

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

2023 Meetings are the last Wednesday of every other month: Jan, May, Jul, Sep, Nov. 4 – 6 pm. Bear Library.

Annual Meeting: always in March, date & time to be announced

Your 2023 FOBL Board

President: Connie Malin

1st V-P - Public Relations: Open

2nd V-P – Membership: Beverly Wright

Treasurer: Carol Harrington

Recording Secretary: Mary Ellen Fox

Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter): Linda Olds

Historian / Hospitality Chair: Gay Corrie

Greetings Friends!

"The mission of New Castle County Libraries is to inspire innovation and lifelong learning, advance literacy and strengthen connections within the community."

Bear Library Staff members, under the guidance of Manager Eric Kuhn, work tirelessly to put those words into action. Program offerings are designed to appeal to a wide range of ages, interests, ethnicities, cultures, and lifestyles. These offerings have included "Women of the American Anti-Slavery Movement", (Jamaican) "Folk Art and Culture", Chinese New Year Celebration, "Cinco De Mayo Bilingual Story Time and Craft", "Bear Chess Club", "Tech Maven", "Spice of the Month Club", "LENAPE Lifeways", "A Good Yarn", and "Yoga for Health", to name but a few.

Bear Library serves one of the most diverse population areas in the County – possibly in the State. The Library is especially sensitive to meeting the needs of patrons who represent the community's multi-cultural demographics. Led by Adriana Camacho-Church, Bear Library has the distinction of offering the only continuing library-centered English as a Second Language (ESL) program in New Castle County. Among other ESL services, the basic computer classes in Spanish that Adriana helped to establish focus on job search and application, and paying bills online. Her outreach initiatives have included Head Start and elementary school visits to the Library; and partnerships with local Hispanic media, community leaders, and organizations. (See my interview with Adriana inside this issue.)

Plans have been in the works for several months to expand and strengthen Bear Library's current ESL partnerships with Christina School District and Literacy Delaware. Christina has confirmed ESL programming at the Library starting in October. They will provide a Level 2 class during the week. The school district has hired a new teacher to teach the class at the Library. Literacy Delaware has committed to providing a beginner's Level 1 class and perhaps an advanced Level 3 course as well. Literacy Delaware's start date has not been confirmed. According to Eric, the Library's long term goal is to have the 2 partners coordinate services at Bear to offer seamless service delivery to the public, and to get Literacy Delaware or another partner to start a Level 5 ESL class at Bear.

Eric and the Staff are very excited about the proposed ESL classes. They look forward to increasing the library's patronage, especially those visitors who may be entering a library for the first time.

Visit the Bear Library, where everyone is welcome!

See you at the Bear Library!
Connie Malin, President



Save The Date!!

Saturday, October 14, 2023

2nd Annual Bear Library

FALL FESTIVAL!!



Memberships & Donations

Donations:

Samuel W. Bookhart III
Giant Giving Program
Milton and Dorothy Sarnoff Raymond
Foundation
Pamela J. Nelson
Dale Sheraton

Memberships – New & Renewals:

Jim & Deb Bertrando
Eileen Burget
Joan Burke
Rachel Edelman
Rabbi & Mrs. Glickman
Pamela & John Inskoop
Judith Jennings
Bernice Kaminski
Kennard & Rosa Kirk
Andrew R. Laitman
Elizabeth McDermott
Joanne Melancon
Vernette Murphy
Pamela Nelson
Donna C. Rhodes
Gayle O. Smith
Fred & Alice Faye Stiner, Jr.
Judith Taggart
Joan Wheeler
Mary Frances Wisniewski
Gloria Worrell
Beverly S. Wright

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

Life is just a series of obstacles preventing you from reading your book.

From The Library Manager

Hello Friends!

We are always looking for new programs and services to roll out in libraries and starting soon we will have a new service that everyone is going to love: automatic renewals are coming to Bear Library starting in September!

Starting September 1st all physical items that are eligible for renewal will automatically renew without you having to do a thing. How does this work? Three days before an item is due the computer system will attempt to renew your item automatically: if the items renew successfully you will receive a courtesy email notice that lists the items that were successfully renewed along with their new due dates. Items that were not renewed will receive the standard due date notice we currently send out. If you do not have an email address on file you will not receive these notices and will need to check your account online or contact library staff to learn if items were renewed. Text message notices will continue to be sent out the day before an item is due for items that could not be automatically renewed; we cannot send out text message confirmation notices for items that were successfully renewed automatically (the computer system can't do this at this time).

The automatic renewal calculates the new due date from your original due date, so you will not lose any time. The renewal period is the standard check out period for the item; in most cases this will mean three weeks. If you wish to renew your items yourself earlier than three days before they are due you will now need to speak with library staff; as long as your items are eligible for renewal staff can renew the items for you manually. Some items are not eligible for automatic renewal - these include any items with holds on them, items that have already been renewed three times, walk-ins, interlibrary loans, digital items, and museum passes. If your library card is expired, blocked, or you have an excess of overdue items already, the system will not be able to renew your items automatically and you will need to speak with library staff.

Multiple library systems have adopted this service and it has proved to be very popular - I am sure you will like it as well!

Until next time,

Eric Kuhn, Manager, Bear Library



DE-FOBL.org

Friends of the Bear Library is proud to participate in the 2023 Friends Helping Friends fundraising event hosted by Bosco's! Donate \$5 to support Friends of the Bear Library and, in return, you get a 25% off shopping pass that can be used in the store on October 18th!

You can make your donation and pick up the pass prior to the event. Email us at the link to the left to arrange for pickup of your pass. We will also be on site at Bosco's prior to the event so you can make your donation early and pick up your shopping pass. Check our web page for schedule of dates/times. We hope to see you prior to or on the day of the event at Christiana Bosco's on October 18, 2023.

-- Joyce Bordley, Fundraising Committee



Introducing Adriana Camacho-Church

Bear Library Staff member Adriana Camacho-Church finds inspiration in a simple quotation by Robert G. Ingersoll (1833-1899): "We rise by lifting others". The quotation refers to the importance of helping people and the subsequent positive impact it can have on our own lives. The quotation has become Adriana's mantra; she even posted it on her LinkedIn. Adriana enjoys helping others and she never misses an opportunity to further that mission. As a Library Reference Specialist with New Castle County Department of Community Services, Adriana creates, coordinates, and organizes programs and services that help meet the needs of the Hispanic community. She has been a permanent part-time Staff member at Bear Library since January 2023. Some of her Library activities include translating, interpreting, collection development, and basic computer classes taught in Spanish. By partnering with Literacy Delaware and Christina School District, she successfully established English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the Library. She also conducts Library tours for ESL students and their children. During a recent tour, Adriana encouraged the students to sign up for library cards. Many of them were not aware that they could borrow items from the Library! Adriana would like to see viable bilingual and ESL programs in all New Castle County libraries. She also would like the libraries to offer more diverse programs and materials in order to reflect the multi-cultural aspects of the communities they serve.

Adriana was born in Colombia, South America, but grew up in Chicago and California. She attended the University of California Riverside, where she pursued a political science degree with the intention of matriculating into law. Upon graduating, she abandoned that career choice for journalism. She freelanced online and worked for several newspapers before moving to Delaware in 1999 with her husband Steven and daughters Canela and Elena-- now 31 and 26. While taking her children to Story Time at the former Concord Library, Adriana applied for a library position, thinking it was the perfect job for a mother with school-age children. She worked as a book shelver and in circulation, and was promoted to her current position in 2003. Adriana quit her online writing during this period, but resurrected her journalism career in 2017 at OUT&ABOUT Magazine. She writes a popular column, "Worth Recognizing: Community Members Who Go Above and Beyond". The column, which highlights people helping others in their communities, garnered 2 First Place awards and an Honorable Mention from the Delaware Press Association in 2019. In 2008, Adriana was honored by the County for her contributions to the Hispanic community. That year, she also received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for her Spanish Language Outreach Programs.

Whenever possible, Adriana finds time in her busy life to volunteer. (After all, her mantra is about helping others.) Before COVID, she and Elena painted a room at Rockwood Museum. Last year, she pitched in for their Christmas event and children's craft fair. She listens to bluegrass, folk, and Brazilian music; and she has been known to perform salsa and merengue dances in her kitchen while cooking Colombian fare. Besides dancing, she exercises with yoga, jogging, biking, and by taking long walks. Adriana and Steven plan to travel to Portugal in September 2023. The family has visited Colombia, where the girls were introduced to their maternal Colombian roots. The couple plan to take their grown daughters to Ireland to learn about Steven's heritage. Reading preferences are non-fiction and historical fiction books. Favorite authors include Malcolm Gladwell and Daniel James Brown. She recommends ENTANGLED LIFE by Merlin Sheldrake. She likes Todd Parr's books for kids and admires Yuyi Morales's bilingual storybooks. Adriana introduced a Bilingual Story Time at the Library, focusing on a different theme each month. (August's theme is "The Beach".) Adriana will soon be joining the ranks of children's authors. Her first book, GRANDMA, WHERE WILL YOUR LOVE GO?, is set for release in October 2023-- adding another credential to her already exhaustive list of accomplishments.

-- interviewed by Connie Malin

Our Annual Statistics for Circulation, User Visits, New Users Added, and E-Book Circulation

Library	Checkouts FY'23	Library	User Visits FY'23	Library	New Users Added FY'23	Library	E-Book Checkouts FY'23
Brandywine	418,403	Bear	160,763	Appoquinimink	6,958	Brandywine	78,173
Newark	347,788	Brandywine	144,753	Bear	3,903	Newark	69,967
Hockessin	308,996	Wilmington	135,843	Newark	3,143	Hockessin	56,914
Bear	278,083	Appoquinimink	127,211	Brandywine	2,923	Bear	49,837

All in all, Bear Library is doing well post covid.

Circulation is still down from pre-pandemic levels a bit but it is still growing.

Door count is almost back to pre-pandemic levels.

New users added is at pre-pandemic level. (Appoquinimink did so well because they opened a new, expanded library with expanded services and hours.)

E-Book circulation is pretty much unchanged from pre-pandemic levels, with only a slight increase.





Upcoming Membership Drive and More

Our next membership drive will kick off on the date of our Fall Festival, October 14th, and will run through October 19th. If you would like to volunteer for a two-hour shift at the membership table during library hours, please contact Bev Wright at Beverly.s.wright@gmail.com. It's fun to greet and talk to patrons. A "friendly" hello always gathers a smile at the very least.

Thanks to the ladies who donated the beautiful summertime quilt! The raffle of the quilt raised \$482.00 to be used to support library programs. It was won by Rick D. Thanks so much to the helpers, the participants, and to those who simply donated.

The Friends of the Bear Library are seeking an artistic person to take over the design and creation of our library bulletin board. Are you the one to advertise our great group? Materials and text supplied. The Friends also seek a member interested in a Webmaster position. Our new website is up and running at DE-FOBL.org. Contact us at FOBL@live.com.

Literacy Delaware – celebrating 40 years! Volunteers are needed at Bear Library. Volunteers receive training and materials, are matched with adults studying English, and meet weekly in person or virtually. For more information, contact www.literacydelaware.org or 302-658-5624.

Spread the word among your friends and neighbors to visit Bear Library and consider becoming a Friend. After all, a library card is a passport to the world. New Castle County libraries offer so much for free. The museum pass program, the computers and in-house databases, and a friendly and helpful staff are just some of the amenities.

Study and meeting rooms – remember, there are small study rooms you can reserve at Bear Library for your hobbies or group meetings. Register through the Info Desk.

Beverly Wright, 2nd Vice-President, Membership



Book hangover (book-hang-o-va) noun

1. The struggle to return to everyday life after reading an amazing book.

Membership Application

- Student \$ 5.00
- Senior \$ 5.00
- Individual \$ 10.00
- Family \$ 15.00
- Business/Civic Organization \$ 25.00
- Good Friend \$ 50.00
- Better Friend \$100.00
- Best Friend \$500.00

I would like to help in the following areas:

- Newsletter
- Hospitality
- Membership
- Fund-raising
- Public Relations

I would like to receive my quarterly Newsletter:

- Via USPS mail to my indicated address
- Electronically to my indicated email address

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail*: _____

The Friends of the Bear Library Assoc. is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Mail this membership application to:

Friends of the Bear Library
101 Governor's Place
Bear, DE 19701

*We will not share your email address with others.