



Your Monthly News & Updates

Distinguished Speaker Series

A promotional graphic for Virginia Evans' book "The Correspondent". It features a fountain pen on the left, the book cover in the center, and a portrait of Virginia Evans on the right. Text includes "Live @ Lanier", "DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES", "New York Times #1 Best Seller", "Sunday, March 22, 3 PM at Tryon Fine Arts Center", and "Virginia Evans". A "SOLD OUT" banner with a waitlist link is also present.

Live @ Lanier

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

... a cause for celebration." — Ann Patchett

The Correspondent
VIRGINIA EVANS
A NOVEL

New York Times #1 Best Seller

Sunday, March 22, 3 PM at Tryon Fine Arts Center

Virginia Evans

SOLD OUT
Waitlist at www.thelanierlibrary.org/programs

Journey to NY Times #1 Best Seller and Lanier Library

Before Virginia Evans's "The Correspondent" became a NY Times #1 Best Seller, she received a handwritten invitation from Jenny Purtill, Executive Director of Lanier Library. Evans was on a writer's journey that started in doubt and Purtill was taking a chance.

"The Correspondent" was the author's ninth book. "If this doesn't sell I'm going to become a lawyer," Evans told her agent. Her first eight books were unsold, one of which had been self-published to make enough money to buy a lap top computer.

During the COVID pandemic, for about a year, at 4:30 every morning, Evans sat in the quiet of a home closet to write an epistolary novel. The reader gets to know Sybil Van Antwerp through the 73-year-old woman's letters. A divorced grandmother, retired lawyer, Sybil tries to heal old wounds through hand writing to different characters. Unexpectedly, letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life.

"I didn't think it would sell and didn't want to show it to my agent," remembers Evans. "It's terrible to give your heart to writing and then have it rejected. She pressured me to read the manuscript and then persuaded me to let her pitch it." Evans heard nothing for about three months, then on her birthday, she learned that her book was accepted.

"The Correspondent" was on the shelves April 29, 2025.

In the 250,000 to 1,000,000 books published annually in the USA, Jenny Purtill was initially unaware of this debut published work. She read the book after hearing a YouTube review by award-winning novelist Ann Patchett who called it "a cause for celebration." Purtill shared her enthusiasm with others at the Library and everyone considered it was a must-read.

Purtill drafted a few handwritten letters before deciding on the one to mail to Evans's publicist, inviting the author to be the speaker in the Lanier 2026 Distinguished Speaker Series. The response was prompt and positive. Evans, who lived in Winston-Salem, would be delighted to come to Tryon.

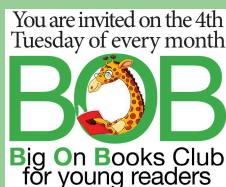
"I had no book publishing experience and at first had no book tour planned", said Evans.

Word-of-mouth increased popularity, sales, and requests for interviews. Highly favorable reviews and award recognition increased. Well before the Lanier Library event on March 22, "The Correspondent" became a New York Times #1 Best Seller.

Seating was limited to 300 for the author's program at Tryon Fine Arts Center and quickly sold out. Reception afterward was limited to 100 at the Lanier Library and sold out within days. Registration for a waiting list is still open at www.thelanierlibrary.org.

Free public admission thanks to support from the
Kirby Endowment Fund at Polk County Community Foundation.

The Library will be closed on Sunday, March 22 to prepare for the Distinguished Speaker Series Reception.

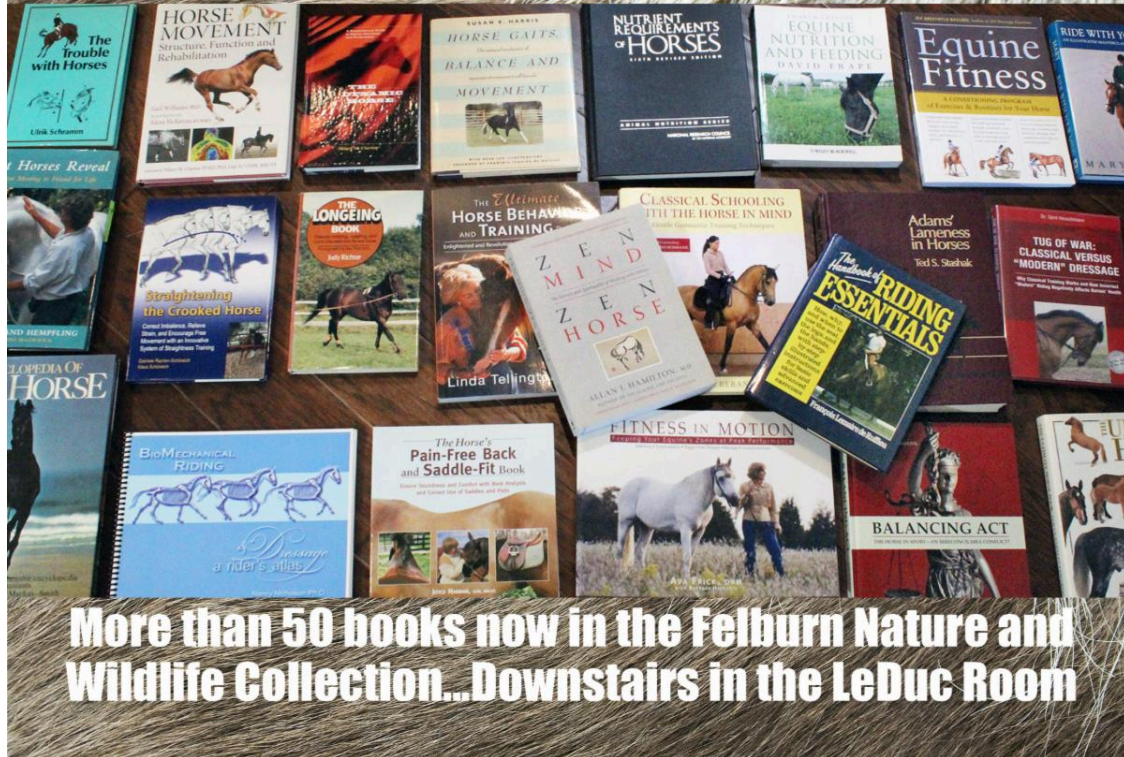


Big On Books (BOB) Club for Younger Readers

The BOB Club for K-12 readers will meet on March 24 at 3:30 at Lanier Library. Regular meetings will be on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3:30. This is a get-together for young readers to share thoughts and feelings about whatever they are reading, from

Adventure to Zoology, fiction and non, and to get ideas of what they may want to read next. Lanier Library members and non-members are welcome. BOB (Big On Books) is the name of the giraffe presiding at the top of the Chestnut Street hill outside the Library.

A Curated Library for Horse Lovers and Equestrians of Every Level



More than 50 books now in the Felburn Nature and Wildlife Collection...Downstairs in the LeDuc Room

Harry Goodheart, former president of Lanier Library and owner of Tryon Fine Books, thought something was missing in the Library's Felburn Nature and Wildlife Collection. Considering the importance of horses in the area, he thought the shelves should offer an equestrian collection suitable for riders of every level from trainers and competitors to beginners and those who simply loved horses. Harry died on 10/29/21 before the careful process of collection could be begin.

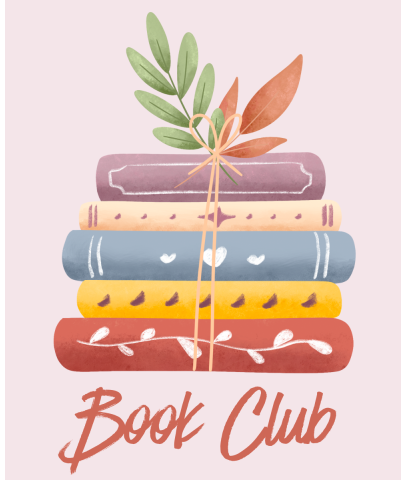
Gloria Verrecchio, DVM, CERP (Certified Equine Rehabilitation Practitioner), had been collecting equine books for about 40 years, each carefully curated to help her be a better rider, better understand horses, help run a breeding farm, be a better veterinarian, stay current on the latest technical advances, and keep an open mind to alternative medicine. When she died on 10/4/25, her unique collection was bequeathed to the Library to finally fulfill Harry's vision. Books range from the technical such as "Adams' Lameness for Horses" and "Pain-free Back and Saddle Fit" to the more basic "Riding Essentials" and the thought-provoking "Zen Mind, Zen Horse."

This photo shows only a few of the more than 50 books in the Gloria Verrecchio Collection now ready to educate, coach, and entertain.

Note from the President

Are you in a Book Club?

I love my book club. We have not been a group for that long, three years or so, and I look forward to each meeting. It is a co-ed book club, made up of hiking friends who love to read. Our tastes in books is quite varied, with one unapologetic fan of only non-fiction, and one who occasionally recommends unusual science fiction. At the end of the year, we choose our books for the next year this way: each person pitches three books that they want the group to read. We then vote and choose one book from each person. When your book is being read, you host the meeting and



serve dessert. You are responsible for keeping the conversation focused on the book, at least at the start of the meeting. This formula works well for us. We named our club the Bailey's Book Club, because for the first few meetings, we enjoyed Bailey's Irish Cream at the end of the meeting, and that name seemed to suit us.

I share this because I would like to hear from you if you are in a book club as well. At Lanier, we are going to put together a comprehensive list of book clubs in the Tryon area, in order to make sure that we know what book your book club is planning to read. We will make sure that the books are

available at the Lanier Library, and we will send information on upcoming literary events and programs to your members. Your information will not be shared or used for promotional purposes.

If this sounds good, please send the following information to me, and I will add your club to the Lanier Library Book Club list:

Book Club Name (if you don't have one, now is a good time to make one up!)

- When was the club started?
- Brief description of how you choose your books.
- How often do you meet?
- Are there any meeting guidelines?
- Primary contact and email address
- List of members with email addresses
- What books are you planning to read in 2026?
- Are you accepting new members?

Please answer these questions as best you can, and send the details to me: cindycaldwell921@gmail.com. This information will help us tailor our acquisitions to the interests of our members, and will guide us in our purchases of books and audio books in the future.

If you are not in a book club, but still want to meet with other to talk about what you have been reading, don't forget about our Book Lovers group that meets at the library the first Saturday of every month at 10:00. It is a great way to meet other avid readers and get ideas about new books and authors.

See you at the library! **Cindy**

Membership @ Lanier



Even with our advertising, PR, website, and many programs, there are folks in the Foothills who ask “What’s Lanier Library?” As a member, you can help spread the answer by telling them why you carry the Lanier card.

According to *The Marketing Explainer*, 2024, “Word of mouth marketing (WOMM) is one of the oldest and most powerful forms of advertising. Deeply rooted in human nature, relying on trust...WOMM leverages the voices of customers...resulting in a more credible and impactful endorsement.”

Is your membership about to expire? No need to come in to the library, just visit the library website by clicking on: <https://thelanierlibrary.org/membership/online-membership-form> and [renew online](#).

If you aren’t sure when your membership expires, please contact the library at 828-859-9535.

Culture Quiz

OPERA?

COMPOSER?

TENOR?



- Cavalleria Rusticana
- Pagliacci
- Turandot

- Leoncavallo
- Puccini
- Mascagni

- Pavarotti
- Carreras
- Domingo

SCROLL TO BOTTOM FOR ANSWERS

Book Lovers March 7, 2026

Book Lovers will meet on March 7, 2026 to discuss books they've enjoyed (or not)! It's casual, enlightening, and there are no rules. Join the fun!
Here are current favorites.

Fiction

84, Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff
A Slowly Dying Cause by Elizabeth George
Act of Oblivion by Robert Harris
And the Mountains Echoed by Khaleed Hosseini
Arturo's Island by Elsa Morante
Birds in Fall by Brad Kessler
Bright Lights, Big Christmas by Mary Kay Andrews
Finding Grace by Loretta Rothschild
Fire in the Blood by Irene Nemirovsky
Flesh by David Szalay
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
Identity by Milan Kundera
In the Company of Angels by N.M. Kelby
Islands in the Stream by Ernest Hemingway
Last Call at the Savoy by Brisa Carleton
Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessler
Noah's Compass by Anne Tyler
Old Bones by Preston & Child
Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
Rivers of London by Ben Aaronovitch
Some Bright Nowhere by Ann Packer
The Boxcar Librarian by Brianna Labuskes
The Cicada Tree by Robert Gwaltney
The Daughters of Mars by Thomas Keneally

The Fabled Earth by Kimberly Brock
The Family Man by Elinor Lippman
The Fury by Alex Michaelides
The Land in Winter by Andrew Miller
The Librarians by Sherry Thomas
The Listeners by Maggie Stiefvater
The Original Daughter by Jemimah Wei
The Rest of Our Lives by Ben Markovits
The Satisfaction Cafe by Kathy Wang
The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet by Reif Larsen
This Motherless Land by Nikki May
To Catch a Spy by Mark O'Neill
We Are All Guilty Here by Karin Slaughter
When All is Said by Anne Griffin

Mystery

A Christmas Witness by Charles Todd
Marigold Cottages Murder Collective by Jo Nichols
The Black Wolf by Louise Penny
The Burning Grounds by Abir Mukerjee

Memoir/Biography

Home by Julie Andrews
Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks
Pride and Pleasure by Amanda Vail
The Boys in the Light by Nina Willner
Untamed by Will Harlan

Nonfiction

Daughters of the Bamboo Grove by Barbara Demick
Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green
Propaganda Girls by Lisa Rogak
The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle
The South Carolina State Hospital: Stories from Bull Street by William Buchheit
Walden by Henry David Thoreau

Children's

Gorgeous Georges by Carson Martin

Nonfiction Book Club

The Nonfiction Book Club will meet at 1:30 on Sunday, March 8, to discuss *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. The book to be discussed on April 12 is *Lin-Manuel Miranda: The Education of an Artist* by Daniel Pollack-Pelzner.

Orders & Acquisitions

Below are the links to our February Orders & Acquisitions. Feel free to contact the library to put your name on the hold list for any you would like to read.

You can call us or **log in through the catalog on the website using your library card number for ID and PIN.**

And, as always, let us know if there is a book or DVD you think would enhance the collection.

Click here for **Orders.**

Book Review



Weather

by Jenny Offill (2020)

Weather chronicles roughly a year in the life of the main character, Lizzie, helping her brother (an addict), being a wife and mother, plus handling jobs at a library and answering emails about climate change. A complex story, but the author manages to convey big issues in beautiful, spare sentences, and tell a story that is ultimately about survival on multiple levels.

Reviewed by [Marlise Schiltz](#)

Last Month @ Lanier



Bats!

The many types and talents of bats were the topic of our February 18 program with Pam Torlina of Conserving Carolina. Audience members learned about the species of bats present in North Carolina, their diets, and the dangers of White Nose Syndrome. Everyone also left with information about what they can do to protect the bats' habitat. Pam also gave those

interested the opportunity to hold two bat specimens that she brought with her.

Teachers @ Lanier

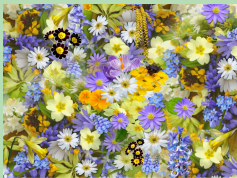


**Delta Kappa Gamma International Society
for Key Women Educators - Alpha Mu Chapter**
from Spartanburg County stopped by Lanier last month.

Displays @ Lanier

Sandra's Shelf Display

For our March display we will feature some of the many books that are mentioned in the Virginia Evans novel *The Correspondent* & will be titled : " We hope you'll enjoy some of the many books mentioned in our featured author's book, in addition to enjoying *The Correspondent*."



March Display

This month, Judy Bolton filled the display case with items celebrating the art of letter writing.



Thank You

Thank you to Pam Torlina for filling the February display case with information about bats.

Poem of the Month

The Lanier Library Poetry Committee is pleased to introduce a poem of the month program. Each month we will be posting a different poem that we hope will inspire you.

The poem will be in the monthly newsletter and posted at the library. Please let us know what you think of each month's selection.

Dear March-Come In...

By Emily Dickinson

Dear March—Come in—
How glad I am—
I hoped for you before—
Put down your Hat—
You must have walked—
How out of Breath you are—
Dear March, how are you, and the Rest—
Did you leave Nature well—
Oh March, Come right upstairs with me—
I have so much to tell—
I got your Letter, and the Birds—
The Maples never knew that you were coming—
I declare - how Red their Faces grew—
But March, forgive me—
And all those Hills you left for me to Hue—
There was no Purple suitable—
You took it all with you—
Who knocks? That April—
Lock the Door—
I will not be pursued—
He stayed away a Year to call
When I am occupied—
But trifles look so trivial
As soon as you have come
That blame is just as dear as Praise
And Praise as mere as Blame—

Culture Quiz Answers

1. Pagliacci (Clowns) premiered in Milan, 1892
2. Ruggiero Leoncavallo (1857-1919)
3. Luciano Pavarotti (1935-2007)

Lanier Library | 828-859-9535 | thelanierlibrary@gmail.com

Lanier Library Association | 72 Chestnut Street | Tryon, NC 28782 US

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