



New Castle Library Friends

Footnotes

News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library



The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

Alan W. Watts

***Friends' Annual Book Sale
Saturday, September 25, 2021***



Well, we have bad news and good news.

Bad news first - let's just get it over with...

The bad news is that Separation Day has been cancelled for the second year thanks to COVID-19.

As you may know, this is the Library Friends second biggest fundraiser, so not being able to have it for two years in a row has really hit us in the bank account!

But shake it off and listen to the good news...

Our sibling organizations here in New Castle have stepped up to help us out by generously sharing their events with us. When the bad news broke about Separation Day, our President, Amy Bishop-Ryan, reached out and both the Arasapha Garden Club and the New Castle Hundred Lions Club kindly offered us space at their events.

We were able to set up a tent at the May Market and did very well in sales even with the cold and overcast weather on Saturday.

The Lions Club has offered us 2 vendor tents *free of charge* at Art on the Green. Wow!

So mark your calendars for **September 25th** and expect to hear from us regarding volunteer opportunities in the weeks leading up to that date and of course, the day of the big event.

Save the date - we need you!!



Mini book sale at *May Market* on May 7th and 8th
(see *News from the New Castle Public Library* for
information on our upcoming June 5th mini book sale)

Honors for Cork Viola



To pay tribute and thank Carlo Viola for all his years of service to the library, a ceremony was held in his honor on May 14th in the library's Children's Garden on a beautiful spring evening. Cork, as he is affectionately known, was presented with a commendation signed by Governor John Carney and Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long. He also received a plaque from the library for his years of dedicated service on the Library Board, along with the Delaware Library Association's 2020 Trustee Citation Award for his many years of outstanding support. Numerous people have expressed their regrets that they did not know of the event and would liked to have attended to show their appreciation and fondness for Cork. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic restrictions that were in place at the time the event was organized, attendance was limited.

Cork has been a library advocate for at least 20 years. Probably longer. When Cork was elected to the Trustees of New Castle Common in 2001, he was appointed to be a Trustee representative on the New Castle Public Library Board of Directors. Since his appointment, he has attended monthly board meetings, coordinated building maintenance, and offered his expertise from his years working at DuPont to guide and improve the library.

During the renovation of the library in 2008-2010, Cork held a major role. He was involved in fundraising, building planning and decision making, and advocating throughout the community for support in the improvements. He coordinated the Trustee's purchase of the Robinson house so that it could be incorporated into the library. This action not only preserved a house in the historic district of the city but enabled the expansion of the library. He worked closely with Sonia Sloane during the Capital Campaign for funding from foundations such as Longwood.

The many advocacy events and actions that stemmed from Cork's ideas included the sale of t-shirts with the library blueprint on it, in a blue fabric, of course. He wears a tie that has the building outline and NCPL on it. The Tribute Brick Garden at the library was also one of his projects. This garden is on the main thoroughfare of New Castle and is a permanent exhibit of love and commitment to the library. Not only did he help promote the purchase of tribute bricks throughout the community, he laid new bricks after the original installation and created a brick map so that staff can help people find the bricks special to them. He and his wife are long-term members of New Castle Library Friends and attend nearly every fundraising event held by them. He regularly contributes to the library's endowment fund to help create a long lasting legacy for the library. Because of him, his family members have also been contributors to the endowment.

As a gifted photographer, Cork printed and framed about 30 of his photos that hung in the Community Room for sale with all proceeds going to the library. For many years, he printed notecards of his photographs that the library could sell. He currently has another display of photographs in the Community Room following a gallery showing. In addition, he has shared his love and knowledge of photography by offering a photography workshop for a teen program.

Throughout the years, Cork has supported the library in so many ways in the community, at his church, in service to the library as a board member and Friend. He has ensured that our library is always front and center when New Castle is mentioned or considered. The New Castle Public Library would not be the successful, thriving, community institution it is today without him.



Meet the Staff
Jen Wilson
Principal Library Assistant

As our library doors open to the public, one may notice a new face on staff. In February of this year, Jen Wilson was hired as Administrative Aide. Then with the recent retirement of Patty O'Brien, staff assignments were shifted: Nicole Balance replaced Patty as Library Specialist, and Jen became the new Principal Library Assistant, filling Nicole's previous position. As Principal Library Assistant, Jen is responsible for Circulation and making sure our library is following current county guidelines.

Jen has lived in Delaware most of her life. She has an administrative background. Her previous work experience includes serving as Library Specialist at Wilmington Delaware Technical and a position in the technology center at Wilmington Public Library. In addition to her present library duties, she served as Vice President of the Delaware Library Association and recently moved into the position of President for this state organization. Jen was proud to share that she is one in five staff members from New Castle Public Library to serve on this board.

Jen's hobbies include reading, cooking, and volunteering. She is involved with a Wilmington based organization, "Food Not Bombs" that provides food for the unhoused. Jen claims she will read anything, but she prefers Literary Fiction. Her all-time favorite book is *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. Her current favorite book is *Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters. Both of these books appear in this month's Book Recommendations section.

Jen is excited with anticipation with the library's reopening and the increased presence of patrons gracing the building. She looks forward to putting faces to names. We are excited to introduce Jen, our newest staff member, and to welcome Jen to our community.

In Memoriam
Carey Rowland
1948 -1921

You may have heard that Carey Rowland, a longtime Friend, passed away in April. Her obituary mentioned that in lieu of flowers, a donation could be made to either of two charities, the New Castle Library Friends being one of them.

We have received several contributions in Carey's memory and would like to use the money for something specific to honor her. Julie Kirk suggested that as Carey loved audiobooks, the library will use the money to buy additional audiobooks in the specific genres Carey enjoyed. A small plaque will then be placed in the audiobook section noting that the collection was expanded in her memory. See gebhartfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Carey-Rowland.

Memories of Carey Rowland
by Jo Viola

Carey and I lived as neighbors since Cork and I were on West 5th Street and Carey and Hick on West 6th. We were young marrieds with small children then.

Later we each anchored homes at opposite ends of the Strand. We got to know each other's children, as they grew up in

New Castle.

When we met on the bricks in town, Carey could always be counted upon for a smile and a quick repartee. She could be depended upon to show up at a party, despite Hick being called to pilot a ship into or out of port on the Delaware River.

We shared many enjoyable times together with mutual friends at special dinners in New Castle to celebrate New Year's Eve. One other special occasion, enjoyed together, comes to mind. It was held at the University Club, to commemorate the anniversary of the tragic loss of the Titanic. Formal period costume was encouraged, with special courses served, and music from that era.

Carey demonstrated remarkable resilience enduring heart-breaking personal family losses. I do deeply miss seeing her every morning on the River Walk with her two adorable dogs.

News from the New Castle Public Library

Tyler Antoine, Adult Services Librarian

Sara Thomas, Youth Services Librarian

Nicole Ballance, Library Specialist



Starting Tuesday, June 1, patrons will once again be able to browse the entire library. The library recognizes that patrons will be relieved to once again explore all of our shelves, but we would like to remind patrons and members of the community to keep their time spent in the library to no more than one hour.

The New Castle Public Library will now also be open to the public on Wednesdays from 2:00pm to 7:00pm, in addition to our current hours of Tuesdays from 10:00am to 7:00pm, Thursdays from 2:00pm to 7:00pm, and Saturdays from 10:00am to 5:00pm. For the time being, regular curbside hours will continue on the days when the library is not open to the public.

The library is again accessible through both the Delaware St. and parking lot entrances on days when we are open. Patrons who wish to use the computer will no longer be required to make an appointment with library staff beforehand and starting June 5th, two-hour computer sessions will be available without reservations and limited working space for individuals will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The library is accepting book donations from the public. Donations will only be accepted on Saturdays, and patrons are encouraged to give the library a call before dropping off their materials. Please do not leave any donated items in the book drop or outside the doors of the library and please remember that we are not accepting encyclopedia or VHS tapes. If you have any questions on how the New Castle Public Library is handling our transition from COVID-19 restrictions, please give us a call at (302) 328-1995.

Meanwhile, all of the library's virtual programs will continue, including many exciting performers. Information can be found on the virtual calendar of events (<https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/virtuallibraryevents>)

The library is happy to announce that **Story Time in the Park** will return on Wednesdays at 11:30, starting 6/2! Meet at the park by the playground — for kids up to 5.

Library After Hours is Back! June 25th from 7 to 9 – Happy Hour and Games – Join us in our back parking lot for Happy Hour and games! We will have giant Jenga, Connect Four, and other games. Bring a chair and some friends. Happy hour is BYOB.



Library Goes to the Dogs (and Cats) for Grand Reopening Event

The Summer Reading Kick-Off Event will take place on **Saturday, June 5 from 10:30am to 1:30pm**. As the theme for the Summer Reading Program this year is Tails & Tales, the library is happily hosting a local pet adoption fair in conjunction with Faithful Friends of Delaware and the Brandywine Valley SPCA. Furry friends looking for a forever home will be ready to greet attendees in both the library's front garden on Delaware Street, and behind the library in our spacious parking lot. Patrons and their families will be able to sign up for our annual Summer Reading Challenge, as well as pick up take-home crafts for adults and children alike.

The New Castle Library Friends will also be in attendance with a **mini used book sale**. Browse an eclectic selection of gently used titles and help support the important work of the New Castle Library Friends.

MUSEUM PASSES

Did you know that the New Castle Public Library offers museum passes for check out!?

All passes are checked out on a first-come, first-serve basis and can be checked out for **2 weeks**.

To reserve your pass for either the **Brandywine Zoo** or the **Tyler Arboretum**, please call 302-328-1995.

BRANDYWINE ZOO *It's a whole world!* Tyler Arboretum New Castle Public Library



June Book Recommendations

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

Jen Wilson

The Secret History

by Donna Tartt

This first novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Tartt provides a rich tale of youth corrupted by arrogance. It focuses on the lives of six students at Hampden College in Vermont and is said to be based upon Bennington College where Tartt was a student between 1982-1986. It is an unusual murder mystery, since the primary murder and its perpetrators are identified on the first page. Described as “concerned with both the beautiful and the terrible. It is a book that examines man’s relationship with the divine, as well-as man’s relationship with one another.”

Jen Wilson

Detransition, Baby: A Novel

by Torrey Peters

This is the story of three, complex, flawed characters with universal elements that most can relate to. It portrays the three as trans and cis, who wrestle with questions of motherhood and family making. It speaks many truths about gender roles, discovering identity, and the pressure to conform. Peters dedicates the book to divorced women with parallels drawn to the predicament of the trans woman and the divorcee; both have had to rethink their pasts and work towards their futures.

Patty O’Brien

A DCI Monika Paniatowski Mystery (13 book series)

by Sally Spencer

This entertaining, ongoing series features its namesake, DCI Monika Paniatowski as the protagonist in this series of police procedural/mystery novels. The themes include the following: law enforcement, historical mystery, suspense, and small town, women sleuths, with each tale having a twist ending. Book #1 is titled *The Dead Hand of History*.

Included this month under Book Recommendations is a TV series available from the library through both Hoopla and on CDs.

Patty O’Brien

Foyle’s War

TV series 2005-2015

The *Foyle’s War* series opens in 1940, when Britain was up against the might of Nazi Germany, but crime does not stop in war time. Named for Detective Chief Superintendent Christopher Foyle, along with his official driver, Sam, and his subordinate, Paul Milner, the three fight their own war on the home front, investigating crimes on the south coast of England. Each show provides intrigue, a history lesson, and majestic scenery