



# New Castle Library Friends

## Footnotes

News for enthusiastic supporters of the New Castle Public Library



*For most people, what is so painful about reading is that you read something and you don't have anybody to share it with. In part what the book club opens up is that people can read a book and then have someone else to talk about it with. Then they see that a book can lead to the pleasure of conversation, that the solitary act of reading can actually be a part of the path to communion and community.*

*Ben Hook*

\* Check out our new Book Club feature

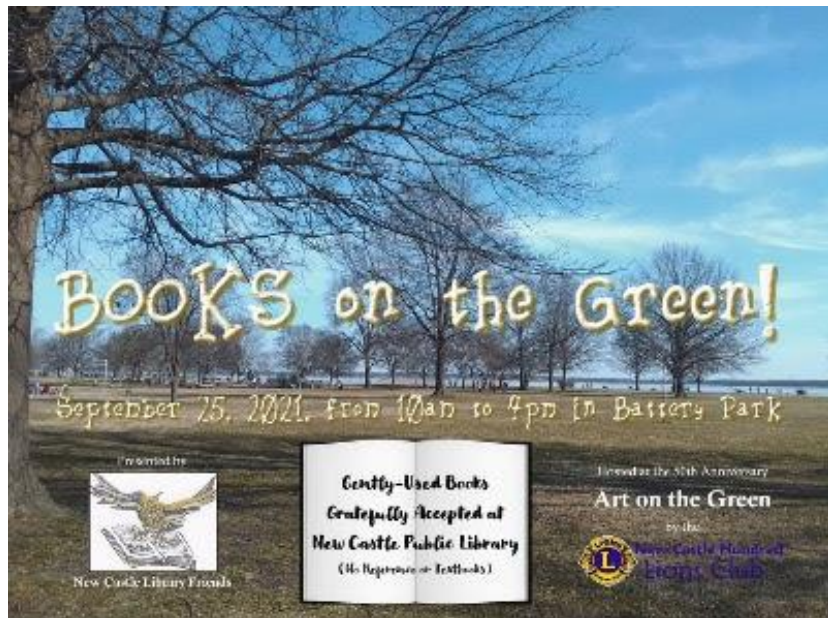


**NEW DATE**

An Evening with Min Jin Lee  
author of, *Pachinko*

**October 22, 2021 at 7:00pm**  
The Chase Center on the River Front  
815 Justison St., Wilmington, DE 19801  
*This event is free and open to the public*





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

**10:00am - 4:00pm  
at Art on the Green in Battery  
Park**

As mentioned in the last issue, through the kindness of the New Castle Hundred Lions Club, this year, our Friends' Separation Day Book Sale will be the *Books on the Green Sale*.

Great selection in a gorgeous setting.

**Save the date and spread the news!!**



**We need dozens of people and more than a few trucks or SUVs**

Since it is being held off-site, setting up our annual book sale will be slightly more complicated this year. So, we need everyone to chip-in and lend a hand, a strong back, or a suitable vehicle.

Here is our plan:

**On Friday, September 24th, 4:00pm:**

- Move boxes of books from the basement to the ground floor

**On Saturday, September 25th, 8:00am thru 4:00pm:**

- Load the boxes into the vehicles for transport to Battery Park
- Unload boxes and set-up booths
- Staff the sale (4+ people for each of three, 2 hour shifts)
- Load unsold boxes of books into vehicles for transport back to NCPL

Unload boxes and move them back to the basement

**Email [jmcarmac07@gmail.com](mailto:jmcarmac07@gmail.com) and let us know how you can help.**



## ***Book Clubs... Read, Reflect, Share***

Our opening quote reminds us that book clubs transport one from the solitary act of reading to community communication. This September issue of Footnotes marks the beginning of a new feature which highlights our library book clubs. The information in each issue's book club article will include the name of the group, the name of the leader, the genre(s) covered, the day, time,

and location of each meeting, along with the title of the book to be discussed.

Due to the current library staff openings, there are only two ongoing book clubs. These groups are open to the public. Please call the library at 302-328-1995 to express your interest in joining one or more of our book clubs.

**Adult Book Discussion**, Tyler Antoine, various genres, third Tuesday of every month, 6:30 pm, Children's Garden behind the library (weather permitting). Contact the library for the upcoming book discussion title.

**The Usual Suspects**, Julie Kirk, mystery, third Thursday of every month, 5:30 pm, downstairs Community Room. Contact the library for the upcoming book discussion title.



## ***In Memory of Carey Rowland***

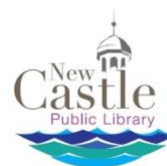
Donations arrived from near and far in memory of Carey Rowland for a total of \$1,025. All of the money donated in her memory will go to the audiobook collection in her name, with each title marked by a special label indicating as such. The list of the audiobooks purchased to date is as follows:

*The President's Hour of the Witch*, Chris Bohjalian  
*The Plot*, Jean Hanff Korelitz  
*The Maidens*, Alex Michaelides  
*Such a Quiet Place*, Megan Miranda  
*The Therapist*, B. A. Paris  
*Daughter*, James Patterson & Bill Clinton  
*False Witness*, Karen Slaughter  
*The Last Thing He Told Me*, Laura Dave  
*The Madness of Crowds*, Louise Penny

Again, we thank all who generously donated in Carey's memory and to Ms. Rowland's family for suggesting that in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to the New Castle Library Friends.

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

by Jen Wilson and Tyler Antoine



### **Calling all Ghouls!**

In an attempt to revive our popular Library After Hours program, Jen Wilson and Tyler Antoine are taking on the task of creating a Haunted House experience that patrons, staff, and community members alike can enjoy! Taking place on Friday, October 29, the New Castle Public Library staff aims to transform the building's downstairs hallway and rooms into a frightfully fun thrill-ride that borrows elements from New Castle lore.

While Friday's 21+ iteration of this program will be for the more mature and brave-hearted, there will also be a family-friendly experience that will take place on Saturday, October 30, before the annual New Castle Halloween Parade.

The staff are looking for volunteers to help with both of these programs. Firstly, we'll need creative and inspired individuals who would love to get into the Halloween spirit by helping us decorate and perform a haunted house experience that the community will remember for years to come. Likewise, we'd love to have a few volunteers who would like to pass out candy and encourage little ghouls and goblins during our family-friendly iteration on Saturday, October 30.

Those interested in Friday's performance should be comfortable being on their feet for a while, as well as enduring the potential of flashing lights and smoke. (It won't be that extreme, we promise!)

The staff believe that creating this experience will be a way for the library to come together with its community during these odd times, as well as an opportunity for staff and Friends of the Library alike to let loose and have fun. This will also be a great opportunity for the library to raise funds, as we will be asking for a \$5 suggested donation with every admission.

If you find yourself interested in either the Friday or Saturday iterations of our haunted house experience, please reach out to either Jen Wilson ([Jennifer.Wilson@lib.de.us](mailto:Jennifer.Wilson@lib.de.us)) or Tyler Antoine ([tyler.antoine@lib.de.us](mailto:tyler.antoine@lib.de.us)). We hope to assemble a group for an interest meeting by mid-September. If you have any more questions, please ask any of our friendly staff!

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The New Castle Public Library is offering take-home COVID-19 rapid test kits for members of the community. This is a short term initiative in partnership with Delaware Division of Public Health, which is making the kits available to the public at no cost.

These kits are available at all Delaware public libraries (not just ours). Each kit contains two rapid tests, and the library humbly requests that patrons limit themselves to three kits per person. Supplies ebb and flow, but new shipments are expected on a quasi-weekly basis.

The tests are quick and easy to administer yourself, with results usually available within fifteen minutes or less. The idea is to have these kits on hand for extra safety at a moment's notice; please do not come into the library if you or someone in your household is already sick or exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. For more information, please give us a call at [\(302\) 328-1995](tel:3023281995).

We are also excited to announce the return of our coveted Walk-In Collection, which is located in the New Books section near our Delaware Street entrance. This collection is made possible through the support of the New Castle Library Friends and features high-demand titles that have many holds -- books that patrons would otherwise have to wait weeks to read. Patrons are able to check out these books for seven days, with no renewals. Be sure to stop in and see what's available, as every day promises something different. If there's a title that you believe should be included in our Walk-In Collection, please speak to our Adult Services Librarian, Tyler Antoine.



## ***Farewell to Sara Thomas***

It's with a heavy heart that the New Castle Public Library announced the departure of our Youth Services Librarian, Sara Thomas, which took place at the end of July. An employee of the New Castle County Public Library System for fifteen years, Sara rose from a part-time circulation aide at the Elsmere Public Library to the full-time Youth Services Librarian at our library, where she was beloved by all the families she worked with over the past few years.

Patrons and members of the community will miss Sara's effervescent "bookside" manners and her unwavering encouragement for literacy and learning among her young patrons, while her coworkers will miss her unwavering loyalty and often ingenious problem solving abilities. While we here at the library feel our loss of Sara, we look forward to seeing what great things she will doubtlessly achieve in her new position.

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## ***Farewell to Fern Toner-Horisk***

For over twenty year, the welcoming smile at the circulation desk belonged to Fern Toner-Horisk, Library Aide. When asked what her favorite part of her job is, Fern, without hesitation said, "I love everything about my job. No two days are the same."

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Fern's been my library buddy for nearly 10 years. From Fern, I learned so much about our local patrons, our town and how to deal with life's challenges. Of course, we laughed a lot and spent many Wednesday / Thursday mornings solving the world problems, catching up on the latest PBS shows (think Downton Abbey), British royalty highlights (and/or lowlights) and the endless library extra duties that came with holiday decorating or summer reading programs! Fern's singing along with the radio during holiday season always brought a smile and warm feelings. And NOBODY makes a better Irish Soda bread than Fern. Slainte!

Her enthusiasm and endless energy is an inspiration to me. I'm so glad that even before we departed our beloved library, we truly considered each other Friends. *Patricia O'Brien*

Fern was a comforting fixture in our library for so many years. She was always sought out by our patrons. I have never worked in the New Castle Public Library without Fern and it feels so weird to not see her on her regular days. I will truly miss her and hope to see her often as a patron. *Nicole Ballance*

Fern was always a very caring and sweet person to work with - she has genuine interest in others and in serving her community. Although I am moving on too, I will miss working with someone so kind and thoughtful! *Sara Thomas*

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## ***Farewell to Becky McLaughlin***

Our dear Page, Becky is leaving us. She took the part-time position almost five years ago, after retiring from DuPont. Becky is a whirlwind of activity, genius of grand creations (NCPL never looked more beautiful than after Becky's artistic touch), Page extraordinaire, fashionista of pre-loved clothing and most importantly a much loved individual. Her great smile, sense of humor, vast pop culture knowledge and huge number of books on request will be missed by all. Good luck and smooth sailing, Friend!

As mentioned in our June Footnotes, Jen Wilson, the library's new Principal Library Assistant, is the current Delaware Library Association President. She is featured in their latest DLA Bulletin, which was edited by Nicole Ballance. The link to the entire bulletin is <https://dla.lib.de.us/files/2021/08/DLA-Bulletin-Summer-2021.pdf>.

# JEN WILSON

## DLA President

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### **What's your current role in libraries?**

I currently work as the Principal Library Assistant at the New Castle Public Library. New Castle is a big supporter of DLA – our director Julie Kirk is an active member, and I get to work with our Nominating Committee chair Tyler Antoine, our Communications Committee co-chair Nicole Ballance (and until recently, our Membership chair Sara Thomas!). I'm excited to be joining their staff full time. It's a fun change to be in a more front-of-house role after previously working as a library specialist who primarily did tech services work.

### **What's your role in DLA?**

I joined the association last year at the suggestion of my friend and then past president Alison Wessel, who encouraged me to run for the open vice-president role. I would not be here today without her leadership and encouragement! It was a great experience to work alongside her as the co-chair of the Conference Committee and to get to know the other members of the executive board. Our association is full of wonderful and supportive people! I just transitioned into the role of president and am looking forward to what this year brings.

### **What are you excited to do with DLA in the coming year?**

I hope to see DLA continue to build supportive connections with library workers across our state – I've greatly benefited from being a member of DLA and I hope we can continue to prove the value of our organization and bring new members on board. I think we have some very engaged division leadership this year and I can't wait to see their ideas in action. I'm looking forward to continuing to work alongside and within DLA's committees to support and advocate for Delaware libraries, and to promote our values of intellectual freedom and access - I'm especially looking forward to seeing our Social Justice Committee continue the amazing work they've done over the last year.

### **What are you currently reading?**

I just finished a very creepy and unsettling little horror novel called "Come Closer", by Sara Gran. I recommend it if you're into that kind of thing! I don't tend to read a ton of horror, so if you do and you have a recommendation for me, let me know at [jennifer.wilson@lib.de.us](mailto:jennifer.wilson@lib.de.us).



## ***September Book Recommendations***

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

Amy Bishop-Ryan  
***American Dirt***  
by Jeanine Cummins  
Flatiron Books (2020)

Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. When Lydia's husband publishes a tell-all profile of Javier, the head of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city, none of their lives will ever be the same.

Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca join the countless people trying to reach el norte. Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something, but what exactly are they running to?

Joanne Viola  
***A Most Beautiful Thing***  
by Arshay Cooper  
Flatiron Books (2020)

This book is an uplifting true story of a group of young men growing up on Chicago's West side, who formed the first all-black high school rowing team in this country. In the late 1990's, Arshay Cooper experienced the harder side of life. Living in a one room apartment with his recovering addict mother and three siblings, they were surrounded by gangs and drugs in the hallways and on the streets below.

Responding to a school poster, which read, "Join the Crew Team", Arshay and several classmates signed up, not knowing what they signed up for. Some had never been in water. Adversity faced them at every turn, but this brave band of brothers formed a family that forever changed the sport of crew and their lives.

This sports memoir is now a documentary narrated by actor and hip-hop artist Common.

Patty O'Brien  
***The Night Hawk***  
by Elly Griffiths  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2021)

This is the newest book in the Ruth Galloway Mystery series (Book #13), featuring forensic archeologist Dr. Ruth Galloway, and DCI Nelson, along with other previous series characters, and new players, including a group of amateur archeologists who stumble upon Bronze Age artifacts along with a dead body, or two, or three.

Although the common threads of theme and characters link each book in the series, each book can stand alone without having to start the series with book #1, *The Crossing Place* (2009).

Janice Henshaw  
***The Secrets of Midwives***  
by Sally Hepworth  
St. Martin's Press (2015)

This is a wonderful story of three generations of midwives and the secrets they keep that push them apart, but ultimately bind them together. This is a page-turning novel with plot twists that explore life, love, and loss.

David Henshaw  
***The Way of All Flesh***  
by Ambrose Parry  
Cannongate Books (2018)

Written by husband-and-wife Chris Brookmyre (crime novelist) and Dr. Marisa Haetzman (consultant anesthetist) under the pseudonym Ambrose Parry, this historical crime novel is set in 1840's Edinburgh where young women are being discovered dead across the Old Town. The story focuses on the efforts of an anesthetist's assistant and a housemaid as they team up to uncover who's responsible for these gruesome deeds.