



Announcing the Inaugural Everett N. Warren Educational Scholarship

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The Friends of the Gaston County Public Library are proud to announce the first-ever **Everette N. Warren** Educational Scholarship. This scholarship honors the legacy of Everette Warren, a dedicated educator, mentor, and lifelong learner whose passion for knowledge left an indelible mark on our community.

Everette's career as a professor of Business Administration and Economics at Gaston College and teacher of American English in Japan reflected his commitment to fostering education in diverse settings. Beyond the walls of the classroom, he mentored high school seniors navigating college admissions, guided students on educational travels around the world and inspired countless individuals to pursue their own quests for knowledge. Everette's curiosity and love of learning was boundless, making him the perfect namesake for our scholarship.

The **Everette N. Warren** Educational Scholarship aims to support any individual who aspires to advance their education and shares Everette's passion for learning and the values he championed. If you are interested in applying or know someone who may be, you can find more information by going to the Friends of the Library website: <https://friendsofgcpl.org>. The scholarship deadline is March 17, 2025.

By sponsoring this scholarship, the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library are thrilled to continue our mission of enriching Gaston County through literacy, recreation, and lifelong learning, while celebrating Everette Warren's enduring legacy.

Save the Date



Friends Annual Gathering

Special Guest Speaker

Molly Grantham

14 MAY 2025

Gaston Country Club
3700 Country Club Drive
Gastonia, NC 28056

Thoughts from Your President

Winter Greetings,

There is much excitement to share in this edition of our Newsletter. First, so many thank yous to those who contributed generously to our first Giving Tuesday campaign. We are happy to report that the contributions reached over \$4,000. In addition, we received the happy news that the Gaston Arts Council has awarded the Friends a \$13, 612 Grassroots Art Program Grant to be used for multicultural programs during this next year. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to those who worked behind the scenes to make this possible.

It is also with great joy that the Friends launch the Everette N. Warren Educational Scholarship on February 1, 2025 on our website: www.friendsofgcpl.org. Please read the beautiful article enclosed describing the impact Everette has had on our community. For those of you who have attended countless Book Sales, you remember his gentle spirit and infectious laughter. He was committed to putting books in the hands of the community, especially children. We hope many of you will consider sponsoring this Scholar and help us honor his memory.

As if there was not enough to generate enthusiasm, our Annual Gala just took on a whole new level of vivacity when we learned that Molly Grantham will be our guest speaker for the evening of Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at the Gaston Country Club. Please SAVE THE DATE!!! Tickets, Tables and Sponsorships will be available on the website on March 1, 2025.

Let's not forget our Annual Book Sale returning April 21-26, 2025 with the Set Up Day on April 14, 2025. We are genuinely excited about the volume of books, puzzles, etc. available this year. Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS. If you are willing to volunteer, we will be reaching out to you soon.

Please do not miss the many interesting and diverse programs coming to the library in the next month: Kevin Burke's "The Attempted Theft of Abraham Lincoln's Body in 1876"/Saturday, February 8th at 11:00 am; The Reader's Theater's "The Waverly Gallery"/ Monday and Tuesday, February 10th and 11th at 6:30 pm; "Unspoken Journeys-The Underground Railroad and Beyond"/Saturday 22nd at 12:00 pm. All programs will be held in the Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium at the Main Library.

Please stay warm and healthy. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

~Melinda Pierce, President



SAVE THE DATE!
GCPL Comic-Con returns
Saturday, June 7, 2024

Turning the Page on Waste: A New Chapter for Book Recycling

Until June 2024, books not selected for the Friends' annual Book Sale often faced an unfortunate fate: the landfill. But thanks to the efforts of Library staff, Friends' volunteers and Gaston County Recycling Coordinator, **Becca Hurd**, this is no longer the case. Becca forged a vital partnership with a book recycling company that accepts hardback books and other paper materials—all at no additional cost to the County. As a result, we've diverted over 14 tons of books from the landfill in just a few months!

This success wouldn't be possible without the dedicated Friends Volunteers, who diligently remove mylar jackets and keep our recycling bins filled. Your hard work ensures that we're making a meaningful environmental impact.

Why Recycle Books?



Two of the seven totes
that we fill up each week.

While Gaston County's mixed paper program accepts paperbacks and magazines, hardback books previously posed a challenge. Up to **540 gallons of materials** were being dumped into the landfill weekly! By recycling, we're not only reducing waste but also honoring our commitment to be responsible stewards of both **county resources** and the **environment**.

THE ATTEMPTED THEFT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BODY IN 1876

FEBRUARY 8, 2025
11:00 AM

CAROL K. REINHARDT AUDITORIUM
GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MAIN LIBRARY, 1555 E. GARRISON BLVD.
GASTONIA, NC



PRESENTED BY DR. KEVIN L. BURKE

Dr. Kevin L. Burke is a resident of Gastonia and Professor in the Health and Human Performance Department at Queens University of Charlotte. Join us for his presentation about the true story of a bizarre and surprisingly comedic caper that took place more than a decade after the death of one of America's beloved presidents.

This program is free to the public and is intended for adults or teens. No registration is required. Reservations are suggested for organized groups. For more information, call 704-868-2164, option 4, or visit our library's calendar of events at <https://gastonlibrary.org/>



Live @ Your Library

Fall 2024 Season Recap

Bailey Marie Griggs

On Saturday, November 16th the Library welcomed Bailey Marie Griggs for a special After Hours at the Library event! Bailey Marie shared her incredible talent with everyone in attendance by singing some country favorites and sharing several of her own songs. People of all ages enjoyed the performance - from the babies dancing in front of the stage, to others swaying in their seats. Many stayed after the show to get Bailey Marie's autograph and picture. All her supporters look forward to seeing what is next for this dynamic hometown performer!



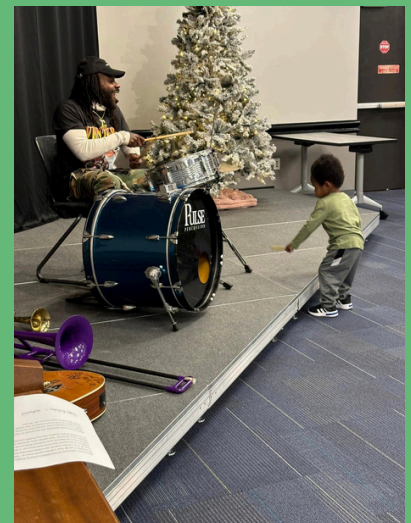
Meet the Author: Barbara Johnson

On Monday, November 19th, the Main Library welcomed local award-winning memoirist Barbara Johnson to the Main Branch Library. Johnson shared an excerpt from her memoir *A Head of Cabbage*, followed by an interview led by library staff.



Jingle and Jive with Mr. Rocky

In December, library patrons of all ages moved and grooved into the holidays with Mr. Rocky. He performed at three library locations. His interactive, high-energy music and dance program was perfect for young children and their families!



Live at Your Library Presents:
- Unspoken Journeys -
The Underground Railroad and Beyond
Saturday, February 22, 2025
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM



The Library welcomes
**The African American Quilter's
Guild of Gaston County**
to the stage to tell the story of
The Underground Railroad
through the stories, songs, and
quilts of our past.

For School Age Students and Up
All Library Programs are Subject to Change

CAROL K. REINHARDT AUDITORIUM
GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
1555 E. GARRISON BLVD.
GASTONIA, NC 28054



North
Carolina
Arts
Council



This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Gaston Arts Council. This series also received support from the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library.

This program is also brought to you in part by the attendance of patrons like you...Thank You!

IN DEMAND LIST

Here's a list of book titles currently in demand at the Gastonia-Main Library. This list is provided by Adult Services Supervisor Andrew Pierce

FICTION

THE CRASH by Freida McFadden. A gut-wrenching story of motherhood, survival, and twisted expectations, #1 New York Times bestselling author Freida McFadden delivers a snowbound thriller that will chill you to the bone.

BEAUTIFUL UGLY by Alice Feeney. The million-copy bestselling Queen of Twists Alice Feeney returns with a gripping and deliciously dark thriller about marriage...and revenge.

THE BIG EMPTY by Robert Crais. Elvis Cole and his enigmatic partner, Joe Pike, race to find a terrifying, unidentified killer in this twisting, unpredictable thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Robert Crais.

SHATTERING DAWN by Jayne Ann Krentz. An unsettling investigation teaches two deeply suspicious people how to trust in the next thrilling novel of the Lost Night Files trilogy by New York Times bestselling author Jayne Ann Krentz.

THE STOLEN QUEEN by Fiona Davis. From New York Times bestselling author Fiona Davis, an utterly addictive new novel that will transport you from New York City's most glamorous party to the labyrinth streets of Cairo and back.

NON-FICTION

THE SINNERS ALL BOW: TWO AUTHORS, ONE MURDER, AND THE REAL HESTER PRYNNE by Kate Winkler Dawson. Crime historian Kate Winkler Dawson tells the chilling true story of a young woman whose scandalous life was rumored to be Nathaniel Hawthorne's inspiration for *The Scarlet Letter*—and whose shocking death inspired the first true-crime book published in America.

BROOKE SHIELDS IS NOT ALLOWED TO GET OLD: THOUGHTS ON AGING AS A WOMAN by Brooke Shields. From generational icon Brooke Shields comes an intimate and empowering exploration of ageing that flips the script on the idea of what it means for a woman to grow older.

WHERE MADNESS LIES: THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VIVIEN LEIGH by Lyndsy Spence. Featuring a wealth of unpublished material, including private correspondence, bestselling author Lyndsy Spence reveals how Leigh fell victim to the draconian medical practices of the day and suffered due to her circumstances. It's a timely look at just how far we've come since the early days of mental health treatment.

MEMORIAL DAYS: A MEMOIR by Geraldine Brooks. A heartrending and beautiful memoir of sudden loss and a journey to peace, from the bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Horse*.

THE LET THEM THEORY by Mel Robbins. Written as an easy-to-understand guide, Robbins shares relatable stories from her own life, highlights key takeaways, relevant research and introduces you to world-renowned experts in psychology, neuroscience, relationships, happiness, and ancient wisdom who champion *The Let Them Theory* every step of the way.

DVDs

WICKED. Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande, Jonathan Bailey, Michelle Yeoh, and Jeff Goldblum. Elphaba, a misunderstood young woman because of her green skin, and Galinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads. Winner of the Cinematic and Box Office Achievement Golden Globe.

HERE. Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Paul Bettany, and Kelly Reilly. A generational story about families and the special place they inhabit, sharing in love, loss, laughter, and life.

THE SUBSTANCE. Demi Moore, Margaret Qualley, and Dennis Quaid. A fading celebrity takes a black-market drug: a cell-replicating substance that temporarily creates a younger, better version of herself. Winner of the Best Actress – Comedy/Musical Golden Globe.

SATURDAY NIGHT. Gabriel LaBelle, Rachel Sennott, Cory Michael Smith. At 11:30pm on October 11th, 1975, a ferocious troupe of young comedians and writers changed television forever. Find out what happened behind the scenes in the 90 minutes leading up to the first broadcast of *Saturday Night Live* (1975). Nominated for 1 Golden Globe.

SOUNDTRACK TO A COUP D'ETAT. Jazz and decolonization are entwined in this historical rollercoaster that rewrites the Cold War episode that led musicians Abbey Lincoln and Max Roach to crash the UN Security Council in protest against the murder of Patrice Lumumba.

Directed by:
**Eleanor
Wixson**



Live @ Your Library
Presents:
Reader's Theater

Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium
Gaston County Public Library
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054

The Waverly Gallery

by: Kenneth Lonergan

Monday,
February 10, 2025 -
Tuesday,
February 11, 2025

SCAN ME



This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Gaston Arts Council. This series also received support from the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library. This program is also brought to you in part by the attendance of patrons like you...Thank You!



North
Carolina
Arts
Council
www.NCArts.org

Friends of the Gaston County Public Library

Book Sale

Monday, April 21, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 24, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 25, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 26, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Gaston County
Public Library
Main Library**

1555 East Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 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.



FRIENDS
OF THE GASTON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

More Than 100 Met at *Swiftmas*

Swifties of all ages came out to celebrate Taylor Swift and all her musical eras at Meet Me at Swiftmas on December 14, 2024, at the Main branch. Over 150 were in attendance on a Saturday morning during the holiday season, and we were impressed by the overwhelming positive response to the program. Friendship bracelets were traded and magical memories were made, right here at the library! This program was over a year in the making, and it was well worth the time and effort. My favorite moment was overhearing "I'm actually having fun" from a grandma who was in attendance with her granddaughters!

All eleven of Taylor Swift's current musical eras, from Taylor Swift (2006) to The Tortured Poets Department (2024) were represented with special crafts, activities, and themed decorations for each space! Her "pandemic albums," Folklore (July 2020) and Evermore (December 2020), are set apart from the rest and are sister albums, so we reflected this at our event by having the conference room transformed into a cozy Folkmore cabin space where attendees could write Swiftmas cards, make watercolor snowflakes, and enjoy themed refreshments!

All the other eras were displayed in the auditorium and attendees were invited to make their way around the room at their own pace. They were given "passports" that had the activities listed so they could keep track of which eras they had left to visit. This method also encouraged attendees to stay longer! One mother told me that she had meant to bring her daughter for an hour, but they had just hit the two-hour mark when we spoke! Overall, Swiftmas was an enormous success as it was a well-attended event that encouraged engagement from people of all ages in our community, Swiftie or not!

Special thanks to Caroline Ingram for her work around the Swiftmas merchandise fundraiser. I would also like to thank Melinda Pierce and Pamela Poteat for setting up shop outside of the event selling tote bags and for helping us welcome attendees. Additionally, I would like to thank the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library for sponsoring the event and making things like our fun Swiftie-themed prizes and refreshments possible through their support.

-Maddie Moore, Librarian, GCPL



GASTON MAX
— MULTICULTURAL ARTS XPERIENCE —

Saturday, March 22, 2025
Rotary Pavilion
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cultural Food Trucks - Inflatables - Free Henna - Vendors and Artisans
Live Music Performances - Cultural Art Activities and Crafts

The Donation Dilemma

We love the enthusiasm of those who donate books for our fundraising efforts. These donations are vital to our mission. However, they can sometimes include items better suited for a museum—or the recycling bin—than a book sale.

Mid-century “Encyclopedia Britannica” sets and attic-stored treasures complete with unexpected wildlife are among the frequent finds. And while we appreciate the nostalgia, some donors insist that these materials still hold valuable information. We do our best to educate donors with kindness and humor while adhering to our donation policy.

Book Sales: Balancing Perception and Value

Selling discarded library books can also stir debate. Some question why high-quality items sell for as little as a dollar, but affordable pricing ensures these items find a new home while raising funds to support our library’s programs and services.

Thank You for Supporting Our Efforts

Whether you’re a member of the Friends, donor, a book sale enthusiast, or a recycling advocate, your support helps us serve the community while protecting the environment. Together, we’re turning the page on waste and writing a more sustainable future for Gaston County.

–Tanya Jones, Collection Development Supervisor, GCPL

Gardening Class Schedule

February 22 – Garden Planning

This class will be in the second floor multi-purpose room

March 8 – Growing Herbs

April 12 – Growing Microgreens

May 17 – 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 Training** - Monday, February 17, 2025
- **Good Friday** - Friday, April 18, 2025
- **Easter Saturday** - Saturday, April 19, 2025

Poet's Corner: Shane Manier

APRON ANGELS

Sweet Southern Nurses,
with grease stains on their knees
pour warmth to counteract
the coldness of the street.
Tattooed with glory and grief
they've accepted everything
a woman has ever been called.

Harlot, Healer, Hysterical,
Lover, Survivor, Mom.

There's a gap in their Mississippi mouths,
where the travelers dock on the muddy water
of their riverbed tongues.
Sluice the sweetness of their drawl,
slick as catfish.
Sing their hallelujahs to the juke box
Pluck the bones of living like prayers
out their teeth, say "Honey, it ain't
nuthin' but one them things"

Strong women with hearth hearts
holding sighs like a dove's heaving breast.

Do their sad molasses eyes
see their own beauty
in each drop of fried sweat?
In each morsel served from the road?
Each sugar sweet tea smile that makes
the truckers feel at home?

*From **Fallen Heroes of the Awful Waffle**, poems about people Manier met in Waffle Houses across the south. "What started out as a fun project, she says, "got serious quickly as the stories and moments of late-night humanity came sweeping through the doors."*



Shane Manier is a visual artist, TEDx keynote speaker, trauma informed care instructor, poetry mentor and national spoken word poet based in the Charlotte metro area.

She is the founder of Guerilla Poets, a nonprofit art collective with branches in the US and UK, and the founder of The National Poetry Month Summit, an online summit that connects and supports poets all across the US.

To learn more about her:

- shanemanier.com
- www.facebook.com/shanemanierart
- www.instagram.com/shanemanier
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z43bJ9oznbM

—David E. Poston

REMINDER: Be sure to renew your Annual Membership for **June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026**. You can renew by going to www.friendsofGCPL.org or by completing a membership form. Pick one up at any GCPL library location.

Also, you can switch over from an Annual to a Lifetime Membership and never again have to keep track of your renewal each year!



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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PAID

Gastonia, NC
Permit No. 181

GCPL Book Clubs

The Happy Bookers
Monthly - Dallas

A Novel Idea Book Club
2nd Tuesday of the month - BC@BC

As the Page Turns Book Club
Monthly - Union Road

Chapter Chat Book Club
Monthly - Stanley

The Last Chapter Book Club
Monthly - Main Library

Pages from the Past
1st Friday of the month - TECH@Lowell

Contact your local library branch for more information.

\$ 5.00 COUPON
FOR USE AT THE 2025 BOOK SALE



NAME OF FRIENDS MEMBER USING COUPON