



THE SCPR READER

JULY 2021 VOLUME 2



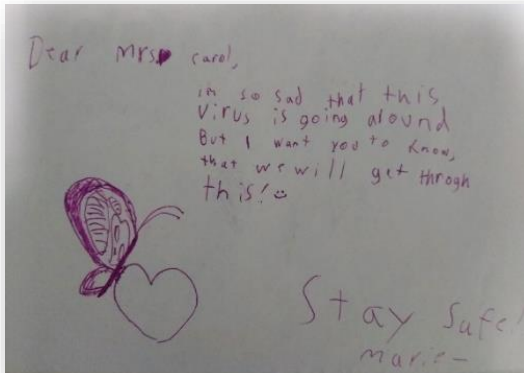
Friends of South Congaree - Pine Ridge Library 200 Sunset Drive West Columbia, SC 29172
803-785-3050 ~ www.scprfriends.org ~ facebook.com/scprfriends
Established July 19, 2007

2020 In Review

What a year it was!! In March, our lives changed forever. Schools closed forcing parents to become homeschoolers; E-learning for students became the norm; everyone had to become somewhat computer savvy to exist; businesses closed, some permanently; most folks worked from home; families had to reorganize their lives, and the library had to learn how to operate under new parameters.



For months, no one was allowed inside except staff. Patrons ordered books online and picked them up at the curb of the branch. In-house programs and events ceased; plans were put on hold. None the less, the Friends carried on and accomplished lots of exciting things. Virtual programming became the reality.



Highlights of 2020 include a variety of activities.

New officers began serving in January. Our new website—www.scprfriends.org—was launched on June 24th displaying our new logo.



We recognized lifetime memberships for Carol Clark, Diane Huggins, Crystal Kruger, and Andy and Dolores Gambrell.

We submitted award nominations to the Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL). Carol Clark, our branch manager, received FOSCL's Public Employee Award of Excellence. Because of Covid, her recognition wasn't held until October with a beautiful ceremony at the Reading Garden beside the branch. Marlena White, FOSCL President, presented her Award. SCPR Friends presented her a dozen red roses and all our love.

Carol Clark, FOSCL Public Employee Award of Excellence 2020



THE SCPR READER

JULY 2021 VOLUME 2

Our group also received a FOSCL Grant that helped us finance the construction of our website at www.scpfrfriends.org. Before America closed, we hosted our February meeting with a surprise birthday party for Carol Clark, our branch manager.

**SCPR Friends, left to right
Judith, Tamela, Tina, Josie, Michelle, Cherise
Carol, Dolores, Barbara,
(Kitty taking the photo)**



Beginning in March, we weren't allowed to meet at the branch, so we held our monthly meetings via conference call and then via Zoom so that we could see everyone's face.

Due to Covid, no in-person events or activities were held. Summer Reading Kickoff was cancelled. Our birthday party in July was cancelled, but we had a drive-thru party and gave the children a gift bag of birthday surprises.

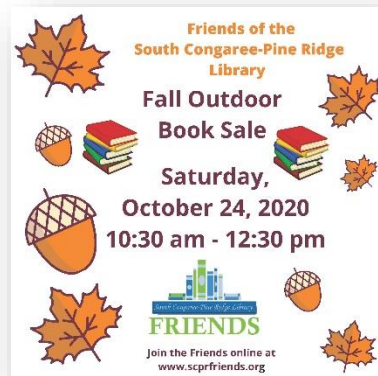


In August, patrons were allowed back into the branch with masks and temperature checks, or they could continue to utilize curb side pickup. A cart with donated free books was outside for patrons to take.

In September, we began a **“Book for New Teachers”** program. Books were presented to new teachers at Congaree Elementary, Congaree-Wood, and Saxe Gotha Elementary.



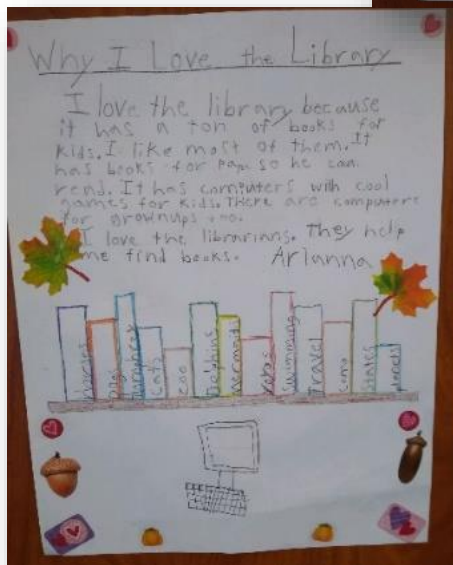
We held our first 2020 Book Sale on October 24 as an end to ***Friends of the Library Week***, and it was a huge success.



THE SCPR READER

JULY 2021 VOLUME 2

To celebrate **Friends of the Library week**, we hosted a contest for young patrons to write the staff and tell them why they loved the library. What a fun time to read why the children love to come to the library.



In November 2020, we hosted “**An Evening of Recognition**” to honor some of our special “Friends.” We recognized Andy and Dolores Gambrell as the inaugural recipients of **The Andy & Dolores Gambrell Volunteer of the Year Award**. They were the initial organizers of the SCPR Friends group, and they have dedicated their lives to this group. Andy served as the first president, and Dolores served as the second president. Their combined services totaled 12 years. These two are always working to make the library a great place to visit.

Dolores &
Andy
Gambrell



At the recognition ceremony we also honored Bobby Keisler, retiring Lexington County Council Representative, and McLain Toole, retiring South Carolina House District 88 Representative. Both gentlemen were instrumental in making our library a reality. Without their efforts, we may not have the facility we have today.



Mechelle Mabry, former Lexington County Library Board member,
Kelly Poole Lexington County Library System Director,
Carol Clark Branch Librarian,
Bobby Keisler, Lexington County Council retired,
Kitty Spires, former Lexington County Library Board member & current SCPR Friends President,
Dolores Gambrell & Andy Gambrell former SCPR presidents, Tamela Jett & Barbara Madden, SCPR Board Members

McLain Toole,
SC House
District 88 Retired



THE SCPR READER

JULY 2021 VOLUME 2

As the year ended, Christmas with Santa was different. Santa couldn't be with the children, but the children were given a book of their choosing provided by the Friends of the Library.



The staff began working in teams of two and rotated shifts. Michelle held her first virtual crafting event with supplies being provided by the Friends.

Our Friends group received \$4,009.27 from the SC Cares Grants for Nonprofits. This helped us secure funds for 2020 to continue our programs in 2021. We also received a grant from Central Carolina Community Foundation when we registered to take part in the 2021 Midlands Gives Day.

A difficult year with many challenges, but also many new opportunities.

- A new website.
- A new logo.
- New t-shirt designs.
- New programs.
- New and exciting awards.
- New Friends.

2021

January 2021 continued with many Covid challenges.

We were still meeting via Zoom but working to make the year dynamic.



We opened the application process for the first **Carol B. Clark Scholarship** awards. We presented two scholarships, one to a student

from Airport High School and one to a student from White Knoll High School.

Programs were now being developed for children to view on the system website since we still could not meet in the branch.

We worked to finish the design and order new t-shirts. T-shirts are displayed at the branch for patrons and members to view and order.



Short sleeve Heather Red



Short sleeve Dusty Rose



Long sleeve Comfort Colors Grey
Heavy weight Ring sleeve spun Cotton



Short sleeve Sky Blue



Short sleeve Mint Green

On April 26, 2021, the South Congaree Pine Ridge Friends hosted an awards evening where we presented our scholarship awards and the Friends of South Carolina Libraries awards. Spring award nominations were submitted to **Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL)**. Bobby Keisler and McLain Toole were recognized as the recipients of the **Public Official Award for 2021**.



RJ May, SC House District 88 Representative congratulates McLain & Bobby on their award.

THE SCPR READER

JULY 2021 VOLUME 2

The South Congaree Pine Ridge Friends Group won the inaugural **Outstanding Friends Award for 2021**.

Kitty Spires,
SCPR Friends President
Marlena White,
FOSCL President



Friends' Officers accepted the **Outstanding Friends Group** award from Marlena White. What an exciting evening to honor so many outstanding Friends and accomplishments.



FOSCL awards were presented to Bobby Keisler, McLain Toole, and the SCPR Friends of the Library by Marlena White, FOSCL president.

The Carol B. Clark Scholarship awards for 2021 were also presented by Carol Clark to our first recipients, Ms. Caroline Reddick of Airport High School and Ms. Zoe Kimble of White Knoll High School.



Evangeline Reddick, Caroline Reddick,
Carol Clark



Heather Kimble, Tommy Kimble,
Zoe Kimble, Carol Clark

1st Row--Tamela Jett, Barbara Madden, Lori Collins, Kitty Spires, Dolores Gambrell, Tina Fiorey
2nd Row—Marlena White

The Friends once again gave monies to plant a community garden, and it has produced prolifically allowing us give fresh veggies to our patrons. The garden has been the focus of several outdoor children's programs including the summer reading kickoff event.

As you can see, the children love the garden and our master gardener.



THE SCPR READER

JULY 2021 VOLUME 2

How exciting that we were able to host in-person **Summer Reading** Kick-off event and book sale on June 4. Both were successful and well attended.



Children and fun!



Friends & Books!



Dolores, Kacee, Josie & Bill Jones

Our first Midlands Gives Day was a success with gifts of \$173.75. We plan to continue this each year.



Repairs are to be made to the fence behind the Reading Garden so that we can design and paint a mural on the fence sometime in fall when the weather cools.



The first in person **Adult Book Club** was held on June 22, and an Adult Spa Day to learn how to manage stress was held on July 20.

To make program prep easier, the Friends purchased a Cri-cut machine for the branch.

The Branch celebrated **birthday number 14** on Monday July 19, but our party was held on Saturday, July 17. The staff set up games and snacks for the children outside, and the Friends gave all young attendees a birthday surprise bag filled with toys relative to the Summer Reading theme of "Tails and Tales."

Birthday
Surprise bag



Sidewalk
Chalk Art

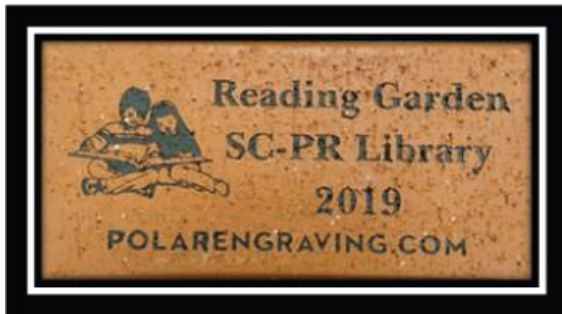
During the birthday celebration, books were on sale inside the library for patrons to purchase.



THE SCPR READER

JULY 2021 VOLUME 2

The Reading Garden Paver Project is set to finally launch in early fall, so be on the lookout for information. Keep looking to the website and Facebook page for the opening announcement.



2021 Officers

Kitty Spires, President
Dolores Gambrell, Vice President
Tina Fiorey, Secretary
Lori Collins, Treasurer & Social Media
Tamela Jett, Board Member
Barbara Madden, Board Member



Our wonderful staff
Miss Josie, Miss Carol, Miss Michelle,
Miss Kacee

Friends

South Congaree - Pine Ridge Library
200 Sunset Drive
West Columbia, SC 29172

Established July 19, 2007

803-785-3050

Contact--President@scprfriends.org

Website—www.scprfriends.org

[Facebook.com/scprfriends](https://www.facebook.com/scprfriends)

