

FOBL NEWS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library



FOBL Contact Information

101 Governor's Place, Bear, DE 19701

Website: DE-FOBL.org

Phone: 302-838-3300 & leave a message for FOBL

E-mail: fobl@live.com

Facebook: Friends of the Bear Library

2024 Meetings are the last Wednesday of every other month: Jan, May, Jul, Sep 25, Nov 27; 4:00 – 6:00 pm; Bear Library

Annual Meeting: in March, date & time TBD

Your 2024 FOBL Board

President: Connie Malin

1st V-P - Public Relations: Open

2nd V-P – Membership: Beverly Wright

Treasurer: Carol Harrington

Recording Secretary: Rhonda Williams

Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter): Linda Olds

Fundraising Committee Chair: Joyce Bordley

Historian / Hospitality Chair: Gay Corrie

Save the Date:

Oct 19 – Membership Drive

We will be holding a one-day membership drive at the Fall Festival on October 19th. Don't forget to renew your own membership and to ask a friend to join so they can learn about the Friends!

Linda Olds, Newsletter Editor

Greetings Friends!

I have been noticing sure signs that summer is leaving and fall is fast approaching. Later sunrises and earlier sunsets, resulting in shorter days. Busier than usual squirrels scavenging for food to store. Migrating birds. The occasional need for a sweater to ward off cooler temperatures. A sudden desire for hot chocolate and apple cider. Heavier than usual beach-bound traffic, as people try to create that one last summer memory. Soon the beach traffic will be replaced by yellow school buses and frustrated commuters who wish they had left 10 minutes sooner to avoid them. For weeks, store shelves have been teeming with the latest "must have" back-to-school items to remind parents to purchase those supplies before the stock is depleted. New school supplies always got me excited about school, and I'm sure that hasn't changed since I attended during the Stone Age. A positive start to school is important, as it can set the tone for the rest of the school year. Another harbinger of fall is Library Card Sign-Up. Each year during the month of September, the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country collaborate in an effort to encourage everyone to sign up for a library card, stressing that it's FREE. The only requirement is an ID. The program was initiated in 1987 in response to a challenge by former Secretary of Education William Bennett, who said: "Every child should obtain a library card and use it!" Bennett saw this as an opportunity to increase national educational standards and to fight illiteracy. ALA agreed, although the program has expanded to include adults as well as children. After all, if you want kids to read and learn to LOVE READING, you have to model the behavior. The Staff and Friends of the Bear Library will be collaborating in September to urge all patrons to sign up for library cards. The Friends will be hosting a table at ShopRite in Governor's Square on September 28th from 10:00 – 2:00, but you can request a card anytime during the year at the Check-Out Desk in any library.

But why do you need a library card? A search on the Internet produced anywhere from 5-100 reasons. Some reasons applied to me, most didn't. I think it depends on your own circumstances and what the libraries in your geographical region offer as benefits of having a card. I use my card to check out items such as books, magazines, games, and audiobooks. I don't need my card to reserve a Study or Meeting room or to attend a class or presentation. I only have to register for those, no card required in New Castle County. My reason for having a library card is that libraries can use their statistics to prove their value to local policymakers and to advocate for funding to continue to keep libraries open to the public. Bear Library Manager Eric Kuhn keeps and reports Bear Library use statistics to the Powers-That-Be. Those statistics include "Circulation" and "New Patrons" I am convinced that our local and State representatives gauge library use and subsequent funding based on library card statistics.

Possessing a library card is a badge of honor for me. I would wear it if I could! Author Rita Mae Brown said it best: "When I got [my] library card, that was when my life began."

See you at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin, President



Donations:

Barbara Erskine
 Maria Foust
 Marilyn Hardman

Andrew R. Laitman through the Milton and
 Dorothy Sarnoff Raymond Foundation
 Randi Licciardello through the Delaware City
 Refinery

**Donations in Memory of Concetta
 “Connie” Georgov:**

Donna M. and James W. Bailey

Lois A. Baker

Margaret Blansfield

Sally and Alan Burkhard

Joe and Cathy Cibit

Gay Corrie

Nancy Davis

Heinrich Frey Family Association

Ralph Frye

Bruce Georgov

Luisa Georgov

William Georgov

Mr. and Mrs. Sean M. Handlin

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harrington

Constance Malin

Kathy and Jim Nice and family

Linda Olds

Barbara L. Palo

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Short

Katherine M. Smart

Beverly S. Wright

New and Renewing Memberships:

Susan Anderson

Joan Burke

Joseph Cloud, Jr.

Barbara Erskine

Carolyn Franklin

Kathleen and Joseph Galler

Lorraine Grier

Tommy Lu

Mary B. McManus

Joanne Melancon

Cheryl Prochot

Donna C. Rhodes

Helen M. Sieling

Valerie Walton

Gloria Worrell

Beverly S. Wright

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

From The Library Manager

The Fall Festival is Coming!

On Saturday, October 19th, Bear Library will host its 3rd annual Fall Festival between noon and 3pm, rain or shine! Featuring live music, face painting, family games, food trucks, a traveling zoo, and more, the Fall Festival is one of the library’s most popular programs and is expected to draw more than 1,000 people this year. Both the library and the **Friends of Bear Library** are excited to host the event, not only because it is a wonderful and free activity for the whole family to enjoy, but also because it is an event that draws the entire Bear community together at the library, reinforcing the role of the library as a gathering center for our community. We would not be able to offer the Fall Festival without the generous support from businesses, organizations, and individuals within our community; their support is central to the festival’s existence and growth. Generous contributions from **The Friends of Bear Library**, AmeriHealth, Chick-Fil-A, Chipotle, Delaware Division of Libraries, Franklin Mint and Federal Credit Union, Fulton Bank, Lions Club, Starbucks, Shoprite, TD Bank, Walmart, and Wawa allow the library to book programs, purchase supplies, and support the event. We also would like to send a special thank you to Representative Kendra Johnson for all her help and support with pulling the event together. The Fall Festival would also not be possible without all the work that the library staff does to plan the event; it takes almost half a year to put the festival together, and they do a fantastic job making it happen. With all the hard work completed it is now time to enjoy the results, and I look forward to welcoming you all to this year’s Fall Festival. Until then, best regards!

Eric Kuhn, Manager, Bear Library



Bear Library Statistics

		Annual FY'24	Annual FY'23	Annual Gain/Loss	Annual %
Bear Library	User Visits	175,765	160,763	15,002	9.33%
	Circulation	379,108	327,920	51,188	15.61%
	Registered Patrons	25,504	22,164	3,340	15.07%
NCC Libraries	User Visits	1,098,618	1,011,578	87,040	8.60%
	Circulation	2,745,416	2,423,139	322,277	13.30%
	Registered Patrons	148,864	128,905	19,959	15.48%

FOBL Library Card Drive – Saturday, September 28

The Friends of the Bear Library will hold a Library Card Drive on Saturday, September 28th from 10 am until 2:00 pm at the ShopRite in Governors Square. We hope to encourage local residents to take advantage of all that is offered at our public libraries.



Introducing Scott Hobson

Part-time Circulation Staff member Scott Hobson is a self-proclaimed "people person". He enjoys working at the Circulation Desk, where he can engage in friendly conversations with patrons during check-out. He also handles In Transit items to and from other libraries; and he has run an Author Meet-Up program featuring local children's book authors. He aspires to become a full-time employee at the library. Scott has been at the Bear Library for 10 years. He was hired along with several other Staff members after the library was remodeled. He fondly remembers his job interview as "a fun experience". He had no relevant library experience other than being a loyal Bear Library patron. However, his employment resumé includes customer service and/or management level positions at ToysRUs, Pizza Hut, Delaware Park, and Borders Books and Music. In all, Scott has over 30 years' experience in meeting with the public.

Scott was born in Wilmington and attended Newark High School. His younger brother Todd works in nuclear medicine; his mom Cyndi, a former first and second grade teacher, was Teacher of the Year. Scott wanted to pursue a career in computer science, but no computer programs were offered at his high school. Still intent on working with computers, he enrolled in computer courses at Delaware Technical and Community College but left after a year. A disconnect between student and school led him to seek a different career path. Any computer skills he now possesses are self-taught through reading and trial and error. (A library is indeed a great resource!) Scott has been married to Danielle, a Specialist at a Private Trust Office, for 19 years. The couple met online. Soon after, Scott traveled to Manhattan to meet Danielle and her rat terrier "Piccolo". Although Piccolo was a family-centered dog, she immediately took to Scott. Danielle and Scott also immediately took to each other. They became engaged after that first date! They were a family of 3 for many years. Scott enjoys quiet time at home with Danielle and traveling to Brooklyn to visit her family. He likes video games, classic rock music from the '70s and '80s, and has a penchant for the entire "Doctor Who" TV series. His preferred movie and reading genre is fantasy. He cites the "Star Wars", "Dune", and "Lord of the Rings" series as particular favorites. He recommends the picture book "Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs" for kids and adults alike because it encourages readers to stretch their imaginations, albeit in a humorous way. He is a big fan of manga comics, especially "Sailor Moon" and the "One Piece" series. He would like to see new manga novels added to the library's graphic novel collection. Scott reiterates why he enjoys working at the Bear Library: "There are great people here. I have wonderful conversations with everyone."

-- interviewed by Connie Malin



Concetta "Connie" Georgov

The Friends of the Bear Library mourn the passing of Concetta "Connie" Georgov, on May 27, 2024, one of the original members of The Friends. She is remembered for her leadership qualities of determination, passion, and perseverance.

Connie Georgov's first job was in the Newark, NJ Public Library, a job that shaped her outlook on the word "library" and the treasures they hold within. One of Connie's favorite sayings was "a library card is the best gift to give a child." Connie moved to Delaware with her husband Bill in 1958, and then moved to Bear in 1967. At that time there was no local library; the Newark Library was the closest. Recognized for her community activism within the New Castle County Civic League, Connie was approached in the 1990's to advocate for a library to be built in Bear. Connie called a meeting at her home in Caravel Farms in Bear on November 5, 1990 to discuss organizing a group called the Friends of the Bear Library. Of the many people she invited, six showed up for that first meeting. Gathering a group of like-minded Bear residents, and empowered by her aforementioned leadership skills, Connie held a second meeting at her home on December 2, 1990, which drew additional people who had also been looking into what it would take to get a library for Bear. These additional people included Bev Wright, our current 2nd Vice-President - Membership, who had been in contact with the Division of County Libraries and found that there was a master plan for libraries in New Castle County. The newly formed group was given a copy of the master plan at the December 2nd meeting. A public meeting was held on January 16, 1991 at Leasure School and forty people attended, which gave the group the confidence that they could move forward with officially organizing the Friends of the Bear Library, incorporate and get tax exempt status, elect officers (Bev Wright was elected as the first President), and write by-laws. Connie continued to hold meetings in her home. The first "Annual Meeting" of the Friends of the Bear Library was held on March 11, 1991, again at Leasure School. Then came the membership drives, the bake sales and small fundraisers, and raising awareness that there would be a Bear Library someday. Then came the grant writing, which Carol Harrington, currently our Treasurer, was heavily involved in, as the Friends of the Bear Library, mounted a grassroots capital campaign, raising \$1,000,000 towards the construction of the proposed library. Land was donated by Ernest Delle Donne & Associates. The Bear Library opened in 1998.

Connie will always be remembered as a key person in the formation of the Friends of the Bear Library, the hosting of those early meetings in her home, and the monumental effort that was required to get our Bear Library built. In fact, if you look through the tiles on the walls of the Bear Library, you will find one commemorating that first meeting in Connie's home on November 5, 1990! If you want to read more about the details of Connie's life, read her interview in the Spring 2022 FOBL Newsletter on page 3.

-- Luisa Georgov, daughter, and Linda Olds, Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter Editor



Fall 2024



Donation from Delaware City Refining Company

The Friends of the Bear Library would like to take a moment to thank the Delaware City Refining Company, represented by Randi Licciardello, Lead Community and Government Relations Advisor, for donating \$5,000 to the Friends to support the community of the Bear library. We know you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating, and we are so grateful that you chose to donate to help provide meaningful programs to the Bear library. Approximately \$1,000 will be used to provide children/family and adult programs for the summer of 2024. An additional \$2,500 will fund the remaining fiscal year 2025 programs. The remaining funds will help to meet the challenges as additional program opportunities arise to support the community of the Bear library.

-- Joyce Bordley , Fundraising Committee Chair



Pictured receiving the \$5,000 check from Delaware City Refining Company, are (left to right) Joyce Bordley, Randi Licciardello, Connie Malin, and Carol Harrington.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition -- July 27

The first jigsaw puzzle competition held on July 27 at the Bear library, sponsored by our local Walmart managed by Daniel Harris, was a great success! There was a 100% attendance of 32 individuals representing 16 teams. The first place team completed the 500 piece puzzle in 35 minutes! (See photo right)

Our next jigsaw puzzle competition will run for 2 days, **November 2 and November 3**. We will hold a jigsaw puzzle swap after the competition is completed. Save the date of your choice and gather all your jigsaw puzzles to exchange with your fellow jigsaw puzzle lovers. Keep a look out for more information on our web site Friends of the Bear Library (de-fobl.org). You can register at LibCal - Delaware Libraries.

-- Joyce Bordley , Fundraising Committee Chair



Fall Festival Fundraising 50/50 raffle

The Friends will hold a 50/50 raffle fundraising event at the Bear Library Fall Festival on October 19 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm. The winner will receive half of the ticket sales! The cost of the tickets are \$1.00 – 1 ticket, \$5.00 – 6 tickets, \$10.00 – 20 tickets. The winner will be contacted on October 19 after the festival. The winner must claim the prize within 24 hours of notification. Please help us to support the Bear Library community and come out to enjoy the Fall Festival!

-- Joyce Bordley , Fundraising Committee Chair



Save The Date

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 7:00 pm
First State Bell Ringers Holiday Hand Bell Concert
Sponsored by Friends of the Bear Library (FOBL)
Registration required

