

FOBL NEWS

| Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library |

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library
P.O. Box 668
Bear DE 19701

Friends of Bear Library
Website: DE-FOBL.org

Phone: 302 838-3323 and leave a message.

E-mail: FOBearLib@DE-FOBL.org

Facebook: Friends of the Bear Library.

Meetings: Third Wednesday of January, May, July, September, and November at 7p.m. in the library.

Annual Meeting is held in March. Date to be announced.

We continue to work to finish the tile wall in the hallway to the meeting rooms. If you or an organization that you belong to would like to create a tile, please, email us at the above address to set up an appointment

Tile cost is \$25.00 which includes tile, glazes, firing and placement.

Greetings Friends!

On a recent visit to the Bear Library, I was welcomed by the subtle perfume of roses as I crossed the walkway separating the lovely garden that flanks our library's entrance. What a treat- especially after Nature's hesitant start to spring! Nature may have been taking its time but our amazing staff has been busily planning and preparing spring and summer programs to educate, inform and entertain all ages of patrons- children, teens, and adults; and to entice you to take advantage of the special features the Bear Library has to offer.

Pick up a copy of the "Happenings Program Guide" for a detailed list of all Bear Library programs; or visit the Friend's website, or the Bear Library website: NCCDE.org/Bear and click on UPCOMING EVENTS.

"Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty."

-Anne Herbert

I'm already inspired!!!!

See you at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin, President



The Staff would like to share with you a story about the positive impact of one of the programs at the Bear Library. The Lego Club is in its fifth month and during this time the children learn designing, testing and problem solving through the building process. One of the participants is autistic. He has previously struggled to find a creative outlet but enjoys the club activities monthly. The Sponge Bob was a personal design, done from memory, and is on display in the children's library front desk. April was Autism Awareness month and the child's mother was thrilled to shared his creation with teachers and the Autism community.

Memberships & Donors

Memberships:

Ken & Rosa Kirk

Pauline Hopper

Helen Sieling

Michael Garko

Carolyn Manning

Sandra Crawford

James and Debra Bertrando

Barbara Erskine

Margaret Parsons

Leona Sklowdowski

Donations:

Carolyn Manning

Thank you to all. You have helped the Bear Library!!!



Photo by
Melanie Smyth

DoCairde Dance School of Middletown performed at the Friends Annual Meeting on March 12, 2017, in the Bear Library. The meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed the performance by the boys and girls from the school. Wonderful refreshments and decorations were donated by Gay Corrie with help from her daughter, Melanie Smyth. A huge thank you to the performers and to Gay and Melanie!

From the Library Manager's Desk:

As we head into summer I wanted to take a moment to talk about all the exciting library programs we have planned over the summer.

First and foremost, we have our **Summer Reading Challenge** that runs from June 1st through August 12th. Children, teens, and adults can all participate, and can do so either using a paper log and coming to the library to report their hours, or on line using an on-line program that can be found on the library's website that will go live June 1st. We have a number of fun activities and incentives planned for participants, including a magic show, shaved ice, and an ice cream truck for the children at various times throughout the summer, to a grand prize raffle drawing for adult participants at the end of summer for an Android tablet provided by the Friends of Bear Library. Summer reading is a lot of work for staff, but it is worth it, because numerous studies have shown that children and teens who do not read over the summer do not perform as well in school as children who do read over the summer. This is called the summer slide, and some specific findings include:

- 1) Children in low-income households fall behind an average of 2 months in reading during the summer. And, summer slide is cumulative, with these learning losses building up each summer.
- 2) Summer learning loss accounts for two-thirds of the 9th grade achievement gap in reading between students from low-income households and their higher-income peers.
- 3) Students from low-income households with access to books over the summer see significantly more gains in reading scores from spring to fall than students from high-income households with access to books and those from low-income households without access to books.
- 4) Differences in children's summer learning experiences during their elementary school years can ultimately impact whether they earn a high school diploma and continue to college.

So, if you have children or grandchildren, show them that reading is important by participating in the adult summer reading program, and make sure they are reading over the summer by enrolling them in the children or teen

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Summer Reading Challenge- it will improve their school performance, and it could ultimately impact whether they go on to college!

In addition to summer reading we have a number of other interesting programs lined up for you. One of my favorites is a program scheduled on August 13th on how to watch a solar eclipse. I am so excited about being able to see a solar eclipse happening on August 21st, and this program will teach you how to watch it. Even though it will only be a partial eclipse here in Delaware, it is still exciting! We also have a small genealogy series lined up in June, July and August, and the staff has been working hard to also line up a number of technology and coding programs for children and adults throughout the summer months. For information on all the Bear Library programs please stop by and ask for copies of our monthly program calendars or a copy of the summer issue of New Castle County's *Happenings* Program Guide.

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer, and I hope to see you at the library!

Eric Kuhn

Manager, Bear Library

Third quarter statistics for Bear Library (January-March 2017):

17,687 reference questions asked and answered (highest in county)

22,963 holds on materials placed (4th highest in county)

119,890 physical items checked out (3rd highest in county)

7,735 e-books checked out (4th highest in county)

101,778 user visits (highest in county)

1,061 new library cards issued (highest in county)

453 library programs held (highest in county)

3,477 library program attendees (highest in county)

11,970 computer sessions (highest in the county)

Introducing Lisa Burris

Born and raised in Blackbird, New Castle County, Lisa Burris still lives in the house where she grew up. Her 60-year-old house rests on three acres of land that has been in her family for over 100 years. She enjoys the country-like atmosphere and her rural lifestyle. She grew up with two older brothers (one a retired University of Delaware police officer, the other deceased), and has two grown nieces, two great-nieces and two great-nephews (ages 3-10 years). Lisa enjoys spending time with the children, and they love visiting their "fun" aunt!

Lisa graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in History. She is especially interested in U.S. history, pre-Columbian societies and Aztec culture. She holds two Masters degrees (English, Education) and was an adjunct professor of English at Wesley College. Lisa completed her studies for a Masters in Library Science at Drexel University. She has worked at the Kirkwood and Hockessin libraries, but began her library career as circulation assistant for Bear Library. Overall, she has worked in New Castle County libraries for 14 years.

Officially, Lisa is a Youth Services Librarian I, serving patrons up to age 17. Many of Lisa's responsibilities are county-wide: DVD selection, event coordinator/organizer for the annual NCC teen volunteer fair, and participating in several county-wide committees. At the Bear Library, Lisa is in charge of two full time and four part time staff, and she is one of two librarians (the other is Beth Borene) who act in Eric Kuhn's stead if he is out of the building.

Lisa boasts a wide range of interests, from musical theater ("Evita" and "Wicked" are favorites) to Harry Potter and collecting Peanuts memorabilia. She also owns dozens of autographed books. Two of her favorites are those signed by two of her literary heroes: Maya Angelou and Stephen King.

Lisa's reading preferences are literary fiction (*Lincoln in the Bardo* is a recent favorite) and non-fiction, including biographies of 1930's-40's movie actors and books about the Civil War. Lisa has traveled to 23 states and to Mexico, often investigating historical sites and ancient cultures. She also is interested in local Delaware history. Imagine her surprise when, on a recent tour of a historic Quaker meeting house in Middletown, she discovered that her ancestors operated the Bear Post Office at the corner of routes 7 & 40, just a few thousand feet from the Bear Library!

New Programs—following is a list of some of the new programs offered in the Bear Library:

Learn Spanish In the Library

Enjoy one of two, eight-part series as English speaking learners experience basic Spanish through reading, writing and talking in a group. Registration required. Adults 11-12:30 or 1-2:30 p.m. Saturdays: June 3, 10, 17, 24; July 8, 22, 29; August 5.

Quilts, Crafts and More

Drop in for group activities including quilting, hand sewing and stitchery skills. Learn unique and enjoyable crafts while sharing fellowship. All ages and skill levels. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays: June 13, 27; July 11, 25; August 8, 22

Genealogy Series Part One: Beginning Your Quest

What is genealogy? How can you get started researching your family history? Get answers to these and other basic questions from Tom Summers of Delaware Public Archives. Registration recommended. Ages 16-Adults. Tuesday, June 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Genealogy Series Part Two: Exploring Your Family History

Let historian Mike Dixon take you on a step-by-step family history journey, broadening your genealogical research and helping place your family heritage in a World context. Registration recommended. Ages 16-Adults. Sunday, July 9, 2-4 p.m.

African American Aviators: Tuskegee Airmen

Faced with Jim Crow segregation, open discrimination, and deemed unfit for service by the US Army, Tuskegee men overcame many obstacles to fight with valor and distinction in the skies over the Pacific and European theatres of WWII. Refreshments. Registration recommended. All ages. Sunday, July 16, 2-4 p.m.

Building a Better World: Delaware Bridges and Ferries

Crossing the Delaware River has proven challenging throughout history and still can be today. Enjoy historian Mike Dixon, sharing tales and pictures between here and there on flatboats, ferries, floods and mighty suspension bridges. Registration recommended. All ages. Saturday, July 22. 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Make Your Best Use of Garden Produce

Using simple water bath home canning, you can eat healthy and save money year round with University of Delaware Cooperative Extension's steps and strategies for help you preserving your seasonal vegetable and fruit bounty. Registration recommended. Ages 12-adult. Tuesday, August 1. 6:30-8 p.m.

Membership Application

- Student \$ 5.00
- Senior \$ 5.00
- Individual \$ 10.00
- Family \$ 15.00
- Business/Civic Organization \$ 25.00
- Good Friend \$ 50.00
- Better Friend \$ 100.00
- Best Friend \$ 500.00

- New
- Renewal

I would like to help in the following areas:

- Newsletter
- Hospitality
- Membership
- Fund-raising
- Public Relations

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail:* _____

*We will NOT share your email address with others.

The Friends of the Bear Library, Assoc. is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization. Your donation should be tax deductible.

We would like to thank those members that agreed to receive the FOBL News via email. It saves us postage and printing. Email us at FOBearLib@DE-FOBL.org if you would like to join them. Thank you!!!!

Your membership and donations are used to provide enrichment to the library. The Friends provide extra programs and items to the library that make the Bear Library the best library in the state!!!