

FOCUS



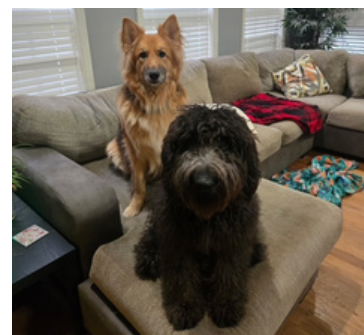
Welcome our new Director Christina Martin!

Christina was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. She calls Pasco, Washington, in Southeastern Washington State, home. Her immediate family still lives in the local vicinity. She cut her teeth in library service there, working for ten and a half years at the Mid-Columbia Library System. It is a three-county regional library system that is a special tax district. She was able to taste almost all aspects of the field during this tenure and learned to truly love being in library services during this time.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meet the New Director
- Partner Fundraisers
- Meet the Board
- Upcoming Programs
- Reader's Theatre Surprise

Thanks to a mutual friend, she met her now husband, Christopher and moved to NC in 2006. Her first library job in NC was for the Catawba County Library System as a Technical Services Specialist, specializing in all things cataloging. After hurricanes Rita and Katrina came through and gas prices skyrocketed, she took a job closer to the house in Kings Mountain at Mauney Memorial Library (MML)



She worked there until she had her son, Ryan, in 2008. When she went back to work, she worked part-time at GCPL and part-time contract cataloging at MML through a grant. When a full-time position opened up at MML, she took that permanent position. She remained at MML until she started back at GCPL in July.

When not at work, Christina is an avid gardener, you can find her out at Creekside Nursery in Dallas on many a Saturday! She also enjoys reading, music, YouTube, and spending time with her boys and animals. The family is frequent beach vacationers with the boys liking Carolina Beach and Christina wanting to go to Isle of Palms.



Planned Giving and Membership Renewal Reminder

BUILDING A LEGACY FOR OUR LIBRARIES

The Friends of the Gaston County Public Library are excited to announce that we are beginning work on a planned giving program—an opportunity for supporters to make a lasting difference for the future of libraries.

In the near future, donors will be able to include the Friends in their estate planning. These thoughtful contributions can help ensure that Gaston County's libraries continue to inspire learning, strengthen communities, and serve generations to come.

As we build this program, we look forward to sharing more information about how you can create a lasting legacy for the libraries you love.



Don't Forget to Renew Your Friends Membership!*



RENEW ONLINE:
friendsofgcpl.org

RENEW IN PERSON
**Pick up a brochure at
any library location!**

****Always forgetting to
renew? Get a Lifetime
Membership!***

A Beautiful
Evening in the
Neighborhood:
Tom Junod,
interviewed by
Scott Fowler

Fundraiser for
the Gaston
Literacy
Council



Wednesday, October 14th
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Gaston Country Club

2026 Annual Friends Gala



Our annual Gala in May at the Gaston Country Club was another smashing success, where we got to celebrate our accomplishments as an organization and celebrate our newest Everett N. Warren Educational Scholarship winners. Congratulations to Nathan Eastburn, Dana Thomas, and Mallory Edwards!

The highlight of the evening was an incredible literary panel led by our friend Alison Sheridan, from Cleary's Bookstore in Downtown Mt. Holly, and featuring authors Megan Church, Joy Callaway, and Kelly Mustian. All three authors brought insightful comments about their writing process, their lives, and the joy of reading. All three sold not only their latest books, but many of their previous novels as well, so that new fans could enjoy all of their novels.

We were so thrilled to have so many of our friends attend, as well as Commissioners Tom Keigher and Cathy Cloninger, and representatives from many of our non-profit partners including the Gaston Literacy Council, the Gaston Arts Council, the Gaston Art Guild, The Gaston County Museum of Art and History and the United Way of Gaston County.



Meet the Board: Dr. Jenna Stover

Born and raised in Gastonia, Dr. Jenna Stover's love of reading began during childhood summers spent at the Main Branch of the Gaston County Public Library. From participating in summer reading clubs and story times to borrowing books on tape and movies, the library was a meaningful part of her childhood. She especially remembers its extensive children's collection and the excitement of discovering something new with each visit. Now, as a new member of the Friends of the Library, Jenna looks forward to supporting the library's continued ability to provide Gaston County families with the same welcoming environment, engaging programs, and access to books and educational resources that meant so much to her growing up.

Professionally, Jenna is a general dentist and owner of Stover Family Dentistry, located just one block from the library branch she frequented as a child. She remains active in both her profession and the Gaston County community, currently serving on the Next Generation Giving Circle Committee with the Community Foundation. She also previously served six years as Treasurer of the First District Dental Society and maintains active memberships in the North Carolina Dental Society, the First District Dental Society, and the Gaston County Dental Society.

Outside of dentistry and community involvement, Jenna enjoys traveling with her family, horseback riding, and discovering new places. She can also often be found cheering on her daughter at sporting events or spending time with family and friends.



Having built her career and family in the same community where she grew up, Jenna values the opportunity to remain involved in organizations that contribute to Gaston County. Joining the Friends of the Library is particularly meaningful because it allows her to support a place that holds many fond childhood memories while helping ensure that future generations have access to the same resources, programs, and opportunities to develop their own love of reading.

Upcoming Author Visit: Liz Pardue

KEEP NC WEIRD FEATURING LIZ PARDUE!



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST @ 11 AM

Keep NC Weird is an entertaining one-hour storytelling experience by Liz Z Pardue that explores North Carolina's strangest history, eccentric characters, local legends, haunted folklore, and delightfully bizarre true stories. Through engaging storytelling, Liz takes audiences on a journey across the Old North State, uncovering the people, places, and mysteries that make North Carolina wonderfully weird and unforgettable.

Suitable for ages 8+, this lively presentation blends history, humor, folklore, and a touch of the macabre for an experience that educates, surprises, and inspires curiosity.

Gaston County Public Library

1555 E Garrison Blvd

Gastonia, NC 28054

www.gastonlibrary.org

704-868-2164



2026 Belmont Bookshop's Literary Festival

The Friends braved the heat over Labor Day weekend to attend the second Belmont Bookshop Literary Festival! We got to interact with fellow book lovers which led to a fun drawing for some signed books, and to hopefully some new Friends memberships! We also had the privilege of sharing the space with some of our partners including the Gaston Literacy Council and the Gaston Art Guild. A special thank you to the GCPL staff members who came out to support us: Christina Martin, Rene Crump, Katie Love, Andrew Pierce, and Sarah Miller.



Friends Board Member Ali Pizza Awarded Museum Leadership Award

The Gaston County Museum of Art & History is pleased to announce they will be the recipient of three 2026 Southeastern Museums awards at the 75th annual Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) on September 30 in Winston-Salem.

The first award will be presented to Alexandra Pizza, The Museum Leadership Award, initiated in 1994, recognizes mid-career museum professionals who have shown significant advancement within the profession by leadership in museum activities at their institution, within the museum profession as a whole and especially in the southeast region. Ms. Pizza was nominated by her peers who deeply admire her exceptional museum leadership, vision, integrity, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the people of the community as director of the Art & History Museum. In making the announcement, SEMC jurors noted "Ms. Pizza has transformed the institution through collaborative leadership, strategic stewardship, and a culture grounded in empathy and excellence."



Congratulations Ali!

Gaston County Museum of Art and History Black and White Gala



Presents

The Black & White Gala Masquerade Ball

November 5th | 6:30pm

Gaston Country Club
3700 Country Club Dr, Gastonia, NC 28056

Celebrating 50 years of the
Gaston County Museum of Art & History



To purchase
tickets, visit:



Hope United Survivor Network's Threads of Hope



SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual Threads of Hope

📅 October 30, 2026 • 6:00 PM

📍 The Barn at Blue Sky Farm • Dallas, NC

🎤 Featuring Keynote Speaker **Elizabeth Smart**

A survivor, author, and advocate, Elizabeth Smart has become a powerful voice for hope, healing, and resilience.

THREADS
of hope

To purchase
tickets visit:



Upcoming Branch and Live @ Your Library Programs



Bilingual Storytime

Hora de Cuentos Bilingües

ENJOY STORIES, SONGS AND A LITERARY EXTENSION!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, NOVEMBER 21, DECEMBER 19, 2026

@ 11:00 AM

205 N PETERSON ST, STANLEY

704-931-0212

GASTON COUNTY Public Library | Connect | Discover



FIBER ARTS SIT & STITCH

Looking for a group to work on your fiber arts projects with? Join us for **Fiber Arts Sit and Stitch**, a monthly gathering for adults.

Bring your crochet, knitting, embroidery, or other fiber arts project and enjoy time to create, share ideas, and connect with fellow crafters.

Please Note: This is not a class or workshop but a space to work on your own projects or collaborate with other participants.

All skill levels are welcome!

SELECT TUESDAYS THIS FALL
SEPTEMBER 22, OCTOBER 20
NOVEMBER 17, DECEMBER 15, 2026

4:00 - 5:15 PM

BC@BC Library
207 N 12th St., Bessemer City, NC 28016
704-729-6226 www.gastonlibrary.org

GASTON COUNTY Public Library | Connect | Discover

RADIANT STORYTELLING PRESENTS

Stories That Shaped Us

Facing Loss & Finding Hope



MADELINE SWANN



BETH GATLIN



KIM WEBB



AKIRA STROUD

Monday, September 28, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium Main Branch Library
1555 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28054

FRIENDS OF THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

GASTON COUNTY Public Library | Connect | Discover

Upcoming Branch Programs



OCTOBERFEST

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 @
4:00 pm
Stanley Branch Library
205 N Peterson St., Stanley
704-931-0212

Come Dressed in your costume,
enjoy crafts &
receive treats!!



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover

Pumpkin Painting



Please Use Sign Up Sheet Provided to Join the Fun

Where: Stanley Branch Library
205 N Peterson St
Stanley, NC 28164

When: Thursday,
October 15, 2026
Time: 4:00 PM

Materials Supplied



GASTON COUNTY
Public Library | Connect · Discover

IN DEMAND LIST

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

FICTION

PARTITA by Barbara Kingsolver. In Barbara Kingsolver's bittersweet 10th novel, Partita, a piano teacher revisits a tumultuous period in her life after an old flame makes contact.

ADAM AND EVE by Jeffrey Archer. The new unforgettable final novel from the master storyteller - a gripping WWII historical fiction novel for 2026.

THE FRENCH ILLUSION by John Grisham. #1 *New York Times* bestselling author John Grisham delivers a gripping, suspenseful page-turner about a Paris honeymoon gone horribly wrong--and the nightmare that follows.

GALINDA: A CHARMED CHILDHOOD by Gregory Maguire. #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of Wicked Gregory Maguire shares the eagerly awaited origin story of Galinda, the pink-clad, effervescent, and popular favorite character.

HOLLYWOOD, ENDING by John Green. #1 bestselling author John Green makes his much-anticipated return to fiction with a behind-the-scenes Hollywood love story about finding someone to trust in an untrustworthy world.

HOLLOW BONES by Jodi Picoult. From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of By Any Other Name comes a riveting novel about the risks we take to protect the ones we love in a world where crisis is always just around the corner.

OUR NOBLE SELVES by Kate Atkinson. The clever and compelling tale of a war-scarred journalist caught in the lives of a country rebuilding itself from one of the greatest chroniclers of our times, Kate Atkinson.

THE MUNICH AFFAIR by James Patterson. A suspenseful thriller that spans a century--set in motion by the murder of Adolf Hitler's young lover by his own hand.

NON-FICTION

THE RUSH: CALIFORNIA GOLD, THE CIVIL WAR, AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD by Nathaniel Philbrick. National Book Award winner and Pulitzer Prize finalist Nathaniel Philbrick, reveals how California's Gold Rush forged the modern United States--and lit the long fuse to civil war

ONE HELLUVA RIDE by Michael Douglas. A maverick who changed Hollywood and became a global movie star. Hollywood icon Michael Douglas tells the unfiltered story of his life for the first time.

NEVER SAY DIE: A MEMOIR by Ke Huy Quan. Prepare for liftoff with a sweeping new book on the universe from the world's most celebrated astrophysicist, brimming with wit, authority, and laugh-out-loud humor.

LOST IN SPACE: 5,000 FACTS FOR NAVIGATING THE UNIVERSE by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, the definitive account of how the modern world makes meaning so hard to find--and a plan to discover your life's deepest purpose.

CARLA BAKES: SWEET, SAVORY, AND FROM THE HEART by Carla Hall. Acclaimed chef, TV host, Top Chef fan-favorite, and author Carla Hall returns to her first culinary love story--baking--with over 80 sweet and savory recipes.

FICTIONAL SELVES: A MEMOIR by Kyle MacLachlan. In this highly anticipated memoir, the beloved actor and star of shares his utterly original account of his offbeat journey in Hollywood...and the projects that shaped him--and created a cult icon.

DVDs/BLU-RAYS

TOY STORY 5. Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, and Annie Potts. Woody, Buzz, Jessie and the rest of the gang's jobs are challenged when they're introduced to electronics, a new threat to playtime.

YOUNG WASHINGTON. William Franklyn-Miller, Mary-Louise Parker, Leo Hanna. A young George Washington faces war, betrayal and impossible choices that will forge a leader.

THE SECRET AGENT. Wagner Moura. Amid the political turmoil of 1977 Brazil, a technology expert is forced into hiding and seeks help from the underground resistance as he tries to flee the country with his young son.

HADESTOWN: THE MUSICAL. Reeve Carney, André De Shields, Amber Gray. A musical juxtaposition of the Orpheus/Eurydice and Hades/Persephone myths that examines the way real life can impact our quest for a perfect world.

THE BRINK OF WAR. Jeff Daniels, Jared Harris, J.K. Simmons. President Reagan races to save a nuclear deal with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as pressure mounts all around him. Every word spoken could move the world closer to peace - or destruction.

Upcoming Holiday Program



*Fahoo foresh dahoo dores, welcome GRINCHMAS, come this way!
Please join us for a fun Grinch-themed program fit for all ages.
This program will include crafts, games, and activities even the
biggest Grinch will enjoy.*

Saturday, November 14, 2026 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Gaston County Public Library- Main
Carol K. Reinhardt Auditorium

1555 E. Garrison Blvd

Gastonia, NC 28054

704-868-2164

gastonlibrary.org



GASTON COUNTY
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FRIENDS
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PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ready, Set, Grow! Community Comes Together for a Record-Breaking Back-to-School Event

The Gaston County Early Literacy Collaborative's 2026 Ready, Set, Grow: A Community Back to School (RSG) event was a tremendous success! With music from DJ Wavey Williams filling the corridor, a sea of green RSG volunteer t-shirts welcomed families as they arrived at the Mall. Located on the first floor of the Eastridge Mall, the event featured tables overflowing with school supplies and community organizations ready to connect families with valuable information, resources, and services.

More than 50 organizations participated representing different sectors of the Gaston County – including GCPL, Gaston County Schools, Kintegra Health, CaroMont Health, United Way, Food Lion, non-profit organizations, hunger relief organizations, the faith community, museums, after-school programs, and local businesses. We registered over 1500 attendees before the event concluded an hour early due to the overwhelming demand for supplies.

Thanks to the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library for being a Book Worm Sponsor and helping to make Back to School a true celebration of community!



Upcoming 2nd Annual Gaston County Public Library Gaston Writers Expo

GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



DISCOVER • CONNECT • CELEBRATE

COMMUNITY

10 AM - 2 PM

Saturday, November 7th, 2026

1555 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28054

**Celebrate and connect with local authors, poets, storytellers,
and artisans with free live readings, performances, storytimes, and
crafts - all at your local library!**



All Library Programs are Subject to Change

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!

A Special Surprise at Reader's Theater

More than 100 people gathered at the Gaston County Public Library's Main Branch on August 24 and 25 for a special Live @ Your Library Reader's Theater presentation of *The Dayporch*.

The first performance became even more memorable when the play's author, Ceille Baird Welch, and her husband, Jim Welch, arrived from more than an hour and a half away to watch her work come to life on the GCPL stage.

At the end of the show, director Eleanor Wixson shared the surprise with the cast and audience. The surprise left our six local actors wide-eyed, but delighted!

For the past eight years, Eleanor has worked with the library to bring Reader's Theater experiences to the Gaston County community, giving audiences the opportunity to enjoy live performances while showcasing the talents of local performers. The Library is grateful to Eleanor, our talented performers, and the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library for helping make these memorable experiences possible.



Poet's Corner:

Patricia Joslin

One More Move

I live alone. No cat. The king mattress
no longer needed for sex replaced last month.

Exhausted, I fall asleep in minutes. Too many
thoughts and things to do. The move in weeks.

Boxes, sealed and labeled, crowd the kitchen
where once graced our family table. Donated.

Loveseats gone, along with his leather chair.
I'll keep the matching ottoman, pottery we
collected.

But what about his mother's good dishes?
Our travel treasures? Old photos and journals?

Pack light. The new apartment is compact,
yet the 9th floor corner suite has treetop views

of the city and the steeple of my church. I think
about him, our children. His easy manner,

strong arms holding me. His last breath.
I sigh, smile and bend to fill another box.

Memories follow easily. No packing necessary.

*First appeared in Wilderness House Literary
Review. The title of her new chapbook derives
from this poem.*



Patricia A. Joslin, a poet and essayist living in Charlotte, NC, writes about music, memory, and the magic of life in later years. Her first poetry collection, *I'll Buy Flowers Again Tomorrow* was published in 2023 as "literary therapy" following the death of her husband. Her new collection, *No Packing Necessary, Poems for the Solo Journey*, may be purchased online from Main Street Rag Publishing and at local bookstores. Her poems have appeared in a variety of publications. A former educator and active volunteer in the community, she enjoys photography, solo travel, red wine, and jazz. Learn more about her and her work at patriciajoslin.com

--David E. Poston



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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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.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

- **Staff Development Day** - Monday, October 12th
- **Veteran's Day** - Wednesday, November 11th