

Programs and Activities at the Bear Library Supported by the Friends of The Bear Library

Over the years the Friends of the Bear Library has supported many programs for the library in arts, culture, history, technology, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), consumer health, physical health, nutrition, and financial literacy, writing, and publishing. Some examples are presented below (click on a title to find out more):

Reading Programs

Summer Reading Program for Children Including Programs and Incentives Such as:

Ice Cream Social-Mr. Softee
Uncle Pete & Balloon Lady
Provided Awards

Summer Reading Program for Adults Including Incentives, Recognitions and Awards such as a gift certificate to Borders Book Store, or a FitBit, iPad, or Kindle.

Other Programs Sponsored or Funded by the FOBL:

- Writers Workshops.
- Cupcake Lady Program for Teens and Adults.
- Cake Boss.
- Bell Ringers.
- Live Classical Music (e.g., University of Delaware String Quartet)
- Master Gardener Programs.
- Delaware Master Food Educators Program.
- Other Food and Health Programs.
- Photography.
- Pottery Demonstration.
- Computer Classes in Spanish (ESL).
- Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (Stem) Programs.
- Flower Arranging.

Story Tellers:

Ed Okonowicz

Women in History & DHF

Native American Stories & History

Other DHF Programs

Bear Library Facility Enhancement and Improvements:

In addition, the FOBL has enhanced, enriched and improved the Bear Library facility with items such as:

- Landscaping in Front of Library, and Planted and Maintained Pots at the Entrance.
- Green Screen for Teen Programs.
- Lecterns for Community Rooms.
- Kiosks for Book Display near Entrance.
- Triangle Column for Market Place Area.
- Alligator Book Shelf in Children's Library.
- Teen Area Rug.
- Benches in the Lobby.

Details - Programs and Activities at the Bear Library Supported by the Friends of The Bear Library

Reading Programs for Children Incentives and Rewards:

- Ice Cream Social-Mr. Softee - This event rewards children who participate in the Summer Reading Program. Children get a free ice cream cone.
- Uncle Pete- A popular and entertaining children's program story teller.
- Balloon Lady- The FOBL purchased balloon columns and an arch to decorate the entrance of the library for re-opening following renovation in 2013.
- Summer Reading Prize for Children Contest Prize of a IPAD Mini in 2015.

Adult Summer Reading Program Awards:

Over the past several years FOBL has purchased the prizes awarded each year to the winner of the Adult Summer Reading Program Reading Contest. In the past a gift certificate to Borders Book Store has been awarded. Most recent awards for Summer Reading Program are below.

Prize of FitBit-2016 Summer Reading Program for Adults
Prize of Kindle-2015 Summer Reading Program for Adults
Prize of Kindle-2014 Summer Reading Program for Adults

Writers Workshops (Sharing Tips & Traps):

The FOBL has supported and funded The Bear Library's Writers Workshop series. In this series, a number of successful writers come in and share their knowledge and experience with aspiring and fledgling authors and writers regarding the craft of writing, and provide insight, guidance, and advice about the process of getting published.

Cupcake Lady:

Cupcake Lady Program is for older teens and adults. The "Cupcake Lady" (Allison Kissel) provides baked cupcakes and teaches basic, advanced and themed cupcake decorating techniques. The program often is themed to a nearby holiday. For example, in November of 2016 she lead the decoration of Fall and Winter holiday themed cupcakes.

Cake Boss:

Cake Boss-Dana Herbert, the winner of the 1st season of the *Cake Boss* TV Program gave a well attended talk at the library. Mr. Herbert resides in Bear and has a bakery business in New Castle.

[Return to Contents/Index Page](#)

Bell Ringers:

Bell Ringers is a Christmas Season program that includes holiday music played by an ensemble of handbell ringers from the Newark Delaware First State Ringers ensemble from Newark United Methodist Church. Traditionally, refreshments are also provided by our Friends of the Bear Library Board.

Live Classical Music:

An example of a classical music performance is the University of Delaware String Quartet - this string quartet played at the grand opening of the library after the renovation in 2013.

Master Gardener Programs:

The FOBL has sponsored several master gardener programs in the past. Recent topics included Garden Line Live, Grow Your Own Tomatoes, and Winter Gardening. Currently, the FOBL with the support of the staff of the Bear Library, is working on scheduling a program on Hummingbirds for the Spring of 2017.

Delaware Master Food Educators:

The Delaware Master Food Educators Program has included such topics as: Water Bath Canning, Freezing Garden Veggies, Cooking From the Spring Garden, Easy Cooking for Two, Healthy Eating, Diet For Diabetes, Mindful Eating, Get Your Snack Back on Track. This Fall (2016) features Cooking From the Fall Garden.

Other Food and Health Programs:

The FOBL has also helped provide the Bear Library's Food Skills and Nutrition series (Fall, 2016) and the Healthy Living With Chronic Disease series (Fall 2016).

Photography:

Recent Photography programs with professional photographer, author and travel planner, Jeffrey Kontur, have included Digital Photo Basics, Getting Started in Photography, Better Photography Shortcuts, Advanced Digital Photos, Travel Photography, Family and Holiday Photos, Travel Planning, and iPhone/iPad Tips and Techniques. More recent programs are: Camera Phone Basics on Monday (early Fall, 2016), Understanding Your Camera Monday (late Fall 2016) and, Mac Computer Tips and Tricks this winter (2016-2017).

[Return to Contents/Index Page](#)

Pottery Demonstration:

Jody Hoffman brought a pottery wheel and clay to the library to give a demonstration on throwing for the audience. Jody is art director at Archmere Academy in Wilmington, Delaware and a highly recognized potter.

Computer Classes in Spanish:

Initiated by the FOBL, ESL (English as a Second Language) Computer Classes are now supported by other organizations. The Bear Library offers an eight-part series of computer classes for Spanish Speakers now taught by library staffer, Sam Santiago. Friends funded this program for seven years before the Bear Library had a staffer able to teach the courses.

Flower Arranging:

The FOBL have sponsored Flower Arranging 101 with Sandy McVey, a Philadelphia Flower Show medalist who provides all the materials for up to twenty attendees to learn basic arrangement techniques and tips. The program is offered twice a year.

Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Programs:

This past Spring (2016) the FOBL invited Dr. Stephanie Wright, (official Delaware Teacher in Space) of the Delaware Aerospace Academy make a presentation regarding the Delaware Aerospace Academy and Museum located in Smyrna, Delaware. The academy offers space camps and classes, and encourages learning in the fields of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics (STEM). The FOBL is working with Bear Library staff to have Dr. Wright make a followup presentation in March 2017, during Women's History Month.

[Return to Contents/Index Page](#)

Story Tellers Supported by the FOBL:

The Friends of the Bear Library have supported numerous story telling programs for adults and teens, including:

Ed Okonowicz:

Ed Okonowicz is a local author who elaborates on historical events that have taken place in and around Delaware. Mr. Okonowicz comes to us courtesy of the Delaware Humanities Forum, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities and has presented many programs on topics as varied as his ghost stories in Tales Tombstones Tell, his storytelling craft in Tales of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, Delaware's Medal of Honor recipients, Civil War Trivia, Covered Bridges, Delaware Trivia, Meet the First Ladies, and Presidential Pet Tales. Ed's planned presentation for Fall, 2016 included Meet the Presidents, and Predictions Gone Wrong including some election whoppers.

Women in History Series:

In the Women in History Series, these storyteller often use costumes, props, and dialect to portray women in history, including a spy living in Philadelphia during the American Revolution, Marie Antoinette and others. The Delaware Humanities Forum (DHF) has provided us several storytellers on women in history recently. Dr Linda de Roche detailed The Lady Was A Spy. Karen L. Jesse has dressed as a variety of American and Continental ladies in history while sharing their stories, and Kim Burdick told us of Louise duPont Crowninshield, Delaware's preservation pioneer. Kim has also taught us about the American Revolution. Next Spring (2017), Jean Norvell will come in character as the amazing Hannah Penn.

Native American Stories and History:

Dr. Cara Blume on Sat Nov 12 at 1:30 p.m. will tell us of Native Americans and their difficult alliance during the American Revolution period. West Chester University Professor Emeritus Dr. Marshall Becker has blessed us with several programs for Native American Heritage Month as his expertise extends from archaeology to anthropology to pre-revolutionary American History.

Other Delaware Humanities Forum (DHF) Story Tellers:

Additional recent Delaware Humanities Forum (DHF) presenters include Dr Joel Glazier on music history and The Beatles, Michael Dixon has presented on subjects as varied as election history, railroads, canals, old roads, firefighting, prohibition, Civil Rights, law enforcement and the Mason-Dixon Line. Mike will be offering programs on canals, ferries, and Conowingo Dam next Spring and Summer, 2017.

[Return to Contents/Index Page](#)

Bear Library Facility Enhancement and Enrichment Projects Sponsored or Funded by the Friends of the Bear Library or its Members

In addition programs, the FOBL has enhanced and enriched the Bear Library with items such as:

Landscaping in front of library:

- FOBL sponsored the plantings in the circle in front of the library.
- Planted and maintained pots at the entrance

Purchased green screen for teen programs.

Purchased lecterns for community rooms (funds donated by a member).

Purchased kiosks for book display - located near the front doors of the library (funds donated by a member).

Donated triangle column for the Market Place, an area displaying new items near reference desk (materials and construction labor donated by a member).

Purchased the Alligator Book Shelf in Children's Library (funds donated by a member).

Purchased Teen Area Rug.

Benches in the Lobby (funds donated by members).

Return to Contents/Index Page

For the latest FOBL and Bear programs, events, projects, and activities visit either of these websites:

<http://www.de-fobl.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Bear-Library-1523136267990539/>

<http://de-newcastlecounty.civicplus.com/291/Bear-Library>

Return to Contents/Index Page

File: FOBL_SupportedProgramsHistorically2016.wpd/pdf (WPW).
Created: 09/21/2106; Last Revision/Update: 09/24/2016.