

FOBL NEWS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library

101 Governor's Place
Bear, DE 19701

Website: de-fobl.org

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

NEW!! E-mail: fobl@live.com

Facebook: Friends of the Bear Library

2024 Meetings, the last Wednesday of
every other month: Jan, Mar 27,
May 29, Jul 31, Sep 25, Nov 27. 4 – 6 pm.
Bear Library.

Annual Meeting:

Tues, March 19, 2024, 5:30 – 6 pm

**Elections for: 2nd Vice-President,
Treasurer, & Recording Secretary**

Your 2024 FOBL Board

President: Connie Malin

1st Vice-President - Public Relations: Open

2nd Vice-President – Membership: Beverly
Wright

Treasurer: Carol Harrington

Recording Secretary: MaryEllen Fox

Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter):
Linda Olds

Historian / Hospitality Chair: Gay Corrie

Greetings Friends!

Recently, a Staff member called me out of a Friends meeting to greet a patron who wanted to personally hand me his Friends of the Bear Library membership renewal. He said he appreciated all that the Friends do to support the Library and he didn't want his membership to lapse. A new Friends member, who responded to our end-of-the-year appeal letter, sent a generous donation with a note that expressed how much she has enjoyed the Library programs over the years. She thought it was time to "give back". We have heard similar comments during our membership drives and at Library programs and events. We are encouraged by the positive feedback. It reflects the Friends' mission to strengthen our ties within the community.

Several years ago (Fall 2015), I invited readers on a virtual tour to unearth the many treasures that the Bear Library has to offer. Our treasure trove is much larger now. With the support of the Friends, the Library has expanded programming at all age levels, renovated the Children's Room, completed the Tile Art Wall, installed significant art pieces to enhance the Library, hosted 2 successful Fall Festivals, initiated a yearly SEED Program presentation for college-bound students, and welcomed a resident mascot---Brownie the Bear.

This year, the Friends of the Bear Library will be hosting our Annual Meeting as a community-wide open house!

Please join us for the Annual Meeting, from 5:30 – 6:00 pm, followed by "Meet and Greet"/Library Tour, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, at the Bear Library on Tuesday, March 19.

Planned activities include: Staff-led Library tours; 3-D Printer demonstrations; Story Time, games, and face painting for children; free raffles; and a vocal performance by students from Christiana High School. Light refreshments will be served.

See you at the Bear Library, where everyone is always welcome!

Connie Malin, President



From The Library Manager

Memberships & Donations

Donations:

Michael D. Garko
David and Diana Guinnup
Lorelei Hunt
Emily Poag
Debbie Smith
Rhonda Williams
C. A. Wright

Memberships (New & Renewals):

MaryEllen Fox
Kathleen and Joseph Galler
Michael D. Garko
Luisa Georgov
Edwin Grebe
Jo-Ann Griffin
David and Diana Guinnup
Delaware Herbalists
Lorelei Hunt
John and Aixa Plummer
Emily Poag
Jill Skelly
Eileen Ney Steele
Shirley Stewart
Rhonda Williams

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

**"All you need is love.
But a little chocolate now
And then doesn't hurt."
-- Charles M. Schultz**

Gay Corrie and FOBL want to thank everyone who donated refreshments for the Bell Ringers Concert on Dec 12, 2023. Their refreshments were delicious and added to the Holiday festivity of the event. The FOBL Board really appreciated you and your yummy refreshments! **THANK YOU!**

I have been a professional librarian for 25 years, and for my entire career I have heard that libraries are obsolete, dying, and no longer needed. First it was the internet that was going to replace libraries because it would have all the knowledge in the world on it for free. Then it was E-books were going to replace physical items and close libraries down. Then it was COVID. I cannot think of a vacation I have taken in the past ten years where I did not have at least one conversation about libraries with someone who thought libraries were dying or obsolete; just last week I was at a family event and a cousin asked me "why are you still building libraries, libraries are dead?" After twenty minutes of conversation I don't know if my cousin was convinced, but at least he now has an idea of what is happening in libraries today and a better understanding of why some people still think we need to build them. Libraries have changed a lot in the past quarter century but they are not dying; libraries have kept the books while expanding their scope to offer a whole new range of activities and services. I had a fascinating conversation about this evolution of library service while I was in Poland this past December. A friend of a friend is a department chair at the University of Warsaw and he asked me how libraries have managed to stay around. He was astounded after I pulled up our webpage and Facebook on my phone and showed him all the "book" and "non-book" things that American libraries do that make them active and relevant centers of their communities. He asked if libraries have evolved as a survival mechanism; I think they have evolved more to meet the needs of their patrons in a changing world, but there might also be some survival tactics in there. I am not really conscious of how much I talk about and boost libraries in my everyday life, but I do talk about libraries a lot, and I think that willingness of librarians and library supporters to talk about their libraries is an important part of the library's continuing survival and relevance. There are a lot of non-library users out there who hear the word library and think *a quiet place all about books* - they don't have any idea of the wealth of programs and services that are available at their local library today. It is understandable they think this way; after all, if you are not a regular library user how would you know what is going on here? That's why it is so important that those of us who are passionate about libraries talk about libraries and what they do every chance we can. National Library Week is April 7th - 13th; as we celebrate libraries this spring make it a point to talk about libraries to someone who is not a library user and open their eyes to all the things they can do at the library besides get a book. Help create another library user, another library supporter, and another library fan.

Wishing you all well,

Eric Kuhn, Manager, Bear Library

Introducing Kim Anguish

Adult Programming Specialist Kim Anguish has a penchant for books, learning, and engaging with people. Her current position at Bear Library affords her many opportunities to indulge those interests. She says, "We do a LOT of Adult Programs!" She proudly cites Bear as having the highest attendance in Adult Programming (over 18 years old) for all New Castle County libraries for fiscal year 2023. Kim's goal is to introduce more trends, themes (including seasonal), diversity, and series into the program selections. She plans to repeat popular ones, such as "Murder in the Library." She is encouraged by the success of weekday offerings and would like to coordinate with children's programs (8-13 years) in order to increase adult attendance. Her public relations campaign includes Facebook, Instagram, postcards at the Community Desk, the Library website, and the slide show on the monitors. Other responsibilities include working at the Reference Desk, acting as back-up for "Ask a Librarian," and serving on the Programming and Reference Library committees.

Although born in Delaware, Kim was raised in Cecil County, Maryland, the youngest of 3 children. She attended St. Mark's High School in Wilmington, DE. She majored in English and Secondary Education at Towson University (MD), but abandoned the idea of becoming a teacher in her senior year. Kim then pursued a career in book publishing. She interned in editing at a Baltimore publishing house and honed her skills when she was selected for a summer publishing program at NYU, thus qualifying her to do freelance editing after graduation. Seeking more permanent employment, Kim held 2 part-time jobs at the same time: in a Cecil County library and a Barnes and Noble bookstore. She worked at the Chesapeake City Library for 3 years, while also covering all 7 branches as a substitute, and spent 3 years at the Elkton Library. Kim, who holds a Master's of Library and Information Science degree, has been at Bear Library since August 2022. Kim's family encouraged her musical endeavors. She played oboe from 5th grade through college, and flute and piccolo in marching band in high school and college. She was drum major during her senior year at St. Mark's. Kim and her husband Joe were married in November. Still honeymooners, they enjoy spending time together by watching movies. They prefer horror, action, and modern award-winning films. They also like the Criterion Collection Channel, which airs vintage pictures. Kim names actor Florence Pugh and the movie "Clue" as favorites. Pastimes include reading, journaling, and publishing online about her favorite books. Kim collects books and admits that she probably has too many. Joe recently built a bookcase to house her ever-expanding collection. Preferred genres are thrillers, literary fiction, and books "that make you cry." She recommends "Celine" by Peter Heller, and 2 books by Zen Buddhist author Ruth Ozeki: "A Tale for the Time Being" and "The Book of Form and Emptiness." Kim traveled to Greece with her high school class, and did a college Study Abroad program in Leeds, England. After college, Kim and a friend moved to Prague to teach English to adults. A disillusioned Kim lasted only 4 months! (Fortunately, the disappointing experience did not deter her from Adult Programming at the Library!) Kim still enjoys traveling and has visited Valencia, Barcelona, and Nice. She and Joe hope to travel to Iceland.

Kim enjoys working with the Bear Library Staff, especially her Reference colleagues. And she loves helping patrons find the items or services they need. She says that it is very rewarding when you can turn someone's day around!

-- interviewed by Connie Malin



Scan these QR Codes for the February – March 2024 Program Calendars

Adult Programs:



Youth Programs:



Online Calendar:



Bear Library Statistics for 2nd Quarter FY 2024

2nd Quarter FY24 Statistics				
	2nd Qtr. FY'24	2nd Qtr. FY'23	2nd Qtr. Gain/Loss	2nd Qtr. % Change
User Visits				
Bear	39,841	36,340	3,501	10%
Wilmington	37,846	33,030	4,816	15%
Brandywine Hundred	35,456	32,900	2,556	8%
Route 9	29,643	21,387	8,256	39%
Circulation				
Brandywine Hundred	139,157	114,320	24,837	22%
Newark	114,182	98,482	15,700	16%
Hockessin	95,400	85,176	10,224	12%
Bear	91,348	76,404	14,944	20%
Registered Patrons				
Bear	24,356	21,951	2,405	11%
Newark	21,960	19,438	2,522	13%
Brandywine Hundred	21,363	19,177	2,186	11%
Appoquinimink	19,963	15,555	4,408	28%

FOBL Spring Membership Drive

Our next membership drive will be April 20th - 25th at the Bear Library. Check your calendar and look for opportunities to volunteer for a two-hour shift sometime during that week. It's fun to hear ideas from all the patrons and to find folks interested in the success of our library. Remember, we're not just books! Contact Beverly Wright with questions and/or to book your 2-hour volunteer slot at Beverly.s.wright@gmail.com.

SEED/STAR Program Upcoming Meeting – March 4, 2024

On March 4th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Friends will be delighted to host the annual event explaining the SEED/STAR college tuition program for Delaware high school students and graduates. An official from Delaware Technical Community College will explain the free Associates degree program, SEED. And an official from Wilmington University will explain the reduced-cost STAR program, available after completion of a SEED degree. Tell your friends! Registration required. Call 302-838-3300.

Volunteers needed: Do you have expertise in Public Relations or Marketing? Are you already a Web Master? We need to get our name and mission out there! Contact the Friends through our website or email.

The United Way book number for FOBL is 9380. You might possibly give through your place of business.

How do I know when to renew my membership?

FOBL membership is an annual membership (unless you are one of our lifetime members). As such, membership dues are payable annually. You may find yourself wondering when it's time for you to renew your membership.

If you receive a hard copy FOBL Newsletter mailed to you, the answer is on your address label. See below. The circled date on the address label is the date that your membership expires and, thus, when you need to renew your membership. You can renew early, before that date, and we will add another 12 months to your existing membership.

4/18/2024

John Doe
123 Main St
Anytown, USA 99999

Consider renewing now, as Membership Rates for Students, Seniors, Individuals, Families, and Business/Civic Organizations are all increasing in April 2024! (Some are doubling the current rate.)

If you receive an emailed copy of the FOBL Newsletter, then check the subject line of the email that contains the newsletter – it will tell you that it is time to renew.