



New Castle Library Friends

Footnotes

News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library



“Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

Marie Curie

Event Recap: Annual Meeting

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the NCLF Annual Supper Meeting & Program, which was scheduled for March 20th, had to be cancelled. In keeping with our bylaws, we decided to hold our first ever **Email Annual Meeting**. The email meeting included a brief report on our previous year’s activities and our plans for the current year; thanks to our three retiring board members, Dawn Kackley, Kathy Tidball, and Janet Wurtzel; along with two pertinent financial reports. Also included was the proposed slate of Governing Board members. For those Friends without email, documentation was mailed. Votes on the slate were received by phone and by email and were tallied. The slate was unanimously approved.

Welcome to the NCLF 2020-2021 Governing Board:

Amy Bishop-Ryan, President
Irene Biggs, Vice-President
Suzanne Souder, Treasurer
Susan Swansbrug, Secretary

Matthew Alexander
Irma Benedek
Jeanne-Marie Camac
Indumathy Jayaraman
Angela Marconi
Connie Reese
AdithCharan Thyagarajan
Kim Wipf
Vera Worthy



Sally Hatton Retires

Congratulations, Sally on your retirement.

We thank you for your dedicated service and wish you the very best in the future.

Sally Hatton was one of the first staff members to be featured in *Footnotes*. It is on the occasion of her May 19, 2020, retirement that we wish to honor her with the reprinting of that original article, followed by her reflections on her 40 years of service at NCPL, and her thoughts on life as a retiree.

Due to our present world situation and social distancing, Sally's retirement celebration has been put on hold. Even our follow-up interview had to be done remotely; we supplied the questions and Sally typed out her responses. We have printed her thoughts as she wrote them. We wanted the reader to experience her rich and heartfelt replies.

Join us as we again feature the life and times of librarian Sally Hatton: past, present, and future.

From September 2016 Footnotes:



Sally Hatton is our Adult Services Librarian here at the New Castle Public Library. She has been on staff at NCPL since 1980. She received her BA in English from University of Delaware in 1972, followed by her Masters in Library Science from Drexel in 1986. Sally began her library work at the Corbit Library in Odessa, at the age of 16 shelving books, typing out catalogue cards, and covering the Circulation Desk. Over time, Sally has taken part in the modernization/computerization of today's library operation.

Sally is a native Delawarean, who loves working in a library that is nestled in the community, where patrons can conveniently frequent and gather. Her duties include adult book selection, adult reference, and adult programs, along with leading the Tuesday Night Book Group and the Genealogy Group. Sally cherishes the multitude of contacts and friends she has made here in New Castle.

Sally's proudest work is the implementation of a program entitled "Telling Our Story", which is based on the StoryCorps model, a national project to instruct and inspire volunteers to record the lives of everyday people in their community.

Since August 2015, 50 people have attended project meetings, recruited volunteers, and served as storytellers and interviewers. The process of interviewing and audio-taping 20 individuals, ages 60-98, who have ties to New Castle, has been heartfelt. The project's completion date is set for early fall and will culminate with an evening of sharing with the volunteers, the interviewers, and the storytellers.

Outside of Sally's work life, she loves books and music. As a youngster Sally played the clarinet and the piano, but as an adult she was drawn to the instrument of her maternal grandparents, the violin. She therefore enrolled in the Music School of Delaware for violin instruction and today she plays violin with the Brandywine Pops Orchestra.

The lives of New Castle Public Library patrons are enriched by Sally Hatton and the many roles she plays as Adult Services Librarian.

Remote Interview with Sally:

Reflecting back on 40 years of service, what are your fondest memories:

There are great memories from all four decades I've worked at the library.

Thinking of the first staff I worked with in the early 1980s:

The card catalog as one of the busiest places in the library; great events like the annual Pet Show & Parade; our covered-dish lunch staff meetings.

In the 1990s: The transition from card catalog to computers; book discussions through "Delaware Discussions;" Friends of the Library events with a string quartet, and the event when a jazz combo played us around the library in a conga line.

More recently, the "Telling Our Story" project and getting to hear so many wonderful memories.

And always, the community and the great patrons and Friends who have come out to the library, and supported us for all these years.

What do you look forward to?

Looking forward to having more time to garden and enjoy nature, more time to “putter,” and time to (try) to be creative.

What other interests will you pursue?

Besides gardening and enjoying nature, I’m hoping to do more travelling, both overseas and in the U.S.; I’m hoping to have more time to work on family history/genealogy, and to travel to do more research; and I’m planning to do volunteer work. Retirement will give me time to stop and consider the things I’d like to be involved with.

What do you anticipate missing?

Besides missing working with my colleagues in a library, in this community, I’ll miss choosing books and planning programs for our patrons. I’ll miss working with patrons who come out to the library to attend programs, movies, and book discussions (the Tuesday Night Book group!).

Are you still involved with the Brandywine Pops Orchestra? If so, how extensive will your involvement be now that you have more free time?

I’m still involved with the Brandywine Pops Orchestra, and hope to be for many years. We play together nine months of the year (weekly rehearsals and 8-10 concerts a year). I’m hoping to attend Osher (OLLI), as many of the BPO violinists participate in musical groups there.

I assume reading will continue to be a favorite pastime. What is your favorite genre?

Although I read lots of fiction (and across all genres), I especially like suspense fiction and thrillers. For the last several years, I’ve read more non-fiction than ever before in my life. I enjoy history, and biographies and memoirs, most of all.

Can you recommend an all-time favorite book, or a recent favorite?

For all-time favorites, there are too many to list. Highest on the pedestal, though, are *Jane Eyre* (Charlotte Bronte), and *Great Expectations* (Charles Dickens).

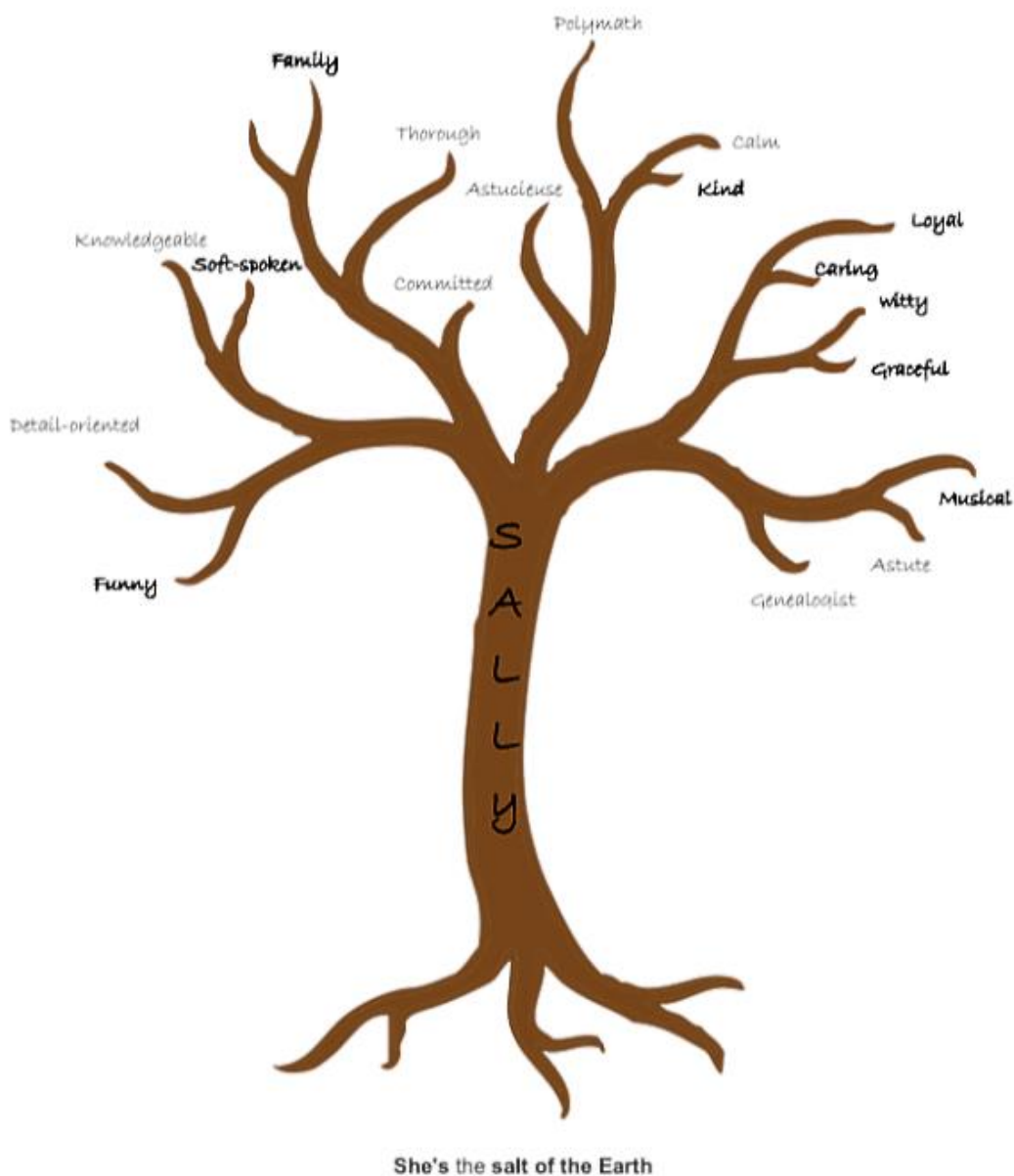
Recent favorites are *All the Light We Cannot See* (Anthony Doerr) and *Franklin & Washington* (Edward J. Larson). I’m currently reading a beautiful new fiction title: *Simon the Fiddler* (Paulette Jiles).

Do you have any words for your colleagues and/or patrons?

I’ve been lucky to have been able to work in a library, in this beautiful community, for many years. I can’t think of anything better than getting to bring books together with people.

I’ve also been lucky to have worked with so many wonderful colleagues over the years, and to have helped and enjoyed the company of so many of our patrons. I look forward to continuing to enjoy the library as a patron and Library Friend.

Sentiments from the Library Staff



Separation Day Book Sale

The Separation Day Book Sale is cancelled along with Separation Day this year. We may return for *A Dickens Christmas* depending on how long the quarantine lasts.

While everyone is sequestered at home, perhaps you could look through your attics and basements and find some nice things you no longer need but would like to donate for our raffle baskets.

I hope that all our faithful sorting volunteers are staying safe and well. The Book Sale needs you desperately, so take precautions and return to the book room when this is all over!



Thank you to all of our members who helped share our #DoMore24Delaware posts on social media, and especially to those who took the opportunity to show additional financial support for the work we do on behalf of the library and the New Castle community it serves. You Did More, and your generosity embodies the spirit of the Day of Giving event.

The Friends took part in the #DoMore24Delaware Day of Giving, along with hundreds of community-based organizations that raised, in total, nearly \$400,000 for their work throughout Delaware. For its part, NCLF raised nearly \$300 dollars to help aid our beloved library, including \$27 won from the event sponsors' "stretch pool." While most of our donations came from the generosity of current members, we did also reach new supporters, whose donations we hope will be just the beginning of their involvement with our organization.

Meet Amy Bishop-Ryan



The New Castle Library Friends are pleased to welcome Amy Bishop-Ryan as our new Board President. Amy was born on Long Island, New York, but was raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from the University of Arizona and spent 30 years in the field of Information Technology for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Amy retired from this well loved and interesting career in 2013.

Amy's husband, Ed Ryan grew up in New Castle and always wanted to return to his roots. Since their daughter, Emily, was living and working in Philadelphia, the move East was an easy choice for both Amy and Ed. In late 2013, they settled in New Castle, bringing Amy's mom (now 95) to live with them.

New friends and neighbors opened the doors for Amy to immerse herself in her new community. She was introduced to Arasapha and went from member to Chair in short order, recently completing that term. In addition, Amy has served as an active Friends' member, volunteers in the library "pulling holds", and is our IT person behind the production of *Footnotes*. Amy also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and has been a ESL tutor for Literacy Delaware.

As President of NC Library Friends, Amy has expressed her delight in the most recent, expanded, and diversified Board. She looks forward to working with this talented group of individuals, to help increase our membership, but also to increase the library patrons actively involved in library use and programs.

Amy has a range of interests, which include ceramics. She is presently enrolled in classes at the

Delaware Art Museum, developing her skills on a potter's wheel. She is an avid movie viewer and reader. Her favorite literary genre is historical fiction, and her most recent favorite is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Amy and Ed enjoy travel. This spring's trip to Spain and Portugal was cancelled, but perhaps can be rescheduled for next year.

Amy feels at home in New Castle encircled by family, new friends, and ample volunteer opportunities. We are fortunate to have such a talented, generous person in the role of NC Library Friends' President.



May Book Recommendations

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

Matt Alexander

Dorothy Must Die

by Danielle Paige

The first and titular work in a series comprising four novels and a dozen novellas, *Dorothy Must Die* is an exceptional continuation of L. Frank Baum's *Wizard of Oz* series, picking up after his first several books about Oz left off. As the title suggests, Dorothy is back in Oz and this time takes the role of ego-maniacal villain in an exciting, dark, humorous and romantic return to the fabled fairyland.

Irma Benedek

Our Towns: A 100,000 Mile Journey into The Heart of America

by James and Deborah Fallows

This non-fiction, best seller records the five-year journey of the Fallows across America in a single engine, prop airplane. Visiting dozens of towns, engaging with hundreds of people from all walks of life, James and Deborah describe America as aware of its problems, but actively remaking itself. Their collective story is a book of hope, which showcases how we are more united as a nation than divided.

Amy Bishop-Ryan

The Gentleman in Moscow

by Amor Towles

This novel picks up after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, when Count Alexander Rostov, a Russian nobleman, is sentenced to lifelong imprisonment in Moscow's Metropol Hotel. During his 32 years of confinement in an attic room, Rostov rekindles old relationships and develops new friendships. His life takes on a sense of rich normalcy, while outside the streets of the Kremlin are tumultuous.

Sally Hatton

Franklin and Washington: The Founding Partnership

by Edward J. Larson

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J. Larson writes this dual biography, showcasing the three-decade long bond of these two statesmen. Franklin, an abolitionist from the north, and Washington, a slaveholding general from the south, worked together to forge the United States and over time help craft the ratification of the Constitution for a more perfect union,

Janice Henshaw

The Family Upstairs

by Lisa Jewell

Lisa Jewell is an internationally bestselling author of eighteen novels, including *Then She Was Gone* and *Watching You*. Jewell brings readers another psychological thriller in this 2019 “bone-chilling suspense” (*People*). It is the tale of mysterious deaths and disappearances, as three entangled families live in a house with the darkest secrets.

Angela Marconi

Because of Winn-Dixie

by Kate DiCamillo

This children’s chapter book is a rich story about love and connections between a girl, a dog, and a community. It’s about Opal, who lives with her father after her mother leaves them. Opal finds a friend when she adopts a dog, Winn-Dixie, who she named after the supermarket where she first encountered him. With the help of this gentle dog, Opal makes friends with a variety of people and learns a lot about love and forgiveness.

Disclosure: The photo I submitted for the article above was taken two years ago at my daughter's wedding. This is what I look like today after almost two months under stay-at-home orders...

Stay safe!
Amy

