

FOBL NEWS

| Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library |

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library

P.O. Box 668

Bear DE 19701

Phone: 302 838-3300 and a leave message. E-mail: FOBL@live.com

Facebook: Friends of the Bear Library (under non-profit organizations).

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

Summer Reading Program

SUMMER READING CHALLENGES

Participants of every age track reading, gather for events, share experiences, and enjoy reading rewards. Register during library hours until 30 minutes before closing. Adults visit Info Desk. Kids, and Teens, contact Kids Desk staff for details, 302-838-3300. Begins June 1 and runs through August 20.

Greetings Friends!

The Bear Library is such a welcoming place! As you enter the library, you are greeted with the word "Welcome" printed in a myriad of languages on the entry doors. According to Library Manager Eric Kuhn, the design represents the top 25 languages spoken world wide in 2013, when the Bear Library was renovated. The design is a permanent glass powder process that cannot be altered. Welcome, indeed!

The Friends welcomed patrons and signed up 18 new members at our membership drive during National Library Week, April 10-16. Friends' members enjoyed interacting with visitors, sharing information about the many programs and amenities supported by the Friends' group. A stuffed bear mascot seated near the entrance also welcomed visitors, eliciting smiles from patrons and receiving many bear hugs from children.

Eric and I represented the Bear Library at Delaware Library Legislative Day in Dover on April 12. We met with legislators who serve the Bear Library area, strongly urging them to continue to fund libraries. According to the Delaware Library Association, "Library use increases as Delawareans turn to libraries for information, assistance, programs and internet access." The Bear Library continues to be one of the most used public libraries statewide, so Legislative support is necessary for our Library to maintain its high standards. However, State funding will help to keep the Bear Library open and operating, but will not support all the "extras" that make the Bear Library so special. Some examples: the extensive and exciting new section of recent releases at the Library named "The Marketplace", was designed by Library Manager, Eric Kuhn, and executed by Friends member Ken Harrington. The colorful wall tiles were designed and provided by Friends of the Bear Library. Our top-rated Summer Reading Challenges is supported by the Friends, as are many of the films, workshops and presentations offered at the Library. (See upcoming program highlights in this newsletter)

Consider joining the Friends of the Bear Library or renewing your membership, so that we may continue to support these offerings. Now you can like us on **FACEBOOK!** Tell us what programs you would like to see offered. We are here to listen to and serve you, our Library patrons and Friends.

Before I close, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Friends member Cheryl Rice Moore. For several years, Cheryl has edited and published our newsletter. However, due to her job commitments and studying for an advanced degree at the University of Delaware, she no longer will be able to continue her Friends work. Her post is now open (Anyone?) Thanks, Cheryl!

See you at the Bear Library, where you are always welcome!

Connie Malin, President



Friend's member, David Guinnup, manning the membership drive table during National Library Week.

Memberships & Donors

David & Diana Guinnup
 Susan Menson
 Luisa Georgov
 David Murphy
 Alonzo Balthrope
 Steve Bruchey
 Gay Corrie
 Kathleen Heston
 Richard Phillips
 Carolyn Manning
 Cheryl Rice Moore
 Mary McManus
 Daniel & Lila Muir
 Peg Parsons
 Hazel Dillard
 Kathy Curry
 Lisheng Zoa
 A L. Debose
 Pauline Hopper
 Brook Grube
 J. Letwinch
 Loraine K. Grier
 S. Bro
 Lynn Hazzard
 Carolyn Thomas
 Chithra Ganesh Bhet
 Leila Llewelyn
 Joan Coan
 Sylvia Grimsley
 Gail & Drew Yeager
 Robert & Phyllis Rosch

From the Library Director: Eric Kuhn Summer of Coding

We all know that libraries are changing; we are no longer just quiet places with books. Libraries have become much more, including community centers, meeting spaces, literacy centers, and providers of technology and instruction on how to use it. Another trend that libraries in New Castle County are starting to explore is programming on coding, meaning library programs that teach how to use computer programming language to create and write computer programs. Numerous studies show that children who learn how to code benefit by learning improved thinking and logic skills, and experience improved self-esteem and confidence. Coding programs also expose participants to a rapidly growing field of employment with long term demand where qualified individuals can earn good salaries; a coding program at the library can open a door to a field of interest with long term positive results. Coding is the next wave, and Bear Library is offering a variety of computer coding programs this summer in answer to this trend. So check out our offerings and learn about our “**Summer of Coding**”- we have programs planned for teens, tweens, and adults! Have a good summer!

From Youth Services Librarian: Lisa Burris

It's cloudy and in the 50s as I write this, but I assure you that summer is on its way. And as our thoughts turn to sunnier days, we inevitably think of our **Summer Reading Challenge**. This summer will be **The Summer of Coding** at Bear Library. And what, exactly, do I mean by that? Simply stated, we are packing this summer with lots of computer-based learning opportunities for people of all ages. For kids and teens, that means weekly classes in **Scratch** computer programming and **Minecraft**, which encourages children and teens to use computer functions to operate a creative and interactive video game. We will even be doing a **Makey Makey** program in July, in which kids will build creatures of their own design and then create computer programs to make the creatures move.

Although we're focusing on tech programs this summer, that's just a part of what children and teens will be able to do at their library. This year's Summer Reading Club theme is **On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!** As the name suggests, we're encouraging kids to move their bodies this summer. To that end, we're doing a wide range of programs about exercise and physical health. All summer long, we'll be doing **Workout Wednesdays**, where we will teach kids fun ways to exercise. Rose Perry will be teaching children the joys of dancing in **Kids Can Dance in Line** on August 10th. The musical duo Two of a Kind will get kids “**movin' and groovin'**” at their interactive performance on July 14th. And, of course, summer would just not be summer without a performance by **Uncle Pete**. This year, Uncle Pete will be here to rock the library on June 13th, courtesy of you, our generous Bear Library Friends.

As much as I would like to include all of the dozens of fun, educational, and healthy programs we have in store for children and teens this summer, there simply isn't room to list them here. Let's just say that this summer will be the best ever at Bear Library, as we strive to get our youngest patrons exercising both their bodies and their minds.

March 2016 Library Statistics

Circulation

Brandywine Hundred	66,408
Newark	58,209
Bear	53,036

User Visits

Bear	38,413
Newark	25,130
Brandywine Hundred	21,793

New Library Cards Issued

Bear	424
Brandywine Hundred	230
Newark	223

Summer Reading Program for Adults

Speaking of Exercising Your Mind.... that is the theme of this summer's reading program for adults! Once again we will be registering all interested adult readers so that they can keep track of what books they read, write reviews and earn free books. This year, the grand prize will be a brand new FitBit, courtesy of the Friends of the Bear Library. Earn an entry into the drawing for every 4 book reviews you submit; earn extra entries for completing simple, fun and at times wacky activities: brush your teeth with your non-dominant hand, eat a meal backwards (dessert first), use a map instead of a GPS, color a picture, choose your clothes one morning by feel and not sight... and more! Registration begins June 1. See the Info Desk for details.

Introducing Owen Thorne

If you are a frequent visitor to the Bear Library, you probably have met Owen Thorne. If not, then you know his voice. Owen's sonorous baritone often can be heard announcing the start of a movie, or workshop, or alerting patrons to closing time. Like many Bear Library staff members, Owen wears many hats, including assisting patrons at the INFO desk, but he is officially a Library Specialist, whose responsibility is adult programming.

About 80 programs, some new and some on-going, are offered at the Bear Library each month. (The month of March boasted 100 programs!) That averages 3-4 programs per day when the library is open. Owen says that the process for developing desirable programs is to "...imagine, propose, plan, promote, execute and report". Once a program is selected, information gathering, promoting and advertising become his focus. Some programs require outside presenters, but many are led by staff or volunteers.

Owen has had 19 years' experience in libraries, including four years at the Morris Library when he was a student at the University of Delaware. He has worked for several New Castle County libraries, including driving the Bookmobile, and has been at the Bear Library nearly 12 years.

Owen was born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, the son of a minister father. The family moved to Delaware when Owen was ten. He studied history at the University of Delaware, minoring in fine arts, geology and computer science—all of which are continued interests. Other passions include trains and anything railroad related, especially HO gauge models, nautical and ship history; American history "since the Enlightenment" (Industrial Age) and ecology and politics. His home has many individual "libraries" of books, magazines and catalogs related to his varied interests. He belongs to 26 historical societies, so his reference collections continue to grow. Owen spent 17 years in the music retail business, where he developed a penchant for rock and roll music. He has accumulated many vinyl albums, enough for another personal library.

Owen and his wife enjoy traveling and spending some time each summer at a large Thorne family reunion.

Tile Wall in the Bear Library



Decorate a tile for the library's tile wall. Leave your name and contact information at the Info Desk or email us at FOBL@live.com. We will contact you to set up a time for you to work on your tile. Tile cost has been reduced.

Membership Application

- Student/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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail:* _____

*We will not share your email address with others.

I would like to help in the following areas:

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

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

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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 FOBL@live.com 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!!! Thank you to all who provide support.

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