

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

We seem to live in an 'discard' world. Everything seems to be disposable, to be thrown away, discarded. I walk the streets of Bethany Beach most days as part of my post heart incident recovery program. What I see abandoned is remarkable to me. Virus protection face masks? Really? Why?

Did they fall off or blow off and you didn't notice?

Were you distracted by a menacing car, a bird, a charging dog, a beautiful woman or man, and it just slipped off, and you didn't notice? Really? Every day as I walk, I'll see one, two, sometimes up to four, of these flattened face-shields on the ground and I wonder, why? Can't give you a coherent answer. One of life's great mysteries of 'disposable-ism'. How about one lonely boot on a highway? From a one-legged man? Maybe a hole in the sole so – goodbye boot, I've got one good one left. Sneakers dangling by their shoelaces overhead on power lines? Flung by a frustrated marathoner who quit because she was tired of running? A kid seeing how high he can sling his shoes up in the air? A mystery. A queen-size mattress by the roadside on Route 9? Fell off your truck or car and you didn't notice? Radio too loud? Earbuds in? Who knows? Everything is disposable.

And hopefully the most disposable thing this year is Mr. Corona, and I'm not talking about beer – goodbye, adios, sayonara, auf wiedersehen, see-ya. One thing that I'm really ready to dispose of is our terrible 2020 stealth visitor. You know who I'm talking about. Mr. Menace, Mr. Covid-19.

Is it over? Can we REALLY venture outside? What is that bright light in the sky? Who are all these people out here? Where's my mask? Why is that person standing so close to me? What's that place with the sign over there...Fine Dining-Enjoy Our Gourmet Cuisine...? What's that marque say? "Now Playing: George Clooney/Tom Hanks/Julia Roberts in _____"? Whaaaaaaat!!!!

Help is near. Prepare to bare your arms, roll up those sleeves, grimace, close your eyes, think of

Caribbean sunsets, the moonrise over the Grand Tetons, cotton candy on the boardwalk, gathering 'round the fire pit with friends, good cheer, good drinks, ah LIFE! Free at last... (I'm writing this in early January and keeping my fingers crossed that he is really gone).

One thing we don't have to worry about losing or being disposed of these days is our dear South Coastal Library (SCL). Our SCL Director Sue Keefe

Director Sue Keefe and her remarkable staff have managed to keep our beloved library sailing along, and they've accomplished this with an expert hand on the rudder and on a steady course throughout the disruption.

and her remarkable staff have managed to keep our beloved library sailing along, and they've accomplished this with an expert hand on the rudder and on a steady course throughout the disruption. Almost any book you wanted was available, requests for special ordered books accepted, suggestions on what to

read offered, and help was always cheerfully and expertly available. These SCL folks are the best. How about a special shout-out to Kristin Cooper, SCL's Assistant Director who was named Sussex County's Employee of the Year; way to go Kristin! In addition, the library programs, from crafting, to cooking, to lectures went viral and continued to perk along. Thanks to the diligent library staff, these Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL) funded programs were extremely popular and well attended.

The entire community is grateful for all that the South Coastal folks do for us. Thank you all. The new year generally means changes for the FOSCL Board of Directors. In 2021, we are saying good-bye to one stalwart of the Board, Rosemary Hardiman. Rosemary provided years

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Director's Report | Susanne Keefe

Libraries are collections of "things;" it is true. Books, movies, music, computers, and more. But the pandemic has

shown how much more a library is - its staff is the heart and soul of the operation, providing services to the community in ever more inventive ways; as it tries to do it as safely as possible. As a rule, librarians are resourceful—it's part of the job.

And FOSCL provides us the resources every year to continue to serve the community, through your generous donations. This year has not been like any other year - that's an understatement. We have adapted by providing "lobby side" pick up of materials, doing "personal shopping" for people who are not able or comfortable placing holds online, putting out **Grab and Go craft projects** so you have a project to see you through quarantine, creating **virtual classes** so you can learn at home, and transferring some of our most popular events online, like **Chef Charles' cooking classes** and **Dr. Gudulunas' lectures**.

FOSCL continues to provide assistance that helps extend library services through the pandemic, such as:

■ **New furniture for the outdoor Reading Garden**, so you can take advantage of the free library WIFI to work outside safely. They have even added **four new benches for the front entrance**, to give more workspace for you. The garden was in constant use this year, as the library had to close physical access due to restrictions. We're glad it was helpful to people!



FOSCL Funds Four New Benches In Front Of South Coastal Library



■ FOSCL provides annual funding towards **Overdrive** costs, the state-wide e-book collection. During normal times, 15% of our library lending is in the form of e-books. With the pandemic, this number has jumped to 40% - and is probably climbing. By donating to the project, FOSCL makes it possible for the state to add more titles and copies to the collection; so, you can browse and borrow in the safety of your own home.

■ FOSCL also funds our **McNaughton collection**, providing multiple leased copies of new books and bestsellers. When the interest has waned, we return the books to the company and continue to get new titles monthly. Since nearly all of the circulation depends on placing and filling holds on titles, the ability to have multiple copies of high-demand items is more important now than ever.

■ We are planning and preparing for the day when we can open the doors again. Part of that process is the adaptation and/or replacement of items used daily—things need to be easily cleaned to keep the virus at bay. FOSCL has funded **new vinyl seating for the children's program room**. One day, we'll be able to have story times again. And we'll be able to quickly disinfect between events—a "must" in the children's room.

■ Finally, there was a very special project that our library participated in for the first time - **Operation Warm** - a non-profit group that provides warm coats to children that need them. The state-library system partnered with Operation Warm this year and we joined in - providing over 100 coats to the children of our community. When I asked if the Friends (FOSCL) would supplement the donation with warm hats, gloves, and winter gaiters, they wholeheartedly agreed. **We - including everyone who donates to FOSCL - were able to make sure these children not only got warm coats, but a matching set of hats, gloves, and gaiters!** It may be a different way to serve our community, but times are harder than they have ever been for many families, and this has made a huge difference to them this winter.

So even though we can't get together yet, please know that the library staff and FOSCL are doing whatever we can to make sure you have access to materials, information, and other kinds of help you need to get through this time. If you need us, you can always call the library at 302-539-5231 or email us at southcoastal.library@lib.de.us. We'll see you one of these days - keep believing that, and it will happen.



Warm Hats, Gloves, and Gaiters All Set To Go.



School Children Wearing Their New Warm Coats!



Coats Prepared For Delivery



Susanne Keefe, Director of SCL, and Sharon Palmer Prepare Warm Gear To Be Delivered to the Children.



We all want to do it. Don't you? Many of us are just too scared. Well, how did

Barbara do it? Write her first book, of course!

Interview with Barbara Nicholson

I spoke with Barbara Nicholson. Virtually, as Covid dictates. After a very successful career in running her own company designing customized software programs, Barbara sat down one day and wrote her first book. Fascinated, I asked her how she did it.

How did you decide to write as a second career?

I've always loved reading. I started thinking about a story and what could happen if you accidentally came upon a murder. On and off, it took several years to become a novel which I eventually published as my first, "One Wrong Turn."

Barbara had been so immersed in the book, thinking about the characters and plot that she just had to sit down and start writing.

Most people are afraid to start. How did you overcome any obstacles and start writing?

I guess I just started jotting down notes and thinking about different pieces of it. As I said, the first one took me quite a few years with different plot directions, changing characters around and learning about the book business which, today, is self-publishing for me. As a result of working with computers for all that time and exercising my left-brain quite a lot, when my business slowed in the 2008 downturn, and I found I had some free time, I decided to try and exercise my creative side.

What is your latest book about? This one, "A Perfect Ploy," involves something very precious—precious enough to steal, kidnap and kill for. It takes place in Hawaii and then moves to Toronto, Canada. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, my husband, Nick, and I used to enjoy traveling. So other than my first book, I like to set them in different locations and share at least a few interesting points about the area.

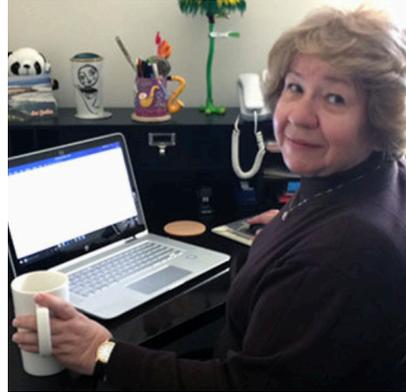
How is "A Perfect Ploy" different than the previous two? It's in the thriller genre, so they all involve someone getting involved in a situation that endangers them. Then we follow their paths to watch, if, and how they can extricate themselves from it.

All of Barbara's books involve different characters and locations.

One of Barbara's favorite quotes says a lot about writing novels. "The cat sat on the mat is not the beginning of a story. The cat sat on the dog's mat is." - John Le Carré.

Where do you get your ideas from?

Usually from an article I've read or something interesting I've heard. The current plot came from an article I read about an unusual case of someone performing a necessary act that he had to do every few months for his own self-preservation. It was actually an interesting article—but dry. My mind sort of went to



okay that's nice to know, but how could I twist that to make it an interesting story. It's becoming my next book, "A Perfect Ploy."

Where can people get your books? They are available on Amazon.

What role do libraries play for you? I have always been a big fan of

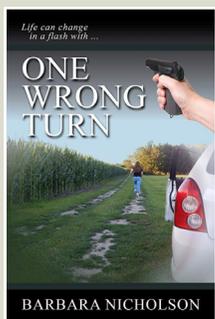
libraries. In addition to borrowing books, I take advantage of their audio books, cd's and have also attended and enjoyed the presentations and activities they sponsor. Last year, in Lewes, I attended a multi-day History Book Festival which was very informative. I have also donated copies of my books to local libraries.

What do you enjoy reading? I enjoy reading an eclectic mix, mostly in the thriller, detective, mystery genres. Currently I'm reading Daniel Silva. A current favorite in the thriller category would be James Rollins.

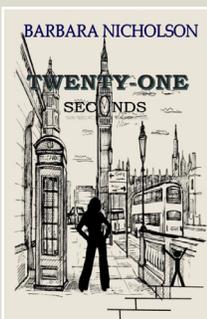
How can people contact you?

I have a website, BarbaraNicholson.com, and they can contact me there through the 'Contact Me' tab.

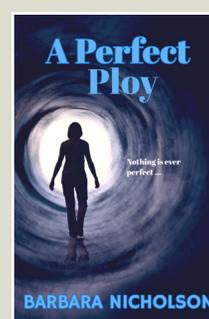
Barbara grew up in New Jersey and has lived in the surrounding states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. She went into computers when they were at their infancy. Now she's an author. Check her out!



Barbara's Debut Novel - An ordinary day becomes a nightmare...One Wrong Turn.



An Imposter hiding in plain sight. A journalist with a mystery to solve. And the BREXIT vote about to take place.



Barbara's upcoming book involves something precious enough that one would do absolutely anything to get; takes place in Hawaii and Toronto.



Outgoing Board Member
Rosemary Hardiman.
Thank You! She Will Be Missed.



Incoming Board Member
Heather Gossart. Welcome!

of dedicated service to FOSCL with her keen insight, counsel, and wisdom. She has taken on the job as the Mayor of Bethany Beach and will be missed greatly at FOSCL. We also welcome on board a new Board Member, Heather Gossart of Ocean View. Heather has a terrific background in volunteering, education, and organizational experience and has hit the ground running by becoming involved in on-going Board projects. FOSCL officer positions for 2021 will continue as before: Norbert Kraich, President, Linda Maxwell, Vice President, Ron Weber, Treasurer and Richard (Dick) Oliver, Recording Secretary.

Our all-volunteer Friends group, FOSCL, 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.

All The Best, Norbert

BOOK SALE



Depending on the status of COVID-19, FOSCL is planning to have the 2021 summer book sale on Thursday, August 12 through Saturday, August 14, 2021. Please check back with us.

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

All We Do Is For You | FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH COASTAL LIBRARY

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 supplemental funds beyond the Sussex County budget to supplement the resources of our library.

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, and the status of the Book Sale remains to be determined. 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.

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

If you would like to contact us, please call 302-537-5828 or e-mail us at info@foscl.com. Our address is P.O. Box 1617 Bethany Beach, DE 19930-1319.

Please visit our website for the latest status of 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.

Remember?

Check Out What's Happening!

State Budget For Libraries

On November 18, Kay Bowes, President of the Friends of Delaware Libraries, spoke at the Governor's Budget Hearing about increasing funds for Delaware libraries. She noted the importance of libraries, as follows:

Not only are libraries all about books but they are also about communities and people.

Over 5 million physical books and over ½ million digital books were checked out in FY2019; an increase of 1.6% over FY2018. Books are still popular with Delawareans.

Libraries are a lifeline for our communities in areas of education, employment, and health.

Education: Local public libraries help children become School Ready by providing educational opportunities such as early literacy story time and other learning experiences. Children learn computer skills and coding at an early age to prepare them for the future. The Summer Reading Challenges break that "Summer Slump" that can be such a detriment to school age children. Also, youngsters can sharpen their reading skills by reading to a trained dog.

Adults also have many opportunities to grow intellectually through programs provided by their local libraries - historical programs (Fort Delaware, Civil War, Forums for Discussion); medical and lifetime programs (Medicare, Financial Scams, Ordering Online, Aging); exercise programs (Tai Chi, Zumba, Line Dancing); and other programs with speakers from many different fields.

Employment: Libraries help to eliminate jobless citizens. Job Centers offer resume writing skills, instruction on how to apply online for a job, interview skills, and other important components of how to secure a job and keep it.

Health: Libraries are leading the way in trying to find ways to keep Delawareans healthy by providing information, sponsoring programs about health-related topics, and supporting partner solutions to the opioid problem.

Libraries are very important to each community in Delaware. The meeting rooms are hubs for community groups to meet and share ideas. For example, each year 125 different groups meet in the Appoquimink Library, one of the smaller libraries. According to Eric Klinenberg, author of *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*, "The future of democratic societies rest[s] not simply on shared values but on shared spaces. Social infrastructure provides the setting and context for social participation, and the library is among the most critical forms of social infrastructure that we have." (p32)

Future Dates for Library Budget

May 12 | Part II of Delaware Library Legislative Day. Part I was on January 22 where people spoke to their local Representatives and Senators for fiscal support of libraries in Delaware.

May 5 | National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C. - People from Delaware go to Washington, D.C. along with others from all over the United States to lobby for federal budget support.



2021 Upcoming Events

Publication of The Connection, *Winter*

Publication of The Connection, *Spring*

Publication of The Connection, *Summer*

Publication of The Connection, *Fall*

April 30

Deadline for Nominations to the FOSCL Board

To Be Announced

Beach & Bay Cottage Tour Tickets Go on Sale, Online

July 18 - July 31

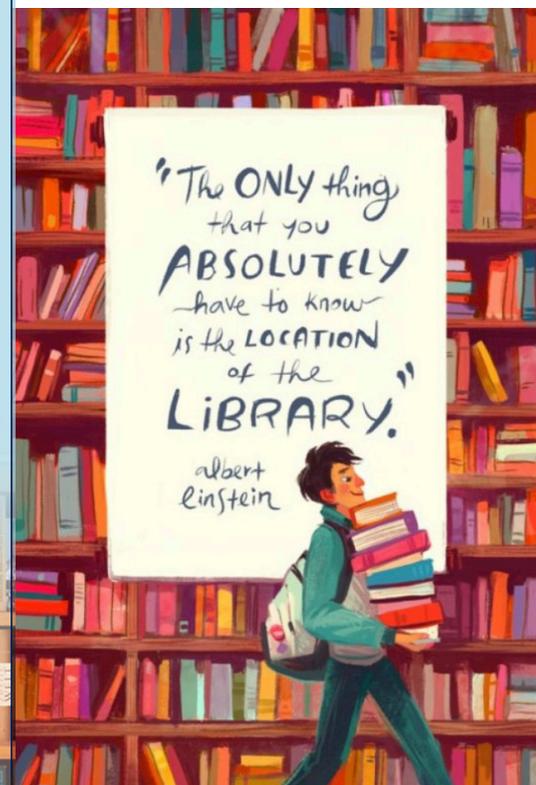
Beach & Bay Cottage Tour, Virtual

August 12 - August 14

Book Sale, (COVID Dependent)

September

FOSCL Meeting Open to the Public



School Partnership

The FOSCL School Partnership Program promotes literacy embedded in all aspects of the school curriculum, and encourages and promotes active use of the rich and varied resources of the SCL by the students, parents or guardians, and staff of Lord Baltimore Elementary School.

Sadly, because of COVID safety protocols, FOSCL School Partnership's ambitious programming, which usually includes two author presentations, one of which is to the entire school, has been put on hold. In an effort to keep students and school personnel safe, these safety protocols restrict access by outside presenters to schools. The varied instructional schedules of synchronous

and asynchronous learning make it difficult to schedule a virtual presentation.

The FOSCL School Partnership committee members, Linda Maxwell and Lawrence Mayer, continue to talk to their partners at Lord Baltimore Elementary School about ways in which they can offer support and assistance throughout this most difficult and challenging time. FOSCL looks forward to when it can advance its goals, and once again be an active partner with the students, staff, parents/guardians of Lord Baltimore Elementary School.



The Beach & Bay Cottage Tour | Kathy Green

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

However, in order to keep everyone safe and healthy, this year we're offering a virtual Tour. It will be an on-line event from Sunday, July 18 through Saturday, July 31st, so please mark your calendars! As always, area homes chosen for their design, size, decorating styles, history, and green features will be featured on the two-week extended virtual Tour in the greater Bethany Beach area.

Though the 2021 Tour will be virtual, the Cottage Tour Committee has been organizing and working since the fall to make certain that this year's Tour will be just as exciting as previous years' Tours.

Tickets for the July 2021 Tour will be \$35. Your ticket is valid from July 18 through 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!

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 is some pertinent information regarding tickets and donations:

- ◆ 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 out 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 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 www.beachandbaycottage.com for the latest information on the 29th Annual Beach & Bay Cottage Tour. Be sure to be part of this exciting virtual Tour benefiting our local South Coastal Library in Bethany Beach.

See you virtually in July!
July 18 through July 31, 2021



Nominations Now OPEN for the FOSCL 2021 Board of Directors

The Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL) invites applicants and/or nominations for a three-year term of service on its Board of Directors.

Who Are We?

Founded in 1988, FOSCL is a non-profit, all-volunteer fundraising organization dedicated to providing support for the services and resources of our community library. FOSCL raised the money to build the original library on Kent Avenue in 1994, and in 2006, raised over \$2 million to expand the Kent Avenue library to its current size.

What Do We Do?

FOSCL works to enhance library services beyond what would be possible with only Sussex County funding. FOSCL provides the funding for South Coastal Library to offer a variety of programs and services, which have included: adult programs at no cost to patrons, including lectures, films, craft workshops, exercise programs, dance lessons, and musical presentations; children's school and library programs with free books; special library book collections; access to media collections; essential technology including copy machines,

computers and an electronics charging station; 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

We believe that an excellent library is a community asset which reinforces learning and provides access to a diverse range of information, thought, and opinion for all members of the community.

How Do We Do It?

FOSCL raises the funds for all its projects, offering community events including the highly regarded annual Beach & Bay Cottage Tour, scheduled virtually July 18 through July 31, 2021 and the reader-favorite Summer Book Sale, coming August 12 - 14, 2021 (The Library is currently unable to accept donations due to COVID restrictions, and will make an announcement when they are again able to do so.)

The South Coastal Library has been more important than ever over the past year, continuing to provide meaningful services and connection in our community. If you, or someone you know, share the Friends of South Coastal Library value that a well-resourced, up-to-date, comfortable library facility coupled with the latest technology is a vital resource to our community, we invite you to consider running for a term on the FOSCL Board. Terms start in September; Board members serve for a three-year term (2021-2024) and may elect to run for a second term. Meetings are held seven times a year at the South Coastal Library, on the last Tuesday of the month.

Interested?

For more information or to be considered, we invite you to send an email to:

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

The deadline for nominations/applications is **April 30, 2021**.

Staffer's Pick | Pamela Miller

What's Cooking at the Library

Welcome to the quiet month of January. Put aside the holidays, those New Year's resolutions and think about how you want to spend the days ahead. For me this is a great the time to make homemade soup and fresh bread. Nothing tastes better on a cold winter's day. Should you need some inspiration or recipes, our library has a wonderful collection of cookbooks for every palate or diet. You may have received an Air Fryer or Instant Pot as a holiday gift. We have books on both that may give you ideas on how best to use these gifts. Here are a couple of recipes I enjoy making.

CHICKEN CORN CHOWDER

- 3 slices bacon, diced
- 1 lb. boneless chicken breast, cut in 1/2 inch cubes
- 3/4 cup chopped onion and chopped celery
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups whole kernel corn
- 2 cups diced potatoes
- 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. white pepper
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 1 cup heavy cream

Cook bacon until crisp. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons of fat. Add chicken, onion, and celery. Cook 10-15 minutes until tender. In a blender, combine 1 cup broth and 2 cups corn on high speed. Add corn, potatoes, remaining broth, salt, pepper, blender mixture to chicken and vegetables. Simmer partially covered for 20 minutes. Stir in heavy cream and parsley. Simmer 2-3 minutes more and stir in bacon.

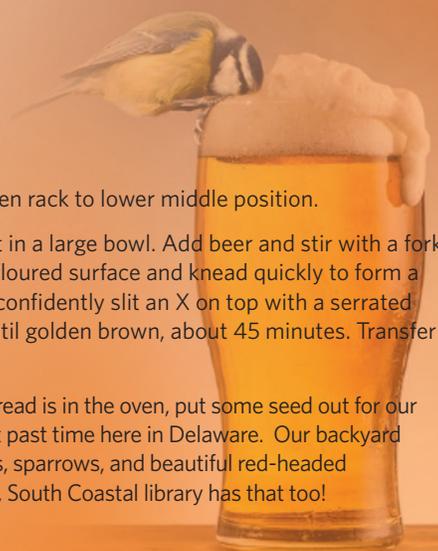
BEER BREAD (in less than an hour)

- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tbsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsps. salt
- 12 ounces beer
- 1 egg beaten

Heat oven to 375 degrees and adjust oven rack to lower middle position.

Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Add beer and stir with a fork until just combined. Turn dough onto a floured surface and knead quickly to form a ball. Place bread on a baking sheet and confidently slit an X on top with a serrated knife. Brush loaf with egg wash. Bake until golden brown, about 45 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Serve.

While your soup is simmering and your bread is in the oven, put some seed out for our feathered friends. Bird watching is a great past time here in Delaware. Our backyard feeder brings cardinals, wrens, chickadees, sparrows, and beautiful red-headed woodpeckers. Need a book on local birds, South Coastal library has that too!



Remember When...

MEMORIES AND PHOTOS FROM THE PAST!



David Zypse At The Piano Valentine's Day

Dr. Gudelunas Engaging The Crowd At His Lecture



Chef Charles Serving Jambalaya To A Library Patron



Rosemary Hardiman Speaking At The Volunteer-Appreciation Brunch



School Partnership Program At Lord Baltimore



Volunteer Appreciation Brunch