



After 48 years with the library

Linda Shirley to retire

from the director

Ross A. Holt

♣ “Ask Linda.”

I may have spoken that phrase more often than any other during my time as library director, and even before. And I’ve done it myself almost every day!

Linda Shirley, our library business manager, is the wizard behind the scenes who enables our libraries and librarians to offer the high level of service that we do.

Anytime a money matter arises, or a colleague needs to know something about our financial operations, or an enterprising staff member needs funding for a special project, I know that Linda has the answer.

On November 30, Linda will retire after 48 years with the library, 47 years as a Randolph County employee, and 45 years at the helm of the library business office.

Most of the workforce entering the job market today cannot fathom retiring from a 48-year career – much less those years in the same place. A half-century of dedication to any institution is becoming rarer, making it important to celebrate it when it happens.

Linda grew up in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Irving and Julia Saylor. Irving was a World War II veteran who served in the Battle of the Bulge. The



Linda Shirley, by Chris Scott

family operated a dairy farm outside of Meyersdale. Linda attended elementary school in a one-room schoolhouse under the tutelage of her maternal grandfather. In the mornings before going to school, she helped tend to the cows. She planned to go to college after graduating from Meyersdale High School for a future with computers, but was offered a job in Washington, D.C., when a recruiter visited the school.

In 1969, she began work with the U.S. Information Agency as a clerk/typist. While in Washington, she met her future husband, Frankie Shirley, who was serving in the U.S. Army.

Frankie and his family were from Asheboro, and it was here that the couple settled. Linda spent

two years as a nursery worker at a local day care center.

In April, 1975, through the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program and on the recommendation of the county manager at the time, Linda joined the staff of the Asheboro Public Library — she’s the last current staff member hired by legendary Library Director Charlesanna Fox. Linda worked in the Circulation department and later in the Children’s Room.

After a year, Linda was offered the opportunity to become a regular library employee. In 1978, she was made secretary to the librarian and bookkeeper, and in short order was managing the business affairs of the library. It is

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The Grinch returns to libraries in December —See inside

Archdale

336-431-3811
Fax 336-431-4619
10433 S. Main St.
Mon-Thur 9-8;
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-1

Asheboro

336-318-6800
Fax 336-318-6823
201 Worth St.
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
Mon-Fri 9-12:30; 1:30-5:30
Sat 9-12:30

Franklinville

336-685-3100
111 Sumner Place
Mon-Thur 10-6; Sun 1-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
Fax 336-622-2665
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Mon-Tues 9-7
Wed-Fri 9-5
Sat 9-3

Ramseur

336-824-2232
Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sat 9-1

Randleman

336-498-3141
Fax 336-498-1139
142 W. Academy St.
Mon-Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Seagrove

336-873-7521
530 Old Plank Rd.
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

Extension Service

336-318-6816 or 336-318-6817; Mon-Fri 9-5

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



Linda Shirley to retire

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a role in which she has excelled and a job that she has defined and refined, through four of the five library directors with whom she has served.

Linda's impact has been incalculable. She has shepherded the library's finances as the institution adapts to changing times: new and expanded buildings; transition from paper to automation; the advent of the Internet and new kinds of information resources; expansion of library programs in the community; and transformations in the way county government operates.

Although a county agency, the library is a collaboration among the county and seven municipalities, all of which provide funding. The library receives support from state aid and federal grants, as well as its foundation and Friends of the Library, and collaborates with local non-profits. Linda manages multiple sources of revenue, and accounts for expenditures in dozens of library funds. She develops the annual budget and recommends apportionment of funds among library divisions. She prepares the annual report to the State Library of North Carolina (critical for receipt of state funding), and assembles performance measures for the county. She also manages our personnel transactions and files.

Linda is always on the lookout for economies and efficiencies, and finds innovative ways to meet library needs. She also is astute at identifying win-win organizational realignments that enable staff to excel.

Experience she has gained during her career has provided a big-picture view of the operations of the library and the county; she has passed this insight along to managers and staff throughout the county's seven library branches. Her wisdom has made her an invaluable adviser to a succession of library directors. Linda is widely respected among her colleagues in county government, and is seen as a role model. She possesses an irreplaceable wealth of the library's institutional memory going back nearly a half-century, during which time she has blazed a behind-the-scenes trail of excellent library service for Randolph County.

Linda and Frankie have two children, Chad and Adam, and two grandchildren. Frankie, who passed away in 2015, was a world class barbeque chef and former scout master. In 1998, Adam's Eagle Scout project was to place a flagpole at the Asheboro library for the American flag. Away from the library, Linda has served as treasurer of her church, First Wesleyan of Asheboro, since the 1990s.

In the going-on-37-years I have worked at the library, Linda has been a constant in my career, the glue that holds the library together. I know that her successor, our new business manager Allie Dixon, will ably fill her shoes.

But I also know that when some complex situation arises, I will deeply feel the loss of no longer being able to...

"Ask Linda."

Assistant Director Niccole Hugg, Suzanne Tate and Chad Shirley contributed to this column.

Library adds genealogy resources

♣ **Two popular and powerful online genealogy tools are coming to the libraries.**

The library has become a FamilySearch affiliate, meaning researchers who visit any of the libraries will have online access to billions of ancestor profiles, photographs and historical documents that are publicly available, as well as other genealogical collections that are normally accessible only through FamilySearch physical locations.

Coming in January is *Fold3*, a

component of *Ancestry.com* that provides convenient access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents of men and women who served in the Armed Forces.

Both resources are available at computer stations in each library, but not remotely from home or elsewhere.

The new databases join *Ancestry Library Edition*, *HeritageQuest*, *Historical North Carolina Newspapers*, *The Courier-Tribune 2000-2020*, and *Black Life in America* among other library genealogical resources.

Libraries ready even more activities

♣ **But wait — there's more!**

If the Grinch, Shepherd Shakespeare's Christmas plays, and the panoply of fun activities around the county (see "Holiday Edition" insert) aren't enough, check out these happenings around the holidays....

TeenZone trivia, crafts

Hang out in the Asheboro library TeenZone at 4 p.m. Monday, December 11, and play holiday-themed trivia. Holiday snacks provided.

A week earlier, at 4 p.m. Monday, December 4, make simple and complex paracord bracelets for yourself or as a cool holiday gift.

Seagrove book sale

Seagrove library will hold a sidewalk book sale, December 12-19.

Liberty events

Liberty will offer three arts and crafts activities as well as a movie night in December.

In **Cookies, Cocoa and Canvas Painting** for all ages, make a simple painting of a glittering star while enjoying cookies and hot cocoa. No experience necessary, and

everyone will walk away with a work of art.

Three sessions will be offered: Tuesday, December 19, 5:30-7 p.m. and Thursday, December 21, 10-11 a.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Space is limited, so call 336-622-4605 or visit the library to sign up.

Meanwhile, drop in and **Make a Gift** at either of two times, 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, December 5, or 3-4:30 p.m. Thursday, December 7. Make a pouring paint ornament; come back the following week to wrap it up to give as a gift.

Adult are invited to make a **Scrap Ribbon Christmas Tree Ornament**, 1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 14. Supplies are limited, so call the library to sign up.

Finally, it's a **Free Movie Night** at 6 p.m. Friday, December 15. Enjoy Disney's *The Little Mermaid (2003)* on the big screen. Arrive between 5 and 6 p.m. for activities and games.

Ramseur movie

The Ramseur library encourages readers to "Read S'more Books," and drop in for a screening of *The Snowman* and a treat at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 28.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *The Secrets We Kept* by Laura Prescott, 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 28.

Archdale Book Break: *The Watchmaker's Daughter* by Larry Loftis Clinch, 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 19.

Franklinville: Snippets Book Club, 12:30 p.m. Monday, December 18.

Liberty Book Club: *Homecoming* by Kate Morton, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 21.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you've read recently.

Archdale: Book Bites, 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 12.

Liberty Readers Meet-Up, 1 p.m. Monday, December 18, Liberty Senior Center.

Randleman Readers Recommend, 3:30 p.m. Friday, December 1.

Ramseur Page Turners, 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 5.

Seagrove: Un-Book Club, 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 19.

Tech classes

Learn about "Learning with YouTube" — using the video platform to find educational, how-to or DIY content — in two repeated sessions at the Asheboro library, 3 p.m. Tuesday, December 5, and 3 p.m. Thursday, December 14.


Book clubs for kids & teens

Liberty: Kids Club, 4 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, ages 6-10. Share what you like to read.

Liberty: Manga Meet-Up at the Library, 1 p.m. Saturday, December 16, Ages 11 and up.

Crafts, activities, treats and videos related to manga and comic books.

Randleman: Teen Talk Book Club, 3:30 p.m. Friday, December 15, 6th-8th graders. Bring a book you'd like to share with others.



YES! I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year.

Mail to: Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 2806
Asheboro, NC 27204
Memberships are tax deductible

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Family.....	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor.....	\$250
		<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime.....	\$500

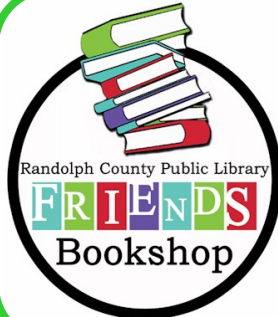
YES! I'd like to help: ____Programs ____ Hospitality ____Book Sales ____Membership

Randolph County Public Libraries

201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheboro, NC 27203
Permit No. 50



10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Tuesday,
Thursday,
Saturday**

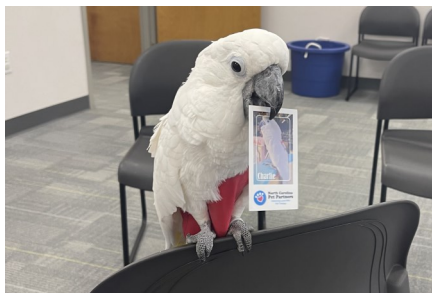
**226 Sunset Ave.
Asheboro**

memorials & donations

To the Friends of the Library

To: Friends of the Library
By: Robert and Peggy Morrison

Archdale says, 'Read With Me!'



Cockatiel Charlie and pooch Lizzie are among the certified therapy animals participating in "Read With Me" at the Archdale library. Kids ages 5-12 are invited to read to animals from 4-6 p.m. on the second Monday of each month (next up is December 11). Call 336-431-3811 to reserve a spot. Research has shown that children's reading skill and confidence improve when they read to a friendly, non-judgmental therapy animal.

~ HOLIDAY EDITION ~

He's a mean one...

Caleb Sigmon's 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas returns

♣ He's mean! He's green! And he's back — again — to steal Christmas.

Everyone's favorite grouch will visit five libraries during the week of December 11 as illusionist and storyteller Caleb Sigmon returns with his highly-celebrated rendition of Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Audience members' hearts will grow three sizes as the classic story unfolds in a musical performance that includes live actors, puppets and lots of audience interaction.

The performances, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, are free and the public is invited.

Performance also will take place at the libraries as follows:

Archdale, 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 12;

Asheboro, 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 13;

Franklinville audience members are invited to attend



The Grinch and his dog Max delight the audience at an Asheboro library appearance.

Ramseur's show.

Liberty, 6 p.m. Monday, December 11;

Ramseur, 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 13;

Randleman, 4 p.m. Thursday, December 14.

Truegrass to play 'Country Christmas Concert'

♣ The popular and long-lived local bluegrass and gospel band Truegrass will present a "Country Christmas Concert" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 5, at the Asheboro library.

The performance, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

Over 20 years, the group has played numerous local venues including the Sunset Theatre, the NC Zoo, Randolph Community College, at churches and at corporate events



for Klaussner and Energizer, among others.

Founding members Tim Moon and Gary Callicutt remain with the group.

Moon, a well-known music teacher for over 30 years, plays mandolin and sings lead vocals. Callicutt plays bass and sings tenor vocals.

Matthew Nance plays banjo and sings baritone vocals. William Britt

plays guitar and sings most lead vocals. Moon's 16-year-old son Nolan Moon plays blistering fast solos as well as beautiful waltz styles on fiddle.

Shepherd Shakespeare to stage Christmas plays

...and more holiday activities at libraries around the county

♣ Three libraries will host Christmas performances by the Shepherd Shakespeare Company in December.

At the Asheboro and Randleman libraries, the Charlotte-based troupe will present *'Twas the*

Night Before Christmas. This envisioning of the famous verse has author Clement Moore facing a case of writer's block as he tries to pen a poem about the wonders of Christmas Eve.

Frustratingly funny trials and errors lead him to acting out his ideas with the help of puppets, found objects and friends from the audience. Watch as the magic of this cherished classic unfolds.

Asheboro: 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 19.

Randleman: 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 19.

At Seagrove, the company will present Louisa May Alcott's *A Christmas Dream*, a *Christmas Carol*-like tale of a young boy who learns that the greatest gifts are not the ones you receive, but the ones you give.

Seagrove: Noon Thursday, December 7.

Cookies with Santa at Asheboro

Join Santa Claus and his lovely wife Mrs. Claus for a short story and a sing-a-long in "Cookies With Santa" at the Asheboro library, 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, December 16. Enjoy cookies while waiting for a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Polar Express Pajama Party

The Franklinville library invites children and families to a "Polar Express Pajama Party." Watch the *Polar Express* Christmas classic movie at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 21. Enjoy cocoa and popcorn, and don't forget your favorite stuffy and a blankie.

Liberty's Holiday Fiesta

The Liberty library will host a "Holiday Fiesta" from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, December 9. The fiesta-themed holiday party will feature a visit with Pancho Claus, a

reading of *Charro and the Tejas Kid*, music, Hispanic treats — and maybe some dancing. All ages.

12 Books Before Christmas

The Liberty library will specially wrap 12 surprise books that have been checked out to you, one for each evening of the 12 days before Christmas. Unwrap a book to share each night. Celebrating Hanukkah or Kwanzaa? The library also will make packages for "12 Books Before" those events.

Visit the library or call 336-622-4605 to register by Monday, December 4, and pick up your packages between December 8 and 11.

Christmas Jam at Seagrove

Groove to the tunes of Bad Penny at the Seagrove library's Christmas Jam, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12. The whole family can enjoy cookies and cocoa; adults and kids can make some easy and fun cards and ornaments. Get your picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Browse at the library's book sale, which will be ongoing during the event.



Bad Penny: Ron Baughman, Ricky Cox and Gwen Auman.

Bad Penny is a local Americana ensemble made up of Gwen Auman, Ron Baughman and an eclectic group of musicians covering a wide range of musical genres.

Seagrove Winter Reading

De-stress and beat the winter blues with a good book as the Seagrove library launches "Home for the Holidays," a winter reading program for adults. Beginning December 1, earn a chance in a drawing for a cozy gift baked by reading, attending library events and completing a trivia packet. Visit the library or call 336-873-7521 for details.

Holiday cooking

Learn how to whip up "Holiday Classics with a Spin" as the Liberty library welcomes Sophie Farlow, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Local Food Systems agent, who will share recipes and techniques for holiday cooking, and tips on how to use local food and make recipes healthier. 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 13.

More events, next page...