

FOBL NEWS

| Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library |

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library

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Meetings: Third Wednesday of Jan., May, July, Sept. & Nov., at 7p.m. in the library

Annual Meeting: March. Date to be announced.

Greetings Friends,

The 20th Anniversary/Birthday Celebration for the Bear Library this past March was a memorable experience! Fun and games for children, courtesy of our wonderful Staff; a Scavenger Hunt for patrons, designed by Board member Linda Olds; the unveiling of a commemorative bronze plaque that will grace the wind sculptures garden; and the official presentation of artist/patron Kevin Ellis's tile rendering of the Bear Library were highlights of the day. THE JUGGLING HOFFMANS entertained a rapt audience with their whimsical antics and amazing feats, and a scrumptious birthday cake was enjoyed by all in attendance. The Friends and Staff of the Bear Library wish to recognize and thank our special event sponsors and community partners for their financial support: **1.2.3. CASH OF GOVERNOR'S SQUARE; AAA ANIMAL SERVICE OF DE** and owner/Board member Gay Corrie; and **SHOP RITE OF GOVERNOR'S SQUARE**, which also provided the delectable cake.

After a last-minute voting frenzy in the Friends-sponsored NAME THE BEAR CONTEST, our "bear" finally has a name: "**Brownie**". Children especially had fun choosing an appropriate moniker for our resident mascot. Brownie quietly greets visitors with his presence in the Marketplace section of the Library, eliciting smiles from children and adults alike. Say hello to Brownie the next time you visit the Library.

Don't miss out on any of the various ways to experience the Bear Library and its many programs and offerings! Fall promises a vast array of new programs, as well as popular favorites. Information about programs and events is available through in-house handouts, our 3 electronic bulletin boards, and the Friends and Bear Library websites. An extensive list of upcoming offerings is attached to this newsletter.

The Friends of the Bear Library will host our annual membership drive in the Library September 3,4,5,7, and 8. Stop by and say hello, and meet us up close and personal! Join the Friends so that we can continue to support these outstanding programs at the state's most outstanding library!

See you at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin
President



Brownie

FY 2019 Statistics for Bear Library:

User Visits	364,612
New Users Added	3,973
PC Use	39,658 sessions
Wireless Use	23,342 sessions
Check Out	514,836 items

Memberships & Donors

New and Renewals:

Deanna Jenks
 Fred Stiner
 Bear Dental
 Boeing Friend
 Barbara Erskine
 Shirley Anne Stewart
 Evelyn P. Elson
 Gay Corrie
 Sondra E. Draper
 Katherine Smart
 Elizabeth Schnepf

Donors:

Carolyn Palo

Donations in Memory of E. Christine McKenna:

Baird Mandalas Brockstedt LLC
 Keith & Cynthia Bart
 Patricia W. & Herbert F. Hooker
 Patricia C. Christopher
 Linda Hanick
 Bill & Connie Georgov
 Luisa Georgov
 Deborah Jones

Your donations and membership dues are used by the Friends to support extras for the Bear Library.

THANK YOU!!!!
We appreciate your help!

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BEAR LIBRARY

President:	Constance Malin
1st Vice President (Public Relations):	David Guinnup
2nd Vice President (Membership):	Beverly Wright
Recording Secretary:	
Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter):	Carol Harrington
Treasurer:	Jean Runge

From the Library Manager

As a lifelong library user, lover of libraries, and now a librarian that works in one five days a week, I am continually surprised at how frequently I run across people who don't know what their local library has to offer for them. Everyone knows we have books, and many know that we have DVDs; but way too many people don't know about the full range of programs and services that the library has to offer to them, and are surprised to hear about all that we do have once they find out.

As part of our ongoing effort to get the word out on everything libraries offer, New Castle County Libraries have started sending out an e-mail **Library Happenings Newsletter** that highlights upcoming programs, library news, and services available at the library that people may not know about. **Bear Library's Happenings Newsletter** is sent out twice a month, highlighting programs, events and services in the first and second half of every month. Our most recent newsletter covered a range of programs including the Summer Reading program, a Mindfulness workshop, and our weekly Knitting and Craft Club on Monday mornings. It also showcased the Book Buddy program available to home bound residents, and invited parents to enroll their children in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten reading program to support future academic performance and reading skills.

Upcoming **Bear Happenings Newsletters** will continue to highlight programming and services available at the library, and will showcase new services as we roll them out. The one that has the public most excited is streaming video, which will be coming sometime this fall (Stay tuned for more information!) Signing up for the newsletter is easy, just visit Bear Library's website at <https://www.nccde.org/Bear>, click on the link to sign up for our Happenings Emails, and enter your e-mail address!

See you at the library!

Eric Kuhn
Manager, Bear Library

A NEW WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FRIENDS OF THE BEAR LIBRARY

FOBL has registered with the Amazon foundation, **Smile.Amazon**, to receive donations. You may shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and Amazon's foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to our organization. [Smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) has the same exact prices, features, and products as the regular Amazon site. You will be prompted to select the organization you wish to support (Friends of the Bear Library Association) upon your first visit to the site. We recommend that after signing up, you bookmark smile.amazon.com so that you can go to the Smile site whenever you shop on Amazon.

As always— we appreciate your support of the Friends of the Bear Library!!!

For further information go to our website: DE-FOBL.org.

Introducing Zia Betts

As a mom who home schooled her 2 kids, Bear Library Assistant Zia Betts spent a lot of time in New Castle County libraries. Libraries were a research and study resource for her children, as well as a source of inspiration for the whole family. Several years later, heeding her daughter's sage advice, Zia became a library employee, initially working at Newark Library as an aide and Circulation Desk helper. She assumed similar duties at Elsmere Library (2013-2018) and had administrative responsibilities there (2018-2019). She transferred to Bear Library in May, where she works in the circulation department and also performs a variety of other support duties. Zia hopes to be assigned specific tasks in the near future, but for now she is "finding [her] way" by getting to know the staff and learning how the Bear Library operates. She occasionally is loaned out to other libraries as the need arises, but would like to claim a permanent position at Bear. Ideally, Zia envisions helping with programming, and perhaps tapping into her creativity by designing library displays, as she did at Elsmere. She is especially proud of a display she made of an African American woman. Besides coming up with an idea, Zia says that the fun part is thinking of ways to use materials she has on hand to use in the display. She has several ideas for displays that she wants to create for the Bear Library.

Born in Washington, DC, Zia grew up an only child. She attended a vocational high school, where she majored in sewing. Zia married young, then worked at various jobs, including bank clerk, bookkeeper, secretary, receptionist, and aide to a court reporter. She took time off from work to raise her 2 children: son Ramon, now 33, an employee at a Glasgow bottling plant; and daughter Rouné, 31, who works with the homeless. Zia is a proud grandmother to Ramon's 3 children: a boy, Jeriah, 11; and 2 girls, Makayla, 5, and Amiyah, 4. Ramon and family are expecting twins very soon, so Zia is looking forward to having more grandchildren to spoil!

Besides doting on her grandchildren, Zia is active in her church, where she hosts a prayer group and oversees the children's ministry. She also is taking theological classes to help her better identify with her Christian values. She doesn't sew much anymore, due to time constraints, but she has taken up crocheting and enjoys doing simple crafts with her grandchildren. Music preferences include R&B and gospel, which she finds to be very uplifting: "It speaks to me". She especially likes gospel artist Kim Walker-Smith and contemporary Christian music. Zia loves to attend the theatre, which her mother introduced her to as a girl. With young children to raise, Zia found ticket prices to be prohibitive, so she was not able to attend many performances. However, she recently took Makayla to see "Jesus" at Sight and Sound Theatre and was as enthralled by the child's wide-eyed wonderment as she was with the spectacle of the stage production! Zia likes sci-fi and police-themed movies and TV shows because viewers are encouraged to use their imaginations and problem-solving skills. "Ellery Queen Mysteries" was a special favorite because the TV show afforded the audience the opportunity to solve the mystery before the whodunit was revealed. Her interest in mysteries and thrillers extends to reading material. She reads E-books and listens to E-audiobooks. She recommends authors David Baldacci and Lisa Scottoline.

Zia vacationed in Florida last year, but she usually travels with a purpose other than recreation. As a teen, she went to Canada to work with the Civil Air Patrol. She has accompanied other church members on a pilgrimage to Romania, where she volunteered in orphanages and worked with a Gypsy community. Her desire is to travel to Israel to perform similar missionary work.

Zia admits that a penchant for acquiring purses and shoes may qualify as a collection; and she has accumulated "too many wine glasses, and mugs with sayings". But many of the sayings are inspirational and encouraging. With her new Bear Library position and growing family, Zia says that she is reinventing herself and enjoying the experiences and possibilities. She may even visit Israel some day!

Connie Malin

FOBL Membership Drive

September 2019

Love your Library?

We will be holding the next Friend's membership drive September 3rd through 5th, 7th & 8th. Cheerful volunteers are needed! Would you help us staff the table?

In the recent past we have garnered several new people committed to making FOBL a dynamic organization, but we need more! We are hoping to attract active members that can engage with the Friends far into the future. We are always in need of new ideas and committed volunteers to guide all the activities of the Friends and to keep us running smoothly.

Sign up today for your two-hour time slot by phoning Beverly Wright at (302) 834-8224 or online at beverly.s.wright@gmail.com.

Time Slots: Tues., Sept. 3rd & Wed., Sept. 4th, 10a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Thurs., Sept. 5th & Sat., Sept. 7th, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

