

The Connection

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH COASTAL LIBRARY

Friends working together to build a stronger library and community.

Vol. 29 | No. 1 | Winter 2022

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



Out with the old—in with the new...

That's always the message we hear at the end of the year as the calendar flips. Particularly appropriate this year wouldn't you say? We would love to get rid of LOTS of things from 2021...quarantines, social distancing, anti-vaxxers, anti-maskers, school closings, etc. and the politicization of EVERYTHING, Covid, variants, vaccines, January 6, etc., etc., etc.

However, there is a growing movement in the country that embraces the proverb of 'out with the old...etc.' in a most disturbing way. I'm referring to those in many areas of the nation that are hell-bent on getting rid of messages that they believe are contributing to the downfall of our country through the minds of our young. I am referring to those in a few, but growing, state and local school boards and legislative bodies who are proposing banning books in school and local libraries that they and a growing number of their constituents believe are 'evil' and detrimental to young readers. This is an issue that seems to raise its ugly head on a somewhat regular basis and frequently dies almost as quickly as it arises as calmer and thoughtful heads prevail. I referenced these disturbing activities in a previous column (Summer 2021) and speculated that it was going to go away as more level-minded folks stepped forward. Unfortunately, in this era of instant, persistent and all-pervasive social media-influence dominating our lives, the movement is gaining some unwanted and wide-spread traction. Some school board members across the country in states like Texas, South Carolina, Missouri, and Florida have taken up this discouraging effort. So far, the effort seems to have accomplished not much more than to produce provocative headlines but without continual and thoughtful monitoring of this effort it could gain disturbing credence. Here's hoping that cooler heads continue to prevail, and sanity remains.

Looking on the brighter side – February 1, 2022, marks the start of the Chinese New Year. This year, 2022 is The Year of the Tiger. According to Chinese lore tigers are lively and cheerful. They love freedom and independence, and they are a zodiac sign that must have their personal space. Tigers have a keen sense of justice and when faced with injustices will not stand aside. Tigers are known for quick action and reaction so, according to the Chinese, in 2022 be prepared for situations to change quickly. Let's hope that these changes are for the better – we're counting on 'Mr. Tiger.'

Lots of new things are happening with our Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL) group as well. As social interactions slowly begin to get back to normal, our FOSCL outreach programs are starting to 'outreach' again. Our School Partnership Program Committee, headed up by Board Member Lawrence Mayer and former Board Member and Vice President Linda Maxwell, has begun working with the Lord Baltimore School to bring new in-person, in-school programs to the school. Children's book authors have been lined up to present their writings and programs to students. The goal is to encourage children to get into the habit of reading and to introduce them to the benefits and joys of the library. At our December FOSCL Board Meeting, which is our annual budget meeting, the board approved programming funding requests by South Coastal Library Director Sue Keefe for a full program of (hopefully) in-person programs in the



Want to learn more about this year's Beach & Bay Cottage Tour? Check out page 8.



The new FOSCL.com website.

library's long dormant (thanks to Covid) meeting rooms. Look to the South Coastal Library (SCL) website (www.southcoastal.lib.de.us) for details on these exciting and fun programs or pick up a program brochure the next time you visit the library. Speaking of websites, we are undertaking a total redo of the FOSCL website. Headed up by Board Member, Kathy Jankowski, and her committee they are committed to making our site much more user friendly, informative, and lively. There will be lots of timely information presented on our non-profit organization including our annual Beach & Bay Cottage (B&BC) Tour, our

Annual Book Sale, and other exciting and interesting activities. Keep checking the site (www.foscl.com) for the debut of the finished product.

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 corp. We are always looking for additional good, caring folks to help us out in our endeavors. Please see the article elsewhere in this newsletter about how you can help FOSCL by volunteering for any of our activities or serve on the FOSCL Board of Directors. 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 SCL check-out desk. One of our FOSCL Board members will be sure to contact you to explore your volunteer interests.

Our all-volunteer Friends group is thrilled to continue to support the South Coastal Library 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 South Coastal Library 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 South Coastal Library the jewel and the outstanding community resource that it is.

*Best & Happy New Year,
Norbert*



Library Decorated for Christmas.

BLOOD PRESSURE KIT

The American Heart Association has partnered with Delaware libraries to provide each public library with Omron blood pressure monitors as a new service to patrons.

Monitors can be checked out for three-week periods and may be available for longer use periods. Whether a person wants to keep an eye on his/her blood pressure, the doctor wants this, or a person is interested in trying a portable monitor out before purchasing one, the library may be the next stop on their "to do" list.

Now Available!



You can try out a blood pressure monitor for free at your public library—instructions included!

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!

Sharon Palmer...Librarian Extraordinaire!



As we start off 2022, we have to say good-bye (sort of) to Sharon Palmer, our children's librarian extraordinaire. She has "raised" a generation of new readers, and it is time to take some time for herself.

What can I say about a lady that has been adored by many children - and their families? She has done so much for them, and since a picture is worth a thousand words, take a trip with me:

Stuffy Sleepovers: A perpetual favorite of the kids - they would bring their favorite stuffy toy to story time, then leave them to "sleepover" that night. When they arrived to pick up their stuffy the next day, the child received a photo album of what his/her toy got into that night. My favorite: Stuffy Book Cart Races!

Then there are all the innovative programs and partnerships that Sharon created to increase our youngest readers literacy levels, STEM interests and more, such as:



Baby Yoga Classes



Partnering with King Arthur Flour company to let kids bake bread for local food pantries



Working with Operation Seas the Day to have families create posters welcoming our vets to the beach

Learning to juggle with Cascading Carlos



Traveling to outer space with DASEF (DE Aerospace Education Foundation)



THANK YOU SHARON

And Sharon never shows fear! That, and she seems to have no fear of snakes, makes this my favorite pic.

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The children say it best: they love Miss Sharon, and Miss Sharon has created a love of the library and reading for them. Look at what the kids sometimes do when there is NO storytime going on while they are visiting—they re-enact their favorite library pastimes:



And before the term "sensory kits" were being flung around the Internet and children's services, Sharon had already created these interactive kits for the young ones. From learning about colors, to numbers and the alphabet, to basic eye/hand coordination, these kits are a favorite "after party" event to our storytimes!



Sharon should be so proud of what she has accomplished. And the library and community have been very fortunate to have such a talented, dedicated leader in the Children's Room. And we may even have her back now and then drop in on the kids—we just can't say good-bye very easily.



I enjoy waking up and not having to go to work. So I do it three or four times a day. — Gene Perret

2022 Upcoming Events

Publication of *The Connection*
Spring

**Deadline for Nominations
to the FOSCL Board**
April 30

**Beach & Bay Cottage Tour
Tickets go on Sale (Online only)**
May 1

Publication of *The Connection*
Summer

**Beach & Bay Cottage Tour
VIRTUAL**
July 17-August 6

**Beach & Bay Cottage Tour
IN-PERSON**
July 27-28

Book Sale
(COVID Dependent)
August

**FOSCL Meeting
Open to the Public**
September 27

Publication of *The Connection*
Fall



Editor's Connection Conversations | Helen N. Pastis

Before delving into my interview for this Edition of the newsletter, I want to thank the Director and staff of the South Coastal Library for, once again, going beyond the call of duty and doing so much for our community. Look, for example, at the Staff Pick article (page 7) on saving the butterfly eggs, to Sharon's programs for the children (see Director's Report on page 3), to giving out free, COVID test kits, to lending out free, blood pressure monitors (see page 2). And that's why, we all volunteer to be on the FOSCL Board of Directors and raise funds to help support our library and its wonderful programs for the community.

Interview with Rachel Lynch

Director of Sussex County Libraries

When talking with Rachel, you immediately realize that she is a truly warm and multi-faceted and very-talented person with the leadership skills necessary to lead our libraries. And here she is in her own words.

You grew up in Milford; and visits to the library were a reward. How did books and libraries continue to be part of your life?

Yes, my mother would walk us to the library when we were young; then, I could go by myself as I got older. I was an extremely shy child – in fact, I used to pay my younger brother to purchase items

What made you decide to go into library service? Well, when my dream as a five-year old of becoming a teacher-nurse-ballerina fell through, I realized that I could get a job in a library. Because I visited my public library so often, I got to know the staff well and became friendly with them. In fact, one of the librarians was almost like another mother to me – I remember when I got braces, I just had to show Teressa at the library! When I was hired to work at the Milford Public Library my junior year of high school, I felt like I was home – it just clicked. From there I went on to become the assistant

This is going to sound odd, but I love the Human Resources part of my job. I love being able to encourage and support staff to learn and grow and try new things.

for me in stores because I was afraid to talk to the salespeople. My safety net was the library where I could go and read for hours without being bothered or forced to hold lengthy conversations. In high school, I often went to the library during my lunch period to escape the crowded lunchroom. The librarian got to know me and when a part-time position opened at the public library, she suggested that I apply.

What are your fondest memories growing up? Time that I spent with my family. They've all moved away now, and I only see them once a year.

director at the Rehoboth Library. My favorite thing at Rehoboth was working Tuesday nights when the Summer House Restaurant next door had their happy hour. We would be inundated with reference questions arising from bar bets. (This was before Google.) I loved the reference searches and the fact that they would run over to the library to get their answers.

What's rewarding about your current position? This is going to sound odd, but I love the Human Resources part of my job. I love being able to encourage and support staff to learn and grow and try new things. The community partnerships

we have made over the past year and growing support of our libraries in the communities is fantastic and I want to see that to continue to grow. I love how we can and do make a difference in people's lives.

What plans would you like to see going forth in terms of libraries? Again – the community partnerships. There are so many things that the libraries offer of which people are not aware.

What role do libraries play in our communities today? The role libraries play in our community today is boundless. We are a safe meeting space – a space for those who prefer quiet as well as a space for those seeking socialization. We provide materials and classes that range from serious financial and estate planning to fun games and crafts. We provide access to information and services to all people at no cost. We help people get what they need, when they need it, whether it's entertainment, professional resources, or basic needs.

You used the Bookmobile to provide vaccinations to the community? Yes – and it was a huge success! The brainchild of Robbie Murray, the Director of Sussex County Emergency Services, this partnership has led to us being recognized in national media (New York Times and USA Today) as well as being included in a Smithsonian exhibit in Cooperstown, New York. As the first bookmobile in the nation to offer vaccinations, we have vaccinated 899 people so far – and we're still holding events.

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Connection Conversations | Continued from Page 5

Do you see other innovative ways to serve the people? We have continued the partnership with Beebe Medical Center to attend health fairs and other community events. We have also partnered with the Seaford Library and Seaford's Community of Hope to provide services (including distribution of COVID testing kits and blood pressure machines, library card registrations, information on children's programs) to those who may be unable to travel to a library. One of my favorite stories is how we (the South Coastal Library) were able to help a disabled American Veteran schedule and attend a virtual, benefit hearing. I'm planning on reaching out to the other local veteran organizations to see if there is a need to provide this as a standard service.

What do you like to do outside of work? I love spending time with my husband, son, and our nine-month-old puppy. I am an avid yard-sale/thrift-store and antique shopper. I also enjoy crafts. I can neither knit nor crochet (although I would love to learn), but I do loom-knit hats for the homeless and, last year, donated over 100 hats to soup kitchens and to the Home of the Brave. I also volunteer at the Lewes Historical Society.

How did you get interested in re-enactments of characters from the past and spirits? I grew up in an old Victorian house in Milford. Some people have the beach as their grounding place – mine is old houses. A few friends and I took a class at DelTech on Paranormal Investigations a few years back and as part of the class, we investigated a couple of houses at the Lewes Historical Society. I remember sitting there during the investigation thinking, "If they take volunteers, I could be in these old houses all the time!" I asked the staff member that night how to become a volunteer and started working as a docent at the Cannonball House shortly after. There, I learned to appreciate maritime and Lewes history. Many of the artifacts and displays in the Lewes History Museum are those of my husband's family and being an avid genealogist, the family connection to the history won me over. When at a volunteer meeting, they asked for people to research and portray local historical figures, I thought it might be fun – I've come a long way from paying my brother to shop for me!

How involved are you with the Lewes Historical Society and Boos and Brews? Events? I volunteer with the Lewes Historical Society as a living history interpreter and tour guide for their walking Legends Tours. I have participated in the annual Halloween fundraiser, Boos and Brews, as well as Tavern Talks events where we act out small skits of local, lesser-known, Lewes history. For the past two years, I have also worked with the Cape Water Taxi to portray local legend, Molly of the Dunes, at the East End Light House. I love the spooky stories as well as the history.

What do you like about living in Lewes? I live in Angola Neck. It's still considered Lewes, but very removed from the Town of Lewes. The area where I live still has a small section of wooded area left, though it is rapidly decreasing. I have nightly, woodland

visitors that I capture on camera: a family of raccoons, foxes, a few opossums, deer, and one skunk. We came home late one night and were trapped outside because the skunk was sitting in front of our door, and we didn't want to disturb it for obvious reasons.

What type of books do you enjoy reading and what are some of your favorite authors?

I enjoy local history books. Actually, when I have time to take a lunch break, I usually pull up a newspaper from the 1800's and read it while I eat. I also enjoy suspense and horror novels, including comedic horror novels by authors such as A. Lee Martinez, Christopher Moore, and Jesse Petersen.



Rachel Lynch, Director of Sussex County Libraries

Have you considered being an author? I have, but never seem to have time. In the past, I have written children's books that I put together myself for family and friends, but nothing officially published.

Tell us something very few people know about you. I belong to a paranormal investigation group, but as the resident researcher and skeptic. Although there have been a couple of things, I couldn't explain...

Past Interviews

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

WINTER 2022

Rachel Lynch, Director
Sussex County Libraries

WINTER 2021

Barbara Nicholson, Author

SPRING 2020

Chef Charles Oppman,
Chef and Lecturer

WINTER 2020

Dr. William Gudelunas,
Professor and Lecturer

SUMMER 2021

Kathy Green, Chair of
Beach & Bay Cottage Tour

SPRING 2021

Our Beloved Library Patrons

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM NEWS

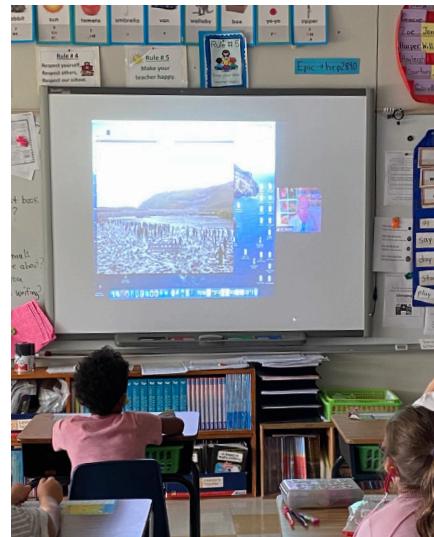
Who Would Win?

The FOSCL School Partnerships program, that's who! The students and staff of Lord Baltimore Elementary School (LBES) were buzzing with excitement about the FOSCL-sponsored virtual visit of author Jerry Pallotta on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021. Three presentations were held for LB students and families by Mr. Pallotta focusing on his children's book series, *Who Would Win?* Each book shows what would happen if a pair of our favorite animals faced off in the wild. Who would win if a Rhino squared off against a Hippo, a T-Rex faced down a Velociraptor, or a Killer Whale went nose-to-nose against a Great White Shark? His imaginative fiction, based on detailed research about animal behavior and anatomy, offered LB students and families fascinating facts, beautiful artwork, rib-tickling humor and insight into the creative writing process.

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. It's a vivid shared learning experience, and is a great way to get parents and the community involved in student learning. See photos.

In its sixth year, the School Partnership Committee 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. The Lord Baltimore - Friends of South Coastal Library School Partnership also offers an opportunity to introduce students to the rich and varied free resources, programs and activities offered through the South Coastal Library.

FOSCL donated multiple copies of Jerry Pallotta's, *Who Would Win?* series to the LBES Library, and Reading Specialist Amanda Miller



reported that the Pallotta visit, "sparked a reading frenzy at our school. Our librarian can't keep the Jerry Pallotta books on the shelves and the students have a new interest in non-fiction books overall."

The FOSCL School Partnerships Committee is working on a Spring program with the school to feature local author Joanne Guilfoil. Under development are presentations by Ms. Guilfoil to 200+ first and second grade students and teachers using her book, *Flying Over Delmarva* as the theme and jumping off point for a writer's craft and creative process conversation. First and second graders will get their own copy of the activity book, *Flying over Delmarva A to Z*, a theme coloring book ideal for the lower grades, and their teachers will receive a copy of the glossy hardcover edition for inspiration and show-and-tell. The books will all have a bookplate identifying FOSCL as the book donor.



Staff Pick | Sharon Palmer

Butterflies in South Coastal Library's Garden

In the spring of 2021, the South Coastal Library created a community container garden of vegetables and herbs. Patrons were invited to sign up to maintain a container and harvest the produce. As my coworker, Kristin, and I were watering the containers one morning, we discovered multiple caterpillars devouring the parsley!

Suddenly a wasp dove down and killed one of the caterpillars! I didn't want more of them to die. After quick research, we learned these were Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars and could be raised at home, as long as you provide them with a safe spot and fresh host plants to eat. They all went into chrysalis in a container on my porch and emerged as beautiful butterflies!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Miss Sharon, thank you for becoming a B&B for these pretty creatures. You are a great Butterfly Mom.





The 30th Beach & Bay Cottage Tour – *Tour with a Twist!*

The Friends of South Coastal Library and the Beach & Bay Cottage Tour are excited to announce a “Tour with a Twist” in celebration of the Tour’s 30th Anniversary!

Last year the Tour was completely Virtual and a huge success. Viewers from 24 states, as well as South America, Africa and Australia visited 10 beautiful homes in the Bethany Beach area from the comfort of their own homes.

This year we are still facing challenges. So that the Tour is an enjoyable as well as safe experience for all, we are happy to announce our Tour with a Twist, an exciting Hybrid Tour this year. Like last year, all the homes will be Virtual. In addition, for Patrons who would also like the “In Person” experience, our current plans are to have some of the homes open for “In Person” visits as well.

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 Tour with a Twist can be watched VIRTUALLY at ANYTIME from July 17 through August 6 and from ANYWHERE in the world!

For those who would like the Virtual/In-Person combination ticket, the cost will be \$50. The combination ticket entitles the holder to view the Tour virtually from July 17 through August 6 and to tour the homes that will be open for In-Person visits on Wednesday, July 27 and Thursday, July 28.

Your donations, as well, are important in assuring the financial success of the Cottage Tour, FOSCL's major fundraiser each year for the South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach. Your donations are always welcome and needed, because all proceeds benefit the library and its many programs.

Here is some pertinent information regarding tickets and donations:

- Beginning in the spring, tickets can be purchased on-line ONLY. Find updates regarding ticket sales as well as Tour details at the Cottage Tour website: www.beachandbaycottage.com

- Please consider also making a donation. You can make one now and/or anytime throughout the year either on our website or by mailing a check made payable to: Beach & Bay Cottage Tour and mailing it to P.O. Box 753, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.
- Look for your Cottage Tour brochure in the mail near Memorial Day. It will contain more detailed information about the exciting 30th Tour, our sponsors, advertisers and art and restaurant gift card raffles.

We appreciate your continuing support of the Cottage Tour and we look forward to welcoming you to our Tour with a Twist in July and August. Remember to check www.beachandbaycottage.com for the latest information on the 30th Beach & Bay Cottage Tour. Be sure to be part of this exciting Tour benefiting our local South Costal Library in Bethany Beach.

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



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