

The Connection

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH COASTAL LIBRARY

Friends working together to build a stronger library and community.

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FOSCL

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The Friends of the South Coastal Library Connection is produced by Board Members. To submit an article or ask a question about Friends' activities please write us.

President's Message | Norbert Kraich



Mr. Dylan was correct "...for the times are a-changing..."

At this time of the year changes are all around us:

- fall chills are in the air
- local roads are navigable again

- ospreys are heading south
- friendly faces are abundant

BUT:

- the 'book-banning crazies' and the 'book police' are still at it.

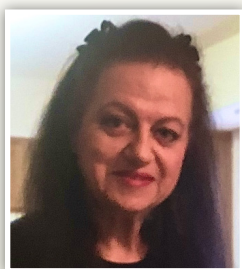
I hate to continually harp on this subject but these people just don't give up. For instance, a school district near Fort Worth, Texas has directed school staff and librarians to remove books that have been challenged through the district's formal complaint

process. Books removed include the Bible and an illustrated adaptation of Anne Frank's diary. Really? In Bonners Ferry, Idaho a group of conservative Christians has inundated the staff and the board of the local library to ban a list of 400 books that they deem unacceptable.

The irony is that none of the books on the list are on the library shelves. In Lafayette, Louisiana conservative activists are demanding the removal of controversial books, librarians are being falsely accused of pushing porn, a library display on Pride Month was can-

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Editor's Connection Conversations | Helen N. Pastis



Interview with Mark Decker

I spoke with Mark Decker, Person Extraordinaire. Aside from having a remarkable career in Washington, D. C., Mark is an accomplished golfer, family man, and writes incredible poetry.

Tell us about your career in Washington, D. C.

The last twenty years of my work were spent building several real estate investment banking businesses for Bank of Montreal,

Robert W. Baird and Co., Ferris, Baker Watts and Friedman, Billings Ramsey. Prior to my investment banking career, I spent many years in several business trade associations representing their interests in Washington, DC,

before Congress, the Executive Branch, and regulatory agencies. During that period, the last twelve years, I served as President and principal spokesman of the REIT industry and its national trade association, the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts ("NAREIT"). Before my career in the trade association and real estate investment banking, I served, from 1972 – 1977, in the White

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celed, and the library board refused to fund a program about voting rights saying that it was too controversial. The American Library Association (ALA) has reported that challenges of individual library books have jumped fourfold, from 416 books in 2017 to 1,597 book challenges in 2021.

Crazy? You bet. I could give hundreds of other examples of this insanity happening all across the country. I won't. Let's just say that in the spirit of 'changes' let's look at some good things that are happening as well:

■ Penguin Random House and PEN America recently announced a half-million dollar pledge to "...fight book bans in the United States..." PEN America, a branch of the free speech organization PEN International and Penguin "...will create a defense fund to advocate against censorship and to expose the attack on books in the classroom, state legislature, and other spaces..."

■ The American Library Association's 'Unite Against Book Bans' campaign continues making inroads against book banning. Spurred by ALA's program, a coalition of more than 25 organizations have joined together to empower individuals and communities to fight censorship and protect the freedom to read. Organizations including the American Federation of Teachers and the Authors Guild have joined with the association to raise awareness about the recent rise in book challenges in public libraries and schools. These groups are uniting around the principles of: reading as fundamental to learning, the right of readers to access a variety of books, and the need to work together to protect that right. They are pledging to fight book bans under the principle that individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what to read.

■ A judge in Virginia, Pamela S. Baskerville, has dismissed two obscenity cases that targeted two books, *Gender Queer: A Memoir*, and *A Court of Mist and Fury*, saying that the books are not obscene under the law and that the law that pertains to the litigation is itself flawed.

■ The Executive Director of a local library in northeast Ohio, Kathy Zappitello, has filed to run for a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives to fight back against the recent introduction of two bills in the state house that would block schools and libraries from teaching so-called 'divisive concepts' including diversity, gender equity, critical race theory and inclusion learning outcomes.

Folks, the good fight against this insanity is being fought. To help in the effort, join in, sign up, be vigilant to what's happening around you. Monitor local politicians and local school boards. Don't let the 'crazies' win.

Changes are occurring with Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL) as well. Due to board term limits, we are saying goodbye to some of our most valued board members:

Richard 'Dick' Oliver has been a stalwart on the board since 2012, serving on the By-Laws Committee, the Building & Grounds Committee, and as the board Recording Secretary. His thoughtful and wise counsel will be greatly missed. John Rubinsohn has been an invaluable member of the board for many years. John has served on the By-Laws Committee, the Finance Committee and has been a steady hand on the tiller guiding the financial well-being of FOSCL. John will continue to serve as a non-board member on the Finance Committee. Gail Poudrier has been a steady and valuable force on the board and on the Publicity Committee and will be missed.

Pam Richman has been Chair of the Book Sale Committee and has run our very successful Annual Book Sale. In addition, she instituted our very successful 'pop-up' weekend book sale events to combat COVID restrictions. We will miss all of these folks immeasurably.

This is my last President's Message as well. I stepped down as President of FOSCL at the September 2022 Board meeting. I will continue to serve the board as Immediate Past President and look forward to helping FOSCL and the South Coastal Library in any way that I can. I have thoroughly enjoyed my service on the FOSCL Board and I am very grateful to all my fellow board members, past and present, for all the help and hard work that they have provided to FOSCL and to the library over the past years of my involvement on the board. THANKS!

All the volunteer members of our board are the heart and soul of FOSCL's success. Those of you who have read my messages in the past know that I am continually writing about and praising our terrific volunteer corps. We are always looking for additional good, caring folks to help us out in our endeavors. You can help FOSCL by volunteering for any of our activities. There are lots of opportunities. To help please contact us through our website at www.foscl.com or leave your name and contact information at the South Coastal Library check-out desk. One of our FOSCL Board members will be sure to contact you to explore your volunteer interests.

Thanks to all our loyal library supporters for all you do to keep South Coastal Library the jewel and the outstanding community resource that it is.

All The Best,
Norbert

Connections Conversations | Continued from Page 1

House during the last two years of President Nixon's administration, and all of President Ford's administration.

What education do you have that prepared you for such an illustrious career?

For starters, my life's education was growing up in a loving, stable family environment in the rugged hills and small farms of southeastern Ohio. We were safe and free and it was a wonderful environment in which I was nurtured. I also went on and received a

Juris Doctor degree from Antonin Scalia Law School, and a B.S. in Education from Kent State University.

Tell us something very few people know about you.

For over fifty years, I have written poetry whenever I'm inspired. It might be about nature, or family, or spirituality. It might be about a stressful situation or a celebration of the mystery of life. It might be probing the paradoxes in life. My favorite poems are timeless, meaning they find or seek a truth that is

universal. A truth today that would be a truth a hundred years ago, or a hundred years from now.

My poetry sometimes rhymes and sometimes is prose. It's been an essential part of my life, through happy and stressful times, since the late 1960's. I started writing early in my college years and continued for over fifty years. Since I retired (what my bride, Molly, calls "rewired"), I have published over 15 volumes of my poetry, almost four thousand poems, and I continue writing whenever I am inspired.



Mark Decker

What keeps you busy now that you are retired?

I'm interested in serving private or public companies as a capital markets advisor, independent member of a Board of Directors. But mostly, my interests involve my family, writing, golf, tennis, fishing, enjoying the quiet life at the beach. We moved to Ocean View two years ago, permanently, from Great Falls, Virginia. We love the beach and the life style of living in a beach community. Molly and I are active at Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club, where I currently serve on the Board of Directors, and at Sea Colony playing tennis at that amazing tennis facility.

Molly and I have 3 incredible children – Mark Jr., Susan and Kelly - and ten amazing grandchildren.

In this Edition of the newsletter, we feature the “Folk Poetry” volume. Tell us about the dedication.

I dedicated this volume of poetry, “Folk Poetry” to all people who were lucky enough to grow up in the country, surrounded by good people and the simple beauty of Mother Nature. All my poetry really is folk poetry. Folk words are community, family, people, nature, the human spirit, all of which are embedded in my words and poems.

“Folk Poetry” spans the time period in your life from August 1975 to the end of 1976. Tell us about that period of your life.

This period of time – mid -1975 through 1976, was one of great joy and great stress for me. I had witnessed Watergate up close and personal, having been on the White House staff during the Watergate debacle. I thought my dreams were kaput, but I stayed on the White House, serving President Ford as one of two law clerks in the Office of Counsel to the President, which reignited my hope for a great opportunity in law or politics at the end of President Ford's Administration, and after I had graduated from law school. Of course, my dreams were squashed, again, when my new boss, President Ford, lost the 1976 Presidential election to Jimmy Carter. In politics, “To the victor goes the spoils,” and my career path of leveraging my White House experience, was abruptly terminated, literally in one day. This sudden life-jarring change in my future plans was a catalyst, for me, in some of my poems, wishing for simpler days of my youth when life seemed so care free (“Again, One Day”), and pining for a level of that simplicity within the much greater complexity of my life in Washington, DC. I was also a new father, still a young husband, working every day to provide for my family. Lots of moving pieces, some happy, some scary, in my young adulthood. You can feel it in my words. I'm working full-time in the White House, in the middle of my law school studies, and I lose my job, my safety net. All this created a lot of uncertainty in my life, the perfect catalyst for writing inspired poetry.

Tell us about the volume, “Folk Poetry.”

As I said above, these eighteen months in my young life were filled with uncertainty, a sense of not knowing what I would do next, or where I was going. Writing poetry helped me keep an even keel in a very uncertain time in my life. I instinctively turned to writing poems as a means of “self-understanding” and keeping my life moving forward. I was my own psychiatrist. My writing became a vehicle I used to keep myself focused, aware and moving forward. I kept my sanity through the strength of Molly, my son, and the ability to express, through the words in my poetry, all the challenges, fears, I was facing. The words in this book represent a self-discovery, a self-healing, a means to captain my life through the difficult shoals of the rough and tumble world of politics I found myself in.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Editor's Note: I had an extremely difficult time selecting which poems to feature in this newsletter.

It's like selecting a nugget of gold from a treasure trove that is boundless. Therefore, to do Mark and his poetry justice, we will feature selections of his poetry in future Editions of The Connection.

Let us all be like kids in a candy store and indulge ourselves to treats; some sweet, some aching. Poems reprinted with permission granted by Mark Oakley Decker.

**Folk Poetry:
August, 1975 – December 1976**

FRAGILE PASSION 8-5-75

Love will be short;
My heart, thus, be kind;
Bring my lass,
of petal freshness,
undivided happiness;
Let that utter dunc in me
ever sit, harmlessly,
upon his stool
foolishly coddling
his fragile passion.

THE ONE 8-5-75

Many the times this man lay down in vain;
Many the hours of fruitless toil and thought;
Discouragement is not
the nomenclature of such circumstance;
Nor is bravery, nor pride, the turning point;
There exists One who can smite
the greatest of our kind;
This One laughs at the perils
of the less-than-righteous;
This One scorns the pleas of exaggeration;
This One spits in the ugly face
of greed's jealousy;
This One lays palms and incense
on the hearts, minds, and souls
of those who seek truth and mercy;
This One contemplates the all, and everything;
This One leads us safely through life and
death;
This One guides us, gently,
smiling, always, upon those of us
He calls His children.

THE FORTUNE THAT I SEEK 8-12-75

The world is tough and nasty, or is this a cop-
out's view
from one who too-long obeyed what, from the
beginning, was
never true;
My mind has been too long dreaming, my
heart so full, it's
bleeding,
my breath so short, it's leaving this body, this
abode;
Who, so bold in facing himself, could cringe
before a tiny elf;
One, such as I, so loved and nurtured, could
say so little to
the tribe;
Today, I can sing my own song, dream my
own dreams,
when yesterday, I would hide;
Like a never-ending current, I would rush
upon my dreams,
maybe catch a few;
Now that I have seen horizon's gleam, and
now that I have touched the lining of my soul,
I can no longer roam a thoughtless child;
I seek the fortune that is mine;
To be blessed with family;
To cherish and be cherished;
To resign to nature's law of termination;
To remain active and alive;
To release no little of myself into this tired and
weary world;
To cling to nothing which, like me, is mortal;
To press my mind in scholarship;
To be faithful to those I love;
To exert, with honesty, my thought.

LIFE UNFOLD 8-14-75

Life, unfold,
like a newly sprouted leaf;
Life, I'm told,
brings one to belief;
Life, coming toward you,
am I;
Life, surely one day,
I will fly;
Life, our child,
is on his way;
Life, our child,
is coming here to stay;
Life, my best friend,
is my wife;
Life, from her,
will come my life.

THE FALL OF LIFE 9-7-75

Fall, and
all is fresh,
all is fair;
Skies seem, somehow,
less cloudy;
Cool breeze has crisped the air;
Gentlemen all promenade;
Young ladies mill about;
In the heart of man is not
a scintilla of doubt;
Man can never tarnish
that which was laid in gold;
A woman gives him strength to live;
Together, they grow old.

A LADY'S GIFT 9-23-75

Young lady in my arms,
you dance my heart away;
You gave joy's serenity,
its peaceful, tranquil way;
You bless my every waking step,
delight these eyes that gleam, and
when the hush of night descends
it's followed by your dream;
I hasten toward you now,
in calling thought, and
with but one thing left unsaid;
It's ever that I long to be
the pillow on your bed.

DEAD SPARROW SPRING 12-1-75

Fly away dead sparrow, fly away;
Downed by a golden arrow,
you came from the soul of a sentimental fool,
an undernourished thought, a wasted day,
a withered moment cannot take wing and fly;
Like a lifeless sparrow that smacks the glass in
the window,
drops to the ground, dead in its tracks;
Fly away dead sparrow, fly away;
Downed by a golden arrow,
you came from the soul
of a sentimental fool;
Now, go back to your modest self;
Tie my hands, and
I will bluster and bellow;
Loosen them, and I will sigh of relief;
Free me, and I will vacillate
between the solid earth and
the deep blue sky above,
oozing confidence and love;
Give me dignity for each mistake,
each failure, or misguided wrong, and
I will give you words which ride the wind.

CAMP DAVID 4-23-76

There is an odd magnificence
about a room
where great men have been,
great events took place,
momentous decisions made;
An air of cleanliness pauses
as one watches
the austere a glim-lit room;
Everything in order, and
a chair for the President;
It matters not what President is here
because "here" is here to stay;
It's external and it is elongated
by virtue of our time and day;
I can sit and absorb the drama;
Only for a short time
can I be magnanimous;
For the most part I am calm, serene;
For the least part
I am somewhere in between,
dreaming of days past and future.

EIGHT GREAT POETS 8-15-76

As I read Wordsworth, Browning, Burns,
It crossed my mind that none had yearned,
more than I, for peaceful harmony, in turn;
As I partake of Edgar Poe,
it dawns on me
That much of what he knew, I know;
Passion's frightening fiery glow;
When I'm alone with the great one, Holmes,
sharing the mellow sensitivity in his tomes,
I sense that his work is much like my own;
Done with warmth, and in the comfort of his
home;
And on I read, through Lamb and Keats,
searching for the living poet in each;
A hint of him here and there,
teach myself,
the power of my own reach;
To sit with a dear friend,
that great one, John Donne,
Who lived his life to the hilt, then some;
being oh so glad that he's not gone;
He will live forever, and then some.

LAFAYETTE PARK WHEN IT RAINS 9-30-76

When it rains
the park is strangely quiet;
A thousand mirrored pools
reflect its contents,
its many shapes and forms;
No pigeons or squirrels are out;
Flowers look brighter and fresher;
The earth seems richer;
I can breathe a sigh of relief;
The park itself is older and exudes
a sense of wisdom;
General Jackson's carved figure
hoovers over the stillness
In the defiant stance of victory;
Nothing stops
the tittering specks of rain.

LIFE SMELLS SWEET 4-10-72

Emptiness is a thing of truth;
In many ways spoken,
some uncouth;
But to see a smile of sunshine's ray;
To see inside, a life so gay, and
touch that life,
in my own way,
Is worth a million sun-filled days;
It is so nice to untangle, the disarrayed,
with hope and light, the light won't fade;
So tumbling, stumbling, rumbling on;
With each new day begins the dawn,
Where, there, all follied thoughts are gone,
And life smells sweet like a new-mowed lawn.

MY COUNTRY 6-17-76

America sits, with her eyes closed,
huddled in a corner, like a scolded child;
Her family has led her to believe
that she can do no wrong,
her family has forced her to feel
that she can do no right;
Like a mortal, she has failed at both;
Get up America! Bear that proud chin, and
those chiseled features
that have captivated the world;
You are still the world's master,
still, the guiding light which freedom seeks;
From your womb come many
who cry out your freedom;
Into your arms come a multitude
who need your love;
Get up America!
The world has seen your anger, and your
shame;
The world needs, now, your wisdom, not your
blame.

Mark Decker is truly a Person Extraordinaire. It takes tremendous courage to share your poems with the world. You're letting people glimpse into your very soul. Look for more of his poems in our next Edition.

Staff Pick | Rachel Noguera



If you participated in any of our children's programs this summer, you might have heard laughter, crying, or a hearty "Arrrrrrg!" from Marcos the pirate! And if you didn't, I'm here to say, it's true. These ups, downs, and in-betweens of children's programming are what we like to call "controlled chaos" because while it seems that a lot of organization has gone into bringing a program to life, there are always these moments that really make it an experience.

As the pandemic shifts, more families have become more comfortable attending in-person events, and we've adapted our children's programs to meet the demand. Our summer has been jam-packed from Story Times, LEGO Club, and PAWS, to larger programs like Cascading Carlos and Randy Shine. Not only did families show up, but they showed off! Whether it was a craft, participating with a performer, or creating their next LEGO design, the children and their guardians were fully

engaged.

The community has responded tremendously with their presence and feedback. To help put this into perspective, in 2021, during the months of June through July, we hosted 27 children's programs with a total of 789 in attendance. In 2022, during those same months, we hosted 38 programs with attendance totaling 1,497, and this does not account for the incredible Pokemon Scavenger Hunt. We are pleased to have this story share progress as we learn to better move forward in a pandemic.

Families can anticipate new and captivating programs. We are pleased to be partnering with R.O.O.T.S. Youth Development to bring a monthly program that will teach children practical life skills while having some hands-on fun

such as apple butter making, pumpkin puree making, and creating a winter craft with things found in nature. We had Feelings Rock! in September. This is a movement and music-based class that will enhance the social and emotional development of preschool-aged children. Members of the community can expect to see all these programs and more online at <https://southcoastal.lib.de.us/> and in the library's brochure.



If you want to write, keep cats. — Aldous Huxley

A new cat quote, at least to me. I don't understand why I haven't written over 100 books, but maybe there's a quota system—so many cats per newly written book - and I just haven't hit that yet.

Normally, preview of events at the library here. And here is just a taste of this fall/winter, including:

Book clubs continue, at least three different versions (I was starting to worry about Rachel's focus in reading material, but now that I know it was for the crime book club, I'm less nervous)

Exercise for the mind and body, including yoga, Zumba, and dance

More stretching of your mind and skill levels with MakerSpace Mondays, crafting classes, and Chix With Stix

Genealogy classes, Rehoboth Writers Guild, Armchair Travelers

History lectures (from the Civil War to A Haunted History of Delaware to Victorian

Christmas and more

And right now, Rachel and Kristin are "cooking up" a cooking competition — keep tuned. Keep hungry.

All listings will be posted on our calendar at <https://southcoastal.lib.de.us/>. Just click on "full calendar" under the "What's Happening" column to find fun things to do and register, if necessary.

And here's a reminder of services that are available online, free with your library card, if you are more comfortable using the library from home, including:

The Museum Pass program—some museums/venues have partnered with DE libraries statewide to offer limited free passes. To find out more, go to <https://lib.de.us/museum/> to find out where and when these are offered. Listings continue to grow—and we offer a sincere "thank you" to the DE Botanic Gardens in Dagsboro for joining this month! There are electronic and physical passes, depending on the library/museum, so just ask if you have questions.

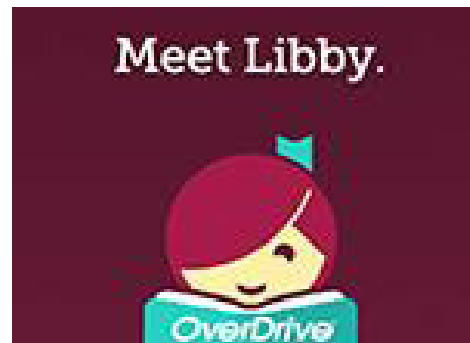
You may know about the state's e-book vendor, Overdrive. They have moved completely to the Libby app to borrow books,

audios, and videos, so you may have to update your app if you've only used the Overdrive app. Go to <https://lib.de.us/emedialib/> to select Overdrive—and there's a "room" just for children's items too.

Breaking news! Overdrive has acquired Kanopy, a streaming video service, with both adults and children's movies. Your DE library card gives you the ability to create a free account. Go to the above address and just select "Kanopy" to start your own private movie viewings—in your home, on your own timetable.

If you're a history buff, the Delaware Digital Newspaper Project is trying to bridge the gap between national newspaper online availability and the lack of local news being available freely. Once again, go the "emedialib" link above and click on "Research, Learn & Discover" link to get to many databases—including the growing collection available in the Delaware project. Please be patient as the University of DE works on adding to our written history.

As always, thank you for your support of the Friends [FOSCL], who fund nearly all our local programs. And a big thank-you goes to the State Library system, for being able to add Kanopy, as well as U of DE for the "newly hatched" newspaper effort. If you need more information or help in finding an event or service, please call the South Coastal Library at 302-858-5518.



Newsletters communicate current events, important information and stories of interest directly to your key constituents. Given value-added content and personalized material, the newsletter can be a powerful communications tool. The newsletter can be an information bulletin; it can be a vehicle for recognition; it can

be platform for social interaction; it can be a marketing medium; it can be a call-to-action piece; it can be entertaining and fun; or, it can be hybrid. Businesses, clubs, organizations, consumers, communities and other entities have tapped into the newsletter concept to get the word out.

The effect of social and electronic media cannot be dismissed. However, studies show that newsletters are still very relevant.

A good newsletter knows its audience. In this regard, it is important to remember that the newsletter's readership is close to your organization, product or service. In short, they know you so content is paramount. What are your readers interested in reading about and what can they expect from your monthly or quarterly newsletter?

A good newsletter looks good. In developing a newsletter don't overlook design and layout. Color, graphics and, of course, photos can dress up the publication and add some pizzazz to the written word. In short, the visual aspect of the newsletter makes an impact. Remember, what they say about "making a good first impression".

Having had the experience over the years of writing and editing newsletters for academia, Fortune 500 manufacturing, the art world and, now, the Bay Colony Community, my objectives relative to newsletters in general have been the following:

- To provide timely information for and about the constituents served;
- To spotlight projects and programs, activities and actions of interest to the constituents served;
- To provide information and feature stories about the constituents served;
- To establish a mechanism through which individual contributions, achievements and milestones can be recognized;
- To facilitate communications;
- To create a communications piece that is interesting and entertaining.

I was editor of *The Clark World* for the Dresser Clark Division of Dresser Industries from 1980 to 1985 and featured sections on "New Product Development", "Student Interns", and a special piece, "My Daddy and/

or Mommy Works at Dresser Clark" among other articles.. Fleetwood Folding Trailer's newsletter titled *Fireside Chat* always included a "Management Message" and an "Employee Spotlight". *The Gallery*, serving the constituents of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, would advertise museum events, spotlight an artist or artwork from the museum's permanent collection and highlight the museum's foundation grants. We launched the *BC Beacon* at Bay Colony in 2020 and have installed the "Community Corner", "People Profile", "Newsbriefs", and the "Community Calendar" as regular sections for the quarterly newsletter.

I have found that assembling a diverse team to work on the newsletter and to contribute to its publication are essential to creating and sustaining a successful newsletter. My colleagues have helped investigate/research stories, secure materials, proof read and edit, format the newsletter, coordinate photography, establish the publishing cycle, conduct reader surveys, introduce special editions, etc. For example, we created a special 100th anniversary issue for the Clark World that told the story of Dresser Clark's founding and underscored the many milestones in the

company's development.

From my perspective, the Friends of the South Coastal Library are fortunate to have *The Connection* as a viable and vital communications piece. I find *The Connection* interesting, informative and enjoyable. *The Connection* checks all the boxes on what makes for a good newsletter. Of course, "Upcoming Events" is always newsletter worthy. The "Director's Report" is on mark. The "President's Message" is effective. News that impacts libraries in general is prescient to South Coastal Library and its constituents. I do enjoy reading your "Interview with . . ." In my opinion, Your "School Partnership Program" tells a very important story about the South Coastal Library. To me, the layout and design of *The Connection* is very appealing – good use of color, graphics and photography. I will assume that your readership gives *The Connection* high marks and close by saying, "keep up the good work:"

Gary previously wrote an article for *The Connection* in the Summer 2022 Edition. He has his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Saint Francis University and his MBA from Indiana University. Gary currently is editor of the Bay Colony Beacon newsletter.

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Pictured clockwise from top left:
Homeowners: Andy & Allison Weintraub; Sarah & Jennifer Barren; Holly & Jack Leachman; Rita & Clay Ewell; Ashley & Neil Brosnahan; Jenny & Kris Keller; Monique & Mazen Baroudi; **Not Shown:** Kathy & Mike Cummings; Stephanie & Eric Compton; Marcella, Stephanie & Ben Sharp; Lizann & Mark LaBella; Patty Warren & Roy Forey; and the Owner of a home in Bayside Hamlet.

Carrie Boyden, Elaine Kraich, and Marylou Tietz.

Colleen Wilson and Dolores Pack, B&BCT Committee.

Helen N. Postis, FOSCL Executive Board.

Beach & Bay Cottage Tour celebrates 30 years!



STEM with Engineer Early at South Coastal Library

The library had several in-person STEM children's programs lined up for the summer of 2019. However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel all in-person programs for that year. As we updated our services and programming, we returned to our original plan of providing STEM to the children of our community, but were not sure how we would be able to do this in a COVID-19 world.

It was in the summer of 2021, our answer came from a post on Facebook found by our social media manager, Rachel. The post was about a local non-profit called Engineer Early, that was accepting requests from libraries to be a part of their *STEM Kits 2 Go* program. Our social media coordinator contacted Engineer Early right away and a partnership was made. At the time, South Coastal Library was the only library in Sussex County that was participating in such a program.

Since then, Engineer Early has been providing *STEM Kits 2 Go* to both local and visiting children on a monthly basis. Each month focuses on a different STEM related theme, such as: geology, magnets, elements, ocean exploration, math, zoology, and much more. Older children can complete the kits on their own and younger children can complete with the help of an adult.

Since our partnership in 2021, the South Coastal Library and Engineer Early have

been able to provide STEM kits to approximately 464 kids. While the STEM Kits have been a huge hit with children and families, the COVID-19 restrictions were loosening, in-person events were returning, and Engineer Early wanted an opportunity to highlight their STEM program to kids in-person.

This summer, Engineer Early decided to pause their STEM Kits and host an in-person, summer, STEM tour to all of the libraries they're partnering with in Delaware. This Pop-Up STEM tour was themed-based on this year's summer reading challenge: Oceans of Possibilities. Naturally, South Coastal Library was a stop on this tour.

On July 8, 2022, South Coastal Library's first in-person Engineer Early STEM program began and, over the course of 2 hours, we were able to provide fun, educational, STEM activities to 130 people—most of whom were children. Kids were able to learn about the oceans and ocean life, experiment with a 3D printer, build their own fort, and engage with their families and other kids. It was truly a remarkable experience and one that we hope to potentially recreate in the future.

To learn more about STEM programs at the library, please visit our website at <https://southcoastal.lib.de.us/>. To learn more about Engineer Early, visit their website at <https://www.engineerearly.org/>.

Past Interviews

Interviews Appearing in Previous Editions of The Connection, Editor's Connection Conversation Column

SUMMER 2022

Mike Cummings
Builder/Developer

SPRING 2022

Gerald Hocker
State Senator

WINTER 2022

Rachel Lynch, Director
Sussex County Libraries

FALL 2021

Rosemary Hardiman,
Mayor of Bethany Beach

Pop Up BOOK SALES

Get ready for your cozy reading this winter!

Upcoming booksales to be held on a Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon.

Stay tuned for dates of future sales.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



Welcome to the team | South Coastal Library

Introducing

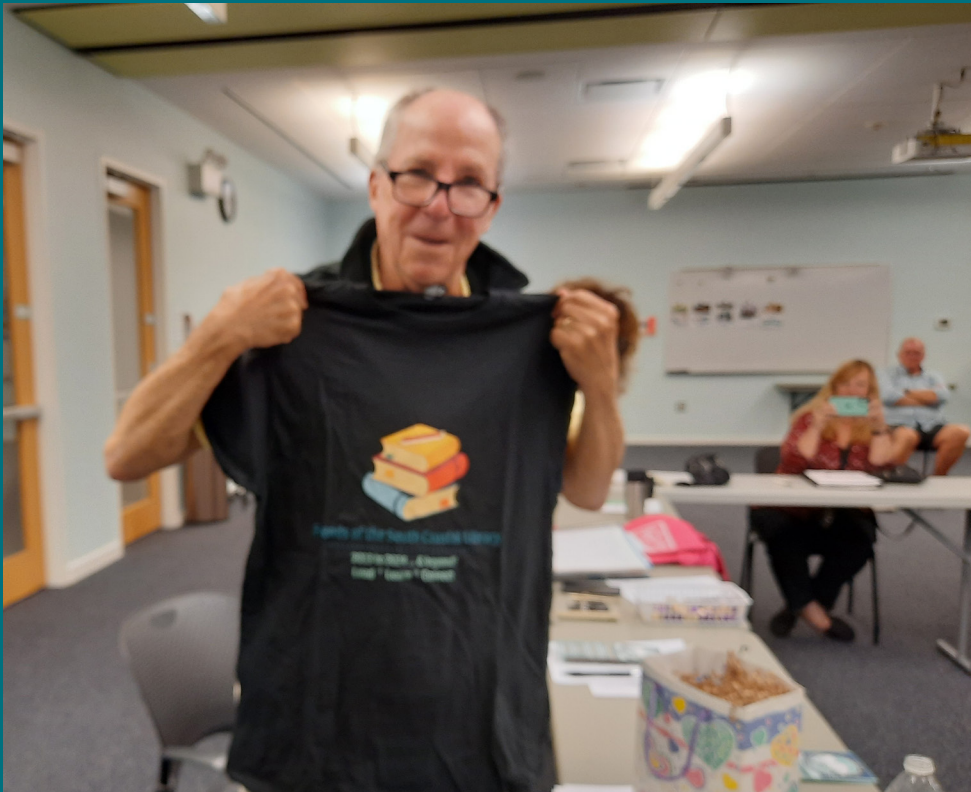
Megan Bunting,

Children's Services

Megan comes to us as the new Children's Services Coordinator with more than 10 years of experience working directly with children and in our community. For seven and a half of those years, she served as Director of River Kids at The River Church and three of those years as Youth Services

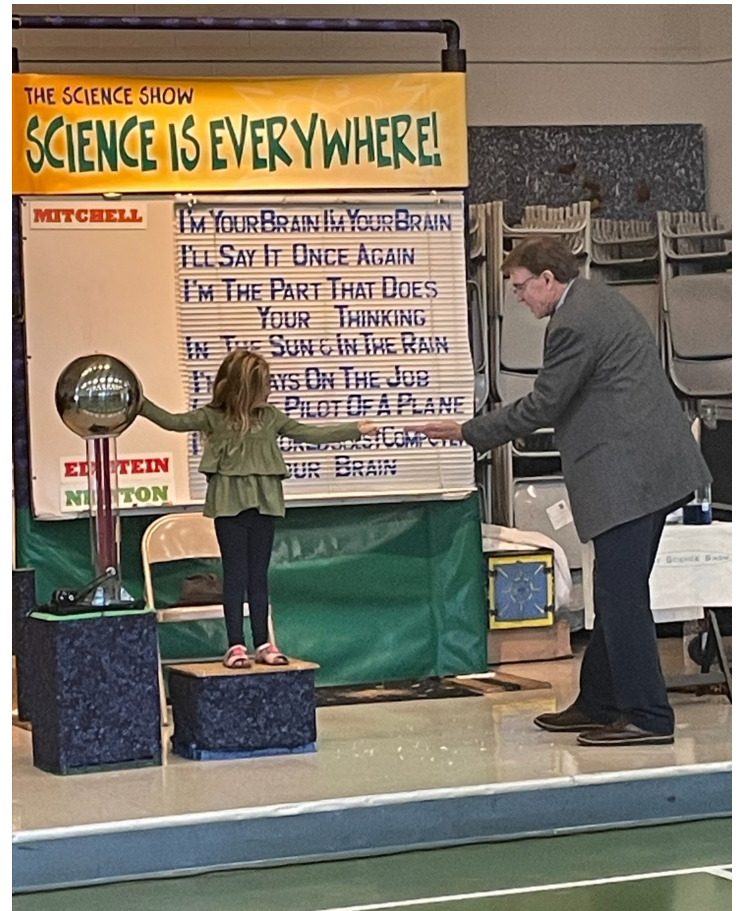
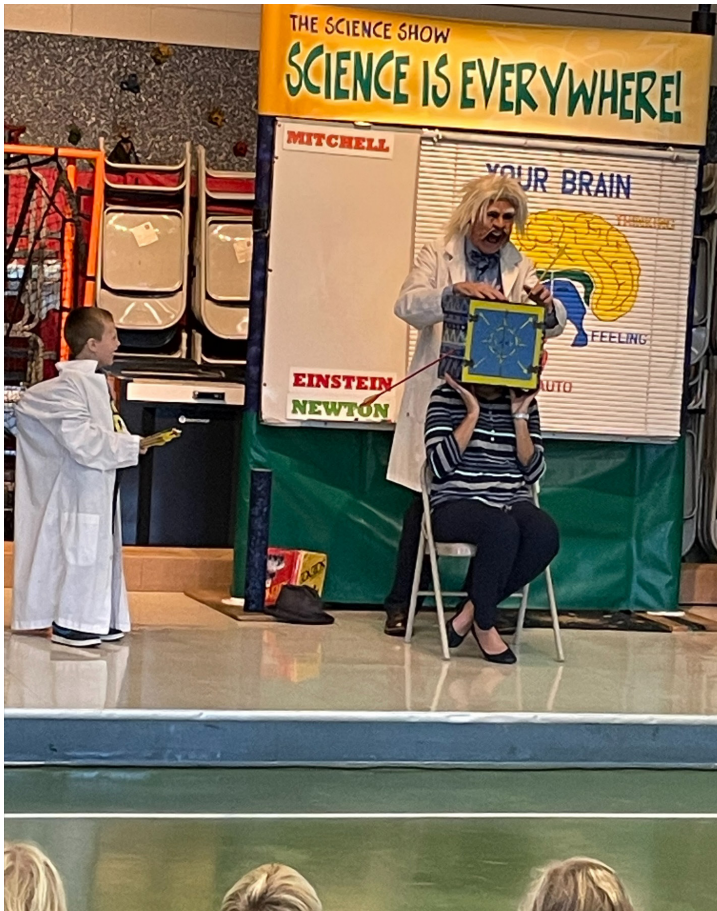
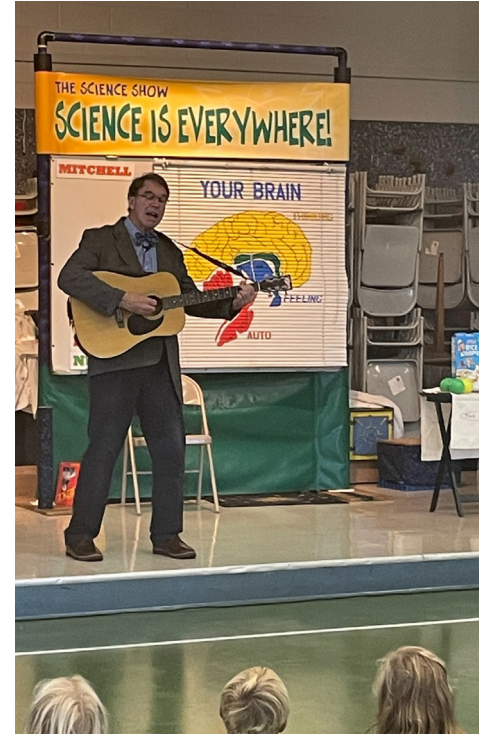
Coordinator at the Selbyville Public Library. She has an Associate's degree in Office Administration with Delaware Technical and Community College and will be finishing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Certificate in Non-Profit Management at Wilmington University at the close of

summer 2023. She has a knack for graphic design and marketing and is currently using that to support the Duck Creek Regional Library build in Smyrna. She is married for 19 years with two teenagers and resides in Frankford.



Thank You!

Norbert Kraich
for your
service as
FOSCL President



John Hadfield, Author, Presenting a FOSCL-Sponsored Program at LBES.



The 2022 Beach & Bay Cottage Tour with A Twist!

From Sunday, July 17 through Saturday, August 6th virtual attendees tuned in from locations throughout the world and on Wednesday, July 27 and Thursday, July 28, Patrons enjoyed the in-person portion of the 30th Anniversary Beach & Bay Cottage Tour.

This year's special anniversary "Combo Tour" provided virtual visits to 12 beautiful homes and a limited number of in-person visits to 5 of the 12 homes. Viewers from 23 states, as well as 5 continents visited the 12 incredible homes in the Bethany Beach area from the comfort of their own homes. The 12 beautiful homes provided plenty of ideas and noteworthy stories. Each home was an amazing testament to the owners and their families. We are so grateful they chose to share their homes with us.

In addition, the Art and Restaurant raffles were very popular. The winners are listed below. Thanks to our Sponsors, Advertisers, Donors, and all of those who "attended" the Tour, whether Virtually or both Virtually and In-Person, the Tour raised a good sum to enable FOSCL to continue to support programs for the South Coastal Library. Thanks go to the efforts of the Beach & Bay Cottage Tour Committee and the nearly 300 volunteers, again led by Chair Kathy Green.

There are so many people to thank for their part in making the tour a success!

Our Wonderful Homeowners:

Thank you to the twelve gracious homeowners who so generously opened their lovely homes to Tour attendees, both Virtually and In-Person. They are: Jenny & Kris Keller; Holly & Jack Leachman; Kathy & Mike Cummings;

Rita & Clay Ewell; and the Owner of a home in Bayside Hamlet. The Virtual Tour only homeowners are: Ashley & Neil Brosnahan; Stephanie & Eric Compton; Marcella, Stephanie & Ben Sharp; Allison & Andy Weintraub and Jennifer & Sarah Barren; Monique & Mazen Baroudi; Lizann & Mark LaBella; and Patty Warren & Roy Forey.

Our Great Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor: Leslie Kopp and The Leslie Kopp Group

House Sponsors:

[PLATINUM] Creative Concepts

[GOLD] Bruce Mears, Designer/Builder; Dewson Builders; MIKEN Builders; and SEA Studio Architects

Tote Bag Sponsors: The Anne Powell Group; G&E/Hockers; PNC Bank; Scott & Shuman PA; Sea Colony Recreation Association; and the Town of Bethany Beach

Raffle Sponsor: Shirley Price

Hang Tag Sponsor: Pohanka Automotive Group

Our Advertisers:

The many advertisers who support the Tour Admission Book - they are such an important part of our fundraising efforts. Please patronize them and thank them for supporting the Tour.

Our advertisers in alphabetical order are:

Annie Powell, Coldwell Banker Realty; Art League of Ocean City; Artisans' Bank; Ashton Pools; Denise Beam, State Farm Insurance; Beebe Healthcare; Bella Terra Landscaping & Garden Center; Bethany Beach Beverage Company; Bethany Beach Books; Bethany

Beach Boardwalk Arts Festival; Bethany Florist; Boardwalk Builders; Bruce Mears Designer/Builder; Barbara Carlson, Realtor; Carolina Street; Coastal Point; Coastal Printing; Coastal Style Magazine; Creative Concepts; D.B.'s Fries; Delaware Beach Life; Delaware Botanic Gardens; Denney Lighting & Design; DiFebo's Restaurant & Market; Dewson Construction; Fire & Ice Festival; G&E/Hockers; Get Ray-Organized; Good Earth Market; Representative Ronald E. Gray; Hasting Associates LLC; Heavenly Luncheon; Hugh H. Hickman and Sons, Builders; Honey's Farm Fresh Gourmet Kitchen; Lois James, D.D.S.; J. Conn Scott, Inc.; Justin's Beach House; The Leslie Kopp Group; Long & Foster Real Estate; Lord's Landscaping & Mercantile; McCabe & Sons; MIKEN Builders; Miranda, Hart & O'Leary Contracting; Patti's Hallmark Shop; Perfect Furnishings; Pete's Steak Shop; PNC Bank; Pohanka of Salisbury; Provident State Bank; Right Balance Pilates; Sarah Rineer Living; Scott and Shuman, P.A.; Sea Colony; Sea Level Designs; SEA Studio Architects; Seaside Home Staging; Shirley Price, Realtor; South Coastal Village Volunteers; St. Martha's Episcopal Church; Summer Hill Custom Homes; Tansey-Warner Realty; Tickled Pink; Topio Landscape Architecture; TNT Home Improvements LLC; Town of Bethany Beach; Town of Ocean View and Wilgus Associates, Inc.

Our Raffle Donors:

The ten area restaurants that donated gift certificates for the Restaurant Raffle are:

Big Fish/Rosenfeld's; Cottage Café; DiFebo's; Good Earth Market; Mancini's; Off the Hook; SoDel Concepts; The Café on 26; The Parkway and Touch of Italy.

The amazing artists and photographer who generously donated paintings and a photograph for the Art Raffle are: Tara Funk Grim;

Laura Hickman; Claire Howard; Wayne Lyons; Jeanne Mueller; Amanda Sokolski; and Cheryl Wisbrock.

Congratulations to the winners of this Tour's Art & Restaurant raffles:

ART RAFFLE WINNERS ARE:

Sheri Comisac n Tara Funk Grim
Stephanie Cates-Harman n Laura Hickman
Colleen Wilson n Claire Howard
David Green n Wayne Lyons
Barbra Diann King n Jeanne Mueller
Karen Colwill n Amanda Sokolski
Tricia Thomas n Cheryl Wisbrock

RESTAURANT RAFFLE WINNERS ARE:

Sherry Proctor ■ *Big Fish/Rosenfeld's*
Chris Powers ■ *Cottage Café*
Charlie Kopay ■ *DiFebo's*
Meaghan Green ■ *Good Earth Market*
Ilene Parisi ■ *Mancini's*
Kimberly McKay ■ *Off the Hook*
John Bigg ■ *SoDel*
Barbara Carlson ■ *The Café on 26*
Walter Lambert ■ *The Parkway*
Rosemary Hardiman ■ *Touch of Italy*

The Beach and Bay

Cottage Tour Committee:

- The 2022 Beach and Bay Cottage Tour Committee who volunteered both their time and expertise to make this Tour possible. It's a Team effort!
- Those who worked with our generous sponsors.
- Those who solicited and visited our advertisers for the ads that help to underwrite the costs of the Tour.
- Those who secured the Raffle items.
- Those who handed out Tour bags at the community room at the library.
- The volunteers who welcomed Tour attendees in the In-Person Tour homes.
- The parkers who helped Tour attendees.
- Those who completed all the banking and accounting for the Tour.
- Those who answered the phone, fielded questions and wrote thank you notes.
- A very special thank you to Carrie Boyden for building and maintaining our website through the Tour, while also being our graphic artist.
- Charlie Kopay, the man behind the curtain, keeping our technology on track.
- Those who wrote and proofread the Tour

booklet home descriptions and provided publicity for Facebook (Annual Beach and Bay Cottage Tour) as well as the local newspapers, the Tour brochure, and the Connection.

■ Rob Waters of WFFilms, our videographer.

We also thank:

- Our local newspaper, the Coastal Point for providing us with great publicity for the Tour.
- The Towns of Bethany Beach, South Bethany the Quillen's Point neighborhood for providing safe, accessible parking spaces for the Tour attendees.
- The Town of Bethany Beach for promoting the Tour on its calendar, by getting our banners around Town during the month of July and providing parking spaces for In-Person homes.
- The staff of the South Coastal Library for their patience with answering countless phone calls and questions.
- Last, but certainly not least, we wish to thank all of you who supported the 30th Anniversary Annual Beach & Bay Cottage Tour by donating and/or purchasing tickets. We hope that you thoroughly enjoyed your visits to the homes, that you got some ideas and inspirations for your own homes, and that we can count on you to continue to support the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach.

Thank you for supporting The Friends of The South Coastal Library

The Beach & Bay Cottage Tour is truly a community affair to benefit our wonderful library, and we simply cannot undertake the Tour without the help of the whole community. Once again, everyone's hard work has paid off to benefit the programs and facilities at the South Coastal Library.

We always welcome new faces, so if you would like to get involved with planning the 31st Annual Tour, helping out by volunteering during the Tour days, or having your home on the Tour, please contact us at 302-537-5828 or volunteer@beachandbaycottage.com.

Your donation to the Beach & Bay Cottage Tour helps the Library and the larger community — your support helps in the following ways:

- Funds events, classes, lectures, music, crafts & educational programs for all ages—no-

body ever pays a fee!

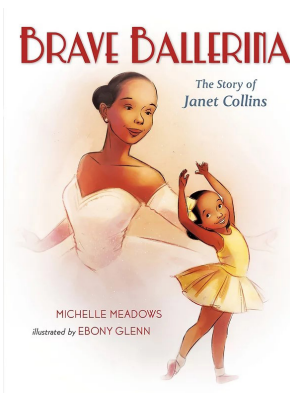
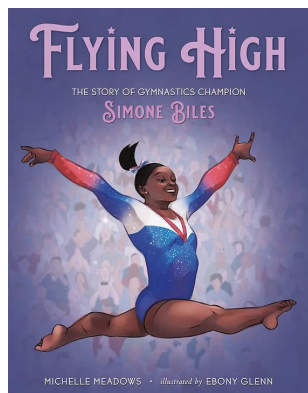
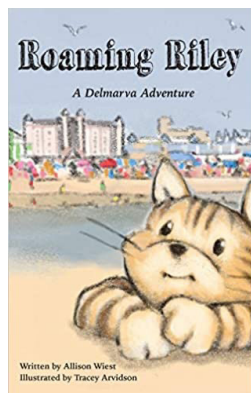
- Buys Early Literacy computers for children.
- Gets 200 Book Page Review magazines per month for our readers—you get the latest titles and special reviews.
- Provides the library's subscription to Ancestry.com—free in-house genealogy access for all library users.
- Contributes over \$12,000 to the state-wide library e-book catalog for new e-books & e-audiobook titles/licenses.
- Finances the Junior Library Guild subscription, which provides monthly shipments of award-winning children's books
- Pays for annual "McNaughton collection" of books—provides leased copies of the latest and greatest titles. When extra copies are no longer needed, they are traded for new titles.
- Funded the purchase of the children's Peek-A-Book kiosk and keeps it maintained. Children watch and listen to award-winning books and multiple copies are ready for check out—they have to borrow the books to find out the ending.
- Provided the new KwikBoost charging station so people can quickly charge phones, iPads, Kindles, Nooks and other portable devices.
- Bought a new Disc Repair machine, worth its weight (and it's heavy) in gold—can clean DVDs, audiobooks and music CDs and even repair many damaged discs, getting titles returned to circulation quickly and saving the library from having to replace 100-200 discs per month.
- Purchased the furniture for the patio at the northwest corner of the building.
- Partner with Lord Baltimore Elementary School to present educational programs for the children.
- Funds the new Maker Space project for the library and community. Provided craft machinery and supplies for people to try their hands at creative works, including a Cricut machine, 3D pens, button maker, and we're not done yet!
- Provides CreativeBug online subscription for South Coastal Library patrons—gives free access to patrons to art & craft classes, patterns, templates and recipes, galleries and forums, and now includes live classes.

And so much more!

The dates of the 2023 Beach & Bay Cottage Tour are: Virtually from July 16 to August 6 and In-Person Wednesday, July 27 and Thursday, July 28.

School Partnership Program News

As schools reopen, FOSCL School Partnerships Program is ready to go



The 2022-23 FOSCL School Partnerships Program has three programs at the Lord Baltimore Elementary School.

LB1 - October 6, 2022: John Hadfield presented his "Science is Everywhere" program live and in person to about 200 Lord Baltimore Elementary School kindergarten and first-grade students. John last presented at LBES as part of the FOSCL School Partnerships Program in 2019.

Some might say John had trouble "deciding what he wanted to be when he grew up." He is an award-winning singer, songwriter, former circus performer, professional dog trainer, has a degree in the Russian language, has trained bears and monkeys, is an accomplished stilt walker, a graduate of the elite Ringling Bros Clown College, an army veteran, and a black belt in aikido who formerly worked with the White House Communications Agency. What??? John says he is actually kind of shy, and that giving live performances and presentations gives him an excuse to "let the monkey out of his brain." Electricity, gravity, astronomy, and famous inventions have never been more exciting and interesting to young students as John Hadfield raps, explains, and throws himself around the stage, in "Science is Everywhere!" Check out John's website at www.JohnHadfield.net

LB2 - October 12, 2022: Alison Wiest presented to grades 4 and 5 (two separate events) at LBES. Her presentations focused on the art and science of authorship with attention to generating ideas, themes and subjects for a book. She plans to use her Roaming Riley series as the jumping off point for the conversation. FOSCL purchased 50 copies of "Roaming Riley: Delmarva" for LBES and will be available to fourth and fifth grades for pre-visit activities. These books are already at LBES, signed by the author, with FOSCL book plates affixed.

Allison Wiest was an elementary school teacher for 12 years but has had a passion

for writing since she was young. In 2018, she left her teaching position to finally write the story that had been developing in her head for over five years. "Roaming Riley: A Delmarva Adventure" is Allison's first novel in what will be a series of books about Riley's adventures around the world. As a child, Allison spent one week every summer vacationing in Ocean City, Maryland with her sisters, parents, and grandparents. When she grew older, her family moved the vacation to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. It seemed fitting that Riley's first adventure would be at the beach. Allison currently lives in Selbyville, Delaware with her husband, two daughters, three cats, and a dog. To learn more about the Roaming Riley adventure series head to www.allisonwiest.com and on Instagram: @allisonwiest_author.

LB3-Spring 2023: Children's book author Michelle Meadows brings her inspiring Zoom Presentation to individual Grades 2 and 3 classrooms on February 9, 2023. The author of many acclaimed books for children, her presentation will focus on her latest books, FLYING HIGH: The Story of Gymnastics Champion Simone Biles and BRAVE BALLERINA: The Story of Janet Collins. Michelle loves dreaming up new projects and telling stories with heart.

Connection, compassion, and family are common themes in her work. Books for Michelle's February program are at LBES, signed by the author, book plates affixed, and ready to go. Fingers-crossed that we can obtain more copies which have been requested from several wholesale book warehouses. Check out Michelle and her work at: <http://www.michellemeadows.com>, Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MMEadowsBooks>, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MichelleMeadowsBooks>, Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/MeadowsBooks/>.

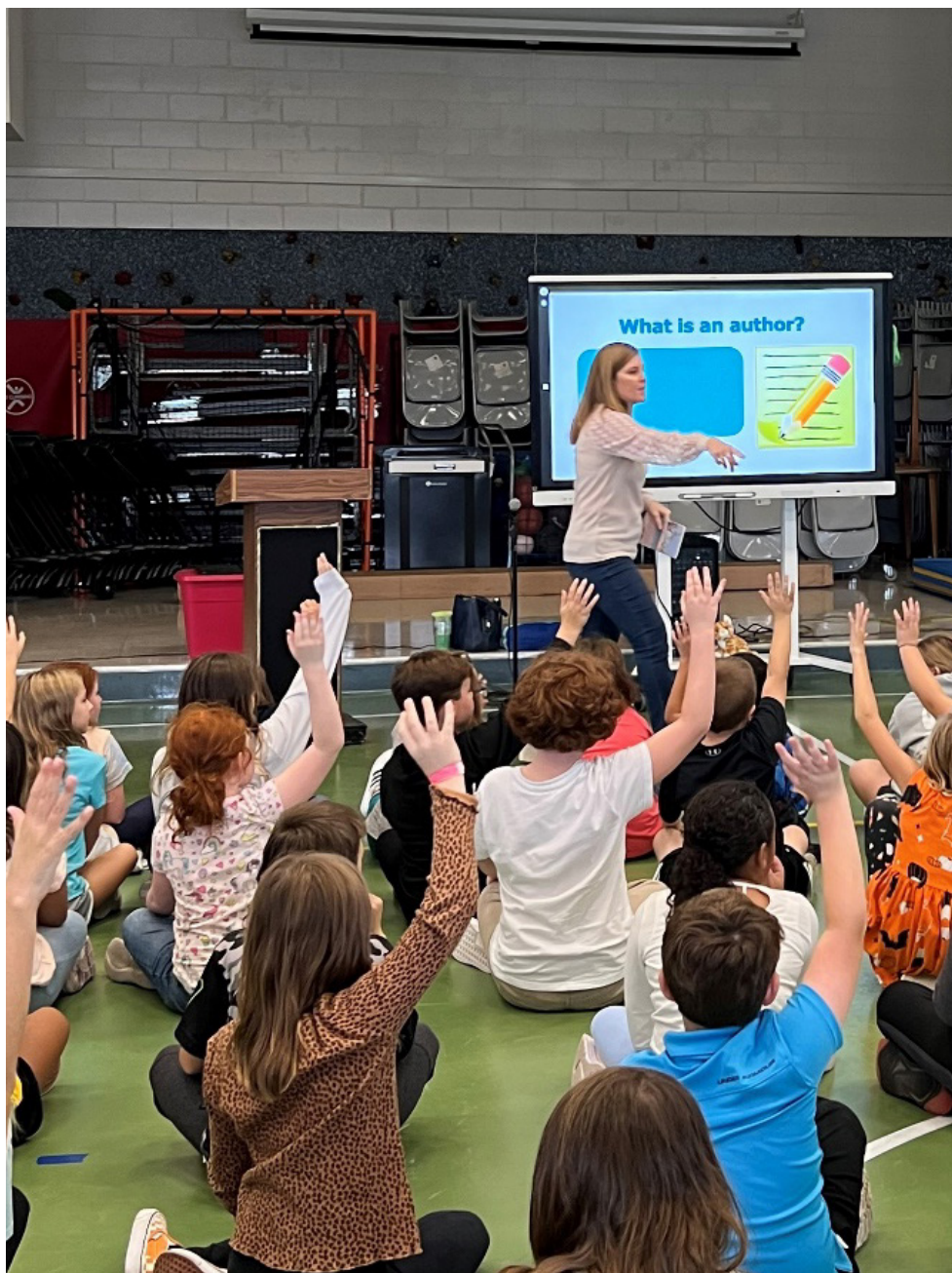
Now in its seventh year, the School Partnerships Program works closely with Pamela Webb, LBES School Principal, and Amanda

Miller, Reading Specialist, who seek teacher input to identify programs and projects to benefit students. Additionally, the Lord Baltimore - Friends of South Coastal Library partnership offers an opportunity to introduce students to the rich, varied, and free resources, programs and activities offered through the South Coastal Library as well.

ELC-Fall 2022: A new and welcome partnership for FOSCL, we are working with Dr. Janet Hickman, principal of the Indian River School District Early Learning Center in Frankford, to bring Christine Tomalin, a local author based in Millsboro, to our community's youngest learners in October; dates will be finalized once school begins. Christine will visit the four-year-old classrooms — 3 classes in the morning and 3 classes in the afternoon — for a total of six visits with three different teachers. She will read from her Big Book, "If I had a Tail," and talk with the kids about storytelling and how she generates ideas for her books. FOSCL is buying three classroom sets of, "If I had a Tail," from Chris's publisher in Great Britain.

An author and educator, Chris has taught, counseled and held administrative posts for over 35 years. Working with children has been her joy and inspiration. Now retired, she volunteers as a mediator for the courts in Delaware, reads aloud to preschoolers for Read Aloud Delaware and serves as an "Osprey Watcher" for Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife.

The FOSCL School Partnerships Program continues to bring locally based presenters to our schools with the hope that a lasting relationship will develop between FOSCL, our partner schools and our local authors. Bringing authors to the classroom encourages students to read and write more, helps motivate reluctant and struggling readers, and offers a chance for students to see a real person talk about their creative career.



Allison Wiest, Author, Presenting a FOSCL-Sponsored Program at LBES.



Outgoing FOSCL Board of Directors Members

- Heather Gossart
- Gale Poudrier
- Dick Oliver
- Pamela Richman (shown)
- John A. Rubinsohn (shown)
- Norbert Kraich will be stepping down as President but will stay on the FOSCL Board as Ex-Officio



Incoming FOSCL Board of Directors Members

- Rachel Maleh
- Darin McCann
- Liz Salonick

2023 Upcoming Events

- Publication of *The Connection* Spring
- Beach & Bay Cottage Tour Tickets Spring, online sales
- Publication of *The Connection* Summer
- Beach & Bay Cottage Tour, Virtual July 16 – August 6
- Cocktail Party July 21
- Beach & Bay Cottage Tour, In-Person July 27 – 28
- FOSCL Meeting Open to the Public September 26

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30			