

FRIENDS

of the Wilson County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

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IT'S SPRING...

the time of year when flowering trees burst into glorious bloom; when crocus, daffodils, and tulips burst from the earth to dance in the sun; and all the things you've accumulated and hoarded over the winter burst from their hidey-holes to become the nuisance that prompts the dreaded Spring Cleaning.

Okay, I'll admit Spring Cleaning is the least fun of *all* the activities of Spring, but it's a great time to go through the gently read books you purchased over the winter and bring them to the Library for our Annual Book Sale. Someone from the Friends will be available to take your book drop-offs at the Garage at the Main Library from 1 – 3 on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. We have new, permanent shelving to make for easy storage. Don't forget to declutter your children's rooms by donating books they've outgrown. Children's books are always in demand.

Be sure to mark the Friends' Annual Meeting on your calendar – Thursday, April 27th, 6 – 8 PM. This is an opportunity for the general membership to enjoy fellowship with each other, catch up with what the Board of Directors is doing, and enjoy an excellent speaker, New York Times bestselling author, Etan Rum. I hope to see you there.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library also meets on April 27th in the Library Assembly Room at 12 noon. This is open to all members, so if you have something to bring to the Board or simply want to see what's going on, please feel free to visit.

Library Team participates in WEP Spelling Bee

The Friends supported an enthusiastic - and impressively dressed - team in the Wilson Education Partnership Spelling Bee. This year's theme was Let the Music Play. Each team chose a decade in music and dressed accordingly. Our team, made up of a combination of library staff and Friends' members, chose the 80's. Their costumes were fun and inventive. The participants thought the experience was "a blast." Unfortunately, the team reports that their words were "very tricky," and they did not prevail. Even the purchase of "extra words" couldn't get the team to the finish line. But by subsidizing the library team, the Friends also helped support the programs of the Wilson Education Partnership. A definite win for all!



Our Eighty's Rockers – Denise Stinagle (Pat Benatar), Amanda Gardiner (Joan Jett), Aidan Cato (AC-DC Fan) & Jackie Scott (Cyndi Lauper)

The Wilson County Public Library has a lot more than books! There are programs galore being offered. But you must know where to find them. An easy place to find this information is on the Library's Monthly Calendar. <https://www.wilsoncountypubliclibrary.org/events>. You can see what is being offered every day. Among other things, the times and locations of Bookmobile stops are shown. Another place to keep up with what's happening is the WCPL Facebook site. Check it out too. <https://www.facebook.com/Wilson-County-Public-Library>.



Not to be missed – The Friends Annual Meeting – April 27th from 6 to 8 PM in the Assembly Room at the Main Library

Guest Speaker, Etaf Rum



Etaf Rum was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, by Palestinian immigrant parents. Her family was very traditional and she entered into an arranged marriage when she was 19. She now lives in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Her debut novel, *A Man is No Woman*, was published in 2019 and immediately garnered accolades for her stark portrayal of the life of an Arab woman living in a strict, traditionalist society. The book quickly became a New York Times bestseller and was featured on the Today Show's Read with Jenna. Her second novel, *Evil Eye*, will be published in September of this year.

HAVE YOU ASKED A FRIEND TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY?



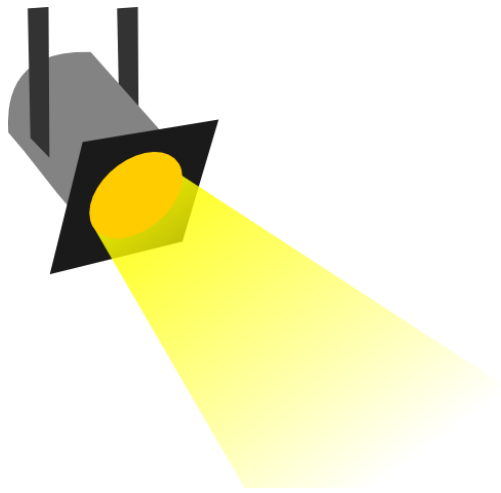
It's amazing how many frequent library users have no idea that the Friends of the WCPL even exists. Or they don't know what we do. Or they think the Friends is some sort of "Elite" group that would not welcome them. We don't want to be one of Wilson's best kept secrets. Use the Membership form on the rear of this Newsletter to invite someone you know to join with us in supporting our wonderful library. We want EVERYONE to be a FRIEND.

STAFF DAY – DEC. 2022



A staircase filled with the Library's smiling and helpful staff

The Friends of the Library underwrites the Staff Appreciation Luncheon for the yearly Staff Training Day. These people are always so helpful and keep the library running like a well-oiled machine. This is one way we can acknowledge their importance in making the library what it is.



SPOTLIGHT ON STORYTIMES

One of the most iconic of all programs offered by **any** library is Storytime. I can vividly remember being taken to the library in Anchorage, Alaska to attend Storytime when I was in preschool—and that was a l-o-o-o-ng time ago. I suspect this activity started a romance with books that has lasted to this day and enriched my life.

The Wilson County Public Library has continued this tradition of helping children discover the joy of books. However, **our** library has greatly expanded the scope of its offerings, which are now available as both in person and online programs.

Hosted by various members of our dedicated library staff, the basic Storytime has been divided into distinctive programs arranged by age and by needs. This allows Storytime to reach as many children in the county as possible.

For the youngest participants, the *Lapsit Storytime* is aimed at 0 to 2-year-olds. This is designed to enrich the wee one's experience and incorporates music and rhythm along with reading. *Preschool Storytime* is geared toward those 3 to 6. This is the everyone's-on-the-floor arrangement that we all loved and remember. A wonderful, carpeted space is set aside for this activity in the Youth Services Storytime area. *Family Storytime* is open to all ages and each week explores a different theme using favorite stories, both old and new. These programs are held in person at the Main Library. For those who live outside of the city of Wilson, *Storytime in the Library* is offered in person at various times in each of the five branches—Black Creek, East, Elm City, Lucama, and Stantonsburg.

Online offerings were greatly appreciated during the Covid Shutdown and continue to provide access to various programs via the library Facebook page and YouTube. *Pajama Storytime* is available every Thursday at 5 PM. Branch librarians provide stories, songs, and other surprises to help the library's younger patrons have pleasant dreams. This is aimed at those 3 to 6. *Storytime Online* is designed for children up to 10 and is available on alternating Wednesday mornings.



Librarian Robin Parnell reads a book at Storytime.

Two of the newer offerings were designed in partnership with Barton College and Wilson Community College—Bilingual Storytime and Signing Storytime. These are available in a combination of in person and online and reach a part of Wilson's population that previously had not been served.

Dates, times, and locations of all these wonderful opportunities can be found in the monthly calendar on the WCPL website - <https://www.wilsoncountypubliclibrary.org/events>. Here's an opportunity to introduce your children or grandchildren to the joys and magic of books.

My thanks to Scott Houston, Youth Services Manager, for graciously spending his time to walk me through much of this information.

WHIRLIGIG BOOK SALE



Volunteers spend days organizing the books for the sale

The Whirligig Book Sale for 2022 was a terrific success! The total amount made to help the library with projects and new title purchase was \$2,081.25. Previously, the Friends have used the bookmobile, parked in the middle of the Whirligig action on Nash Street, to display the sales books. While the location was excellent, the logistics were daunting. The bookmobile didn't have a much floor space to accommodate our customers, and the bookshelves were limited. Resupply was a constant necessity. Like ants making a conga line back to their nest, volunteers went back and forth to the library storage, at times resorting to using a hand-cart. It was obvious that a change needed to be made.

The solution seemed to be to leave the books where they were and get the customers to come to them. This has

worked delightfully well. The new location, the garage at the Main Library, turned out to be a great hit since patrons could look through ALL the donated books. An end-of-sale "Fill a Box for \$5" was also very popular. Many buyers were able to walk away with wonderful books at a VERY reasonable price.

Using the donated books, we were able to keep the Little Libraries around town well-stocked, and we were able to fulfill the needs of organizations that requested help. The



Customers wait for the sale to open

Maury Correctional Institute in Greene County received 17 boxes of adult books. Wilson House – Assisted Living and Memory Care in Wilson received 10 boxes of adult books. We are currently coordinating with OLPH in Rocky Mount to donate any children's books left over after the sale.

But one sale leads to another, so the Friends are already hard at work on the one for 2023 and are now restocking the shelves in anticipation another outstanding year. A volunteer will be available on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1 – 3 to accept your donations.



The Sale in Progress



A WORLD of KNOWLEDGE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS – 24/7

The Wilson County Public Library offers you the use of NC Live. Just visit NCLIVE.org and use your WCPL library card to access newspapers, magazines, and other reference materials any time of day or night.

