,000 in 2024.



Family-friendly
entertainment!

Live music
Food Trucks
Vendors
Kids' Zone
and more!

Friends of the Gaston County Public Library

Book Sale



FRIENDS
OF THE GASTON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Gaston County Public Library
Main Library

1555 East Garrison Blvd.

Gastonia, North Carolina 28054

www.friendsofgcpl.org

Information: 704-868-2164

Presented by Friends of the Gaston County Public Library. Book Sale proceeds are dedicated to providing equipment, furnishings, resources, and programming for GCPL patrons.



1555 East Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054
Phone: 704-868-2164
Fax: 704-853-6012
Email: gcplfriends@gastonlibrary.org
Website: www.friendsofgcpl.org

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\$ 5.00 COUPON

FOR USE AT THE 2024 BOOK SALE



NAME OF FRIENDS MEMBER USING COUPON
