

# 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](http://de-fobl.org)

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

E-mail: [fobl@live.com](mailto:fobl@live.com)

Facebook: Friends of the Bear Library

2025 Meetings, the last Wednesday of  
every other month: Jan, Mar 25,  
May 28, Jul 30, Sep 24, Dec 3. 4 – 6 pm.  
Bear Library.

#### Annual Meeting:

**Tues, March 25, 2025, 6 – 8:30 pm**  
**Elections for: President &**  
**Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter)**

### Your 2025 FOBL Board

President: Connie Malin

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President - Public Relations: Open

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – 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

### Greetings Friends!

A few months ago, I asked a librarian to help me find information on a topic for a presentation I was giving. I have always considered myself to be a good researcher, a testament to all the term papers I had produced from junior high through grad school. But I was having no luck this time. In less than 10 minutes, the librarian, somewhat apologetically, handed me a sheaf of papers. "Here you go!" she said. "I'm sorry it took so long. I was printing them for you." I was amazed and said so. She responded, "I'm a librarian. That's what we do." Librarians are indeed information gurus. Their professional training requires them to develop very specialized fact-finding skills that humble our own self-proclaimed research abilities. They know HOW to look for information and WHERE to find it ---often in the most obscure places in which none of the rest of us would consider looking. Librarians are experts at locating information through computer searches, subject heading inquiries, bibliographies, systematic browsing, key word searches, citation searches, special collections, microform sets, government documents, and unique one-of-a-kind sources such as singular publications on a specific subject, to name a few.

My own Internet search cites several textbook-style publications on basic research methods for librarians. In the book LIBRARIES IN TRANSFORMATION, authors Phayung Meesad and Anirach Mingkhwan discuss how libraries have evolved from repositories of human knowledge to dynamic centers of community and digital innovation. Librarians are constantly learning new inquiry methods in order to keep up with the times. But librarians will also revert to older research methods if the topic being researched has a historical aspect. Former Bear Staff member Angela Rodesky, for example, led a monthly genealogy program on how to investigate one's family history in creative ways, such as through journals, letters and other ephemera, vintage photographs, newspapers and other periodicals, birth and cemetery records, keepsakes and family heirlooms. Author, college professor, and historian Elyse Graham depended on these older research methods for her book BOOK AND DAGGER, "the untold story of the academics who became OSS (Office of Strategic Services, precursor to the CIA) spies, invented modern spycraft, and helped turn the tide of the war (WWII)." I was especially interested in this book because one of the featured academics-cum-spies was a librarian archivist, Adele Kibre. The daring-do and exploits of Kibre and the other unlikely undercover agents, who infiltrated the enemy rank-and-file and cozied up to Nazis in order to thwart and misdirect German intelligence operations, are astounding. These spies preceded the digital age, so they resorted to using such methods as telephone directories, maps, handwritten cryptic and coded messages, and seemingly inconsequential library books as their innocuous appearing tools of the trade. Graham notes: "WWII was fought on the battlefield, but it was won in libraries."

"Librarians are the heart of information; they are the people who make the connections that lead to knowledge." -- Michael Gorman

Need help finding information? ASK A LIBRARIAN. That's what they do.

See you at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin, President



Linda Olds, Newsletter Editor

## From The Library Manager

### Exciting changes are coming to Bear Library!

Hello, Friends!

By the time you read this, Bear Library will be about to extend our hours. Starting on March 21st we will be open on Fridays from 10 AM to 5 PM. We're thrilled to offer these expanded services while Newark Library is closed for renovation.

As a result, you'll be seeing some new faces around Bear, as many of Newark's staff have temporarily joined us to help with the expanded Friday hours. We're also welcoming lots of new patrons, with Newark's regulars coming to us while their library undergoes its updates. Plus, we've started hosting some of Newark's popular programs, so you might notice more activity around the library. Our study rooms, meeting spaces, and program attendance are all growing!

And if you spot books or materials marked with a "Newark" label on our shelves, don't worry—it's not a mistake! We've borrowed many of Newark's most popular items to keep them available to everyone during the renovation, so you'll still be able to enjoy the books you love.

This collaboration between libraries is a beautiful reminder of what makes libraries—and the amazing people who work in them—so special. Behind the scenes, a lot of planning and hard work has gone into making all of this happen. Staff members from multiple branches have been busy re-arranging collections, determining what should be stored and what should be moved to another location, moving items, negotiating schedules, integrating new staff into new locations, and adjusting all the systems that manage everything from computer access to meeting room scheduling to building heating and cooling schedules. And they've done it all seamlessly, without impacting the high level of service you've come to expect.

Libraries are like ducks—calm on the surface but paddling furiously beneath to get things done. This adaptability is a testament to one of the core strengths of libraries: our ability to adapt, to change, and to meet new demands. Our staff have truly outdone themselves in making these changes happen, and we're excited to take on the next challenge!

We look forward to seeing you at Bear Library soon!

Eric Kuhn, Manager  
Bear Library



## Memberships & Donations

### Donations:

Your Name could be listed here

### Memberships (New & Renewals):

Eva Benner  
Julie Billips  
Dorcas Earle  
Myra Evans  
MaryEllen Fox  
Shirley Stewart

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

### Save The Date:

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**  
**6 – 8:30 pm**

**FOBL Annual Meeting,**  
**Elections, & "Chat & Brew"**  
**Live Music**

**All members are welcome**  
**and**  
**encouraged to attend!**



## Introducing Kelly Boyle

Bear Library Staff member Kelly Boyle developed an interest in library work during her senior year in high school. As a Business Technology major at Hodgson Vo-Tech, Kelly participated in a co-op program that assigned her to work in the school library. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 2013 with a degree in English. After college, she pursued her passion for library work. She volunteered at Elkton Library, then applied for a library position in New Castle County. Kelly began her library career at Bear Library as a Community Service Worker II in February 2015. Her duties included working part-time at the Circulation Desk, staffing the Children's Desk, and being trained for computers. Currently, she is a CSW V and serves as Administrative Aide to Library Manager Eric Kuhn. Kelly's Business Technology background proved to be invaluable, making her highly qualified for the position. She is responsible for handling payroll and budget, keeping track of Staff hours, placing orders for supplies, and compiling monthly and quarterly statistics reports (such as User Visits, Check-Outs, Circulation, Registered Patrons, and E-Book Check-Outs, among others).

Kelly was born in Wynnewood, PA. Her family moved to Newark when she was 3 months old, so she considers herself a native Delawarean. As a child, she attended Aletheia and Christ The Teacher schools in Newark. She still lives with her now retired parents in the house she grew up in. Kelly is a self-proclaimed homebody and finds comfort in being with her family in familiar surroundings. Mom had a career in nursing. Dad was an officer in the Air Force, then held several managerial positions in local businesses. Kelly still mourns the losses of her older brother and her grandmother, who lived with the family and helped to raise her while her parents worked. An animal lover, Kelly has had a menagerie of pets over the years, including guinea pigs, gerbils, a dog, and a cat. She misses her cat "Lily", who died recently. Kelly loves to watch old movies with expired copyrights or that are not well-known to moviegoers; and she enjoys viewing old TV sitcoms, like "The Golden Girls". More modern TV favorites, although still vintage, include "Younger" and "House". As a UD English major, Kelly was required to attend 3 plays during her senior year. She cites "The Glass Menagerie" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" as particular standouts. Kelly boasts a large CD and record collection, due in part to her parents, who introduced her to the music of Carly Simon, Gordon Lightfoot, and country music singers Toby Keith and Alan Jackson. Personal preferences are Madonna, Kylie Minogue, and Taylor Swift. She also collects and wears vintage Avon jewelry. She has a penchant for Pusheen the Cat blind boxes, subscription boxes containing exclusively curated (surprise) selections of Pusheen items. Kelly participated in cross country running in middle school. Now she exercises by doing yoga (she started at age 10!) and occasionally power walking. She enjoys all genres of books, but is especially drawn to those with "unreliable narrators", such as Sylvia Plath's THE BELL JAR. ("You are not sure you can trust her!") Childhood favorites were the Nancy Drew series and author Beverly Cleary. She recommends Fitzgerald's THE GREAT GATSBY. Kelly enjoys visiting Delaware and Maryland beaches with her family. She confesses that she has never been on an airplane, but now harbors trepidation about flying due to the recent airline disasters.

Kelly loves working at the Bear Library. She cites the sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the Staff. She also feels a connection to a larger network, even if a Staff member moves to a different location.

-- interviewed by Connie Malin

**If you love libraries**, think about becoming more active in the Friends of the Bear Library. Remember, we enrich, enhance and advocate for libraries, including programming and services for the entire community.

Attend our meetings every other month on the last Wednesday of the month from 4 – 6 pm AND our extra special Annual Meeting & Elections on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for entertainment and raffles. **Just show up!**

-- 2nd Vice-President – Membership: Beverly Wright



## Top 5 Libraries in New Castle County 2nd Quarter Library Statistics (Oct, Nov, Dec 2024)

| Library Branch | Print Checkout | User Visits | New Users Added | eMedia Checkout | Total Checkout |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Appoquinimink  | 68,044         | 29,811      | 691             | 18,159          | 86,203         |
| Bear           | 74,322         | 40,370      | 722             | 21,401          | 95,723         |
| Brandywine     | 105,284        | 33,395      | 542             | 31,995          | 137,279        |
| Hockessin      | 78,039         | 26,364      | 295             | 21,626          | 99,665         |
| Newark         | 81,217         | 26,043      | 605             | 29,141          | 110,358        |

## FOBL Annual Business Meeting & Elections Tues, March 25, 2025 6 – 8:30 pm:

Join us for a...

**FREE**



Community Event

**Chat & Brew**



**TUESDAY  
MARCH 25, 2025**

**6:00PM-8:30PM**

**BEAR LIBRARY**  
101 Governors Place  
Bear, DE 19701



**BE A BEAR LIBRARY  
SUPPORTER!**

**Show Community Pride and Involvement**

**Free Samples from  
Local Eateries**



**LIVE MUSIC**  
with  
Notes on the Beach



**Friends of the Bear Library**

Website: [DE-FOBL.ORG](http://DE-FOBL.ORG)  
(Not-For-Profit 501(c)3 | EIN 51-0334888)



Gay Corrie and FOBL want to thank everyone who donated refreshments for the Bell Ringers Concert on Dec 17, 2024. 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!**

**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.

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

