

THE SCPR READER

January 2023 Volume 3



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

The Year ~ 2022

The year 2022 met our Friends group with challenges we never imagined. In the summer of 2021, after having resigned to spend more time with her family, our long time President, Dolores Gambrell became extremely sick. Many prayers were lifted for our special friend. However, January 13, 2022, Dolores departed this life for her eternal reward. Not only has our Friends group mourned her passing, but her precious family cherishes her memory and misses her daily, just as we do.



The Friends group took part in her memorial service by remembering Dolores for her unselfish love of people, especially children. Included is the tribute presented at her funeral service by Cherise Saraceni.



Delores & Carol ~ both always smiling.



Delores serving birthday cake.

Our Tribute to Dolores January 23, 2022

Dolores
Thank you for the Memories.

Memories of a friendship that will have to last us a lifetime.
Memories of your unselfish giving and giving and giving.
Memories of your efforts for a better life for those you love—your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Memories of building a stronger community through literacy and learning at the Library.
Memories of book and bake sales to finance Friends' programs and events.
Memories of planning programs and events.
Memories of meetings and discussions.
Memories of planting and weeding our beautiful reading garden that you and Andy built.

Memories of sharing and caring and making us all feel special.
Memories of laughing and crying and celebrating fun times.

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Memories of organizing and showcasing our Branch and its staff.

Memories of Summer Reading programs, all the work we did, and all the fun we had.

Memories of the excitement in the eyes of the children when they saw Santa.

Memories of the excitement of planning and celebrating SCPR Branch birthdays.

Memories of making life better for your neighbors and our community.

Memories of giving more than you ever took away.

Memories of our first Mother's Day Tea, all the fancy table settings, the hats and corsages, and the fancy tea sandwiches.

Memories of awards and recognitions—when you received the 2019 Friends of South Carolina Libraries Individual Award.



Dolores accepting her 2019 FOSCL Award.

Memories of how excited you were when we announced the South Congaree Pine Ridge Friends Andy and Dolores Gambrell Volunteer of the Year Award.

Memories of your expression when we announced the Volunteer Award and named you and Andy as the first recipients. That award will hold a more special meaning to us all now.

Memories of making a lasting impression on all you met. Everyone everywhere knew you were special.

Memories from Friends who will miss your smiling face, your gentle spirit, your tenacity and your love for the South Congaree Pine Ridge Library and Friends group.

We will always remember you.

We will never forget the impact you've had on our community.

You loved Andy. Everyone always talked about how special you two were together—that you were made for each other. You loved your children, your grandchildren, and your great grands. That's evident by how hard you fought to

care for their well-being and by how they loved the library through you.

You always talked about the times you spent on the phone talking with your sisters and brothers and all the fun things you all did together.

You invested yourself into your Blue Ridge Terrace neighborhood by leading and guiding events and activities and keeping everyone informed about local happenings.

From this day forward, every time I see a greeting card, I will think of you and the placemats you loved to create from those old cards. Your ministry to share those placemats brought hours of joy to others.

But most of all, we, the South Congaree Pine Ridge Friends feel honored that you loved us, that you and Andy took time many years ago to develop the vision for a library and to bring the Library and the Friends group to our community.

We promise you that we will keep moving forward and continue your dream by building more memories.



*Judith, Barbara, Dolores
Friends Forever*

*Go Rest High on that Mountain by Vince Gill
Adapted to honor Dolores Gambrell.*

We know at times your life had challenges.

You didn't let many know that pain.

But you weren't afraid to face those hard times,

You were no stranger to any of those rains.

So, Dolores, Go rest high on that mountain

Your earthly work down here is done.

We know that you went to heaven singing and a-shoutin'

As you were looking for the Father and the Son.

We cried so hard that Thursday that you left us.

We gather today to grieve our loss.

We know the angels celebrated

When they heard you answer God's sweet call.

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So, Dolores, Go rest high on that mountain
Your earthly work down here is done.
You've found the Father and the Son.

We love you.
We will miss you.
We will see you again.

2022 Highlights

January

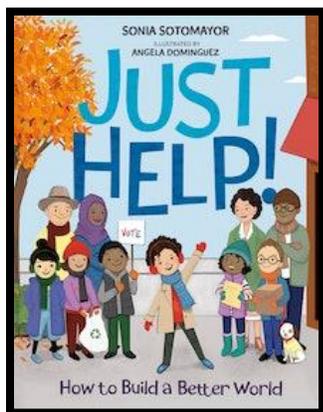
January was a sad time for our group as we tried to move forward without our leader legend. Discussions began as to how we could establish a perpetual memorial to Dolores. As of this edition, plans are in the works to extend the reading garden that Dolores and Andy worked so diligently to build in the early days of the library. A new plan will be developed to extend the reading garden so that it will accommodate those individuals who love to read and enjoy the outdoors.



Dolores & Cherise serving birthday cake.

February

February was still such a solemn time for us all. Congaree Cares, a service organization in our community presented the library with a copy of the book *Just Help* written by current Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor to honor Dolores memory.



March

Continued honors came in for the Gambrell family as Andrew Gambrell, Andy as we know him, received the John Landrum Advocacy Award presented by the Friends of South Carolina Libraries at their annual conference on March 26 at the Wando Mt. Pleasant Branch Library in Mt. Pleasant, SC. The John Landrum Award recognizes individuals who have worked tirelessly to bring libraries into their community.



Andy receiving the John Landrum Advocacy award with other recipients



Andy with his son, Andy and daughter in law

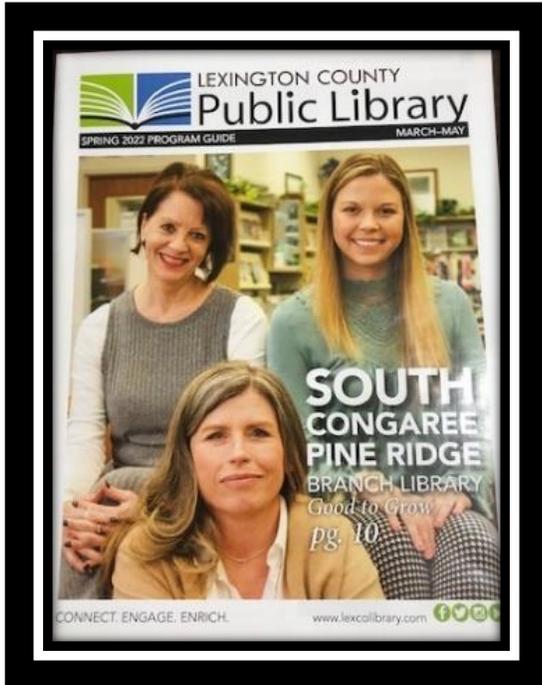
March saw the beautification of the Branch with the County's help. The old, dead plants were removed from the front of the branch and knockout roses, gardenias, and tea olives were planted and a new bench added for seating.



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For the first time ever, our Branch was featured on the cover of the Library Program Spring 2022 Guide. An article featuring the library staff was included in the program.



Carol, Josie & Kacey

The SCPR Friends also participated in the community Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Kinetic Church.



May

May was an extremely busy time as our plans for Summer Reading 2022 were completed. We were just beginning to enjoy the blooms from our newly planted knockout roses, gardenias, and tea olives.



Tea Olive

April

In April, the SCPR Friends awarded the Carol B. Clark Scholarship to Miss Ashley Wojcik. Ashley graduated from Airport High School and her plans are to attend Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia to further her education.



Ashley & Carol



Knockout Roses



Gardenias

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June



Summer Reading 2022

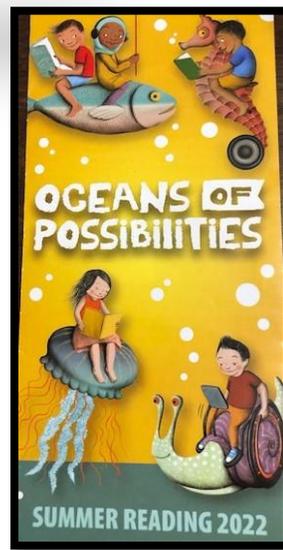
What a fabulous time!

The Friends collaborated diligently with staff to design the best Summer Reading program ever.

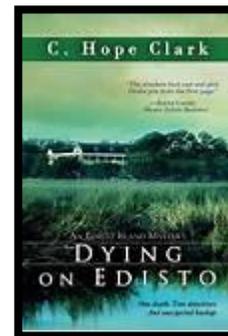


With the theme “An Ocean of Possibilities” we were able to design our own SCPR Beach complete with white sand, umbrellas, sprinklers and sprayers and beach chairs and toys.

Summer Reading Kickoff was an enormous success and fun time. Kids and adults alike enjoyed beach music, ice pops, designing a Summer Reading themed t-shirt and games.



The Friends also supported and enjoyed local writer from Chapin, South Carolina, C. Hope Clark explain her writing technique and give insight into her thoughts, ideas, and overall interest in story writing. She is a mystery writer who was born and bred in the South, starting with Mississippi on to Georgia and South Carolina.



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July

On July 17, 2007, the South Congaree Pine Ridge Library opened. This year we celebrated our 15th birthday in conjunction with one of our Summer Reading programs. Everyone enjoyed birthday cake and congratulating our Poetry Contest winners.

Poems were written around the theme of a positive experience at the Library.



Poetry Contest Winners

Ethan Burggraf in the Children's Division.



Marie Keller in the Tween/Teen division.



Tamela Jett in the Adult division.



Each winner received a prize courtesy of the Friends.

August

As summer began to wind down, so did Summer Reading. With the start of school only a few days out, the Friends supported the efforts of Tamela Jett and the American Legion Auxiliary by supplying our Friends' tote bag so that students would be able to collect supplies. At least 100 students from our local elementary schools were impacted by the efforts of this "Tools for Schools" program.

Library Junior Volunteers were delighted to have pizza for their end of summer party. Junior Volunteers are a necessary support to all the programs of Summer Reading. Congrats to Olivia Burggraff, Chandler Dorn, Marie Keller, Ethan

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Lastinger and Faye Gwaltney. What a great help they are for Miss Carol and the staff. The Friends acknowledged their efforts with a small stipend of cash to each one.



September

September saw the end of summer fun at the library as our patron families were able to go back into the classroom. Each September, the Friends sponsor our “Books for Teachers” program where we present a book to each first-year teacher to help them build their classroom library. The following first year teachers received the book *I Promise* by LeBron James.

Congaree Elementary School

Laurie Kennedy, Emma Dailey, Veronica Ward

Wood Elementary School

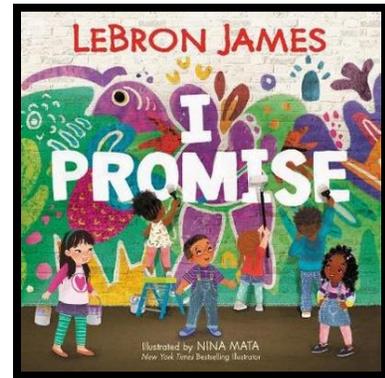
Christine Barnes, Cassie Boatwright, Desirea Goethe, Elaine Harp, Aslihan Ozsoylu, Christina Patterson, Savannah Pittman, Rachael Rummage, Delaney Aull Toms, Elizabeth Boler Williams, Samantha Wullner

Red Bank Elementary School

Blythe Faulkner, Victoria Lee, Sally Scoggins

White Knoll Elementary School

Kendall Donald, Konta' Hart



October

October presented the exceptional opportunity for the SCPR Friends to host Mr. Jonathan Haupt, Executive Director of the Pat Conroy Literary Center. Jonathan’s presentation, “I Was Born to be in a Library: Pat Conroy’s Great Love of Libraries” was an exceptional event.

SOUTH CONGAREE-PINE RIDGE LIBRARY FRIENDS
PRESENT
"I WAS BORN TO BE IN A LIBRARY"
PAT CONROY'S GREAT LOVE OF LIBRARIES

By
Jonathan Haupt, Executive Director,
The Pat Conroy Literary Center

Tuesday
October 25, 2022
5:30 pm

Congaree Elementary School
1221 Ramblin Road
West Columbia, SC 29172



Pat Conroy, Author



JONATHAN HAUPT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PAT CONROY LITERARY CENTER

This program is sponsored by South Carolina Humanities, a not-for-profit organization inspiring, engaging and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture and heritage.



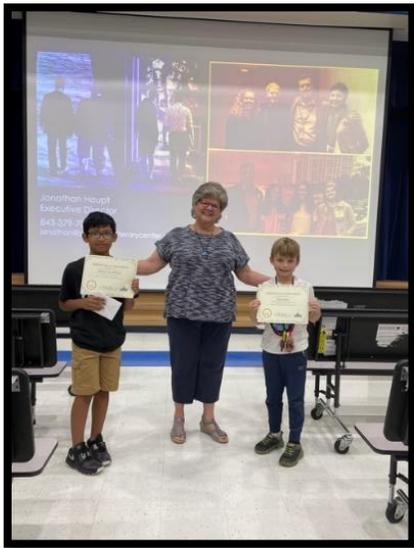
In partnership with Congaree Elementary School, the Friends saw adults and children alike enjoy the

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presentation about the life and times of Pat Conroy.

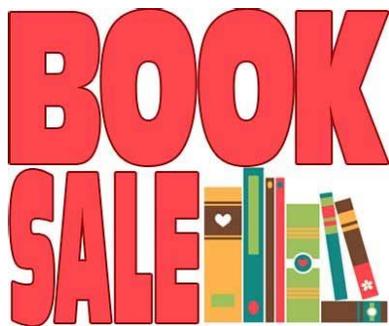
Students participated in writing workshops and were able to submit a writing to be judged based on the use of descriptive writing techniques. Winners Julian Rose and Danny Cruz Beleton were presented gift cards to Subway for their special writings. A pre-event reception was held to introduce Mr. Haupt to members of the Friends group, local officials, and members of the Lexington County Library Board.



Danny Cruz Beleton, Kitty Spires, Julian Rose

November

November was a time of planning for our December events. We were also able to host a Book Sale to raise funds for the programs at the Library.



December

Christmas time for the Friends and the Branch staff was a busy time. The staff decorated and created a beautiful background for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Several staff members and Friends members, along with our children took part in the Pine Ridge Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 3rd.



Santa welcomed about 30 children on Friday, December 9. What an exciting time to see such happy faces experience the wonder and amazement of Christmas.

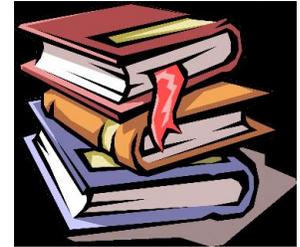


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The Friends sponsored cookies and drink for everyone attending. Everyone who came to see Santa received a book to take home and enjoy compliments of the Friends.

Thanks to Glenna Branham for continuing to supply the neighborhood laundromats with books throughout the year. This effort is working to help our community build literacy and a desire to love books and reading.



2023 NEWS

New Meeting Time

Regular Friends meetings will now be held on the **4th Thursday morning monthly at 10:30 am** in the meeting room at the SCPR Branch. We look forward to seeing you then.

Membership Renewal time

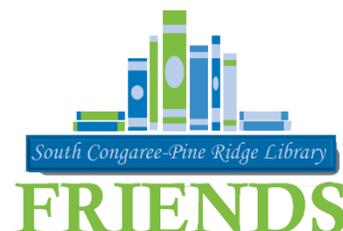
MEMBERSHIP RENEWS ANNUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1ST. Join online at <https://scprfriends.org/become-a-member>, mail in your membership to the branch or drop by the branch to join. See membership info on page 10.

2023 Officers

Kitty Spires, President
Cherise Saraceni, Vice President
Lori Collins, Treasurer & Social Media
Tamela Jett, Board Member
Barbara Madden, Board Member

Friends of the
South Congaree - Pine Ridge Library
200 Sunset Drive
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-785-3050

Contact--President@scprfriends.org
Website—www.scprfriends.org
[Facebook.com/scprfriends](https://www.facebook.com/scprfriends)



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Membership Levels

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Good Friend | \$ 5.00 |
| Family Friend | \$ 10.00 |
| Special Friend | \$ 20.00 |
| Benevolent Friend | \$100.00 |
| Best Friend | \$250.00 |
| True Blue Friend | \$500.00 |
| Forever Lifetime Friend | \$750.00 |

Amount \$ _____

Honorarium/Memorial Gift
Amount \$ _____

In Honor of/In Memory of _____

Given by _____

Contributions in excess of \$100 will have names placed on plaque in Library.

Business or Corporate Memberships

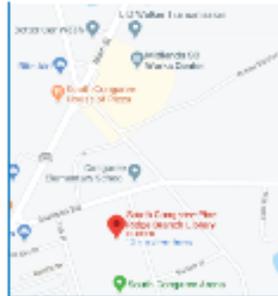
| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Bronze Level | \$100.00 |
| Silver Level | \$250.00 |
| Gold Level | \$500.00 |
| Diamond Level | \$750.00 |

Donation Amount \$ _____

The business/corporation name will be displayed on a plaque located inside the SC-PR Library.



"If you have a garden and a library,
you have everything you need."
- Cicero



The Friends of the South Congaree-Pine Ridge Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

All receipts & gifts are tax deductible.

200 Sunset Drive
West Columbia, SC 29172



South Congaree-Pine Ridge Library

FRIENDS



200 Sunset Drive
West Columbia, SC 29172

803.785.3050

www.scprfriends.org

The Friends meet on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the South Congaree-Pine Ridge Library.



Friends Support the Programs of the Library

- Summer Reading Kickoff Party
- Christmas with Santa
- Easter Book & Bake Sale
- Thanksgiving Book & Bake Sale



Purpose of the Friends

The purpose of the Friends of the South Congaree-Pine Ridge Library shall be, but not limited to:

- Promote interest and assist the library staff as needed.
- Encourage growth and use of the library.
- Supplement the library by raising funds for special projects, programs and/or events.
- Keep the citizens informed of special projects, programs, and/or events.

Become a Friend & Volunteer

- Take part in the programs & special events of the SC-PR Library.
- Attend the Friends' monthly meetings.
- Volunteer for programs & events.
- Serve as an officer or committee chair.



Membership Form

Name or Business Name: _____
 Business Name/Honorarium/Memorial Name to appear on plaque: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State & Zip Code: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Membership Level: _____
 Total Amount Submitted: _____

Join online at www.scprfriends.org OR

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of the South Congaree-Pine Ridge Library
 South Congaree-Pine Ridge Library
 200 Sunset Drive, West Columbia 29172

