



Summer 2021

FOBL NEWS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Bear Library

Contact Information

Friends of the Bear Library

P.O. Box 668
Bear, DE 19701

Website: DE-FoBL.org

Please note that our website is being moved from one platform to another and is being redesigned and updated. It will be back very soon!

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

E-mail: FOBearLib@DE-FoBL.org

Facebook: Friends of the Bear Library

Meetings, every other month: Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov. Date, time, location to be announced

Annual Meeting: March, date & time to be announced

Your 2021 FOBL Board

President: Connie Malin

1st Vice-President - Public Relations:
Joanne Mahnken

2nd Vice-President – Membership:
Beverly Wright

Treasurer: Carol Harrington

Recording Secretary: Susan Giaccone

Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter):
Linda Olds

Historian / Hospitality Chair: Gay Corrie

Greetings Friends!

Hurray!

The Bear Library is finally open to the public, albeit on a limited basis, as we ease into a less restricted world. It was such a pleasure to visit the Library recently, to browse the shelves, to check out items, and to interact with patrons and Staff. The experience was like being welcomed home after a long absence. Smiling faces all around. The Bear Library is my “home” library, and it felt so good to be home at last.

The past year of the COVID-19 pandemic has tested all of us. Everyone has a personal story of survival and endurance during these trying times. We have been challenged to adjust to COVID rules that have become our new definition of normal. Our dedicated Bear Library Staff have met the challenge and exceeded expectations. The Staff have been working steadily since the beginning of the pandemic to address the needs of patrons and the Bear community at large, whether through a host of virtual Library services and innovative programming, or curbside pickup.

The Friends of the Bear Library also have been hard at work. We have met in person and virtually to consider ways to enhance the Bear Library experience. Besides funding several virtual programs, we hope to improve the garden areas with native plants; and we have purchased a mobile for the Children’s Room. We are underwriting the Summer Reading Program (TAILS AND TALES), and planning ahead to schedule special in-Library presentations when the Bear Library is up and running full time.

The Friends will be holding a Membership Drive/ Library Card Sign-Up event at the Library in early September. We are pleased that even during the pandemic, patrons recognize the importance of continuing Library services. Thanks to all of you who have renewed your FOBL memberships or joined for the first time. To the rest of you: Please consider joining the Friends. We need your support to help the Bear Library continue its legacy of excellence.

See you in person at the Bear Library!

Connie Malin,
President

A Tribute to Dr. Gregorian

Vartan Gregorian (1934-2021) - The Savior of the New York Public Library

The Iranian-born historian and educator, Vartan Gregorian, who transformed the New York Public Library into a thriving center of culture and learning, died April 15th. He addressed the librarians as “fellow educators” and saw the library as “the cradle of democracy and knowledge...an intellectual center, magnet and jewel.” (Susan H Greenberg, The Washington Post, April 16, 2021)

In order to honor him, encourage at least one family member, colleague, acquaintance or friend to apply for [a library card](#). It’s easy and it’s free!

Linda Olds, Newsletter Editor

Memberships & Donations

Donations:

**Milton & Dorothy Sarnoff Raymond
Foundation**
Richard A. Phillips
Sydney S. Coneeny
Debbie & Steve Colino
Gloria A. Rudolph
Kathleen Heston
Barbara Yotter
Ken & Carol Harrington
Giant Giving Tag Program
Constance Malin
John A. Plummer & Aixa

Memberships:

Kelly & Patricia Golden
Joan D. Burke
Lorraine K. Grier
Margaret (Peg) Parsons
Jill W. Skelly
Betty Schinzel
Joanne Melancon
Mary Mohler
John V. Roberts & Debra L. Berke
Helen Sieling
Ken & Rosa Kirk
Gail Yeager
Cathy Emerson
Joanne Mahnken
Nancy Racz
Mary Lou Sienkiewicz

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

Helpful Links:

On-Line Library Catalog:

Dlc.lib.de.us/

FOBL Facebook:

[Facebook.com/
FriendsoftheBearLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheBearLibrary)

Delaware Libraries Website:

lib.de.us

Creative Bug:

Creativebug.com/lib/newcastlede

Bear Library Website:

Nccde.org/291/Bear-Library

Virtual Library Program Calendar:

[Delawarelibraries.libcal.com/
Calendar/virtuallibraryevents](http://Delawarelibraries.libcal.com/Calendar/virtuallibraryevents)

From The Library Manager

Summer is here again, and for libraries that means Summer Reading!

Bear Library's summer reading programs for adults, teens, and children started on June 1st, and will run through August 21st. For all three programs, the first step is to register on-line with Beanstack at <https://nccde.beanstack.org> to create an account. If you participated last year and already have an account, you will need to log in and sign up for this year's program. You can also sign up in person if you wish. Children and teens will log the time they spend reading, will receive a book after reading ten hours, and will be eligible for prizes at the end of the summer. Adults will log the books they have read through Beanstack or in person, can submit reviews through Beanstack if they wish, are eligible to receive a prize book after reading four books, can earn Bear Book Bucks to select additional prize books, and will earn entries for the grand prize drawing at the end of the summer. Complete details for the programs can be found on-line at <https://nccde.org/875/Summer-Reading>, or by calling the Info or Kids Reference Desks at 302-838-3300.

With the COVID 19 pandemic under control summer also means normalizing library operations and services. Starting July 6th we will restore in-building service five days a week. Curbside pickup, curbside printing, and the daily \$3.00 in-building printing credit will end. Our evening hours will be extended to 8pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings starting July 6th, as well. In July and August, we will be working to re-start in-person programs. We will start with a small selection of in-person programs outside, and will re-launch in-building, in-person programs starting in September. There are still a lot of details to be worked out, but the return to normal is finally underway. Stay tuned for additional information and roll outs!

In the meantime, I wish all of you a wonderful summer!

Eric Kuhn, Manager, Bear Library

Are You Starting to Think About Planning a Getaway?

What a year! You probably thought you'd never travel again after so many months of sitting home waiting for the pandemic to ease. Now, we have a bright, new horizon. Coronavirus infections are down, vaccination numbers are up, restrictions are lifting, the weather is getting warmer and we are starting to think once again of vacationing. As we slowly get back to being able to travel safely, we are starting to think about taking a safe break, away from home, to rest and relax.

If you are thinking of planning a getaway or even if you are just interested in learning about foreign lands, Bear Library has what you need! Our staff has been working hard throughout the pandemic to keep our collections relevant and up-to-date, and that includes our travel section. Whether you are considering a day trip to one of Delaware's beautiful beaches or thinking about RVing in a national park (and there is national park in Delaware), Bear Library has the information you need to have a fun, and safe, summer trip. Take a look at our online catalog at www.lib.de.us, give us a call, or come to visit us in person, and a librarian will be happy to help you find the books and other materials you need to plan a safe, fun summer getaway. While you're at it, don't forget to sign up for our Adult Summer Reading Challenge, which you can do online or in person. Just read any books you want (travel books count, too) and log the books online on our Beanstack page. You could win some great things, including the grand prize of \$200 worth of gift cards, graciously provided by the Friends of Bear Library! Whether you are staycating or planning to hit the road, Bear Library's got you covered.

Lisa Burris, Adult Services Librarian

Introducing Beverly Wright

FOBL Vice-President/ Membership Chair Beverly Wright doesn't walk away from a problem. Rather, she tackles the problem head-on and determinedly works to find a solution. In 1992, as a stay-at-home mom with 2 small precocious children, "Bev" was dismayed that there was no nearby library in Bear where she could take her kids. A phone call to the Delaware Division of Libraries steered her to a group of like-minded residents who were advocating for a library to be built in Bear. Bev joined the group (which would later become the Friends of the Bear Library), and helped to raise funds for the proposed library with bake sales, book and plant sales, and tile painting workshops. She also made numerous presentations to community groups, seeking their support. After many uphill battles, Bear Library opened in 1998, thanks to the efforts of the Friends. Bev wrote the original By-Laws and Constitution of the Friends, and was elected its first President.

Bev was born in Rochester, New York to parents who prized academics and higher education. Her mother was a successful medical doctor who specialized in obstetrics/ gynecology and, later, anesthesia. Her father was an engineer who worked on the Manhattan Project. Bev attended Wellesley College, but transferred to M.I.T. to pursue chemistry. She continued her education at the University of Delaware, where she earned a PhD in materials science and engineering. Bev worked at Hercules, processing magnetic recording material - specifically the crystals used in magnetic tape. Then at DuPont, she worked with printer inks for printed circuits. Later, at Astro Power, she specialized in solar cells. Finally, again at DuPont, she worked with superconductors.

The eldest of 4 children, Bev has 2 brothers and a sister. Bev and her husband David have 2 children (a son and a daughter) and 2 grandsons, ages 2 and 6, for whom they frequently babysit. Bev is grateful that the Bear Library has been offering virtual children's programming during the pandemic. The couple also are pet parents to 3 elderly cats. She did not reveal how they manage 3 elderly cats and 2 energetic little boys on babysitting days!

Bev has a strong interest in genealogy. She delved into her family's history at a young age and still enthusiastically investigates her German/ Scottish heritage. She has traced her family's history to 1634. She traveled to Berea, Kentucky, where her maternal great-grandfather presided as college president, then to Boston and Canada to continue her family research. She learned that her father's ancestor fled to Canada during the Revolutionary War because they were Loyalists who supported King George III. True to her roots, Bev is studying German and becoming fluent in the language. Besides her genealogy-related trips, Bev has traveled to Germany, England, Scotland, Wales, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Luxembourg, India, and China. She and David, who is half-Japanese, have also been to Japan 3 times. Last year, she and David had planned a Rhine River cruise, but the trip was canceled due to COVID. That trip is now on her bucket list!

A passion for sewing generated an interest in historical fashion. Bev tries to explore costume museums on her travels, and favorite sites include museums in Bath, England; Kyoto, Japan; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Bev also enjoys cross stitch and quilting, counting antique samplers and a quilt among her family treasures. In her high school AP chemistry class, Bev was introduced to crystallography and instantly developed a penchant for crystals. She maintains a small yet specialized collection and has attended the International Gem and Mineral Show. Bev is an opera enthusiast, citing Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and legendary divas Joan Sutherland and Kathleen Battle as her favorites. She prefers musical theatre, fantasy movies like the Tolkien and Harry Potter series, and Masterpiece Theatre offerings. She also enjoys redecorating shows on HGTV. As a child, Bev took up horseback riding and figure skating and played defensive field hockey in school. She also enjoys downhill skiing. A voracious reader, Bev is partial to the historical novels of Dorothy Dunnett and Georgette Heyer. Other favorites are works by Dorothy Sayers and the Cadfael series by Ellis Peters. She recommends "A Gentleman in Moscow" and "All the Light You Cannot See". Bev is secretary of her homeowners association, a board member of The Genealogy Society, and she was editor of the International Women's Club newsletter.

But the Friends of the Bear Library is Bev's favorite volunteer undertaking. She is committed to the Bear Library. After all, she was there at the very beginning.

-- interviewed by Connie Malin

Bear Library Statistics

For the month of May, Bear checked out 13,608 physical items and 4,413 E-books. That made Bear the 4th busiest library in New Castle County, behind Brandywine, Newark, and Hockessin.

Bear also added 150 new users, making it #1 in addition of new users in May, followed by Newark, Brandywine, & Wilmington.

Bear placed 6,318 Holds on items in May, making it 4th in the number of Holds placed, behind Brandywine, Newark, and Hockessin.

Eric Kuhn, Manager, Bear Library



Summer 2021

Highlights of the FOBL Annual Meeting April 20, 2021

The Friends of the Bear Library (FOBL) held its Annual Meeting on April 20, 2021 via a Zoom conference call due to the on-going pandemic restrictions. Minutes were reviewed/accepted, Treasurer's Report was delivered/accepted, and Membership Report was given. Eric Kuhn gave his Manager's Report, discussing the huge impact of COVID on the Library circulation and staff levels and describing the phases of bringing the library system back to normal activity.

Elections for President, 1st Vice-President – Public Relations, and Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter) were held. Joanne Mahnken was nominated from the floor for 1st Vice-President. Connie Malin was re-elected as President, Joanne Mahnken was elected as 1st Vice-President – Public Relations, and Linda Olds was elected as Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter).

The Staff Appreciation Week, hosted by FOBL, during National Library Week, was a huge success and greatly appreciated by the Bear Library Staff! Connie gave a LAB update. The Bear area has a large number of participants in the Imagine teen magazine. AmeriCorps is a group offering assistance with computer skills and job seeking skills. Bear Library plans to offer this service one day a week in the future. Pam Inskeep explained how the two book clubs, one for fiction and one for non-fiction, are managed.

Your Amazon Purchases Can 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](https://www.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:

1. Use your browser to sign up at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), select Friends of the Bear Library as your charity of choice, and start shopping.
2. 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.
3. Thereafter, remember to always shop through AmazonSmile to have Amazon donate 0.5% of your purchase to FOBL! Thank You!

Laughter is the Best Medicine – Remember 2020?

- ❖ 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people!
- ❖ I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy – but it kind of did!
- ❖ I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator!
- ❖ This virus did what no woman has been able to do: cancel sports, shut down the bars, and keep men at home!
- ❖ Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money!

Membership Application

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Civic Organization | \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Friend | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better Friend | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Friend | \$500.00 |

I would like to help in the following areas:

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund-raising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |

Name: _____

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

Address: _____

Mail this membership application to:

Phone: _____

Friends of the Bear Library
P.O. Box 668
Bear, DE 19701

E-mail*: _____

*We will not share your email address with others.