



# New Castle Library Friends

## Footnotes

*News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library*



*Greetings!*

*Although we have not previously sent out a summer edition of Footnotes, as it is a uniquely challenging year for the New Castle Library Friends, as well as for the rest of the planet, we wanted to touch base and provide some updates along with numerous book recommendations.*

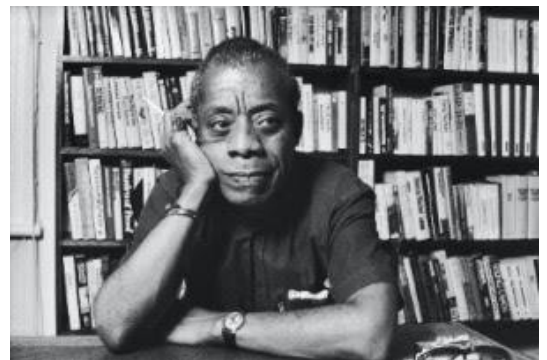
*We look forward to when the library is able to safely reopen, and we are able to gather as neighbors, friends, and Friends.*

*Meanwhile, we hope you remain healthy and well.*

*Irene Biggs, Amy Bishop-Ryan, and Eileen Burk  
Footnotes' Editors*

*"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was Dostoevsky and Dickens who taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who ever had been alive."*

*James Baldwin*



## *Laptop Initiative*



During this COVID-19 crisis, millions of students have had to go online for schooling, but not everyone has the tools to educate themselves. This causes an academic gap, harming students' educational development. Urban Promise is a local, non-profit organization that spreads positivity to youth by empowering them with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, personal growth, and servant leadership. [From Wikipedia, "Servant leadership" is a leadership philosophy in which the main goal of the leader is to serve. This is different from traditional leadership where the leader's main focus is the thriving of their company or organizations. *Eds.*] As a supporter of Urban Promise, I have started a drive that gives kids computers, so they can continue their education during these difficult times. Now is the time to take action! With no end in sight for the coronavirus and the uncertainty of schools opening, we should unite as one to donate to this worthy cause! I have started a [GoFundMe campaign](#), where \$150 purchases a laptop. You can be an individual sponsor of a laptop, or you can start a chain, combining with others toward \$150.

The time for action is now; it is about time we say NO to the coronavirus intervening in education. Thank you in advance for considering this important cause.

Sincerely,  
Adithcharan Thyagarajan  
Student and NC Library Friends' Board Member

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One of the more recent initiatives of New Castle Library Friends is to facilitate, through funding, attendance at conferences for library staff. This past February, Sara Thomas, Youth Librarian, and I attended the biannual Public Library Association Conference in

Nashville, TN.

The conference features keynote speakers, more learning sessions than can be attended, a large, very exciting exhibit hall, social events, book talks, author signings, and practical how-tos. I attended several very informative sessions such as *Decreasing Barriers to Library Use*, which addressed barriers such as policies, accessibility, literacies, and awareness. Another was *Working Through Transitions and Institutional Change*. This one gave me guidance on navigating the many changes expected with the retirement of Sally Hatton. Sara and I both attended the session titled *Programming for All Abilities* to learn how we could incorporate programming for children and adults with challenges or differing abilities.

Other highlights included Book Scootin' Boogie, a VERY fun party provided by Overdrive with food, drinks, a live band and dancing; and a more sedate evening of food and drink with a Dolly Parton impersonator providing the entertainment.

The exhibit hall featured much swag and free books. Most of the books are prepublication copies, which we share with our patrons for summer reading and other giveaways. Pads of paper and small notebooks, bookmarks and tote bags also made their way back to New Castle.

Thank you to New Castle Library Friends for helping us grow, learn, and have a little fun while doing it.

Julie Kirk  
Director, NCPL



**Tyler Antoine**  
***Adult Services Librarian***

The New Castle Public Library welcomes Tyler Antoine as the new Adult Services Librarian. Tyler began his position May 20<sup>th</sup>, in the middle of the pandemic closure. Although this was a challenging time to embrace his new position and initiate his vision, Tyler jumped in to thoroughly acquaint himself with the adult collection, but a public-less library hindered Tyler's desire to interact with our patrons. Since his position includes program development, Tyler needs to get to know the interests and passions of our community members in order to develop programs that best serve them.

Tyler comes to us from the position of Program Librarian at Rehoboth Beach Public Library, having previously gained experience at Dover Library and the library at Wesley College. In 2011, Tyler graduated from Temple University with an undergraduate degree in English and Creative Writing. In 2015, Tyler received his master's degree in library science from Drexel University with an emphasis on public libraries.

When asked what Tyler hoped to bring to his position here, he enthusiastically responded that he wanted to use his studies and past experiences to view the adult collection and programs with a fresh perspective. He sees the library as a community center, partnering with public services, small businesses, the Historical Society, and restaurants. Yet again, his vision remains in the development stage due to the pandemic.

Tyler recently moved to New Castle to be close to work. He brings with him his interests in music and movies. He plays drums in a band and sings a bit. He enjoys art house films and most recently has flexed his culinary thumb. With the resurrection of 70's and 80's pulp-horror novels, Tyler finds this genre to be a great escape from reality. He still enjoys literature and poetry, contemporary fiction, and celebrity biographies. His all-time favorite book is *The Fall* by Albert Camus. Tyler remembers reading this book in one sitting, and its profound influence on his views on morality and goodness.

Tyler is looking forward to the full reopening of the library and meeting and working with patrons to really get to know them, so he can better serve them. We welcome Tyler and look forward to his skills and vision at work.

## ***News from the New Castle Public Library***

by Julie Kirk and Barbara K. Fiala



While the New Castle Public Library is not open to the public, we are offering **curbside pick-up!** If you have library items that you would like to check out, all you need to do is either call the library, [302-328-1995](tel:302-328-1995) and we will put the items on hold for you, or visit our online catalog [dlc.lib.de.us](http://dlc.lib.de.us) to place items on hold. Once the items are available for pick-up, you will receive your notification through text or email, if that is your typical way of receiving notifications, or we will call you.

Once you receive a notification that your items are available for pick-up, you can visit the library during the following times:

- Monday and Tuesdays from 10 am to 6:30 pm
- Wednesday and Thursday from 2 pm to 6:30 pm
- Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm

When you arrive at the library, park in a reserved curbside pick-up parking spot, call the number on the sign, and a staff member will check the items out, and bring the items outside to a table located at the back door. To practice social distancing, please allow the staff member to reenter the building before leaving your car. If you do not own a cell phone and cannot call when you arrive, call before you leave home and we will have the items on the table before you arrive. If you are walking, please call before you leave your home, and we will have the items outside on the table before you arrive. If there is a patron already at the table when you arrive, please allow that patron to pick up their items before you walk up to the table.

Also, perspicacious pedestrians passing by the library for the last few weeks will have noticed two additions to the library's front porch: 1) a cart containing a large collection of donated and Advanced Reader Copy books for kids, teens, and adults; and 2) stacks of paper items (held down by rocks!) displayed on the east wall of the porch. Among those items are current editions of the newspapers to which we subscribe. The books and papers are free for the taking and for you to keep and will be available Monday through Friday until 5 PM. After 5 PM, a plastic bin containing more free books will replace the cart on the porch overnight. If you are in need of state or federal tax forms, they are also available for pickup on the front porch.

Finally, this year's virtual Summer Reading Programs are under way and open to book lovers of all ages. Kids and teens can track their reading on [nccde.beanstack.com](http://nccde.beanstack.com) or can email [Sara Thomas](mailto:Sara.Thomas@nccde.beanstack.com) to receive a paper log to print. There is a bingo board available to win additional prizes. Get one bingo and you'll receive a sports bag. Fill the entire board and get a t-shirt (while supplies last). You may e-mail Sara at the above address to get a copy of the board or you can get a paper copy of it when you pick up reserved items at the library. Virtual programs will be happening all summer so check out our [website](http://www.nccde.beanstack.com) for more information.



## ***July Book Recommendations***

If there is a book you would like to recommend, email us at [nclibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:nclibraryfriends@gmail.com).

Eileen Burk

### ***Call Your Daughter Home***

by Deb Spera

This historical debut novel follows three strong Southern women from three very different segments of society. Set in South Carolina in 1924, the lives of Gertrude (a poor white woman with four daughters), Retta (a first-generation freed slave), and Annie (the matriarch of a local, influential family), not only intersect, but they intertwine. This is an unforgettable story of family, community, and motherhood, where the strength of women is showcased as they stand up to injustices.

Sara Hutchinson

### ***Empire Falls***

by Richard Russo

This Pulitzer Prize winning book, classified as a Vintage Contemporary, is set in the blue-collar town of Empire Falls, riddled with abandoned mills and dashed dreams. The storyline draws on the lives of lifelong friends and neighbors with truth, humor, and heartache.

### ***Everybody's Fool***

by Richard Russo

*Everybody's Fool* (2016) set in North Bath, New York, picks up a decade later with Russo's beloved characters from *Nobody's Fool*. Although time has passed, the flawed nature of these individuals has not changed. Once again, this Pulitzer Prize winning author allows us to share in their challenged lives with humor and heart.

Adithcharan Thyagarajan

### ***The Glass Castle***

by Jeannette Walls

This is an extraordinary memoir of a life within a loving, yet very dysfunctional family. The transient lifestyle and abject poverty of the Walls family is shocking. The resilience of the Walls children and their ability to care for each other, when their parents were unwilling or unable to provide for their needs, is remarkable. This story showcases the varied obstacles one may face in life and how individual choices can mean the difference between prosperity and homelessness.

***Long Walk to Freedom***

by Nelson Mandela

This autobiography of Nelson Mandela captures the essence of this global, human rights leader and his lifelong dedication against racial oppression. From prison, to president, to Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Mandela was a vital force for racial equality. This is a timely read-relevant to our present unrest. It is enlightening and full of hope.

Roberta Yarker Smith

***Last Train to London***

by Meg Waite Clayton

Published in 2019, this historical novel, backed by excellent research, deals with the Kindertransport that carried thousands of children out of Nazi-occupied Europe. This feat was accomplished largely due to the efforts of one woman, Truus Wijsmuller, a member of the Dutch resistance. This is an enjoyable read of hope and determination.

***Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope***

by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudrum

This non-fiction book, published in 2019, draws the reader into an “other America”, as the authors address the crisis facing working class Americans. It draws on the lives of real people, many of whom once rode on the school bus with Nicholas in rural Oregon. They are representative of a vast number of individuals from across America who met tragic ends due to several factors, not excluding their own bad choices. The authors are sympathetic to those trapped in the cycle of difficulties and success. The New York Times described this book as “both riveting and impossible to ignore.”