

FOBL NEWS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library

101 Governor's Place
Bear, DE 19701

Note: Our P. O. Box is now closed. Please make note of our new address.

Website: Not available at this time

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

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

Facebook: Friends of the Bear Library

2023 Meetings, the last Wednesday of every other month: Jan 25, Mar 22, May 24, Jul 26, Sep 27, Nov 29. 4 – 6 pm. Bear Library.

Annual Meeting:
Sun, March 12, 2023, 2 pm

Your 2023 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!

A friend recently introduced me to a book, "The Giver of Stars", a work of historical fiction that depicts something I was not aware of: The Pack Horse Library Project. From 1930-1943, female horseback riders were hired by the US government to deliver books and other reading materials to residents living in remote areas of the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky. The project employed about 200 people, both men and women, and reached approximately 100,000 rural residents. The Pack Horse Library Project was enthusiastically championed by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and supported by President Franklin Roosevelt as a means to put employable citizens to work, thereby keeping them off relief rolls. Another goal was to improve the country's literacy rate, which was viewed as a way out of poverty. By providing library services to an area that was geographically isolated and economically and socially depressed, the determined "librarians" (for they were much more than book toters) brought hope and knowledge of a wider, more accessible world to the grateful recipients of the materials.

I am never surprised by the resourcefulness shown by librarians in their efforts to serve communities. I am, however, amazed at the innovative, creative ways by which they manifest those efforts. In Java, a lone man on horseback, employed by no one but himself, delivers books to eager children in disparate villages. Similarly, a man in Columbia maintains a "biblioburro" library, using his 2 burros to transport the book burdens. Until recently, Zimbabwe had donkey libraries; and Kenya still has a camel library that travels to isolated desert communities. Thailand uses elephants as mobile libraries, to the delight of the many children who anticipate visits from these huge yet docile facilitators. Imagine reading to an elephant as a Book Buddy! Besides using animals to transport library materials and engage with patrons, other creative libraries include the Epos Book Boat, which serves the Norwegian fjords, bush plane libraries, and the ever-reliable bookmobiles.

Fortunately, our Bear Library is stationary, not mobile. You have to visit the Library (or the webpage) to take advantage of its many materials and program offerings. February and March promise exciting Black History Month and Women's History Month events. **And join The Friends of the Bear Library on Sunday, March 12, at 2 pm, for our Annual Meeting. We will be hosting Irish musicians and singers, The Seven Rings Band.**

Sorry, no live animals at the Bear Library. Just helpful and resourceful human librarians. But we do have a resident bear.

See you at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin, President



Memberships & Donations

Donations:

Eva Benner
 Eileen Burget
 Richard Phillips
 Emily Poag/JPMC Foundation Matching
 Katharine Smart

Memberships (New & Renewals):

Eva Benner
 Joyce Bordley
 Eileen Burget
 Lucille Cintron
 Sydney Coneeny
 Sue Denver
 Charles Drummer III
 MaryEllen Fox
 Michael Garko
 Luisa Georgov
 Jo-Ann Griffin
 Diana Guinnup
 Sandra Johnson
 Richard Phillips
 John and Aixa Plummer
 Emily Poag
 Leona Sklodowski
 Katharine Smart
 Shirley Stewart
 Barbara Walters

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

From The Library Manager

I think all of us are tired of winter's cold and gray days at this point, even if our winter has been relatively mild so far. Spring is still a little ways away, and we can't make it come any faster, but the good news is that the programmers at Bear Library have planned a variety of fun and interesting programs in March to tempt you out of those late winter blues. If you love music, check out The Seven Rings Band acoustic music on March 12th at the FOBL Annual Meeting; their mix of traditional Irish and British Isles music, as well as classic rock titles, is sure to please. If you made a resolution that this would be the year you started that book you have always wanted to write, come to our First Lines: Getting Started with Your Creative Writing Project program on March 25th to learn various tips and techniques to get started writing. If your tastes run more to appreciating craft beers, and you have always wanted to try your hand at brewing some yourself, come to our Beer 101 program on March 25th to learn from Shawn Snyder, local expert from Stewart's Brewing Company. If you are looking for something to do with the kids, Bear has that covered as well: learn about astronomy, stars and constellations in Star Lab's inflatable planetarium on March 1st; join Wonderland's own mad hare for a March Madness Tea Party on March 18th; take an introductory class on playing the Ukulele on March 22nd; or come meet the popular and lovable animal ambassadors from Barn Hill Preserve on March 29th. All of these programs and many more are here for you at Bear Library - check out our webpage, Facebook, or on-line calendar for more information and to sign up!

See you at the library!

Eric Kuhn, Manager, Bear Library



"Libraries show us anything is possible by encouraging a love of learning, discovery and exploration." -----Natalie Portman

Save The Date:
Sunday, March 12, 2023, 2:00 pm
Friends of the Bear Library Annual Meeting
Featuring Irish music by The Seven Rings Band
All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Bear Library Statistics for 2nd Quarter FY 2023 (Oct, Nov, Dec 2022)

Library	Item Checkouts	Library	User Visits	Library	New Users Added	Library	Holds Placed September 2022
Brandywine	96,320	Bear	36,340	Appoquinimink	1,234	Brandywine	22,267
Newark	81,945	Wilmington	33,030	Bear	808	Newark	16,370
Hockessin	71,822	Brandywine	32,900	Newark	604	Hockessin	15,042
Bear	64,689	Appoquinimink	28,678	Brandywine	577	Bear	12,532

Introducing Barbara Walters

Bear Library Assistant Barbara Walters has deep roots in Delaware. Born in Wilmington into a family of native Delawareans, Barbara was raised in the First State and has never lived anywhere else. She attended Conrad, then Wilmington High School, where she excelled in math and English, then matriculated to the University of Delaware, earning a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. A summer internship in Washington, DC, in the Hart Senate Building's Document Room afforded her the opportunity to apply her degree. She received a paralegal certification from Widener University and interned in that field for a year. She worked in banking for 2 years and finally settled into a post office job, which she held for 24 years before retiring in 2021. Seeking new challenges, Barbara decided to try a different career path. As an undergrad, she had participated in a work/study program at UD's Morris Library, so she felt qualified for library employment. She worked at the Delaware City and Appoquinimink libraries in circulation and adult and children's programming before being hired for her current position at Bear, where she has been since June 2022. Her duties include checking library card applications, supervising the circulation desk, overseeing long in transit items and Chromebooks, checking Wi-Fi hotspots, organizing library materials, and interpreting and explaining library policies. She would like to help develop programs.

Barbara has been married to her husband John for 33 years. They have no children, but are pet parents to Oreo, a 4-year-old rescue rabbit. The couple enjoy outdoor activities, including long walks, birdwatching, and gardening. They like to watch football on TV, although they root for rival teams (she--Steelers, he--Raiders). Otherwise, Barbara prefers watching British comedies and old classic movies, such as "Arsenic and Old Lace". She has eclectic tastes in music and used to play the clarinet. She loves attending theatre productions and browsing museums, passions she indulged during her sojourn in Washington, DC. (She made countless visits to the Smithsonian!) She is an ardent Shakespeare fan, citing the play "Macbeth" (or "that Scottish play", if you are superstitious) as a personal favorite. Barbara likes cozies for lighter reading fare. She recommends the historical fiction generational series by Martha Hall Kelly ("The Lilac Girls", "Lost Roses", "Sunflower Sisters"). Barbara is a longtime member of the Fort Delaware Society, where she has volunteered as a tour guide, docent, gift shop worker, program organizer, and library coordinator. Nowadays, Barbara has little time for volunteering, but she considers her library job to be a form of community service. She enjoys working at the Bear Library, and credits Eric Kuhn and the Library Staff with creating a welcoming environment. She says, "They share ideas and are team players."

-- interviewed by Connie Malin

Spring Membership Drive



Our next membership drive will be April 10th - 16th 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 (Beverly.s.wright@gmail.com)

Upcoming Meetings



March 6: Delaware Technical Community College is holding an informative meeting about the SEED program at Bear Library on March 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) is a state-wide opportunity to earn an associate degree for free. The degree is a golden opportunity for advancement and success and degree credits can be transferred to a four-year institution. Please register by phone (302-838-3300) or in person at the library.

March 12: Friends of the Bear Library (FOBL) Annual Meeting with The Seven Rings Band; 2:00 pm.

March 22: Friends of the Bear Library (FOBL) Board Meeting; 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

Like to Bake Cookies?



Our Hospitality Chair, Gay Corrie, is looking for volunteers to bake cookies for the following events in March. Contact Gay at 302-834-1271 if you are interested.

March 6th – SEED program at 6:00 p.m.

March 12th – FOBL Annual meeting with The Seven Rings Band

Museum Passes Are Now Available at Your Local New Castle County Library!

Museum passes are your FREE entry to art, culture, entertainment and so much more! Get a Museum Pass today!

Some of the Museum Passes available through the Museum Pass Program are:

Biggs Museum of American Art

Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art

Brandywine Zoo

Delaware Historical Society

Hagley Museum & Library

Rockwood Park & Museum

Tyler Arboretum

The Museum Pass Program is available to adult Delaware Library cardholders (18 years+). One museum pass may be borrowed per library card at a time. You may reserve up to 4 passes per library card within a 60-day period. In fairness to others, one pass for a specific museum can be reserved within a 60-day period. Specific details on the Museum Pass Program can be found at <https://lib.de.us/museum> or <https://delawarelibraries.org/museumpass>. All pass reservations are processed through the MuseumKey link and patrons need to have their library card available when reserving a pass. Patrons can access the page from home or in the library to reserve passes. Some passes are hard copy and some can be printed. Patrons are responsible for calling museums for hours of operation. Please note that each museum pass has its own admission rules. Loan periods for passes vary and are specified for each museum. A museum pass reservation represents a commitment by the patron to abide by the library's museum pass policy. Please be sure of your plans before reserving a pass, as reservations cannot be canceled.

Reserve your museum pass today and have a fun FREE experience!

REMINDER: Your Amazon Purchases Can Help Support the Friends of the Bear Library!

You can help the Friends of the Bear Library by designating FOBL as your charity of choice through AmazonSmile. The cost of items you purchase through Smile.Amazon.com are exactly the same and Amazon will donate 0.5% to FOBL at no extra cost to you. Here's how to get started:

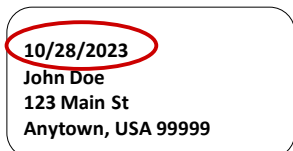
- Use your browser to sign up at Smile.Amazon.com, select "Friends of the Bear Library" as your charity of choice, and start shopping.
- If you are using the Amazon app: go to settings in the main menu; tap on 'AmazonSmile'; follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile.
- Thereafter, remember to always shop through AmazonSmile to have Amazon donate 0.5% of your purchase to FOBL!

Thank You!

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. As illustrated below on the address label, on the line above your name, you will see a date, in this case 10/28/2023. That 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.



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.

Our newsletters contain membership applications that you can use to send in your renewal, or drop off the membership application and your dues at the Information Desk the next time you are at Bear Library.