

The Connection

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH COASTAL LIBRARY

Friends working together to build a stronger library and community.

Vol. 28 | No. 2 | Spring 2021

FOSCL

P.O. Box 1617
Bethany Beach, DE 19930-1617
302-537-5828
www.foscl.com

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Norbert Kraich

VICE PRESIDENT

Linda Maxwell

TREASURER

Ron Weber

RECORDING SECRETARY

Dick Oliver

EDITOR

Helen N. Pastis

SYSTEMS MANAGER

Kathleen Jankowski

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Barb Calkins
Heather Gossart
Kathy Green
Kathleen Jankowski
Norbert Kraich
Linda Lewis
Lawrence Mayer
Linda Maxwell
Dick Oliver
Anthony Parisi, Jr.
Helen N. Pastis
Gale Poudrier
Pamela Richman
John A. Rubinsohn
Esther Samios
Gilbert E. Tietz
Ron Weber

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Susanne Keefe

BOOKKEEPER

Pamela Miller

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Carrie Boyden

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

Now what? We've diligently worn our masks (many of us have permanently etched 'mask lines' in our faces to prove it), we've social distanced, hunkered down and stayed in our huts for over a year.

We've shunned our kids, our grandkids, our friends, our families, our neighbors, the grocery store, restaurants, church, even the family pets.

We played the newest internet game "Where's Mo?(derna)-Where's Pi?(fizer)" Sort of like a "Where's Waldo" for desperate, anxious, nervous, vaccine-seeking seniors. But we, most of us anyway, got our shot(s). We survived the virus monster. But many of our fellow Americans did not. Over 500,000 folks and counting have lost their lives to this deadly, horrific virus. How many of those would still be alive if perhaps more competent leadership would have been exhibited in the early stages of this pandemic and throughout the Summer of 2020? I guess we'll never know but I feel certain that it would have been a significant number.

So, where do we go from here? I don't know. But I guess we're kind of getting used to it. We've watched so much Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and Disney+ that we probably owe them more subscription money. Our car makes me salivate every time I get in it from all the delicious carry-out smells. I don't need to buy any new clothes since I haven't worn anything but sweats in a year. And I think we have only used twenty gallons of gas for our car since last March.

At least at the beginning of all this hibernation I wasn't dumb enough to buy Zoom stock when it was at \$36 a share (\$400+ as of 3/4/21). My smartie-pants techie friend, Don, said that in-person meetings are going to be a thing of the past and that due to the pandemic, virtual, internet-based meetings were going to be a new found industry..."nope", says the not-so-smart me, "due to pent-up demand, commercial real estate and cruise ship lines are what I'm thinking for growth stocks..."; Humm...brilliant prognosticating huh? Don't ask me for a tip on the Kentucky Derby.

Well, despite all this covid angst and social and life-style uncertainty there is some really good news. **The South Coastal Library (SCL) HAS RE-OPENED!!!** Thanks to the Sussex County folks and to Library Director, Susanne Keefe, and her remarkable staff, our wonderful library finally opened its doors in early March, albeit in a somewhat limited fashion. But that's okay. At least it's open. Now, I have someplace to go. Particularly in the afternoons when I leave the house after lunch for my daily walk and to pick up our mail at the Bethany post office (forced togetherness only goes so far). Now I can spend part of the time browsing the library shelves, reading magazines, annoying the staff, staying out of my wife's hair, and tending to Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL) business in our organizations' cozy little library office. Life is good (again). I'm sure that it won't be long before in-person library programs, from crafting classes to cooking demonstrations, to lectures to musical programs, to kids and teens programs become available once again. Thanks to the diligent and very hard-working library staff, these FOSCL funded programs will be fully back in business, popular as ever and extremely well attended. Thank goodness.

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





Director's Report | Susanne Keefe

And folks, we have a lot of change going on. If you had told me a year ago that we would have been taken off-line by a virus—for

almost a year—I would have asked you which fiction author were you thinking of?

And so—some good news for all—the SCL has reopened, in a limited way, starting the week of March 1st! We are taking this a step at a time so we can continue to serve our community and keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. We also realize that there are people that want or need to have our lobby-side contactless access going while others are chomping at the bit to browse again. So, our new schedule and services are, as follows:

Lobby-side pickup of materials by appointment;

- Mondays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;
- Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.;

Browsing (limit of 30 patrons at any given time) and computer appointments;

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
- No appointment needed to browse; we ask that you keep visits brief so more people have a chance to come back to the library
- 90-minute appointments for computer use due to limited seating.

What can you expect when you come “home” to the library? There are changes designed to limit the spread of virus—things are not “normal” but are definitely getting better. We are in our maiden voyage (no Titanic references please). As things change, we will keep on adjusting, for safety and better service. **Changes—for now—include:**

- ♥ Temperature check at door, hand sanitizer EVERYWHERE.
- ♥ Regular cleaning schedules and security guard on site.

♥ Plexiglass. All over. Please don't knock on the plexiglass, you'll startle the fish (also known as your favorite library staff).

♥ Children's, Teen, Study and Meeting rooms are all currently closed. New children's and teens' books, DVDs, magazines, audios have all been moved into their own areas in our main area. If you need a specific title from the closed areas, just ask a staffer. We'll go get whatever you need.

♥ Events and classes will stay virtual for the foreseeable future. When the weather gets better, maybe we can go back to reading-garden, craft classes.

♥ **EVERYTHING** depends on the virus and what it does next.

All of that being said, we are really looking forward to seeing you again. Even through plexiglass, it's going to be “old home week.” See you soon!



Gilbert E. Tietz, FOSCL Board Member. He will be greatly missed.

IN MEMORIAM Gilbert E. Tietz | 1944-2021

The FOSCL and the Bethany Beach community lost a dear friend recently. Early in the new year, on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, our fellow FOSCL Board member Gil Tietz passed away suddenly. Gil will be missed greatly by all board members and by the community at large. Gil loved the beach and the Bethany community. Gil was a presence. Gil was a force. Gil was a good person. Gil was a friend.

Gil began his association with the SCL early in his relationship with Bethany Beach. His mother, Wilhelmina Tietz, was one of the Founding Members of FOSCL when the organization was formed in 1988. Marylou and Gil Tietz adopted the SCL shortly after buying their first house in Bethany in 1978. They immediately signed up for library cards and they made certain that their two daughters, Bethany, and Devin, had cards as well. The Tietz family were both Contributors and Patrons of the library expansion campaign in 2005. Gil and Marylou became permanent Bethany residents in 2016 and Gil joined the FOSCL Board of Directors in the fall of 2019. He quickly became immersed in all that FOSCL does. As a former lawyer, Gil brought his legal expertise to the

board and jumped in with both feet. In his all too short tenure on the board he shared with us his insightful and extremely wise counsel.

Gil was an avid and eclectic reader and a true believer in the power of the written word. Gil, however, never seemed to master the library's on-line book ordering system - how to search the Internet for books and then put them on hold. But that was okay. His frequent visits, often daily, always weekly, would find him at the library circulation desk, crumpled paper list of titles and authors that he wanted to pursue and order in hand. It was always a treat for the lucky library staffer who drew his number. Gil would amble up to the desk, ask the winning recipient how they were doing?, how was the family?, the children the grandchildren?, check with them on what was happening at the library, what about this weather?, where are you heading for vacation? and place his order for his books. He probably read almost every World War II book, most of the world history books and many Presidential biographies, housed at the SCL. Gil was a constant presence at library lectures, musical performances, and other events. He never missed a Dr. Bill Gudelunas lecture, and David Zipse concerts were a particular favorite. He thoroughly used the library and thoroughly enjoyed it.

He will be greatly missed.
Norbert Kraich



Editor's Connection Conversations | Helen N. Pastis

Interviews With You — Our Dear Library Patrons

Are we all giddy or what? With Excitement! Of our beloved library's reopening. On Tuesday, March 2, 2021, SCL opened its doors to the public. We all showed up as if it were a premier; giddy with excitement like we did on our first day of school in our younger days. People were milling around with a new energy. So, I talked to many of you that turned out. One library patron said she loved to just browse around the library; just because she could. She was going to check out a book or two to celebrate. Another patron said she had to catch up on People's magazine, as she was holding a pretty voluminous stack. I just know that all the library staff were smiling, ear to ear, behind those masks. You could just tell. I asked one staffer how did she like the reopening. She loved it. It felt so good to have people back inside the library. In interviews with television channels, WBOC and WRDE, our SCL Library Director, Susanne Keefe, said that, "In a 6-hour time period yesterday [3/2], we had 206 people stop in."

Currently, library patrons at the SCL may come in for browsing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. They may use the computers by appointment only.

However, the library will continue its curbside pickup for those that are not comfortable venturing forth just yet. Sue went on to say, "We kept the lobby-side, curbside pickup, because some people need that still. They're compromised in some situation or another, and they need the extra safety." Lobby-side pickup by appointment continues on Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This service continues for people that want or need the contactless service.

When library patrons first enter the library, they will have their temperature checked without contact and asked several health-related questions. Once they enter, they will notice the large plastic sheeting surround the check-out desk with the staff sitting behind it. Much like the banks use now. There are hand sanitizers everywhere.

SCL can have up to 30 patrons at a time in the library and is asking people to keep their visits brief (under an hour). If lines start to develop, SCL will have to make more changes.

Only the main part of the library is open to the public, with 90-minute intervals of cleaning, in order to stem the spread of the virus. Children's, Teen, Study rooms, computer classroom, and meeting rooms are closed to the public for now. [CONTINUED](#)

The Photos

Photo 1: The library's doors are open!!! You may come in now.

Photo 2: Your temperature is checked (contactless) as soon as you enter.

Photo 3: "Browse Section" books face out to minimize handling.

Photo 4: Children's room closed for now.

Photo 5: Children's books available in the main area.

Photo 6: More children's books in the main area.

Photo 7: Newspapers are not available just yet.

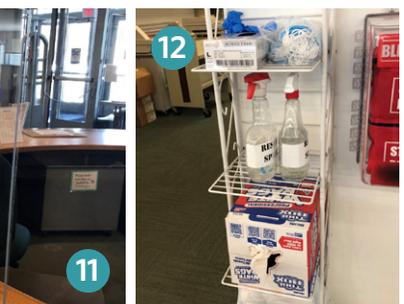
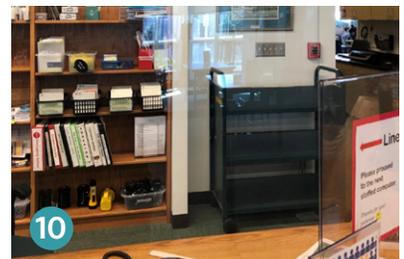
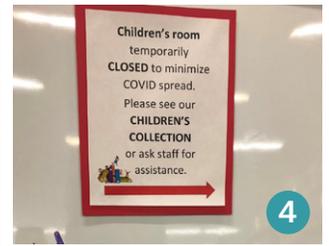
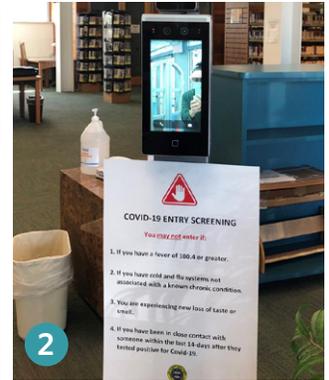
Photo 8: Teen books available in the main area.

Photo 9: To the far left.

Photo 10: The staff is behind the plastic sheeting.

Photo 11: Plastic sheeting all around the front desk.

Photo 12: Sign of the times - A sanitizing station for staff use.



Editor's Connection Conversations | Helen N. Pastis

With only six seats available, computer use will be by appointment only, made in advance. Computer sessions are 90 minutes long. The computer keyboards are covered by plastic that is replaced after each use.

The library programs continue to be virtual also; and hopefully, some hybrid form will be developed soon. SCL hopes to have some socially-distanced classes in the garden again, like it did last fall.

Sussex County Library Director, Kathy Graybeal, told WBOC, "Public libraries are all about access, whatever access may be, because quite often when somebody's coming in for computer use, it[']s not just to email their grandmother, it[']s for their job, so they have enough stress, so we've been scheduling time for them." Sussex County hopes to extend the library hours soon, and eventually reopen the meeting rooms.

Sue Keefe notes that 'with Covid-19 vaccines not being widespread till mid or end of summer, the SCL is being as careful as it can to keep both staff and patrons safe.

The biggest take-away message would be for people not to expect the "normal" library they left last year. But SCL has a "new normal" for now; and it's so much better than not having people come in. Procedures will change continuously for quite a while to come.'

SCL looks forward to seeing you whenever individuals are comfortable doing so. Can you believe it's been almost a year? Reopening just a couple of weeks shy of when it closed!!

"I'm so grateful. It's been a long haul. I know we have a long way to go before anything gets back to normal again. Libraries are really service oriented, we really bent over backwards to try and learn new ways to provide service," said Sue.

"[We] are very cautious to continue to take those steps forward ... we have wonderful safety protocols in place for the public and the staff," continued Kathy Graybeal.

The plastic covering on keyboards are replaced after every use, and personal staff walk around and sanitize everything.

"We can have up to 30 customers at a time. We've made a lot of our browsing collections face out so people can easily see what it is they would like to have, and pick up and go," said Sue.

"Public libraries are all about access, to whatever that may be. It could be newspapers, it could be technology," said Kathy.

So, what are you waiting for. Let's go to the library. **See you soon.**



2021 Upcoming Events

Publication of The Connection, *Summer*

Publication of The Connection, *Fall*

April 30

Deadline for Nominations to the FOSCL Board

May 1

Beach & Bay Cottage Tour Tickets Go on Sale, Online

July 18 - July 31

Beach & Bay Cottage Tour, Virtual

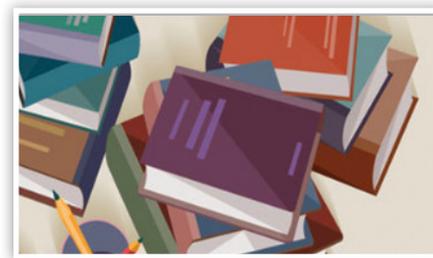
August 12 - August 14

Book Sale, (COVID Dependent)

September

FOSCL Meeting Open to the Public

BOOK SALE 2021



The status of the book sale remains uncertain. It is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, August 12 through Saturday, August 14, 2021**; however, with confirmation pending on the community and safety guidelines in place at that time.

Currently, the library is not accepting donations for the book sale and will announce when it will be able to do so.

Please check back with us.

National and Statewide Library News | Theo Loppatto

Check Out What's Happening!

National News

"We have exciting news! On March 3, 2021, **the House companion bill of the Build America's Libraries Act (H.R. 1581)** was formally introduced. This historic legislation would provide \$5 billion in funding to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities.

Federal funding for library buildings has not been provided in more than 20 years. But as the nation works with this new Congress to recover from a historic pandemic and reckon with the legacy of racial injustice, now is the time to think big. The Build America's Libraries Act would prioritize funding to communities with high poverty rates, as part of a strategy to begin to reverse decades of underinvestment in communities of color.

So many of you have already messaged your Senators in support of the Senate bill (S. 127), and we encourage you to **take action** again today to reach out to your House Representative. **Please ask your Representative to invest in our library infrastructure.** __American Library Association Public Policy and Advocacy Team

ALA has created a helpful resource on its website that provides more detail on the legislation.

Who Are We?

Friends of the South Coastal Library or affectionately known as FOSCL, and pronounced as FOSSIL, is a group of people that **love the library** and provide funds beyond the Sussex County budget to supplement the resources of our library. FOSCL Board Members believe that an excellent library is a central part of the community that reinforces learning and provides access to a diverse range of information, thought, and opinion.

How Do We Do It?

To get these extra funds, FOSCL has **two major fundraisers** every year. Every penny raised from these fundraisers is given to the library, and the library, in turn, uses these monies to provide the library patrons and the library community with extra programs, better facilities, and a greater variety of items available to the users of the library. **So, 100% of the money that's given to FOSCL comes right back to the library patrons.**

COVID-19 has played havoc with our fundraisers. We had to cancel both in

2020. FOSCL will be doing its Beach & Bay Cottage Tour virtually this year on July 18 through July 31, 2021, and its Book Sale, tentatively scheduled for August 12-14, 2021, remains uncertain with confirmation pending on the community and safety guidelines in place at that time. Therefore, our usual source of funds remains uncertain.

FOSCL would like to thank all the individual donors who have stepped up and contributed to FOSCL. Their gifts are greatly appreciated, especially in these very challenging times. We thank you, and we do so with tremendous appreciation.

What Do We Do?

FOSCL provides the funding for SCL to offer a variety of programs and services, which have included: adult, teen and children's programs, at no cost to patrons; children's school and library programs with free books; special library book collections; access to media collections; essential technology; furnishings that enhance and expand usable space for library patrons; and property landscaping and care.

FOSCL provides ongoing education about library programs and services through:

- The FOSCL newsletter, *The Connection*
- Its website - www.FOSCL.com
- Other local publications

How Can I Help?

If you would like to make a donation, please visit our **website at foscl.com**, and click the tab on top of the page.

How Can I Contact FOSCL?

If you would like to contact us, you may do any of the following:

- Call 302-537-5828, or
- E-mail at info@foscl.com, or
- Write to P.O. Box 1617 Bethany Beach, DE 19930-1319.

Tell Me More

Please visit our **website, foscl.com**, for the latest status on events, for the current or previous editions of the newsletter, or for even subscribing to the newsletter.

We hope to see you all soon at our beloved library.

Nominations for the FOSCL Board

Deadline Approaching: Act Now to Submit Nominations/Applications for FOSCL 2021 Board of Directors

If you or someone you know shares our love for the Library and value it as a vital resource to our community, we invite you to consider running for a term on the FOSCL Board.

To submit a nomination or to be considered yourself, we invite you to contact:

Barb Calkins, Nominations Committee Chair:
calkins.barb@gmail.com, 301-642-4054,

by April 30, 2021.

Is FOSCL A Place Where You Can Give Back to Our Community?

The SCL has been more important than ever over the past year, finding new and creative ways to continue to provide meaningful services and connection in our community. If you, or someone you know, share our commitment to a well-resourced, up-to-date, comfortable library with the latest technology, we invite you to consider running for a term on the FOSCL Board. Three-year Board of Directors terms start in September (2021-2024) and meetings are held seven times a year at the SCL on the last Tuesday of the month.





Beach & Bay

COTTAGE TOUR

Update from Kathy Green

The third Wednesday and Thursday of July are always special days in the Bethany area. Those are the designated days for the Friends of South Coastal Library's Beach & Bay Cottage Tour that benefits the South Coastal Library.

This year we're going to keep everyone safe and healthy by offering a virtual tour. It will be on-line from Sunday, July 18 through Saturday, July 31st, so please mark your calendars. As always, exceptional area homes chosen for their design, size, decorating styles, history, and green features are spotlighted on the two-week extended virtual tour in the greater Bethany Beach area.

The Cottage Tour Committee has been organizing and working since fall to make certain that the 2021 tour will be as exciting as previous years' tours.

Tickets for the July 2021 tour will be \$35. **Your ticket is good from July 18 to July 31.** Although ticket sales are not limited,

we encourage you to buy early and share the news with family and friends. They can watch it from ANYWHERE in the U.S.

Your donations, as well, are important in assuring the financial success of the Cottage Tour, FOSCL's major fundraiser each year. This year your donations are more important than ever because last year we weren't able to hold the tour. 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: beachandbaycottage.com

☀️ **Please consider also making a donation.** Donations can be made online at beachandbaycottage.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 near Memorial Day in May. 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 virtual tour in July. Remember to check beachandbaycottage.com for the latest information on the 29th Annual Beach & Bay Cottage Tour. Be sure to be part of this exciting virtual tour benefitting our local library.

See you virtually in July!

Tickets can only be purchased online starting May 1

