

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 14, 2020
@ 2pm.

Greetings, Friends!

It is a scientific "fact" that the older a person becomes, the faster time passes. For instance, it seems like we just celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Bear Library (March 2019), yet the 2020 Annual Meeting is quickly approaching!

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, at 2 p. m. The program will include a brief business meeting, election of officers, and library highlights from the past year. The Friends of the Bear Library have engaged **The Garnet Miners**, who will entertain us with their blue grass musical stylings, including Irish music and familiar favorites. Children are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

The Bear Library, supported by the Friends, continues to provide the Bear community with valuable information about learning opportunities and skill building. These include the ongoing Adult Education class, computer and technology programs, coding, computer classes for Spanish speakers, genealogy and history offerings, and résumé writing, to name a few. The Library also offers many educational programs for children and teens; and boasts a large collection of books and references in several languages for non-English speaking patrons or those who are interested in improving their foreign language skills.

On March 9, the Friends will host the **SEED** (Student Excellence Equals Degree) program. Presented by Delaware Technical and Community College, and sponsored by the State of Delaware, **SEED** enables students to pursue an Associate of Arts degree, tuition free. (For details, see the article by Beverly Wright in this newsletter.)

We encourage you to join the Friends of the Bear Library, or to renew your membership, so that we can continue to provide the Bear community with quality programs at the Delaware's foremost library.

See you at the Annual Meeting on March 14 at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin
President

2020 SLATE OF OFFICERS EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BEAR LIBRARY

2nd Vice President (Membership):
Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter):
Treasurer:

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David Murphy**

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

**THANK YOU!!!!
We appreciate your help!**

From the Library Manager

Hello Friends!

I hope everyone is enjoying the easy winter we have been having, though I am a bit disconcerted about the crocuses and snow drops blooming in mid-February! Following the lead of the crocuses I would like to tell you about three library initiatives that are in final stages of development or just now falling into place...it may be a bit premature, but just like spring, all three are coming very soon.

The first initiative is a pilot program made possible by the Delaware Secretary of State, the Delaware Division of Libraries, and the Delaware Library Association. Through the pilot, children ages birth to five living in Christina or Colonial School Districts can receive a free book every month delivered to their home through the mail from **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**. The long term hope is that the pilot program will be expanded to cover every child in every school district across the state. For more information on this wonderful program, or to sign your children up to receive free books, go to delawarelibraries.org/imagination.

The second initiative is the addition of **Hoopla's** streaming service content to the Delaware Library Catalog. Starting sometime in March library patrons will be able to check out streaming video, music, e-books, and e-audiobooks from this popular e-media provider. I don't have a start date yet, so for now watch the library's website for an announcement that this service has gone live. It will be sometime in March, and is a great addition to our e-media and streaming offerings!

The third initiative is a change in how libraries market and advertise their program offerings to you. This initiative is going to be phased in over the next six months or so, but the first steps have already been taken, and we will be rolling out a campaign very soon to get the **DLC** library app on every Bear Library user's smartphone or tablet. Using the app, you can view the complete, up-to-date Bear program calendar, including detailed descriptions, dates and times, and room locations.

You can also search the app to look for specific programs, either by subject or keyword. You can access the library catalog, place holds on materials, and manage your library account. The app allows you to always have your library card with you on your phone instead of having to hunt through your purse for it. If you have the app you can conveniently pull it up on your phone with two taps when you check out. For more information on the Delaware Libraries app see the back of the monthly program calendar enclosed in this month's newsletter, or visit the library's webpage. The app can be downloaded from both the Apple Store and Google Play Store for free.

Until next time,

**Eric Kuhn
Manager, Bear Library**

SEED Program

The Friends of the Bear Library is sponsoring a program at the Bear Library on Monday, March 9, 2020 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm to explain and promote the **SEED** program. Underwritten by the State of Delaware, the **SEED** program enables high school students in good standing to work for an associate degree **tuition-free**.

The event at Bear Library will be led by representatives of Delaware Technical Community College. Del Tech provides excellent and rigorous academics in a wide variety of fields. (www.dtcc.edu)

The Friends feel that this would be a great opportunity for Delaware high school students to hear a full explanation of the program.

Registration for the event is required, since space is limited to 80 persons. It can be obtained by calling (302 838 3300) or by visiting the INFO Desk at the Bear Library.

Bev Wright

Spring Time is here!

It's time to shake off those winter blahs and get out and enjoy the sunshine and the beautiful plants and flowers. What kind of things do you like to do to celebrate Spring? Do you look forward to planting flowers or starting a vegetable garden? Take a look at Bear Library's gardening books, where you'll find information about everything from container and small-space gardening to landscaping and planting a large vegetable garden to feed your whole family. Don't forget that we also have a range of home and garden magazines to help you, including *Fine Gardening* and lots of other titles. You can even find inspiration in some of our beautiful, full-color books about the gardens of stately homes. After you've read your fill (Is it possible to actually do that?), sign up for our **Longwood Community Reads** gardening programs, such as Seed Starting (March 7th), Grow Your Own Sprouts (April 22nd), and New and Unusual Plants (April 25th). Spring will sure be blooming at Bear Library!

Lisa Burris
Adult Services Librarian

Introducing Laura Ashley

Laura Ashley is flattered when someone asks her if she is related to the famous fashion designer with the same name. But Bear Community Services Worker III, Laura Ashley is a poet, not a designer. Reading from a young age, she has always loved libraries and poetry. Spending much time in libraries while growing up inspired Laura to hone her writing skills. She fondly remembers creating a poetry book for parent's night when she was in 4th grade. She still loves to write, especially poetry. However, the poems she authors are for her eyes only. She began journaling in poetry form to avoid prying eyes from understanding her meaning. Laura says she uses words as "puzzle pieces"- but she is the only person who can solve the puzzle!

Laura is the oldest of 5 children (2 brothers, 2 sisters). She and her siblings were raised as military "brats", courtesy of her Air Force career officer father. Born in Germany, she lived in Crete as small child, where she searched longingly for sea monsters. The family was soon relocated to America. She has lived in Texas, Kansas, Ohio, Alaska, Dover (DE) and Newark- her current home. She spent most of her school years in Alaska, and was "the clumsiest cheerleader" on the junior high squad. She remembers that one time she forgot to wear her bloomers, and another time she landed in the mud while cheering-embarrassing moments that are hilarious in retrospect. Laura transferred from Alaska to Christiana High School in her senior year, not a happy experience for a teenager. Luckily, her close knit family supported her. The family is still close and live nearby.

Laura married young and was a stay-at-home mom while she raised her 5 children, now ages 22-34. Her son is now living overseas, teaching English in various locales in Europe and China. She is proud grandmother to girls, ages 15, 4, and 1 year. As a working mom, Laura became a karaoke hostess with the former Kings of Karaoke Entertainment Company (1992-2008), joining a sister who encouraged her to face her fear of speaking in public. In 2012, while studying on-line to be a legal secretary, Laura sought a comfort zone at the Bear Library so she could study. Thoroughly impressed with the library's atmosphere, she returned, saw a "hiring" notice, applied, and was subsequently interviewed by Library Manager Eric Kuhn. (She hopes he was impressed by her assertiveness!) She is impressed that Bear Library opens doors for learning. Depending on the program, Laura helps in the computer lab and with open mic night (karaoke background?); and works with children with LEGOs and Pokémon. She also is training at the children's desk.

Laura's entire family is musical and several members, including her parents, play instruments and sing. An interesting anecdote is that her grandmother and June Carter Cash were first cousins and best friends! Laura studied piano as a child, but prefers singing. She has eclectic tastes in music, ranging from country to pop, Christian inspirational, and soundscapes. Busy with family and friends, Laura doesn't travel a lot. Her last trip was a cruise to Bahama 5 years ago, where she wrote poetry and mingled with the locals. She attends Holy Family Church, volunteers at Little Sisters of the Poor, donates blood every 2 months and helps with the Food Bank, alongside fellow staff members Ian and Heidi. She boasts a collection of angels, 5 of which are cherubs representing each of her children. She also cherishes a painting by her artistic mother, who panned for gold in Alaska, then recycled the gold and the pan as her canvas.

Laura lost her Maine Coon cat "Gabby", a stray that she pet parented from 2003-2019. She plans to read the "cozy" mysteries by Miranda James, which feature a librarian and his stray Maine Coon cat "Diesel". She admires the poetry of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes. She recommends author Anita Shreve ("The Pilot's Wife" and "Wedding in December"). She is partial to the latter book because her youngest daughter gave it to her as a Christmas gift when the child was 5.

Connie Malin

Help!!! Your Help Is Needed!!!

Bi-Annual Friends of the Bear Library Membership Drive

National Library Week—April 19-25, 2020 - The library is my first priority when it comes to volunteering. I feel that membership in the Friends shows a commitment to community service and to our fine library here in Bear. I will be looking for helpers for the drive and will contact members by email or telephone in the coming month. An hour or two of your time during National Library Week would really be valuable!

If your own annual membership has lapsed or is about to come due, please consider rejoining us. Some folks like to actively participate and some like to keep abreast of current affairs at the library. All are welcomed!

**Bev Wright
Membership Chair**

Children’s Library

In the children’s department, we are busy preparing for summer with the library – the busiest and most exciting time of the year for us! We have a large number of programs planned around the 2020 Summer Reading Program slogan which is “**Imagine Your Story!**” We’ll explore fairytales, myths, and fables through craft programs, magic shows, storytellers, and large events such as the Alice in Wonderland Tea Party on June 22nd and Camp Halfblood for Percy Jackson fans on July 13th. Our **Summer Reading Kick-off Party** will take place on June 11th and include Rick Waterhouse’s mini-musical “The Dragon and the Chef” as well as door prizes and snow cones sponsored by the Friends of the Bear Library.

Although summer brings in the most visitors to the children’s department, we also have some exciting programs coming up in the spring. We start off with the **PAGES** celebration on March 3rd where we’ll honor participants for their creative submissions to the 2nd edition of our children’s magazine.

For Cinco de Mayo, we celebrate with an Artesania where children and teens can learn to make Ojo de Dios, worry dolls, or a floral Frida Kahlo head band. We also offer several programs in conjunction with Longwood Community Reads and a special Earth Day event. Check LibCal and the Happenings Guide for more details!

**Renate Cumming
Children’s Services Librarian**

Membership Application

- Student \$ 5.00
- Senior (60+) \$ 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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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*We will not share your email address with others.

Please consider receiving your newsletter via email. It will save us the cost of printing and postage so that we can use our funds to enrich the library. Email us at FOBearlib@FOBL.org . Thank you!!

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
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Please check your mailing label for membership