Summer 2021 Newsletter

Updates for NCBC Members and Affiliates

Featured in this Issue:

- End of Book parties
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- Travels with Tom
An "End of Book" party is a celebration of a job well done and a farewell to the memorable characters and worlds explored from your club's latest book. Though reading is an immersive experience in itself, bringing a book to life can be a fun way to learn more about a story.

Not every party has to have balloons and confetti! Sometimes a trip to a local sporting event after reading the sports section of the newspaper or making your own Turkish Delight after reading *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* is celebration enough. And celebrations don't need to break the bank! Your club could make their own enchanted spells after reading a *Harry Potter* book or write your own poetry after finishing *Where The Sidewalk Ends*.

So should you have an End of Book party? Heck Yes! Your members will bond, build lifelong memories, and get to further explore their community. Members looking for more responsibility can help brainstorm activities!

Continue to the next page to see what our Affiliate Piedmont Down Syndrome Support Network does to celebrate the end of a book!
More examples of End of Book Parties
- Going to the movies to see books you've read
- Learning how to fingerprint at the police station after reading Sherlock Holmes
- Experiencing archery after reading Robinhood
- Visiting a riding center after reading Black Beauty
- Playing with the animals at the Humane Society after reading Balto
- Performing a play about a book you've read that year
Ever get overwhelmed with the number of books available? Feel like you have read everything? Fear not! Coming this month we will have a monthly Book of the Month suggestion with End of Book party ideas. Check out your Affiliate Portal for the full recommendation and don't forget to add your own recommendations!

July's Book of the Month
A Year Full of Stories: 52 classic stories from all around the world by Angela McAllister

“This book has wonderful pictures to interact with and tales from all over the world. A great book to discuss the similar and dissimilar aspects of life and to encourage critical thinking.”
Chapters Ahead/Next Chapter Book Club is excited to introduce a new Board member, Amanda Smith. She is the Chief Services Officer of ARC Industries, Inc. in central Ohio, where she supports all of their programs and lines of services for around 1,750 adults with developmental disabilities.

For the past 15 years, Amanda has been focused on the field of developmental disabilities. Before working at ARC Industries, Amanda was the Executive Director of Learning Never Ends/Putting Abilities to Work in Columbus, Ohio. While there, she worked with co-owner Melissa Gourley (another NCBC Board Member), who helped to develop NCBC. Amanda has also worked with NCBC's founder Tom Fish and considers him a mentor. And the connections to NCBC don't stop there! When Learning Never Ends started their NCBC book clubs, she was trained by Jillian Ober, who co-wrote several books with Tom, including *Something's Brewing: Short Stories and Plays for Everyone and more*. Amanda participated in several clubs that met at their local Barnes and Noble.

"I'm really passionate about making a difference in the lives of individuals, and so I am honored to have this opportunity," she explained. "My goal is to serve the Next Chapter Book Club organization and participants well and to try to contribute as much creativity as possible to improve the experience for the individuals." She continued: "I really hope to bring creativity and new ideas on how to further expand the program, whether that's through visibility, technology, or getting more engagement from the community."

As an avid reader, Amanda is a great fit for NCBC. "I'm passionate about books, so this is a perfect way for me to blend together two passions that I have: serving people in the field and literacy." She loves reading books on psychology as well as classics. Her favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

*We are thrilled to have Amanda as part of NCBC. We think you will be, too.*

*Welcome, Amanda!*
Meet Frederick and Godelive: the Facilitators of our Rwandan Book Clubs

Interview by: Desi Strickland, Executive Director

How many members do you have?
G: We have 6 groups with 6-8 members and we meet each Wednesday

What inspired you to start a book club?
F: My own disability and to get other individuals with disabilities out of the house.

What kinds of activities do you facilitate for your clubs?
F: Sometimes we read, sometimes we dance or sing or make up our own stories.
G: For some members, reading is new to them. Some were not allowed to go to school.

How have your members grown since joining NCBC?
F: We see improvements in our members. They are not shy anymore!
G: We give them the time to express themselves. Sometimes at home or in the outside community, there is no one to listen to them. They open their hearts with their struggles and their stories and we teach them to appreciate themselves. Even those who cannot speak have learned how to tell us things. They have learned to dream. They are thinking about their futures.

What do your members gain from NCBC?
F: It is like therapy, it’s like medicine. They make themselves happy. They wish they could do book club every day!
G: Some of our members have malnutrition so we’ll give them snacks like milk and fruits. We try to provide them with things to make their lives better.
Around the World Cont.

Donations for this Affiliate can be made on our website
Some of our stateside clubs have been meeting again in person! Please continue to stay safe and keep reading whether in person or virtually!

First in-person meeting of the year!
- Truckee Library, CA

Meeting safely in a local coffee shop!
- Darke County DD, OH
Greetings Everyone and Happy Summer,

Back in May, I met virtually with a book club from Columbus, Ohio, my former hometown. The group has been meeting for something like ten years and generally prefers to read science fiction books. Later this month they plan to return to in person meetings at Tim Horton's, which is a donut and coffee shop. I am proud to say that one of my former graduate Social Work students, Nichele Lyndes, has been the lead facilitator for this book club for eight years or so.

It was so much fun meeting up with my book club friends from Columbus. I had been to their club a number of times but never virtually. They are a Real Trip! The club absolutely loves to read. And talk about tight knit, they have all been invited and are super excited to attend Nichele's Wedding next Spring.

The club is currently reading *Ready Player Two* by Ernest Cline. I just so enjoyed the support, encouragement and respect members demonstrated with one another. Everyone was upbeat yet clearly chomping at the bit to resume in person meetings. I can't wait either to hit the road, in the near future, and visit a number of clubs face to face. Who knows, it may be your club. In the meantime, Happy Trails and all my very best regards.

Sincerely,
Tom
We Want to Hear From You!

Send us a picture, give a book recommendation, just finish a book? We want to know!

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