
FOBL NEWS

| Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library |

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library

P.O. Box 668
Bear DE 19701

Website: DE-FOBL.org

Phone: 302 838-3300 and leave a message with librarian.

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: March date & time to be announced.

Greetings Friends!

In the Summer 2019 newsletter, which commemorated the Bear Library's 20th anniversary, I presented four words to describe the support that the Friends of the Bear Library have given to the library: CONSENSUS. COMMITMENT. CHALLENGE. COMMUNITY. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered our preferred way of living and replaced it with a new reality that is hard to get used to and sometimes even harder to comprehend. Face masks, persistent cleansing, and social distancing have become the new normal. Virtual reality has morphed into actual reality. Now those four "C" words have taken on whole other meanings as we battle the (hopefully) temporary setbacks imposed by COVID-19.

CONSENSUS is that the Bear Library remains a stalwart fixture of the community. Although closed to the public, it is still serving the citizens of Bear, albeit operating in creative ways. Curbside circulation of library materials, virtual/ streaming programming (including a calendar of state library events), and modified library hours and phone service are in place at the discretion of New Castle County. So far, our book drop remains open!

The Friends are honoring our COMMITMENT to the library by funding several online services, such as ZOOM and Adult Summer Reading; and exploring ways to revive postponed activities and programs. Children's Librarian Renate Cumming has been adding exciting STEAM-based and other activities to the Friends of the Bear Library FACEBOOK page. Her efforts have doubled the

number of followers interested in the site. We are supporting the children's annual Summer Reading Challenge, also available online, as well as the popular **Animal Crossing** and **Jackbox Games** digital gaming programs.

We accept the CHALLENGE forced on us by our current circumstances. The Friends have a delightful surprise in store for the children's area! Our library mascot, Brownie the Bear, also has accepted the CHALLENGE and can't wait to greet visitors when the library officially reopens.

Over the years, the Bear Library has become an inclusive COMMUNITY center, welcoming a diverse population of all ages through targeted programs and materials selections. While we are not able to enter the library at this time, we are maintaining a welcoming façade for the building. A member of the Friends is responsible for the large jardinières of plants that grace the entrance. FOBL member and all-around good guy Ken Harrington is designing and erecting a plinth to showcase the plaque which commemorates the wind sculptures in the entrance garden. The Friends also plan to add more plants to this area.

As the Friends and staff of the Bear Library adjust to the demands of COVID-19, we appeal to you, our patrons, to help us further our mission of CONSENSUS, COMMITMENT, CHALLENGE and COMMUNITY. Please consider joining the Friends of the Bear Library or renewing your membership so that we may continue to be one of the foremost libraries in Delaware.

We are all in this together! Stay well and safe.

Connie Malin, President

From The Library Manager

Friends of the Bear Library

Election of Officers

Two year terms to begin August 15, 2020 and extend through March Annual Meeting 2022.

Second Vice President: Beverly S. Wright

- Vote for
- Vote against

Recording Secretary: Susan Giaccone

- Vote for
- Vote against

Treasurer: Carol Harrington

- Vote for
- Vote against

Helpful Links:

On-Line library catalog:
dlc.lib.de.us/

FOBL Facebook:
[facebook.com/
FriendsoftheBearLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheBearLibrary)

Delaware Libraries Website:
lib.de.us

Creative Bug:
creativebug.com/lib/newcastlede

Bear Library website:
ncde.org/291/Bear-Library

Virtual Library Program Calendar:
[delawarelibraries.libcal.com/
calendar/virtuallibraryevents](http://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/virtuallibraryevents)

We live in interesting times. Who could have known back in February just how much our world was going to change? Despite the craziness of the times, the library staff are here, and while the building remains closed to the public the library is still open and providing service.

Bear started offering curbside pickup service on June 6th, and we now offer curbside pickup on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10-6:30 and Thursdays and Saturdays from 10-4:30. If you need books or DVDs or talking books, curbside pickup is the answer for you- you just need to request the items. Go to the on-line catalog and request items yourself and staff will pull the requests for you. You will be notified when the items are on the holds shelf, and then you come to the library on a curbside day to pick the items up. If you don't have internet at home, you can call the library from home and speak with staff. They will place your holds for you, and will pull items from the shelf for you at the moment they become available. If it's a curbside day, come to the library, pull into a curbside spot, call the library to let us know that you are here, and we will bring your items out and put them in your trunk. If you don't have a specific book in mind and just want some new mystery books or a couple of historical fiction works, staff can pull a selection of items and put them on the holds shelf for you for curbside pick up. If you are a parent looking for books for your kids, but don't have the time to look in the catalog to place the requests or if you don't know what is popular at the moment, you can give staff a call and staff will pull a selection of materials to meet your needs. We even have a form located on the Friends of Bear Library Facebook page that you can fill out and submit to request materials. If you need something give us a call. We are here for you!

In addition to curbside pickup we have also expanded our virtual services. We have increased our funding of e-books and e-media through **Overdrive** and **Hoopla**. Both can be accessed through the Delaware Libraries website. Hoopla offers immediate access to thousands of movies, music CDs, and e-books. If you are interested in magazines try **Flipster**, also located on the Delaware Libraries site. **Flipster** offers immediate e-access to popular magazines, including both current and back issues. We have launched a number of virtual programs online; to browse programs or sign up for a virtual program access the virtual program calendar on the Delaware Libraries website. If you are feeling the urge to create, check out **CreativeBug**, a new craft database we added that has videos and instruction on how to do a large number and variety of crafts. All these services require a library card. If you can't find your card give us a call; if you don't have a library card we are offering an on-line application to get one. The link can be found on the library catalog's homepage.

We do not know when our lives are going to return to normal, or when library services are going to return to what they were before COVID-19. Until then, we will do our best to provide service when we can. In the meantime, I hope you all remain well and safe.

Eric Kuhn

Bear Library Manager

Friends of the Bear Library Election of Officers

Because the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Bear Library was canceled in March, we were unable to hold the election of officers. We are asking you to vote via mail, email or phone on or before August 15, 2020. Clip the ballot at the side of this page and send to:

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

email your vote to: FOBearLib@DE-FOBL.org

or phone Connie Malin, President @302 834-3016

Memberships & Donors

Donations:

Cheryl Rice-Moore
Giant Foods Bag Program
(Fundraiser)
Boeing Anonymous

Memberships:

Lois Barth
Kathleen Heston
Fred and Alice Fay Stiner
Cheryl Rice Moore
David and Linda Bailey
Karen McLachlan
Richard A. Phillips
Barbara and Richard Yotter
Eileen Burget
Cynthia Manning
Michael Garko
Pamela Inskeep
Dorcia McCann
Bear Glasgow Dental
David Brick
Diane Boykin
Luisa Georgov
Mary Boyce

**Your support is greatly appreciated.
The funds are used to enrich the Bear
Library. Thank you!**

Farewell, Owen Thorne

The Friends of the Bear Library wish a very happy and well-deserved retirement to PT Library Specialist Owen Thorne, who retired June 1. Owen has been a valued friend to the Friends for nearly 16 years. He always was eager to help-- whether setting up rooms for various programs, running the audio-visual equipment, providing handouts, introducing speakers, acting as "go-for", making announcements (His sonorous voice commands attention!), advertising FOBL-sponsored programs, providing meeting space for the Friends, or acting as all-around problem solver. Owen held the Friends of the Bear Library in high esteem, and we likewise appreciated his contributions.

We will miss you, Owen! We are sorry that we were not able to give you a proper send-off, due to COVID-19. Stay safe and well. You are truly one of a kind.

With heartfelt thanks for all of your help over the years,
Friends of the Bear Library

From the Membership Desk

Why should I keep my FOBL membership up to date?

Dear Members (both recent and long-standing),

Our library is currently providing curbside pickup of materials, as well as a wide range of online programs and services. The Friends Board is working in the background with several new projects to benefit Bear Library and its patrons. (We've met on a back deck, masked and socially distanced!)

We are hopeful of the future when we can all be together again!

Meanwhile, your renewed annual membership means that you value Bear Library personally and that you feel its resources benefit our entire community. Now to break out Roget's Thesaurus to find words to describe our library: refreshing, nurturing, reliable, educational, helpful, fun and a treasure-trove of good things.

Beverly Wright, VP Membership

From the Children's Library

The library may have its doors closed to patrons, but we've been busy bringing you virtual children's programming and curbside pick-up for library materials that you can enjoy in the safety of your homes. The following is a selection of what we offer for children and teens and how to access these services and programs. Make sure to follow us on Facebook for news and updates!

Summer Reading

It's not too late to sign up for our annual summer reading program – fully online this year! Create an account with Beanstack (<https://nccde.beanstack.org/reader365>). If you already have an account from previous years, simply log in and sign up for this summer's challenge. Log the time spent reading between June 1 and August 31, 2020. Children and teens will receive a book for the first 10 hours read and virtual badges afterward. See who can collect the most! Book rewards may be picked once libraries re-open until December 31, 2020.

Virtual Programs

New Castle County Libraries offer a large number of programs and events for patrons of all ages. Visit the Virtual Calendar for offerings and to register. <https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/virtuallibraryevents> Bear's children and teen programs include Animal Crossing and JackBox Games, Cook with Books, Tales & Trumpets, Pet Buddy, and a monthly LEGO building challenge. We hope you join us online.

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Children’s (continued)

Facebook

Make sure to follow us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on Library happenings and activities! We post daily and share news, resources, services and ideas. <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheBearLibrary>

Book Bundles for Children

Picking out books without being able to browse can be difficult. Let us help you pick out some books for your child or teen! Give us a call or fill out the digital request form at <https://tinyurl.com/yafeoza5>. Just tell us what subjects or themes you are interested in, and we will provide age appropriate and engaging books for your children. You will be notified when your books are ready for curbside pick-up.

STEM Kits

Bear Library is now offering take home STEM kits for children. All kits come with step-by-step instructions and supplies needed to complete the activity. Common household items such as scissors, scotch tape, and glue are not provided with the kits. Kits are available as long as supplies last. For updates on the kits and how to reserve them, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheBearLibrary>

2021 Blue Hen Book Award

Read the 2021 Blue Hen Book Award nominees and vote for your favorites! The Blue Hen Book Award is a children’s choice award sponsored by the Youth Services Division of the Delaware Library Association. The award encourages literacy and library use by children and teens. All titles are available through the library, some also as e-books and e-audiobooks. For a closer look at the nominees and to vote, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y56dylu4>

Harry Potter Birthday Bash

On July 31st, join New Castle County Libraries for a day-long celebration of Harry Potter with lots of virtual events and activities! Check out the line-up of programs and register in advance: <https://tinyurl.com/yceenb4z>

“Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.”
Groucho Marx

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/Lifetime** \$ 500.00

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.

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