



New Castle Library Friends

Footnotes

News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library



Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows and inspire us to explore, and achieve, and contribute to improve our quality of life.

~Sidney Sheldon

A Letter to our Friends

Mission Statement: *The purpose of the organization shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in the New Castle Public Library; to focus public attention on resources and services; to receive and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests to the Library; to support the maintenance and development of programs for the extension and improvement of the Library Services and resources for the community; and to support the freedom to read as expressed in the American Library Association Bill of Rights.*

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your loyal support of the New Castle Library Friends, and, by extension, the New Castle Public Library.

You may remember that January is Membership Month and therefore time to renew your Library Friends membership. As a result of the generosity of Friends members, the New Castle Public Library has been able to purchase valuable resources such as children's computers and the constantly changing walk-in book collection. Moreover, we continue to fund numerous programs including PAWS, the digitalization of *The Weekly*, the Delaware Humanities speakers, and Library

After Hours events. We have also purchased numerous essential support items, for example, a photocopier, tables, and a literature display case.

The new initiatives the Friends have planned for 2019 include funding the continuing education opportunities for the staff and the upgrade of the library's audio-visual equipment.

Membership dues are a major source of our fundraising. We hope we can count on you to renew your membership. You will shortly receive a renewal letter along with an envelope for your tax-deductible contribution. Thank you.

Irene Biggs, President

New Castle Library Friends Annual Meeting

**Friday, February 1, 2019
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

The Friends' Annual Meeting date has been changed from January 23rd, to **Friday, February 1, 2019**. Over the last few years, attendance has exceeded the safe seating capacity of the lower level Community Room, so we are moving our dinner/meeting/program to the main floor of the library. Come and enjoy a variety of soups and chilis along with other fixings, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and desserts. In keeping with our library's pledge to be a Net Zero Waste partner, we are asking all attendees to bring their own bowl or mug, and utensils.

After the meal and a short meeting, Ed Okonowicz (back by popular demand), will present a program entitled, "So You Think You Know All About Delaware?"

This is a Friends' members only evening, although membership can be purchased at the door (membership starts at only \$10 per year.)

Please RSVP to nclibraryfriends@gmail.com or call the library at 302.328.1995.



The membership drive for the New Castle Library Friends is in full swing. Many of you have faithfully supported the library through the Friends over the years. And many of you have already renewed your membership, for which we are grateful. However, in an effort to increase our membership, we want to suggest a personal approach to joining. We would like you to reach out to a friend, or neighbor and invite them to become a Friend.

As noted in this newsletter, our Annual Meeting for Friends members is scheduled for February 1st, upstairs in the library proper—a real celebration of our library and the part the Friends play in its success. Please consider being a Friend and bringing a new Friend to this gathering. Membership sign-up will be ongoing, and also available at the door on the evening of February 1st for new and renewed members. We hope to see you there along with many new faces.

Meet the Volunteers

Renee Kane



Renee Kane is one of our many New Castle Library Friends' volunteers. You may know her from her involvement in the *Telling Our Story Project*. Born in Pennsylvania, she moved to New Castle with her family in 1969, when she was in middle school. It was not until five years ago that Renee dropped into the library, where she met Julie Kirk, who introduced her to the Mystery Book Club. That same summer, she joined Sally Hatton's Genealogy Group, where Renee heard about Sally's plans for the *Telling Our Story Project*, which was framed on NPR's Story Corps @ Your Library. Our story project was comprised of storytellers who lived or worked in New Castle, interviewed by close friends or family members. Sally Hatton was the Project Coordinator, who worked alongside a committed and dedicated group of volunteers. Renee was one such volunteer, who

immersed herself in every aspect of the project.

Renee's involvement with this project was a natural fit. She studied Computer Science at the University of Delaware, and she is a retired Information Technology (IT) Project Manager, who had experience interviewing guests for her church's (Victory Christian Fellowship) internet talk show, "Straight Talk for Women Only." In this volunteer position, Renee was a producer in charge of pre-interviewing guests and developing the scripts for the host. For our project, she held workshops to help each pair of storyteller and interviewer capture a story, write the script, and rehearse their parts. Transferring these skills came easy to Renee, but there was so much more to learn. Next, Renee tackled the art of audio recording and audio editing.

Once ready for the next step, Renee set up a conference room as a recording studio and turned the lower level of the library into a sound proof area with multiple signs for "Silence". As each session was recorded, Renee was at the control panel. She then edited each audio recording, prepared a transcript of what was recorded, and scanned a photo of the storyteller. Finally, the audio, transcript, and photo were uploaded to the Delaware Heritage Collection website. A public celebration of this project, hosted by the Friends, took place in September 2017, but a few stories remain to be told. By the Spring of 2019, Renee hopes to wrap up the collection and upload accompanying personal photos to illustrate each story. The final pieces will include Renee's story of choice, when she was an extra in Oprah's movie, *Beloved*. She will be interviewed by her good friend, Tina Morris.

Renee Kane is a remarkable individual. She is such a positive person. She attributes her attitude and drive to the book, *The Magic of Thinking Big* by David J. Schwartz, PhD. She first read this self-development text when she was 19, and recently revisited it. She embraces retirement as a "new lease on life." And she sees volunteerism as an avenue to an enriched life, which has broadened her perspective and introduced her to a myriad of new friends. As a member of the New Castle Friends and an outstanding library volunteer, we are thankful for Renee's dedication and appreciative of the fruits of her labors-our story project. As the last of the stories are captured, may Renee find time to squeeze in a few of her favorite pastimes, which include fine dining, live performances, and movies.

Make the library your home away from home this winter...

by Sally Hatton, Adult Services Librarian



Although “winter is icumen in,” the library will not be hibernating. Instead, we will offer programs to challenge, inform, invigorate, and entertain you.

The Monday Night Cultural Film Series returns on January 14th, with the recent feature film *Crazy Rich Asians*; and Thursday Night @ the Movies continues on January 24th, with the documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, about the television icon Fred (“Mr.”) Rogers. Both films will begin at 6:30 p.m.

If you are nearing retirement, please join us on Tuesday, January 29th, for a special class to help you learn how to calculate what you will need for retirement and provide strategies for using your savings assets to create a “retirement paycheck.” This class will be presented by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and will run from 6-8 p.m.

February will feature two special programs for Black History Month. The first, *African Americans and the Civil War*, will examine the challenges faced by African Americans, free and enslaved, and put a face to soldiers who fought valiantly for the Union cause and freedom. This Delaware Humanities presentation by Kathy Trusty will begin at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, February 19th. In addition, the library will offer a special showing of *Alice's Ordinary People*, a documentary about an unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement. This movie will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26th.

On Tuesday, March 26th, at 7 p.m., we're off to explore the world with some exceptional and intrepid women travelers of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. *Wayward Women Travelers* will be presented by Dr. Linda De Roche, through Delaware Humanities.

The Technology Series for Adults will continue on Tuesday, January 22nd, with instruction on how to download e-books to a Kindle or tablet. This class will run from 6-7 p.m.

We are pleased to announce the first meeting of a new library book group on Monday, March 18th. The Tasty Memories Book Group will meet quarterly, to read and discuss food memoirs. The title for the March 18th meeting is *Lunch in Paris*, by Elizabeth Bard. The Tasty Memories Book Group joins two other library-based book groups: the Tuesday Night Book Group, and The Usual Suspects Book Group. For more information about all book groups, and lists of current selections, please stop at the Reference Desk.

For a complete listing of all programs, Monday Cultural Film Series titles, Tuesday Night @ the Movies features, and adult technology classes, please pick up a copy of the winter program brochure at the Reference Desk. Registration is requested for all programs listed above.

A good way to meet new authors – use our Reader’s Advisory resources!

by Sally Hatton, Adult Services Librarian



The beginning of a new year is a good time to get acquainted with new authors, and to read about new subjects. New Castle Library has a number of resources, both in-house and online, to get you started on these new discoveries.

An easy way to begin, is to go to the [library webpage](#), and click on “What Do I Read Next?” from the list at left. The *Select Reads* database, featured at the top, allows you to subscribe to monthly newsletters in a variety of areas and subjects, including biographies, cooking, DVDs, romance fiction, and mysteries and thrillers. These lists are curated, monthly, by New Castle County librarians. Among other features, the database also includes an “Author Check,” and a “New Book Alert.”

Other great resources on the “What Do I Read Next?” page include monthly lists of recommended new fiction and non-fiction titles, also chosen by New Castle County librarians. Current and archived lists can be printed from the page, and copies of the current list are available at the Reference Desk.

The *NoveList* database, on the same “What Do I Read Next?” page is a good place to browse favorite genres and non-fiction areas, like historical fiction, fantasy, mystery, and science and nature. Individual titles can be searched for author and review information, and books in a series can be arranged in publication order. Each title searched generates a list of “Read-alikes.” The database also includes book lists, “best” lists, and book discussion guides. A recent visit to the mystery genre area provided lists of holiday and forthcoming titles, and a collection of “Best Mysteries of 2018.”

Our in-house resources include the *Book Page*, a monthly publication that highlights new fiction and non-fiction in many genres and subject areas. The next time you’re in the library, pick up a copy at the Reference Desk.

You will also find frequently changing book displays (all titles are available to be checked out) throughout the library. And don’t forget to check the rack of library staff recommendations, next to the “New Book” shelves.

Happy reading!

Library after Hours Update

by Nicole Ballance, Principal Library Assistant

Library after Hours (LAH) had many exciting programs within the last couple of months and has grown in popularity as well. There are many new and improved LAH programs coming up in the winter months, so be on the lookout.

In November we hosted a new program, Homemade Spa Products. Participants visited four different stations. Directions for sugar lip scrubs, hand scrubs, coffee masks, and bath bombs were available at each station. The spa product that got the most reaction was the bath bombs. We quickly learned that bath bombs are not the easiest thing to make. Getting the ingredients to create the right consistency was quite a challenge, but everyone seemed to have a blast nonetheless. This program was so successful and got such wonderful feedback that we plan on bringing it back next year with soap making!



In December we hosted another crowd favorite, the Gingerbread House Competition. About 30 participants grouped together and competed against other groups to create the 'best' gingerbread house. Participants were encouraged to bring additional candy decorations for their library provided base gingerbread houses. Participants were very competitive this year and brought their A game. The gingerbread houses that participants created were incredible. For a couple of days after the program, the staff at the library voted for which was the winner. The

winning gingerbread house is shown here. The winner received a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

For January, we have another new program planned, DIY Hot Cocoa Mix, PJ Party, Karaoke, and Trivia night! Join us on January 18th at 7 PM for the opportunity to make and take a hot cocoa mix, while being cozy in your pajamas. Karaoke will be available for anyone brave enough to get up and sing and there will be a general knowledge trivia game going. The idea for this program is to have a cozy night in, at the library.

February is fast approaching and so is another popular Library after Hours program, Candy Heart Bingo! Join us on February 15th at 7 PM for a night of bingo and prizes. Participants will go through as many rounds of bingo as time permits. Instead of markers, participants will use candy hearts to mark called numbers off on their bingo cards.

As per usual, Library after Hours is a BYOB, 21+, program. All LAH programs require registration so please call us at 302.328.1995 if you wish to register for any of the LAH programs. Hope to see you there! Be on the look-out for other themes throughout the year.



January Book Recommendations

If there is a book you would like to recommend, email us at nclibraryfriends@gmail.com.

Bruce Burk

Kingdom of the Blind: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel

by Louise Penny

This December 2018 release is the 14th book in this series of “whodunits”. Here Gamache, former head of the Surete de Quebec, is entrenched in solving several mysteries ranging from a questionable inheritance, embezzlement, murder, and the opioid epidemic. The usual array of characters from Three Pines is woven through the plot to add levity and continuity to the series, while colleagues from Montreal aid their suspended leader in his on-going investigations.

Renee Kane

The Magic of Thinking Big

by David J. Schwartz, PhD

This self-development book is full of timeless, practical advice. It demonstrates the possibilities of “thinking big-believing big,” covering topics such as how to manage better, setting goals for growth, making “action” a habit, and overcoming fear and finding confidence.

Mel Terasaki

My Beloved World

by Sonia Sotomayor

This is a story of self-discovery and self-invention. The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court tells of her journey from a housing project in the Bronx with the dream of becoming a lawyer, through Princeton and Yale Law School, to the highest court of the nation. With a life shaped by her paternal grandmother, trusted mentors, a failed marriage, and cherished friends, Sotomayor embraced the infinite possibilities America offer.

Turning Pages: My Life Story

by Sonia Sotomayor

For Sonia Sotomayor, books were her salvation; they were her mirror, her maps, her friends. They taught her how to cope with her father’s death and her diabetes treatments. In this picture book, she encourages this next generation of young people to read, to seek, and to dream. Lulu Delacre’s illustrations show readers ages 4-8 (Grade level K-3) that the world is full of promise and possibility with the life of Sonia Sotomayor as the example.