

# 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](http://DE-FOBL.org)

**Phone:** 302 838-3323 and leave a message.

**E-mail:** [FOBearLib@DE-FOBL.org](mailto: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 March 17th.

## Greetings Friends!

Several bluebirds appeared in my yard in late February, just like last year—and again I was thrilled, believing it was a sign of Spring. The next day it snowed. February has been a mercurial month! Next year I will pay closer attention to Punxsutawney Phil's prediction.

Despite Phil's warning about six more weeks of winter weather, the Bear Library is offering many outstanding programs to educate, inspire and entertain you, and to challenge you to embrace Spring and shake off the winter blues.

An extensive list of new and ongoing programs for all ages, on a variety of subjects, and satisfying many interests are being offered: computers, finances, taxes, gardening, games, history, health and nutrition, writing, LEGO© and Story Time, to name a few. Share your talents or learn a new skill by painting a tile for our Tile Wall; stitch a quilt, knit, crochet or improve your sewing skills; play a game of chess; join one of our Book Groups; color (inside or outside the lines); decorate a cupcake; participate in Musical Open Mic Day (Sunday April 29th @ 1:30pm); or enjoy a Wednesday movie with free popcorn.

March is **Women's History Month** and several presentations and award winning films are scheduled to celebrate and honor women's contributions to our world. Consult the New Castle County "Happenings" guide pages 36-40 or ([www.nccde.org/happenings](http://www.nccde.org/happenings) for more information.

The Friends of the Bear Library support many of the aforementioned programs. Consider membership in the Friends so that we can continue to offer quality library programs such as these. **And join the friends for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 17 at 2pm, featuring Blue Grass Musical Stylings (details inside). Bring kids!! Refreshments will be served.**

Welcome Spring!  
See you at the Bear Library!

*Connie Malin*, President

### Friends of Bear Library Election March 17, 2018 Slate of Officers:

2nd Vice President/Membership: Beverly S. Wright  
Recording Secretary:  
Treasurer: Jean Runge

## Memberships & Donors

### Memberships:

Luisa Georgov  
Jill Skelly  
Karen McLachlin  
David Murphy  
Marian Stewart  
Deborah Colino  
Kennard Kirk  
Joan Burke  
Bear-Glasgow Dental  
David and Diana Guinnup  
Barbara Yotter  
James Bertrando  
Beverly Wright  
Mary McManus  
Shirley A. Stewart

### Donations:

David and Diana Guinnup  
Thomas Whittington

## From the Library Manager's Desk:

There has never been a time when literacy skills have been more important than they are right now, and unfortunately the news is not good regarding the development of literacy skills in Delaware's children. A recent article in the *News Journal* pointed out that almost half of Delaware's third graders struggle to read. Numerous studies have found that children who are reading at grade level by third grade are four times more likely to graduate on time; if you add poverty to the mix, students from impoverished backgrounds who are not reading at grade level by third grade are 13 times less likely to graduate on time. The numbers are not good.

In response to this news Delaware Libraries are partnering with the State and other organizations to launch an ongoing campaign centered around literacy and the creation of young readers. As a first step, we will be launching a library card campaign chaired by Delaware's First Lady Tracey Carney to encourage every Delawarean to obtain a library card. Right now only 50% of Delawareans have a library card, and we would like to get this number much closer to 100%. Frequent access to an abundance of quality books is essential to "growing readers", and one way to assist children learning to read is to get them to the library and to expose them to books and reading.

In addition to the library card campaign, Libraries are also working with public schools in the Colonial School District to pilot bringing them into the Delaware Library Catalog, thus allowing children in these schools who cannot get to the library to access the wealth of materials available from public libraries through their school library. We are also evaluating our current children's programming line-up to evaluate if it supports the acquisition of literacy skills; the initial findings are good, and our children's programming currently in place supports multiple components of literacy

skills acquisition in young children. We have also launched a program called 1000 Books Before Kindergarten that provides information and a guide for parents on how to expose their children to enough books before kindergarten to ensure literacy development success- ask any of our librarians about it. We are also working to make connections with local literacy organizations, we are just launching a program called 500 Books Before Middle School to support reading by elementary school children, and we will continue to provide our summer reading program to encourage children's reading over the summer.

Additional components of the campaign will come on line as we move forward with the initiative, but libraries cannot do it all on their own. Please encourage everyone you know, especially if they have children, to get library cards for themselves and their children, and to expose their children to books and reading at every opportunity. Their very success in later life depends upon it.

Thank you,

Eric Kuhn  
Manager, Bear Library  
Phone: (302) 838-3300

**We would like to extend a special thanks to life time member, Thomas Whittington, Esq. for his continued support for the Friends of the Bear Library. Tom has paid our Franchise Fee to the State of Delaware almost since our beginning in 1991 and helped us with other advice through the years. We appreciate his continued belief in the Friends of the Bear Library and our community. Thank you, Tom!**

Please join us for  
our Annual  
Meeting & Concert  
Event March 17th:



Friends of the Bear Library  
Celebrates St. Patrick's Day!

## Bluegrass Musical Performance

featuring banjo, guitar, mandolin, dobro and more!!

March 17th @ 2 p.m.  
Community Room 1  
Refreshments

All ages welcome. No registration required.

### Introducing Eric Kuhn

Bear Library Manager Eric Kuhn had his first library job stamping books at the checkout desk for patrons when he was 8 years old. His professional library career, however, began in a roundabout way. A high school history teacher specializing in social and cultural American history, Eric was close to earning his Masters degree in education when he decided to change career paths. A university librarian friend urged him to become a librarian. His first professional library job was as a business reference librarian, then branch manager, in Norfolk, Virginia. Later moving to Delaware in search of better career prospects, Eric worked at Bear, Concord Pike, and Brandywine Hundred libraries for several years in adult reference, until he became the Manager of Bear Library in 2010.

Highly respected statewide as a library professional and problem solver, Eric wears many hats. He co-chairs the Coordinated Collection Development Group, which oversees and manages materials budgets, analyzes library collection use and performance, and troubleshoots issues with materials vendors; serves as the Manager Liaison to the library system's countywide Youth Services group, and was instrumental in the creation of its collection and during the initial planning stages of the Route 9 Library, working to ensure a smooth opening for the new facility.

Born in upstate New York near the Finger Lakes, Eric is an alumnus of the University at Albany, where he majored in history and chemistry and minored in biology and anthropology. He holds a Master's in American History and in Library Science, and is a few credits shy of a Masters in Education. The eldest of four boys, Eric grew up on a farm, where the family grew their own food and raised animals ("no horses, no exotic birds, but everything else- including goats!")

Nowadays, Eric's rural roots are manifested more simply: he is pet parent to a cat, "Purr Monster", and maintains a goldfish pond in his yard. An avid gardener, he grows ornamental flowers and sweet red peppers and raises orchids.

Eric is a skilled craftsman and enjoys woodworking and restoring and building furniture. He also collects 18th and 19th century American clocks, restoring many of them himself. His oldest clock dates from 1760! Other talents include working with stained glass, landscaping, painting and drawing still life and landscapes with acrylics and oils, making pottery and updating his house. Glass blowing is a future endeavor. Eric is a competent baker, (bread, cakes and cookies); and he occasionally sings low bass in a community choir. He prefers music you can sing, including pop, oldies and classical; but he doesn't like concerts in general because he finds them too loud. He enjoys dramatic and musical theatre and recently saw "Wicked" with his goddaughter.

Eric was fortunate to work in the Merchant Marine while in college, a job which afforded him free accommodations and travel to many worldwide ports of call. He has traveled extensively throughout the Mediterranean, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and the eastern seaboard of the United States. He now chooses travel destinations that allow him to keep his mind engaged with architecture, museums and history-such as his trip to Poland last year.

Eric's reading preferences include fiction, history and biography. Jane Austen is a favorite author. He recommends the Ron Chernow book series, Robert Massie's *Dreadnaught*, and Chakra Borty's *The City of Brass*. Currently he is reading *Ties That Bound (Founding First Ladies and Slaves)*, a fascinating book that engages his mind with a seldom researched account of American history.

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## Some of the Program Offerings in the Bear Library:

### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

#### Women's History Month - Wartime London

DEHumanities.org presents journalist, historian and world traveler, Jean Norvell, recounting a girlhood under fire and how mothers like hers coped with loved ones in dangers such as the Nazi Blitz, the Miracle at Dunkirk and ongoing U-Boat blockade. **Registration requested. 302 838-3300. Ages 16-Adults. 2-3 p.m.**

### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

#### St. Patrick's Holiday Cupcake Decorating

Celebrate the season by making delicious cupcakes you decorate yourself. Learn by doing while applying your own personal touch with Desserts by Allison. Materials are provided. **Registration required. 302 838-3300. Ages 12-Adults. 11 a.m.-12 p.m.**

### SUNDAY, MARCH 25

#### Plant Your Bee-Friendly Garden

More than honey producers, friendly pollinators are essential for our food, economy and ecosystems. DelawareBeekeepers.com teach how to keep local bees happy providing easily maintained, decorative plants in your yard or balcony. **Registration recommended. Adults. 2-4 p.m.**

### WEDNESDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Experience award-winning documentary films up on the big screen at our monthly daytime screening. Call (302) 838-3300 for titles or see Info Desk. Snacks provided. **Adults/teens. 3-6 p.m.**

**Wednesdays: April 25, May 23**

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Enjoy recent, Academy Award nominated films up on the big screen at our monthly movies-for-grown-ups nights. Call (302) 838-3300 for movie titles or see Info Desk. Snacks provided. **Adults. 6-8 p.m.**

**Wednesdays: March 28, April 25, May 23**

**For a list of more offerings: New Castle County "Happenings" program guide or [www.nccde.org/happenings](http://www.nccde.org/happenings)**

#### 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*We will NOT share your email address with others.

- New
- Renewal

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.

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

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](mailto: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!!!