

FOBL NEWS

| Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library |

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library

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Meetings: Third Wednesday of
Jan., May, July, Sept. & Nov., at
7p.m. in the library

Annual Meeting: March. Date to
be announced.

Greetings, Friends,

Each time I visit the Bear Library I uncover a treasure! A bear-themed quilt now hangs high above the library entrance doors. The quilt is the most recent addition to the Bear Library's permanent and growing collection of art, which includes three patron-designed tile walls, patron/artist Kevin Ellis's large tile rendering of the Bear Library, and the mesmerizing wind sculptures. Although these art pieces are singularly noteworthy, the truly priceless "treasure" is the patrons who contributed to the art, either through hands-on activities or memberships and donations to the Friends of the Bear Library. The Quilts, Crafts and More group of women (led by staff member Carlina Hall) conceived, designed and labored over the quilt. The quilt took over two years to complete. The women donated their time, individual talents, materials and equipment to the project. They are grateful to former staff member Beth Borene for providing a sewing machine, and to staff member Owen Thorne for contributing the backing material. If you scrutinize the quilt, you will see that each of the 25 squares contains a different "bear" word or image. The quilt was truly a labor of love. We are grateful to the quilters for this contribution to the Bear Library. Just look at the smile on the face of our mascot Brownie the Bear, who gets to look at the quilt every day!

Another Bear Library treasure, library manager Eric Kuhn, promises that the bears will be returning for their annual holiday visit. Look for them in the coming weeks. Be sure to mark your calendar for our other holiday visitors, the **First State Ringers** from Newark United Methodist Church. This popular

group will perform at the library on Sunday, December 8 at 2 PM.

If you are inspired to help us expand our Bear Library art collection, and create a personal legacy, consider adding a tile to our entryway tile wall. (Details are in this newsletter.) And remember to join the Friends of the Bear Library, or renew your membership, so that we can continue to work together as a community for the state's most outstanding-- and treasured-- library!

I wish you a safe and happy holiday season, full of treasured moments with family and Friends. See you at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin
President



FY 2020 First Quarter Statistics for Bear Library:

User Visits	100,389
New Users Added	1,165
E-Book Checkout	12,301
Total Materials Checkout	139,740

Memberships & Donors

Donations:

**Boeing Anonymous
Duane Perry
Senator David McBride**

**In Memory of Robert Bosch
The Good Yarn Knitting and Craft Group**

Memberships-New and Renewals:

Mary Simpson
Carolyn Manning
Joseph Galler
Maryann Giordano
Helen Sieling
Mary C. Boyce
Debra Burke and John Roberts

- A. Lee DeBouse
- B. Janis Boyce
Linda J. Olds
Alonzo Balthrope
Connie Malin
Peg Parsons
Rebecca McLaughlin
Kaylene Lasbury
Joanne Shaw Mahnken
Gagan Kaushik
Heather Proffitt
Clifton Gilchrist
Alyssa and Vanessa Ngamau
Naomi Weiss
Catherine Segrest
Jacki Rossi
Cindy A. Radko
Nancy E. Racz
Lisa Petriccione
Lavinia Mumford
Richard Mickowski
Joanne Melancon
Cheryl P. Martin
Donald Mahnken
Dr. Lenah Kebaso
Arpita Jhunjunwala
Sandra Crossman
Kerry Craig
Sydney S. Coneeny
Teresa Childress-Gilliam
Virgilio Caraballo
David Brick
Yvonne Benton
Jakki Thomas
Niazuddin Syed
Mary Mohler
Helen Jacono
Edwin Grebe
Adeline Cheyson
Donna Rhodes
Ganesh and Chithra Bhat
John Winkworth
Sidonie Many Foba
Mohammed Ahmed

Your donations and membership dues are used by the Friends to support extras for the Bear Library.

THANK YOU!!!!

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BEAR LIBRARY

President:	Constance S. Malin
1st Vice President (Public Relations):	David R. Guinnup
2nd Vice President (Membership):	Beverly S. Wright
Recording Secretary:	Linda J. Olds
Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter):	Carol B. Harrington
Treasurer:	Jean E. Runge

From the Library Manager

The holiday season is when many of us reflect on our family, our friends, and the important people in our lives.

For me, in addition to my personal circle, I am very lucky to work with the Friends of the Bear Library. Both the Bear community and I are fortunate to have such a wonderful and supportive group of individuals dedicated to assisting their library and their community, and I would like to take a moment to celebrate and acknowledge their support and assistance over the past year.

The Friends of Bear Library underwrote the cost of providing over 140 library programs in 2019, covering a wide range of popular program subjects from computer classes to story times to gardening to African American history to food prep/nutrition to financial literacy to Harry Potter. The breadth and depth of programs underwritten is wonderful, and the library's programming offerings and calendars for children and adults would not be as rich as they are without the support of the Friends

The Friends provided funds to offer adult and children's summer reading grand prizes. They provided the wind sculptures in front of the library that everyone likes and admires, and they planned a full day of activities and entertainment to celebrate Bear's 20th anniversary. The Friends even provided lunch to library staff during our annual all-staff training day.

In addition to funds the Friends also volunteer their time. The Friends assisted with library card sign up activities and campaigns, raised funds, conducted Friends membership drives, and attended Legislative Day in Dover to lobby elected state officials in support of library funding needs. They even assisted with the landscaping in front of the library, where they helped maintain the large flower bed in front of the library, and provided the plants and daily watering for the large planted pots in front!

We all are fortunate to have the Friends of Bear Library- I thank them for their time and support for the library, and invite everyone in the Bear community to thank them as well!

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season,



Introducing Dorcia McCann

"Eclectic" is an adjective that aptly describes Bear Library Specialist Dorcia McCann. Embodying the definition of the word, Dorcia boasts a wide range of tastes and interests, which makes her perfectly suited to her current library position. Dorcia has worked at Bear Library for a year, first as a part-time specialist in August, then as a full-time employee since December 2018. Previously, she worked in Human Resources for New Castle County, and spent 4 1/2 years as a part-time assistant at Kirkwood Highway Library. Dorcia fell in love with libraries as a child and always wanted to work in one. She has volunteered in several New Castle County libraries, served on the Newark Library Board, and is a Friend of the Hockessin and Bear Libraries. She plans to spend several more years pursuing library work. In Dorcia's words, "A large aspect of my job is to develop and seek programs for adults that would be interesting and relatable". She and fellow staff member Owen Thorne often collaborate to bring such programs to the library. Dorcia cites the upcoming spring program "**A Matter of Balance**", which will focus on achieving better balance to prevent falls and sharpen mental acuity. The history of trains/railroads series, developed by Owen and presented by Mike Dixon of the Delaware Humanities Forum, are two programs she is especially excited about. She is appreciative of other staff members, library manager Eric Kuhn, and the Friends of the Bear Library for supporting her ideas and programming efforts.

Dorcia hails from the Midwest, where she earned a college degree in history and Russian studies. She had one quirky Russian female professor who would draw little coffins on Dorcia's papers, adding a nail each time to emphasize something she wanted Dorcia to correct. Initially confused, Dorcia now laughs when recalling the experience. Dorcia has traveled extensively around the United States and Europe, but she prefers trips to the Midwest to visit her family. Although classically trained on the piano from the age of 5 and adept on the violin, she enjoys all kinds of music. She enjoys many kinds of theatrical productions as well, and likes attending performances at the Resident Ensemble Players at the University of Delaware. Dorcia admits to being an Anglophile and is drawn to all things British. She anticipates seeing the REP's current production of "Murder on the Orient Express". A cookbook collector, she admires British chef Nigella Lawson and is an avid viewer of "The Great British Baking Show" on TV. Always physically active, Dorcia swims and is a member of the "Y". In college, she was involved in competitive equestrian. Dorcia and a football player were the only competitors to jump a Clydesdale! Dorcia has no pets, but she would consider being a pet parent to a cat, dog-- or even a pygmy goat or black sheep. Besides libraries, she is passionate about parks and the environment. She has volunteered with Delaware State Parks for nearly 15 years and has a close relationship with park rangers. She also is active in Veterans' Day programs. A recent program at the Judge Morris estate honored her friend, 97 year old WWII veteran Bob Austin.

Ever the eclectic, Dorcia declined to suggest a favorite book, author or literary genre-- "That would be like choosing a favorite child!". However, she is interested in expanding the language selection at Bear Library. She would like to see more Bollywood films, specifically in Hindi and Tamil, in order to acknowledge and better serve the diversity of our Library patrons. Otherwise, Dorcia likes to roam the library to discover newly displayed books, audio, magazines and bulletin board postings. She notes that it is hard to keep up with all the new items that arrive weekly!

Meet Dorcia at the Information/Reference desk. She promises to help you find anything you need, including a job or a place to live. She is eager to serve.

Connie Malin

Youth Services

Some highlights from Youth Services:

Pages: A Literary and Art Magazine for Kids by Kids.

Like to scribble, doodle, write? Share your best scribbles with us! Submissions accepted until December 15, 2019.

Bear Library invites **kids ages 4-11** to submit one 8-1/2"X11" sheet of paper with a poem, joke, comic, essay, short story, or hand drawn art. **Library Staff will publish our favorites in a book!!** Create your masterpiece at home or at the library!

Holiday Gift Make-and Take, December 15, 2019, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Drop in to make a holiday gift for a parent, friend, or relative. All supplies are included. Walk-in. Ages 5-15.

Projects: Folded book art, earrings, decoupage tea light, twig star, snowman magnet, candy cane Rudolph.

Gingerbread Cookie Decoration, December 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn different decoration techniques and go home with a festive gingerbread cookie. Families welcome. All supplies included.

Registration required. Ages 7+ (children younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult).

Renate Cumming **Children's Services Librarian**

