



## New Castle Library Friends

### Footnotes

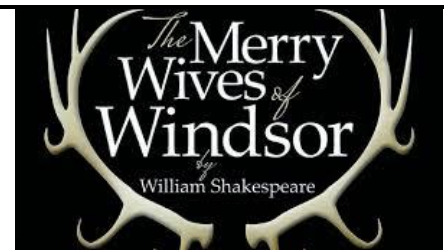
News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library



“And so, with the sunshine and the great burst of leaves growing on the trees, ... I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

### ***Summer Shakespeare is Back!!!***



Join the Friends in the Community Room on Thursday, July 11 @ 7 p.m. for a lively presentation on Shakespeare's play ***The Merry Wives of Windsor***. Linda Emerick, local resident, Friends member, retired English teacher and Shakespeare scholar will provide some intriguing, if apocryphal, background information. The story will be told. The evening includes scene readings by New Castle resident, Jim Whisman, and former student of theatre at Cab Calloway School of the Arts, Sean McGuire. Shakespeare insults will be created by and flung at all members of the audience!! So... come play!!

***The Merry Wives of Windsor*** is a real romp of a Shakespeare comedy and is characterized by a feminist theme throughout. The play features additional themes of outsiders and jealousy.

The presentation is just in time for the opening of the Delaware Shakespeare Festival at Rockwood Mansion on July 12 thru July 28. Information on the festival will be shared at this program.

**Attendance is limited to 50.** Please register at Reference desk or call to register 302.328.1995 or email [nclibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:nclibraryfriends@gmail.com) by July 6.



The Friends' Board accepted, with regrets, the resignation of Melody Terasaki as president.

The Friends' Board will establish a nominating committee to propose a list of new Board members to fill vacancies for the next year. Per our by-laws, the nominating committee should consist of at least one Governing Board member with at least two other members of the Friends. We ask that you consider being a member of the committee and/or consider proposing yourself or someone else as a possible Governing Board member as we strive to make the Board more representative of the library's geographical service area.

It is noted that serving on the nominating committee will be a **short-term commitment**. Please contact us at [nclibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:nclibraryfriends@gmail.com).

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## *A Day in Old New Castle Notes from the Ticket Booth*



2019 was the 95th year for A Day in Old New Castle, the country's longest continuously running house and gardens tour. Although final numbers are not yet available, Friends board vice-president Irene Biggs noted that "due to the great weather and increased publicity and marketing, we sold as many [tickets] the day of the event as prepaid, and attendance far exceeded attendance from the last few years."

And what a fabulous day for visitors to get to know our town! With the generous spirit that characterizes the residents of Old New Castle, 14 homeowners opened their doors to guests, with 20 opening their garden gates; as in previous years, admission to the city's museums was included. Family-oriented performances and activities included "plundering pirates", re-enactments, demonstrations, deck tours of the A.J. Meerwald and more.

Members of the Library Friends were active in various capacities in the lead-up to A Day in Old New Castle and during the day itself, including (but not limited to) advertising and publicity, program ad sales, advance group ticket sales, volunteer coordination, and sales of tickets the day of the event.

A Day in Old New Castle also included two library-specific initiatives: a Library Friends display in the ticket sales area, and the launch of the library's new bike bookmobile, which was on view by the ticket sales area in front of the courthouse. This new community engagement feature of the library was funded by the Delaware Library Association and New Castle Library Friends, and represents much dedicated effort by staff member Nicole Ballance, principal library assistant and circulation supervisor. New Castle Library executive director Julie Kirk pointed out that "The book bike is the first of its kind in the state and will be a great addition to providing library services throughout the community," and reminded us to look for the book bike "at the Concerts in the Park, the Senior Center and Battery Park camp this summer."

From every perspective, A Day in Old New Castle was a very successful, cooperative achievement for the groups who help put the event together and who also benefit from the proceeds, which are derived from a combination of ticket sales, sponsorships, and program ad sales (the New Castle Community Partnership, Arasapha Garden Club and the Library Friends are the beneficiaries; last year's event netted the Friends approximately \$4000, the second largest portion of our annual income.) We expect to exceed last year's amount following this year's accounting, which in itself serves as recognition for all the work done by Library Friends volunteers. Thank you for your hard work!

ADIONC Committee NCLF Representative,  
Dawn Kackley

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### ***Separation Day Book Sale and Raffle Success!***



With the help of an army of volunteers and the co-operation of Mother Nature, another New Castle Library Friends Book Sale goes into the books (yes, pun intended) as an unqualified success!

Heartfelt thanks to all who helped Susan and me this year: so many devoted "sorters" who spent many, many hours sifting through the donations and putting them in order, our dear Library staff who unlocked doors for us, kept our funds safe, and made sure we didn't get locked in the Library overnight.

A special mention must go to Lois Barth, who, year after year, is able to conjure up so many willing helpers with kind hearts and strong backs who get all those boxes out of the basement and into the light.

Patti Isaacs-Hanson, thank you for the brilliant idea and loan of your gigantic water cooler. So many people stopped for a cup or a refill and, refreshed, browsed for a while longer.

Our sales tables were once again provided by The Goodwill Fire Company. These folks do it all! They save our lives, save our houses, *and* support our community endeavors through their willingness to share their resources. Thank You!

And where would we be without our very generous corporate sponsors whose donations make our raffle such a success?

Thanks to The Delaware Shakespeare Festival, Cafe New Castle, and Bruce Burk for yet another year of generous support.

Thanks to our new supporters: Gigi & Cat, Honeybee, Leon's Garden World, and our newest neighbor, Planet Fitness. Be warned - you will hear from us again!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you kind neighbors!

Book Sale Co-Chairs,  
Jeanne-Marie Camac and Susan Swansburg

P.S. Special honors to Irene for her calm advice and reminders (and for keeping me from going completely off the rails!) J-M

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### ***Meet Barbara Alfree***



In the past, we have featured many faces associated with our library. This issue features Barbara Alfree, a person who is not library staff or a volunteer. Barbara was hired by the Trustees of the New Castle Common to organize their archives, which are housed at the library. The natural fit for the archives to be at the library stems from the relationship the Trust has with our town library, dating back to their ownership of the Old Library on East Third Street, to their building of our present library in 1964 on Trust land on Delaware Street.

Barbara's interest in history bloomed as an adult when she started to travel. At that point, she was curious as to the background of her destinations. It was not until after her retirement in 2001 that her love for Delaware history flourished. Prior to retirement Barbara gave 30 years of service in the IT field at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, where she moved from a secretarial position in Clinical Research to that of Change Co-Ordinator in the IT field in support of departments which included: Legal, Finance, Human Resources, and Government Affairs. Barbara's personal qualities of attention to detail and organization served her well in the world of work and in the years that followed.

From 2002-2016, Barbara worked at the Read House in a variety of positions including: School Program Guide, House Docent, Walking Tours, and Housekeeping. Being part of the Housekeeping team was her favorite duty. It involved general care for the museum, but also included working with the curator to change and manage exhibits.

In 2008, Barbara's personal skills for attention to detail and organization were applied to a Trustee project at the library. In preparation for the library's impending renovation, all Trustee documents were packed and moved to the Trustee's board room for safe keeping. Barbara, working alone packed the archives while color coordinating the multitude of boxes for transit. Years of documentation, including minutes, financial statements, record books, binders, land surveys, and maps were moved.

It was not until years later that this collection of history was moved back to its permanent home in the library. At this time the original collection was joined with current files, as well as boxes stored in the Trust Office which held the personal Trust files of now deceased Trustees. In 2015, the Trustees and their staff started the process of returning over two centuries of archives to the library.

This collection of history does not include artifacts. Any artifacts uncovered at the Fort Casimir archeological digs were donated to the State of Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Since 2008, the original Charter incorporating the Trustees in 1764, has been stored in Dover at the Delaware State Archives.

In 2017, Barbara was called upon to spin her magic. For 20 months, working part-time, Barbara read and reviewed each piece of paper in the archives to evaluate its value, identify the property location, and eliminate duplicates before organizing each document within a new filing system.

Barbara's favorite find is the Farm Summaries document. Someone in the 1920's-1930's created by hand a record of the farms in the original New Castle Common, dating back to 1796. This document included the farms, their buildings, crops planted, and who leased each property. This information, coupled with the naming of the farms starting in 1861, and an 1894 map of the area, creates a clear representations of the Trust's land management over time.

Barbara Alfree has used her time and talents to preserve this essential portion of New Castle history, now housed permanently in our library. Barbara takes great pleasure in visualizing the farms of old, and the make-up of our City. Her work to organize these historic records supports the timeless work and immeasurable positive impact on the City of New Castle by the Trustees of the New Castle Common.



Our library is now partnering with Eco Plastic Products of Delaware to collect clean, dry shopping bags and recyclable plastic containers. There are new collection boxes in the rear foyer of the library.

Eco Plastic Products of Delaware (EPPD) has a simple but important mission: to collect shopping bags and recyclable plastic containers and then produce new products that our local communities and businesses need. In addition, EPPD strives to do this while also offering work opportunities to people of all abilities.

As a non-profit organization, EPPD was conceived as a solution to some of Delaware's most serious problems. The team at EPPD is, quite literally, turning discarded plastics into possibilities! "Eco Plastic Products diverts recyclable plastic materials to our facility. There, our team of volunteers, retired executives, and variously-abled production people come together to produce high quality benches, parking blocks, picnic tables, bike racks and more," expressed Jim Kelley, CEO, as he briefly explained their operation. "It's a triple-win outcome when you realize the environmental impact" Jim says, "The discarded plastic no longer ends up in our landfills, waterways, the ocean, or endangering wildlife."

Once the plastic is delivered to the plant, it is processed down to tiny particles that are then transformed. Eco Plastic Products such as park benches, parking blocks, picnic tables and bike racks are in parks, parking lots, homes, businesses, and common areas.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Jim Kelley, CEO  
Stephanie Albertini, Marketing Manager  
443.309.0002

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## Faxes & copies & scans, oh my!

Tired of driving over to Staples to fax a document or scan or make a copy? No need - just come to the library. They have an easy to use fax machine, copier and scanner, plus a staff ready and able to assist you, if needed. Just one of the many services provided by our library.

### Prices:

- Fax** - 10 cents per page
- Scan** - free to send to email address
  - 15 cents per page to print - black/white
  - 50 cents per page to print - color
- Copy** - 15 cents per page - black/white only



## June Book Recommendations

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

*Janice Henshaw*

### ***The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ Years Old***

by Hendrik Groen

This #1 international bestseller reminds the reader of *A Man Called Ove*. In this novel, Hendrik lives in a nursing home and founds the Old-But-Not-Dead Club and records the daily antics of his friends and fellow "inmates." This hilarious, laugh out loud tale is charming while inspiring. It is a must read.

*Bruce Burk*

### ***The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels***

by Jon Meacham

In this work of non-fiction, Pulitzer Prize winning historian Jon Meacham references Abraham Lincoln's call for "better angels of our nature" as he frames our present American life and politics with past era narratives. Although dark times in our history are poignant, Meacham's insights for our paths forward are those of hope....hope over fear.