



New Castle Library Friends

Footnotes

News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library



Nature gives to every time and season unique beauty; from morning to night, as from candle to the grave, it's just a succession of changes so soft and comfortable that we hardly notice the progress".

Charles Dickens

Want to join

OUR

TEAM?

The Friends' Board is seeking New Castle Library fans to join us to support and extend the great work of the staff. We would like to expand the diversity and perspective of the Board, so we are particularly interested in volunteers from neighborhoods outside of the historic district, people of color and men. The term will be two years starting in March 2020 and the Board generally meets five times per year. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else or would like more information, please email nclibraryfriends@gmail.com.

It Takes a Village



The term Book-Mobil has taken on a new face in New Castle with our library Book Bike. Introduced last May at A Day in Old New Castle, Sara Thomas, Youth Services Librarian pedaled the library's new acquisition to the Court House, bringing the library out to the public. Book Bikes are popular in large cities, seen on Social Media, and touted at library conferences. Nicole Ballance, Principal Library Assistant, loved the idea and asked: why not us? She applied for and received a grant from the Delaware Library Association. She then sought and received additional funds from New Castle Library Friends. Staff person, Patty O'Brien, donated the bike, and a friend of Nicole's, Rich Worth, built the apparatus under Nicole's direction and with her assistance.

County Executive Matt Meyer rode the Book Bike in the Separation Day parade. Starting in June, Sara Thomas took the Book Bike to Battery Park every Wednesday this summer for Story Time in the Park. For those sessions the Bike was stocked with books for youth, birth to 12 years old. In July, Nicole started riding the Book Bike on Fridays to the Senior Center to bring books to our adult patrons. The Book Bike has also been available at some of the Wednesday evening concerts in the park, thanks to other staff volunteers, including Patty O'Brien. On all of these occasions, books were available for checkout with one's library card or id.

Thank you, Nicole for taking the initiative and all the others involved in making this vision a reality. Yes, it takes a village to serve a village.

A Few Personal Observations About Julie Kirk, Director

From my time at the library, I have observed and heard about many positive actions taken by Julie. I'll mention just a few.

Julie is apparently available 24/7 as I know she has hurried to the library on more than one occasion to respond to an emergency or an alarm, regardless of the time of day or night.

She genuinely cares about the patrons and continues to expand the scope of library services to meet the needs of the community. In addition to the summer reading programs, the children's summer lunch program returned this year. Our library, in conjunction with the Delaware Health and Social Services' Community Partner Support Unit, now participates in the Social Workers at the Libraries program. Facebook comments and hundreds and hundreds of "likes" reflect the community's appreciation of Julie's and the staff's efforts. One patron wrote "This is my favorite library! The staff go above and beyond to help their patrons."

Julie encourages and supports her staff and is concerned for their well-being. She is open to their ideas and suggested programs and helps these ideas and programs come to fruition. Nicole's Book Bike is one such staff generated idea. (See above story.)

I'll be true to my word and stop with just a few observations, but before I close, I want to share a final example of when Julie showcased her initiative and leadership qualities. Not too long ago, I was in attendance for an evening library program. The program presenter did not show up. He was to show a documentary and speak on the topic. Instead of merely apologizing and cancelling the program, Julie recalled that the library had a copy of the scheduled DVD, located it, showed it, and then moderated a very engaging and thoughtful discussion.

On behalf of the New Castle Library Friends' Board and the multitude of community members she interacts with, we want to express our appreciation and give thanks to Julie for her past and continuing service.

Irene Biggs, Vice President, New Castle Library Friends



Sign up Now for Great Fall Programs

by Sally Hatton
Adult Services Librarian

With cooler weather on the way, and summer vacations coming to an end, the library has announced its fall lineup. We encourage you to come out to the library to attend some or all of these programs.

Both the **Monday Cultural Film series** and **Thursday Night @ the Movies** are back in September. On Monday, September 9, we will show the 2018 film, ***The Hate U Give***, about a young woman who is constantly switching between two worlds – the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. Thursday, September 19, features the 2017 film, ***The Bookshop***, in which a free-spirited widow risks everything to open a bookshop in a sleepy English town. These and all films will be shown on the Community Room's new screen/projection/sound system, thanks to funding from the Library Friends.

The **adult technology series** resumes on Tuesday, September 17, at 6 p.m., with “Smartphones for Seniors.” If you are a senior or someone who just needs a little help navigating the myriad uses of a smartphone, and would like to learn more about its functions, this program is for you.

If you are interested in embarking on a family history project or just learning more about genealogy websites and databases, we hope you'll consider attending “**Exploring Your Family History Through Genealogy**” on Tuesday, September 24, at 7 p.m. Mike Dixon, through Delaware Humanities, will provide step-by-step information for anyone who wants to know more about this popular subject. This program is perfect for beginners, or for more experienced genealogists who want to brush up on their skills.

Maria Pipidis, from the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension, returns on Tuesday, October 22, for a program about the inheritance of personal property. “**Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?**” will provide practical information about how to pass on personal items, and how to avoid family conflict during the process. The program begins at 6:30 p.m.

For a complete listing of all programs, Monday Cultural Film series titles, Thursday Night @ the Movies features, and adult technology classes, please pick up a copy of the fall program brochure at the Reference Desk. Registration is requested for all programs listed above.

Library after Hours Update

*by Nicole Ballance,
Principal Library Assistant*

Library after Hours is a program open to adults who are 21 years old and older. Whether you are closer to 21 or haven't been 21 in a long time, please do not feel like the program is not for you! If you are interested in a program, come see what Library after Hours is all about. There are many exciting Library after Hours programs planned for the fall and winter months.

In June, we partnered with Café New Castle and hosted a trivia night! Participants met at Café New Castle, enjoyed some dinner and drinks, while answering general knowledge trivia questions. Participants formed groups of no larger than 4 and worked together to give their best answers. There were 5 rounds of 10 questions. The team with the most wins, won a \$10 gift card to Café New Castle. Café New Castle and participants enjoyed Trivia Night so much, that we are hosting another Trivia Night on Thursday, September 19th from 7 to 9.



In July, we did something a little bit different and prepared an Escape Room. The theme was “Escape the Aliens” and participants had 15 minutes to solve all the puzzles in the room, which would give them access to the televisions remote control. Their goal was to turn the television off before the timer went off so they would save the world from an alien invasion. If the television time went off, the aliens would have been alerted to their activity and taken over the world. Of the 4 groups of 5, all completed except for 1 group. The groups all said they had a blast. We are definitely going to be hosting an Escape Room in the future so be on the lookout!

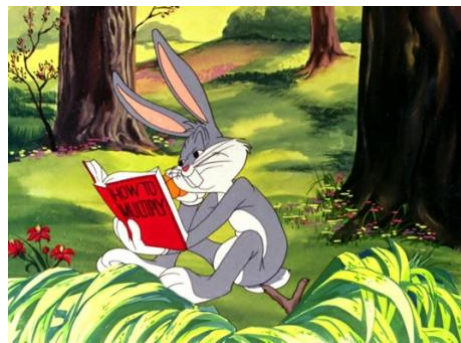
In August, we hosted a Queen Karaoke and showed *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Unfortunately, everyone was too shy to participate in Karaoke, but the movie was well received.

The next Library after Hours program will be on Friday, September 13st at 7 PM. This month's theme is Murder Mystery. This is one of our more popular programs. If you are interested in participating, register quickly before it fills up! Participants at this program are to solve clues to figure out “who done it” in a clue style, interactive experience. Participants can work in groups or alone to be the first to find out who is the murderer!

As per usual, Library after Hours is a BYOB, 21+, program. All LAH programs require registration so please call us at 302-328-1995 to register for any of the LAH programs. Hope to see you there!

September Book Recommendations

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



Nicole Balance

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

This is a debut novel, expanded from a short story the author wrote in college in reaction to an actual police shooting. This young adult book is narrated by Starr, a 16-year old black girl who witnessed a white police officer kill her childhood friend. The author works to expand readers' understanding of Black Lives Matter through Starr's fight against looming injustice.

Eileen Burk

The Murmur of Bees by Sophia Segovia

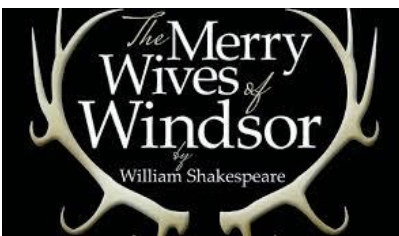
Penguin Random House calls *The Murmur of Bees* "the literary discovery of the year." It is a compelling story set in Northern Mexico at the time of political change, revolution, and the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918. This narrative of the Morales family, which covers four generations is filled with mystery, tragedy, and magical realism. Told from the perspective of a multitude of characters, the reader is enveloped by the love and strength of family, and the hate and destruction of differences. *The Murmur of Bees* is a must read.

Roberta Yarker-Smith

Girl in Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland

A little gem of a novel is Susan Vreeland's *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, a series of short tales about a mysterious painting attributed to the great 17th-century Dutch artist Jan Vermeer and its effect upon the lives of all who come in contact with it.

Braving the Elements for Shakespeare



The evening of July 11th seemed like a scene from *The Tempest* with heavy rain and high winds, but a hearty group of Friends donned their waxes and wellies (raincoats & boots) to attend Linda Emerick's presentation on the *Merry Wives of Windsor*. They were rewarded by an interesting and fun program which began with a session of hurling insults at one another, a technique used in many Shakespeare plays. Ms. Emerick was assisted by Jim Whisman and Sean McGuire, who read scenes from the play. The attendees were also provided with information on the Delaware Shakespeare Festival by Ms. Sally Coonin. The New Castle Library Friends Board appreciate the effort and enthusiasm that Linda brings to her programs each summer!



Summer With the Library...

Was a great success this year. Here are the stats for the adult portion of the program:

- 33 people registered
- 16 people read books
- 14 people completed (read 4 or more books)
- **245 books were read**
- 64 reviews were written
- 5 people completed the bingo challenge

The children's portion comprised various programs and activities, including Summer Lunch. The highlights of Summer Lunch were a picnic (inside) and a Cardboard Carnival in which carnival games such as Skee-ball and ring toss, made out of cardboard were played.