



New Castle Library Friends

Footnotes

News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library



“It is not lost on me that these are hard times... But there will be a better day. A day of love. A time of peace. A time of new beginnings. Hope. A world better than the bother we are in now. Know that! We do have a better tomorrow ahead.”

Johnny Corn



Dear Friends,

2020 presented us all with unprecedented challenges. We enter 2021 with trust that later this year we will once again be able to gather together to enjoy everyday pleasures such as hugging an old friend or going to the library.

While our library building has been closed since mid-March, the staff continues to provide much needed services to our community. They offer personalized material selection, facilitate curbside pick-up of library materials, produce virtual programs for children and adults, provide language instruction, homework help, research assistance, and so much more.

In 2020, the Friends two annual fundraising events were cancelled, and it is unclear whether we will be able to hold these events in 2021. This leaves membership dues as our only source of income. A basic membership is just \$10 per year and is open to anyone. This year especially, I hope you can consider increasing your membership donation level. As a member of the New Castle Library Friends, you receive a regular newsletter, information about upcoming events, and most importantly, satisfaction in knowing you are supporting a great organization, the New Castle Public Library.

Our organization is strong because of you. Thank you for your generous support and we hope we can count on you to continue your membership in 2021.

Take care and best wishes,

Amy Bishop-Ryan
NCLF President



CALLING ALL WRITERS, POETS, AND THINKERS

It's been 10 months. Have you had any insights or reckonings? Would you like to share what you have been ruminating about during this time? We would love to see your poems or short prose on the pandemic, covid, isolation, the new normal, hopelessness, the chance to reset priorities, gratitude, desperation, or whatever this time has meant to you. Please submit them to us at nclibraryfriends@gmail.com and we'll post them on either our Facebook page or in the next newsletter.



Julie Kirk, Executive Director New Castle Public Library

What has the library staff been doing while the library is closed? You may have asked yourself this question if you have not taken advantage of all the activities and services we offer. Here is a rundown.

Since the library closed March 16th, the way the library conducted business had to be radically changed. And the staff had to quickly learn and adapt to this. Virtual programming on Facebook Live and Zoom started almost immediately. Sara has story time on Facebook Live every week. Nicole continues to hold Trivia and Bingo once a month. These programs have been ongoing since March and remain very popular.

While we were in quarantine in April and May, most of the staff worked from home. They planned and conducted virtual programs, continued to make book, audiobook and DVD selections and purchases, participated in meetings with New Castle County colleagues and Delaware Division of Libraries staff, and engaged in professional development webinars. Staff answered many questions through Ask a Librarian reference service as well. As an added bonus, the staff who did come into the library every day were able to provide limited delivery service of items to neighbors.

Also during this time, we recognized Sally Hatton's retirement and welcomed Tyler Antoine to our staff. Making these transitions during this time has been a challenge. Sally is doing well in her retirement. Tyler has eagerly embraced his new role and is looking forward to meeting all our patrons in person. Look for the videos he is creating in partnership with

New Castle Historical Society.

Since staff returned to work in the building in June, curbside services developed and evolved. Through trial and error, the circulation staff have created an efficient safe way for patrons to access all the materials. Some changes we made to account for the fact that no one is browsing our collections or using the computers:

- Moved all the Walk-in books to a regular circulation status (3 weeks)
- Current magazine issues circulate immediately.
- Printing, copying, and notary services
- To address the needs of patrons without internet access, New Castle County installed a wi-fi booster so that reliable internet connection is available from the parking lot.
- Passes to Brandywine Zoo and Tyler Arboretum in Media PA can be checked out
- To promote all these services and remain connected to the community, we created door hangers that were distributed to near-by neighborhoods.

Our Summer at the Library program, though smaller in scope, was successful. Adults, teens and children read books and participated virtually in many programs sponsored by the state or presented collaboratively with the county.

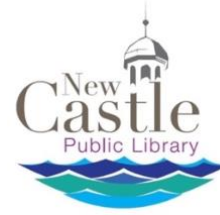
Although we ran into a small glitch in services in October due to a positive case of COVID of a staff member, we made adjustments and jumped back into service full force. We are currently in the planning stages for reopening on a limited basis with appointments for computer use and browsing the NEW section of materials. This will happen when the County Executive gives approval for New Castle County libraries to reopen. Upon your return to the library, look for the changes and improvements to all the collections. If you need assistance in finding your favorite author, your friendly librarians are ready to help.

We have faced many challenges in the past 10 months but also have created new opportunities for services. The challenge of using Zoom has turned into an opportunity for more efficient meetings throughout the state. Traveling to Dover is no longer required. Virtual programs have reached beyond our community, county and state. We have seen participants from other states and countries logging into our Zoom and Facebook Live events. The challenge of how to safely handle our materials so that our patrons stay healthy has taught us to be vigilant but forgiving and understanding. We try harder than ever to provide the best customer service to our patrons. We miss seeing everyone in person, having the quick chat, finding that perfect novel for someone, and knowing that what we do is making a difference.

The support of the Friends board and membership is crucial to the success and well-being of the library and staff.

Thank you Friends.

News from the New Castle Public Library



The New Castle Public Library is busy finding new, innovative ways to bring a wider range of library services and programs to our community of patrons. The staff of the library have been humbled and moved by the amazing support and loyalty our patrons have shown through the last few months, and we pride ourselves on being able to "pay it forward" through a number of new additions.

First off, the New Castle Public Library will soon be providing Zoom rooms free of charge for patrons to host meetings and get-togethers, not unlike our community and meeting rooms we typically offer when the library is open to the public. Patrons will be able to register for a specific time during regular library hours, and our staff will create a Zoom Meeting, complete with a private password, for patrons to share with those who are attending. We plan on beginning to provide these Zoom meeting rooms sometime this month. If you or your organization would be interested in registering for one, please contact our Adult Services Librarian Tyler Antoine at tyler.antoine@lib.de.us.

In this same vein, the library also wishes to begin to provide a safe, virtual space for teens to gather and socialize. Fortunately, New Castle County Libraries now have a Discord server for teens. This server will be used as a virtual space where teens can engage in communication channels, both text and voice, and virtual programming. The channels will focus on specific topics that are of interest to teens such as anime, art, books, cooking, DIY, gaming, memes, movies, music, pet photos, self-care, and more. If you or someone in your family between the ages of 13-19 is interested in joining, please [click here to request access!](#)

Curbside pick-up continues to be available. [Click here for more information.](#)

Want some items but not sure what titles to place on hold? [Fill out this form](#) and our librarians Tyler (Adult Services) & Sara (Youth and Teen Services) will choose some items for you!

As you know, during this time, all libraries in Delaware are closed to the public. However, many libraries, including ours, are doing virtual programming through Facebook Live events, Zoom meetings, and sharing videos.

Virtual Programs:

- Sunday, 1/3 @ 6 PM: **Litty: An Urban Fiction Book Club – *The Coldest Winter Ever*** by Sister Souljah. **Registration required – for Adults.**
- Tuesdays @ 4 PM: **Teen Time** - hang out, play games, make new friends! **Registration required.**
- Fridays @ 10 AM: **Story Time** - join our Facebook Live for different stories each week.
- Thursday, 1/7 @ 8 PM: **Vacation Movies Bingo – Registration required - for Adults.**
- 1st and 3rd Thursdays @ 3 PM: **Kids Games On – Registration required – Ages 8 -12.**
- 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 7 PM: **Pajama Story Time** - join our Facebook Live event for bedtime stories and songs.
- Friday, 1/15 @ 7 PM: **Real 2 Reel: Documentary and Dialogue. *Echo in the Canyon. (2018)***, a fascinating look at the Californian music scene of the 60s and 70s. – **Registration required.**

For more information and to register for these and virtual programs being offered at all the New Castle County libraries, call 302.328.1995 or [click here.](#)

Let us know what kind of virtual programs you'd like to see, click [here](#) to take the survey.

Thank you for supporting our library. We miss our patrons and hope that you are all safe and healthy!

Sara Thomas, Youth Services Librarian, sara.thomas@lib.de.us

Nicole Balance, Principal Library Assistant, nicole.balance@lib.de.us

Tyler Antoine, Adult Services Librarian, tyler.antoine@lib.de.us

“It may be tempting to binge-watch our way through these next months. But TV washes over you. Reading draws you in. Books that absorb us, books that calm us down, books that comfort us, books that remind us we are not alone but part of this grand sweep of history, books that surprise and enchant us - this is what we’re looking for.”

Sarah Lyall



January Book Recommendations

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

Yvette Pomeranz

The Song of Achilles

by Madeline Miller

This 2012 debut novel embraces a unique reimagining of Homer’s masterpiece, *The Iliad*. This beautifully written, storytelling prose is free of the labor of epic poetry, taking the reader on an action-packed adventure filled with gods, kings, mortals, and immortals. It was delightful to revisit a classic in a modern form.

Janice and David Henshaw

This is Happiness

by Niall Williams

This is a lovely novel about life in a small, Irish parish of Faha, in county Clare. The narrator, Noe (age 78) is looking back roughly 60 years to the spring of 1958, to the days before electricity arrived in this self-sufficient village. Upon the death of his mother, Noe drops out of seminary and returns to Faha, the home of his grandparents and childhood memories. This is a story of looking backward with glances of moving forward. It examines grief, faith, and first love, while focusing on the vital role friends and community play in strengthening the human spirit.

Amy Bishop-Ryan

A Long Petal of the Sea

by Isabel Allende

In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires.

Robert Butterfield

Magpie Murders
by Anthony Horowitz

This 2016 British novel is not your conventional whodunnit. The first portion of the book reads like an Agatha Christie mystery, with several murders and a multitude of suspects. However, Horowitz goes on to develop this contemporary thriller as an ingenious, complex, story within a story. While detective Atticus Pund solves the Magpie Murders, Horowitz layers a second story with insight and parallels to the author's life.

See the [Goodreads Choice Awards 2020](#).

