

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



Everybody loves libraries, right?

I mean, who doesn't love going to the library? Who doesn't love being at the library? I do, you do, your neighbors do, your kids do, old folks do, young folks do, EVERYBODY DOES! You never know what you are going to find there. It's full of wonderful things, books, movies, DVDs, magazines; activities, crafting events, lectures, musical events; and it's full of peacefulness, quiet reflection, and helpful, informative staff. You know that it will be well worth your trip.

But apparently not everyone loves libraries or loves books. Nor, it seems, do some love the process of reading for that matter. I am so sick of all these self-serving, grandstanding, bloviating, know-nothing, hypocrite lawmakers and citizens inserting themselves in what and who folks read. They are attempting to pull books from library shelves, and petitioning local school boards, county, and state administrators to remove books and authors from libraries because they deem them inappropriate. It's sickening; it's frightening; and it's wrong. Libraries and librarians are often the first defense in protecting our First Amendment rights.

Kurt Vonnegut, in "A Man Without a Country" (2005) praised their function:

I want to congratulate librarians...who, all over this country, have staunchly resisted anti-democratic bullies who have tried to remove certain books from their shelves, and have refused to reveal to thought police the names of persons who have checked out those titles...the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House or the Supreme Court or the Senate or the House of Representatives...The America I

love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries.

Annie Proulx in her novel "Barkskins," (2016) [referring to the fictionalized Port Townsend's Jefferson County Library]: "...

The library is beloved...but Ms. Eisler's personal commitment to libraries is more than her affection for the community. She believes and says, librarians live and die by First Amendment rights."

Barbara Kingsolver in her novel, "Unsheltered" (2018): "...Everywhere I've gone since, I've found libraries...where the temple doors are thrown wide to all believers, regardless of pedigree...that every book I've written has some magic in it (that) I found in physical stacks or archives..."

We need to push back and get these folks out of our reading life. Apparently, 'push-back' is beginning to happen and beginning to be successful.

For example: According to a story on CNN (March 1) in Missouri in the Wentzville School District, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit against the local school district on the behalf of students over the removal

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

of certain books from school libraries. The public outcry against these removals and the ACLU suit put pressure on the local school board and the 'banned' books were restored to library shelves.

KXAN-TV in Austin, Texas reported on March 8 that the Texas Library Association (TLA) formed a coalition against the effort to ban certain books by the Texas Legislature across the state. The coalition, Texans for the Right to Read, says it hopes the coalition will amplify the voices of its 5,000 members calling to keep the books on library shelves, stating:

TLA believes that individuals have the right to free inquiry and the equally important right to form their own opinions. Freedom in selecting materials is a necessary safeguard to the freedom to read and must be protected against irresponsible attempts by self-appointed censors to abridge.

TLA President, Daniel Burgard, said, "Possibly the most important skill students

learn is how to develop a curious mind and think critically about a broad spectrum of subjects. Removing books based on the subjective opinions of elected officials has no place in our state or our democratic republic."

Fans of music legend, Dolly Parton, including her younger sister, Stella, were outraged in early March when a Kentucky State GOP Senator, Stephen Meredith, in an attempt to insert restrictive language in a state book banning bill, insinuated that Dolly's Imagination Library, which sends one million free books a month to children ages 1-5 said that Parton's project "...possibly could be sending children age-inappropriate content..." The reaction on Twitter and other social media platforms was immediate and intense. Stella Parton told local TV station, WTVF:

For [Meredith] to hint or insinuate something sinister, inappropriate for children just upset me to no end. For him to cast a hint of aspersion against a program that is a nonprofit and has been doing great work since 1995, I have just

been incensed by it . . . Here's the thing, my father was illiterate. It plagued him his entire life because he was not afforded the opportunity to get an education. We all feel, all eleven of us (children), so gifted with being able to read.

Parton fans across the country chimed in with similar outrage. The reaction against Rep. Meredith was intense. So far, the bill has not become law.

So, what can we do? Be vigilant. Keep an eye out for any potential movement regarding 'book-banning' efforts in Sussex County, or in the state. Support your local libraries, support the American Library Association (ALA), support neighborhood school libraries and monitor local school board meetings and state legislative sessions where such book-banning efforts often arise. Stay alert to such shenanigans and be prepared to speak out and contest them if they occur.

Well, despite all this angst and uncertainty the good news continues. The South

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

FREEDOM TO READ



The following is a quote from the book, "When Books Went to War," by Molly Guptill Manning. It gives us a reason to pause and think what books mean to us and how valuable they are in how much they represent our thoughts, values, and ideals.

Book burning is the deliberate destruction by fire of books or other written materials, usually carried out in a public context. The burning of books represents an element of censorship and usually proceeds from a cultural, religious, or political opposition to the materials in question.^[1]

In some cases, the destroyed works are irreplaceable and their burning constitutes a severe loss to cultural heritage. Examples include the burning of books and burying of scholars under China's Qin Dynasty (213–210 BCE), the obliteration of the Library of Baghdad (1258), the destruction of Aztec codices by Itzcoatl (1430s), the burning of Maya codices on the order of bishop Diego de Landa (1562), and the burning of Jaffna Public Library in Sri Lanka (1981).

In other cases, such as the Nazi book burnings, copies of the destroyed books survive, but the instance of book burning becomes emblematic of a harsh and oppressive regime which is seeking to censor or silence some aspect of prevailing culture.

Book burning can be an act of contempt for the book's contents or author, and the act is intended to draw wider public attention to this opinion.

Art destruction is related to book burning, both because it might have similar cultural, religious, or political connotations, and because in various historical cases, books and artworks were destroyed at the same time.

In modern times, other forms of media, such as phonograph records, video tapes, and CDs have also been burned, shredded, or crushed.

When the burning is widespread and systematic, destruction of books and media can become a significant component of cultural genocide...

In 1933, Nazis burned works of Jewish authors, and other works considered "un-German", at the library of the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft in Berlin.

The burning of books has a long history as a tool that has been wielded by authorities both secular and religious, in their efforts to suppress dissenting or heretical views that are believed to pose a threat to the prevailing order.



Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world.

Lauren Ward

For the record, we totally agree with Lauren. We tried our best to keep services running through the pandemic, and now that things are easing up a bit, we have no intention of stopping. We hope you also find plenty of good things in your library.

What will you find here? The obvious answer: BOOKS! There are still backlogs both in wood and paper production, and in staffing and materials shortages in publishing, printing, warehouse stocking and delivery BUT new titles are showing up a bit more rapidly. Don't give up hoping for that latest Patterson. Put it on hold as soon as it gets into the catalog.

Movies and TV series? They took a hit too, during the pandemic. But new films are making a comeback, as well as new seasons of your favorite shows.

Events and classes are becoming more "in-person" than before. Restrictions keep changing for the better, and so will we. Many events are still available as a hybrid, meaning there are open seats for registration as well as Zoom or live FaceBook streaming of the events too. So, if you're still more comfortable joining us from your living room, we're glad you "came in" to the library virtually. And our thanks go out to the FOSCL. They fund all of these events, so that no person ever has to pay a fee to attend.

To register for events, go to <https://southcoastal.lib.de.us/> and click on the "full calendar" link under What's

Happening to find your event and register. And what's on tap for spring?

- ✔ The Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild offers "free writes" workshops on Thursday mornings. Do you have an idea for an article or book? Maybe the pandemic inspired you to write? Bring your ideas to the workshop to make them real.
- ✔ Craft classes continue! From cacti to jewelry to our new MakerSpace Mondays, check to see if anything sings to you.
- ✔ Computer groups for the adults, STEM projects for our younger patrons—tech abounds here!
- ✔ History lectures continued with Fort Delaware: Great Escapes on April 22nd.
- ✔ Music concerts and book clubs dot our landscape, including some new themes for the book clubs, such as time travel and murder. (Hopefully, not at the same time.)
- ✔ Don't forget our Chef Charles cooking classes and—after all that food—our Zumba and Yoga classes to work off some of the "samples."
- ✔ Children's storytimes are returning, a little at a time—check the calendar links for dates.

If you need more information or help in finding or registering for an event, please call the SCL at 302-858-5518.

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

Coastal Library (SCL) is almost back to normal. Masks are off, library hours and access are increasing. Library Director, Sue Keefe, and her remarkable staff are busy as beavers keeping our wonderful library operating 'full steam ahead! In-person library programs, from crafting classes to cooking demonstrations, to lectures, to musical programs, have become available once again. Thanks to the diligent and very hard-working library staff, these Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL) funded programs are almost fully back in business, popular as ever and extremely well attended. Hallelujah!

Our all-volunteer FOSCL group is thrilled to continue to support the SCL as it has been doing since forming in 1988. We provide on-going financial help beyond the funding provided by Sussex County to enhance library services and programs to make certain that the SCL is the best community resource possible for our patrons. Thanks to all our contributors, volunteers, sponsors, and library staff to make this so. And thanks to all our loyal library supporters for all you do to keep SCL the jewel and the outstanding community resource that it is.

All The Best,
Norbert

Pop Up BOOK SALES

Instead of its annual book sale in August, FOSCL will be holding spontaneous book sales throughout the year. These "pop-up" book sales will occur as we receive donated books.

Please check *The Coastal Point* or the SCL website to see when the next pop-up book sale will occur. Find great books and kid's DVDs for great prices! Previous best sellers, cookbooks, beach reads, children DVDs and more!

Stop by the library for a pop-up book sale!



Reading with Children: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

exposure to, facility with, and appreciation of the written, spoken and depicted word benefits all involved in the experience.

Promoting and celebrating literacy, in all its forms, is a major goal of the FOSCL-Lord Baltimore Elementary School Partnership Committee, which I chair. This year, our hard-working committee will expand the program to the Early Learning Center in Frankford.

Reading to the young, holding the book together (I'm old school), turning the pages together, interpreting the illustrations together, engages multiple learning styles and modalities for the child. People were sharing in the experience long before volumes of regulations related to Special Needs students saw the light of day. We knew intuitively that multisensory experiences heighten the chances of successful learning.

The process also demonstrates what we, as adults, value or consider important. Adults, be they parents, guardians, or grandparents lead busy lives. For them to dedicate time to the shared reading experience places tangible value on the experience and also demonstrates the significance of the person they share it with.

Underscoring the importance of reading to and with the young is recent research that has resulted in World Languages being introduced into the elementary school

curriculum grades K-5 in many parts of the country. That research indicates that early elementary learners are more receptive to language introduction and exposure than they are in the upper grades. If this is true of a second language, it must have even greater impact on the primary language and gaining facility and comfort with it.

We have just come through an incredibly difficult time in the education of young people. Parents and grandparents took on important roles as surrogate teachers trying to compensate for the obvious shortcoming of virtual or remote learning. Hopefully, much of that responsibility has been alleviated leaving more time for the joyful activity of reading with the young. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

Lawrence Mayer is completing his fourth year as a member of the FOSCL Board. He was, for twenty-five years, a teacher of History, Government and Economics at Ardsley High School in Westchester County, NY and, for the following twenty-three years served as an administrator at several high performing, middle and high schools in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

For me the memory is bound up in a book called, "Der Struwwelpeter"; think of him as the German mirror image of Charlie Shultz's Pippen. My mom read it to me in German as she was most comfortable in her first language.

For my children, it was "Never Talk to Strangers," The "Tomten" series by Astrid Lindgren, and selected chapters from JFK's "Profiles in Courage," books we read together when they were young. Now, during family gatherings when we reflect on their growing up, they will still quote lines from these very different volumes which all of them have purchased as adults and read to their children or nieces and nephews at bedtime.

This is just one benefit, perhaps blessing, not necessarily quantifiable, but not all outcomes have to be, of reading to the young. It's now a multigenerational memory cherished by all who participated in it.

As an educator, a parent and a grandparent, I believe that anything we can do to promote

2022 Upcoming Events

-  **Beach & Bay Cottage Tour**
Tickets go on Sale (Online only)
May 1
-  **Beach & Bay Cottage Tour**
IN-PERSON
July 27-28
-  **Publication of *The Connection***
Summer
-  **FOSCL Meeting**
Open to the Public
September 27
-  **Beach & Bay Cottage Tour**
VIRTUAL
July 17-August 6
-  **Publication of *The Connection***
Fall

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			



I spoke with State Senator, Gerald Hocker, a true friend of the SCL, a philanthropist, businessman, and visionary. For a synopsis of Senator Hocker's biography, please see page 6.

Editor's Note: *At first, the Bethany Beach library was a very busy bookmobile. Then, it was a trailer. Soon, the library outgrew its space and needed to raise funds for the first building. Through the first capital campaign, the library opened, in 1994, its new and spacious quarters (10,000 square feet) on Kent Avenue. The library once again outgrew its space. Through a second capital campaign, the library reopened on April, 20, 2009 renovated and newly expanded to 22,000 square feet including a larger meeting room. FOSCL Board of Directors - all volunteers - continues its financial support of SCL for additional programming and materials beyond the scope of the county's budget.*

Interview with Senator Gerald Hocker Delaware State Senator

You have a long history being involved with FOSCL. How did you get involved with FOSCL and what role did you play?

I was in the store one day, when two ladies came to me and said our goal is to build a new library. Would you consider being on the board and helping us get it done. I said I'd be glad to. So, they made me co-capital campaign chairman with Dean Phillips and with a team raised every penny, before breaking ground, to build a 10,000 square foot library. People would see me in my stores and comment, why are you building a library so big, and my comment was we can build up to that size and we have every penny, why wouldn't you? At the Grand Opening and ribbon cutting, many people made comments about the many empty shelves. How are you ever going to fill it up? Well, twelve years later, we built another library twice as big. The Board came back and asked me to be capital campaign chairman with Senator George Bunting. George and I have always been friends. George was State Rep.

You co-chaired the second capital campaign to expand the library with then, Democrat Senator George Bunting. You had run against him in 2000. What was it like working with a previous opponent and how did your relationship make the campaign stronger?

George and I have always been friends. My father, a Republican who held that position, helped George get elected. When I got talked into running for his seat in 2000, I won half the precinct. But on the day of election, we were still friends. I didn't run against him; I ran for his seat. When he retired from the

Senate seat, I was already a Representative, and he came to me and endorsed me. I also got endorsed by the Democrat Senator prior to George. I got endorsed by two democrat Senators. I think it's because of my reputation; I know the area, I know the people, I didn't play party politics. I did what I thought was right.

What role do libraries play in our communities today? Libraries play a very important role and help keep families together. In areas where there is no internet, libraries play a huge part to help patrons use the libraries' computers. Even during Covid with virtual schools, a lot of kids had to go to the library parking lot to get WiFi for the computers they got from schools. Through the library, you can get resources from anywhere in the area. I pushed for the library to get a big meeting room for the community to use.

I just helped to get funding for Selbyville to expand its library. Governor Carney recently met with officials, and the state will be providing some of the "Covid money" for the Selbyville library expansion.

You're quite the philanthropist. Tell us about your band, Gerald Hocker and the Jamboree Boys. How much have you donated over the 37 years and how were you formed? How long and what role does music play in your life? I started playing standup bass when I was in high school; the same instrument that my father used to play with his family. I played in the state's band when I was in twelfth grade. I played the tuba from third grade

on. I love to play country music. Then we started the Jamboree Boys. What started that was when my oldest son was in Little League ball, the field was terrible. They had no home run fence. We put together the springtime jamboree as a fundraiser, and it was very successful. So, I did it for them two to three years, and branched out from there. We had the 38th one planned when Covid-19 started. Hopefully, we'll do it next year. In addition to myself, my two sons are in the band, and three friends – a vocalist, a rhythm guitar player, and a lead guitar player. Sometimes, my daughter, Beth Ann Cahall, a country singer who once had her own band, comes up from Nashville, Tennessee to sing. Over the 37 years, over one million dollars has been raised for different local organizations: Little Leagues for young kids, fire companies, Lions clubs. Every penny goes to the organization in need.

What are some of your fondest memories growing up in Southern Delaware? Emily and I both grew up here. When growing up here, I'd ride my bike from where I was raised on 26 in Millville and go to Bethany Beach, and knew who lived in every house, and I almost knew everybody I met. When summer was over, there was nobody in Bethany Beach. I made the comment in 1971 when I first bought the store that if I died in one of the aisles after Labor Day, they wouldn't find me until Easter. That's how slow it was. My wife ran the register, cut the lunch meat, wrapped the meat; there was no business in the winter time. Now it's all changed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

How did you decide to go to the University of Delaware and receive a Business Administration degree at a time when that was uncommon?

When I was in high school, I wanted to be a mortician. I worked with a funeral home to make sure that I like it. I couldn't get into mortuary school without a year in college. So, I went to my guidance counselor. I wanted to go one year to the University of Delaware and then transfer. She said that no way would she get me into the University of Delaware; that I wouldn't make it. With the help of others, I went to the University of Delaware; the second semester I made the dean's list.

You were running the grocery business for 29 years when you decided to run for an elected office. What made you decide to run for office in 2000?

I'd been in business for 30 years and saw so many rules and regulations that were killing a small business opportunity. Nobody today can do what my wife and I did 50 years ago. Just couldn't afford to do it. We came here with nothing and we're able to expand where we are now. I would like to see a lot of regulations and burdens [lifted] and the state to help people get started rather than stop people. There are very, very few business people in state government and it shows. That's the only reason. I'm not there because I need a job. I'm not there because I need the income. I'm there because I'm trying to make a difference for other business people.

My family has been in business for 75 years in this area. My father with his brother-in-law had started the Millville hardware store. I was raised in the hardware business not the grocery store business. My uncle started the grocery business seven or eight years after the hardware business. My uncle had no children. I was a graduate of the University of Delaware. I had been through ACME Markets managers program and was going to be relocated. My uncle was in poor health, had no children, couldn't hire the right kind of help, and he called to talk to me about buying him out. He gave me an opportunity I could not turn down. It was a much smaller store with grocery and hardware and five employees. That's what got me in business for myself. If that opportunity hadn't existed, I would still be working for ACME Markets. They were very good to me. The day they told me that they would make me a manager and move me is the day I gave them my notice. They wished me well and said if this doesn't work out, you have a job to come back to. I felt very good about that because I did my job. I was in business for four years and decided to put on an addition. This was in 1971. In 1984, I built a brand-new hardware and moved it out of the supermarket. Expanded the supermarket and have gone to 300 employees.

The key to my success has been the employees that I have put around me. I have employees that stayed with me from high school until retirement. I have one employee who's been with me for 46 years. I keep my good employees. They are the success to my business. I have tried to hire the best and keep the best.

What keeps you motivated as you start a new day? I can't sit still. I'm 74 years old and have plans for other business expansions. We will open a banquet center until the job market improves and then convert it into a crab house. In March, I opened our new, expanded Hardware store.

I have a game plan and it's all in my head. I decided I wanted a hardware; I knew exactly what I wanted; and then we put it on paper. I've had people

Gerald W. Hocker, Sr, State Senator District 20



Date of Birth: January 9, 1948

Place of Birth: Beebe Hospital Lewes, DE

- Lifelong native of Sussex County-Raised in Millville, DE
- Attended Lord Baltimore High School; Graduated 1966
- Graduated in 1971 from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration

- June 14, 1969—Married Emily West
- October 23, 1971—Took over Hocker's grocery store from Uncle Jake Hocker
- Five Children; Fourteen Grandchildren
- State Senator 20th District-2012-present
- Senate Minority Leader-2018-present
- State Representative 38th District-2002-2012
- House Minority Whip-2010-2012

Co-Capital Campaign Chairman (along with Dean Phillips) **for the Friends of the South Coastal Library** helping raise 100% of the money to build the new library before construction began. Served on the Board of Directors for three (3) years until construction was completed. **Ten (10) years later** served as Capital Campaign chairman along with Senator George Bunting to double the size of the South Coastal Library.

Founder and Organizer of the Annual Springtime Jamboree for 37 years. All proceeds have benefited non-profit organizations, helping to put thousands of dollars in the community.

Beneficiaries: Lower Sussex Little League, River Soccer, Pop Warner Football, Delaware Hospice, Millville Volunteer Fire Co., Bethany Beach Volunteer Co., Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Co., Fenwick Lions Club, Lord Baltimore Lions Club, Millsboro Little League.

- Member of the Ocean View Church of Christ
- Honorary member of the Millville Fire Company
- Recipient of the *Melvin Jones Fellow Award*-Highest level Lions Club Award offered
- Recipient of the *Ralph N. Helm Fellow Award* for Humanitarian Services---Delaware Lions Foundation, Inc.
- Recipient of the *1996 Hall of Fame Award* from the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce for his dedication to serving the business community and long-standing membership in the Chamber of Commerce.
- Recipient of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Award for *"Meritorious and Distinguished Service in Furthering the Aims and Ideals for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States"*
- Received Certificate of Appreciation Award from the United States Coast Guard for *"Recognition of Notable Services which have assisted greatly in furthering the aims and function of the Coast Guard Station-Indian River Inlet"*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

come from everywhere to see my concept of having the hardware inside the supermarket on Route 26.

Even with three of my five children in the business, I'm still very involved.

Seldom do I watch TV unless it's the news or a ball game. I take care of my own yard. I cut my own grass, trim my own shrubs. We got a place in Cambridge to get away and do my own work there. I have 14 grandchildren- 10 boys and 4 girls.

What accomplishments are you most proud of as an elected official? Delaware had no Veteran's home. I met with the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs and received his pledge to fund the Veteran's home. My first year as an elected official I got federal funding and resistant governor support for a Veteran's home in 2003.

I got legislation to get the Assawoman Canal dredged around 2008. It was a tremendous effort because of environmental opposition through the courts. Once the flow started, it helped clean up Little Assawoman Bay. I've spent hours and hours clamming, skiing and I know the bays. We used to have deep channels. We're working to get that done again.

What challenges do you see facing Southern Delaware? Southern Delaware thrives on tourism. The challenge is not to lose that and to have the infrastructure to keep it here. Clean water – not only clean drinking water, clean ocean, clean bays, clean beaches. Right now, the biggest challenge is the work force. People can't afford to live here and work. It's such a retirement community; they're not in the working world; and the price of land and houses is so high that it's hard for someone to locate here and work. I had a meeting with a local developer to find ways to lower the cost of communities that are for work force housing only. Mobile homes are caught up in the supply chain shortages and those aren't available now. It's a rough time doing anything these days between labor and supply shortages.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? From the time I was nine-years old, I started rabbit hunting with my father. I've always had beagles. I love running my dogs. I have 11 right now. I'm more of a rabbit runner than a hunter. From the middle of October to the middle of April, I run my dogs. They don't kill anything, they run. I breed and raise my own dogs.

What advice would you give to our youth today in leading a fulfilling life? Get involved in the church, stay with the right crowd, and keep your parents involved. Every child should be in the work force as early as possible because you learn so much. But there are places out there that you shouldn't want your child to work. I have helped a lot of kids. I had a girl working for me and she wanted to be a pharmacist like my daughter is. She was accepted into the same school as my daughter. When she was a Junior or Senior her parents split up and she couldn't afford to go to school. Neither one of her parents would fund it. She asked me to put her back on the working schedule. I said to her you're going to go to school. We'll find you the funding. With the help of myself, other locals, and the governor that I called, she is now a pharmacist. And there's other kids like that I've helped.

Tell us something very few people know about you. Emily and I have been married for 52 years. I was in the 10th grade and she was in the 7th grade. One day she looked up and I winked at her. She and I really are the only ones we ever dated. We are still best friends.

God's played a big part in my life. The night she graduated [from high school] was on Friday, and we had the wedding rehearsal. The next day we got married, and on the following day, it was Sunday, we moved to our apartment in Newark. I had 2 more years of school [at the University of Delaware] left. We wanted a child but I wanted to be out of school first. On the day of my very last final exam Emily went into labor and had our first child. I missed the exam. After it was all over, I went to see the professor and he knew me from shopping at the ACME store. He also was leaving the university and it was his last class. So, he looked at my grades and said I would have to get 100 to get an "A" in the course; I'd have to flunk it pretty bad to get a "C"; are you ok with a "B" because that's probably what you'd get anyway? He marked it off, and I was done with college that second. That second. I just had a new baby and done with college. Can you imagine how I felt? The weight of the world lifted off my shoulders. The September of that year my uncle called me and made me the offer to buy his business; October 1971, I moved back down here and took over the business. It all worked out and we're still together.

Anything else you would like for people to know? The future is out there; it's up to you to get it. I was told I'd never make it in business; I was too young, didn't have enough experience; I scared my parents to death with how far I went into debt for this addition and that addition. They got used to it and quit worrying about it. My father didn't want me to buy out my uncle, he thought I was making good money with ACME, but I soon proved myself.

Senator Hocker is a true example of that; when most people take it easy, he goes for a new challenge; he isn't slowing down anytime soon. As he said, "There's only one way to coast and that's downhill, and I don't want to go downhill."

Past Interviews

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

SPRING 2022

Gerald Hocker
State Senator

WINTER 2022

Rachel Lynch, Director
Sussex County Libraries

FALL 2021

Rosemary Hardiman,
Mayor of Bethany Beach

SUMMER 2021

Kathy Green, Chair of
Beach & Bay Cottage Tour

SPRING 2021

Our Beloved Library
Patrons

WINTER 2021

Barbara Nicholson, Author

SPRING 2020

Chef Charles Oppman,
Chef and Lecturer

WINTER 2020

Dr. William Gudelunas,
Professor and Lecturer

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM NEWS



Author Dr. Joanne K. Guilfoil

The ABSs of Flying Over Delmarva

For more information on Joanne Guilfoil visit shorebooksllc.com

Local author, Joanne K. Guilfoil, PhD, took the Lord Baltimore Elementary School (LBES) first- and second-graders on a morning “flight of imagination” over Delmarva on Tuesday, March 29, thanks to the sponsorship of FOSCL. FOSCL hosted the spring program which brought together Dr. Guilfoil with students and their teachers to explore her book, *The ABCs of Flying Over Delmarva*, a book about Delmarva aircraft for young readers. The book portrays each alphabet letter with a large color photo of an airplane or pilot, a drawing to color, and words that rhyme.

Dr. Guilfoil shared many wonderful stories with LBES students. She brought to life our local aviators, talking about how they first learned to fly, how that skill evolved for various uses both personal and professional, and even offered tales of some of their breathtaking airborne antics. Many hands shot into the air, when Dr. Guilfoil asked, “How many of you students think you might want to grow up to be a pilot?”

FOSCL provided first- and second-grade teachers with a copy of the colorful, *ABCs of Flying Over Delmarva* book for the classroom, and students each received their own copy of the companion activity book,

Flying over Delmarva A to Z: People, Places and Planes, a theme coloring book ideal for the lower grades.

FOSCL and Dr. Guilfoil will be taking this show on the road May 25th and 26th, heading to the Early Learning Center in Frankford for a presentation to young students. 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.

In addition to sponsoring children’s school and library programs, FOSCL provides resources to enhance the library experience of SCL’s patrons, raising funds for all its projects. The proceeds from community events like the highly regarded annual Beach & Bay Cottage Tour, and the new Pop-Up Book Sales go directly back into programs serving our community.

If you are interested in becoming a “Friend of the South Coastal Library” and supporting projects like the School Partnership, please contact FOSCL at 302- 537-5828 or info@FOSCL.com for more information.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE *Lead | Learn | Connect*

Are you a fan of our beloved South Coastal Library who is looking for a way to connect and serve in our community? Consider The Friends of South Coastal Library (FOSCL).

The FOSCL Board of Directors consists of local community members who want to make a difference by sharing their talents and insights in support of our excellent library. An all-volunteer organization, Friends members advocate and raise money to support our library, develop meaningful community programs and services, and supplement library resources to strengthen the library user experience.

Qualifications for board positions include leadership skills, organizational skills, financial management, fundraising, oral and written communication skills, and a strong love of libraries.

For more information please see our website: www.foscl.com or reach out by email at barbcfoscl@gmail.com

COMING SOON: apply to the FOSCL Board by submitting an online application!





Viewers from 24 states and 5 continents enjoyed last year's Virtual Tour. So that as many people as possible can experience and enjoy our 30th Anniversary Beach and Bay Cottage Tour, we're offering a Hybrid Tour this year. You will have your choice of All Virtual or a mix of All Virtual & In-Person at selected homes.

Tickets for the All-Virtual Tour will be \$35, the same as last year. Your Virtual ticket will be valid for viewing for three weeks, from July 17 through August 6, one week longer than last year. The Virtual Tour can be watched VIRTUALLY at ANYTIME, AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE, from July 17 through August 6 from ANYWHERE in the world!

For those who prefer the Virtual/In-Person Combo ticket, the cost will be \$50. The Combo ticket entitles the holder to view the Tour virtually from July 17 through August 6, the same as Virtual ticket holders, AND to tour five of the homes that will be open for In Person visits. In-Person tickets are limited to 500 for Wednesday, July 27 and 500 tickets for Thursday, July 28.

When you purchase your ticket, you MUST choose your Tour Day and your ticket is only valid on that day. The Combo ticket also includes a 30th

Anniversary Special Commemorative Canvas Tote bag and a printed tour Admission Book which is also your In-Person ticket.

Your donations, as well, are important in assuring the financial success of the Cottage Tour, FOSCL's major fundraiser each year. All proceeds benefit the library and its many programs.

Here's some pertinent information regarding tickets and donations:

- **Tickets can be purchased on-line ONLY starting May 1.** Find updates regarding ticket sales as well as tour details at the Cottage Tour website: beachandbaycottagetour.com
- **Please also consider making a donation.** Donations can be made online at beachandbaycottagetour.com or by check made out to: Beach & Bay Cottage Tour and mailed to P.O.

Box 753, Bethany Beach, DE 19930. You can make a donation now and/or anytime throughout the year.

- **Look for your Cottage Tour brochure** in the mail or in your email inbox near Memorial Day. It will contain more detailed information about the exciting virtual tour, our sponsors, and art and restaurant raffles.

We appreciate your continuing support of the Cottage Tour and we look forward to welcoming you to our Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Tour in July. Remember to check beachandbaycottagetour.com for the latest information on the 30th Annual Beach & Bay Cottage Tour. Be sure to be part of this exciting Tour benefitting our local library.

See you Virtually or In-Person in July!

Tickets can only be purchased online starting May 1!

See you Virtually (July 17-August 6) and In-Person July 27 and 28!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

It was May 2, 2007 that I started working at the SCL. My husband had just retired, and I was eager to get out of the house and away from so much marital “togetherness.”

It was the start of many amazing relationships and experiences. From arranging displays, to Chix with Stix field trips (especially to the alpacas) and meetings, to iPad classes and dressing up for holidays, and of course, singing with co-workers; it has been quite a ride. And thanks to my fearless director, never dull. **Thank you everyone, for making these past 15 years fun and rewarding!**

Editor’s Note: *Library staff member, Julia Peterson, is retiring on May 4th, and wanted to send a Thank You out to all the library users she has met in her 15 years, including her favorite photos. I attended Julia’s book club at the library where the discussions were non-judgmental yet intellectual and fun. Will miss you, Julia.*



15 YEARS



Director’s note: *my personal favorite is the photo of Julia and Joanne doing the YMCA song at closing. They moonlighted on off-broadway during off-hours....Julia, you’ll be missed. Sue*

Somebody's Mother

By Mabel Down Northam Brine (1816-1913)

The woman was old and ragged and gray
And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.

The street was wet with a recent snow
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

She stood at the crossing and waited long,
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng

Of human beings who passed her by
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eyes.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,
Glad in the freedom of "school let out,"

Came the boys like a flock of sheep,
Hailing the snow piled white and deep.

Past the woman so old and gray
Hastened the children on their way.

Nor offered a helping hand to her —
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir

Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet
Should crowd her down in the slippery street.

At last came one of the merry troop,
The gayest laddie of all the group.

He paused beside her and whispered low,
"I'll help you cross, if you wish to go."

Her aged hand on his strong, young arm
She placed, and so, without hurt or harm,

He guided the trembling feet along,
Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went,
His young heart happy and well content.

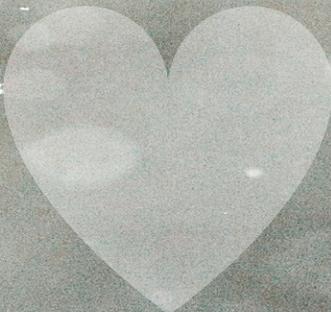
"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,
For all she's aged and poor and slow.

"And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand,

"If ever she's poor and old and gray,
When her own dear boy is far away."

And "somebody's mother" bowed low her head
In her home that night, and the prayer she said

Was "God be kind to the noble boy,
Who is somebody's son, and pride and joy!"



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP THANK YOUS



Photos
Courtesy of
Barb Calkins

