

# The Connection

## FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH COASTAL LIBRARY

Friends working together to build a stronger library and community.

Vol. 29 | No. 3 | Summer 2022

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## President's Message | Norbert Kraich



### Libraries are Fighting Back— And That's Good News!

It's not that libraries were ever knocked down and out; they have always been incredibly resilient. It's just that our recent pandemic and all that went with it forced them a bit off kilter – but only briefly. Many libraries had to shut down or restrict hours or install a wide range of special accessories and protection to help

reduce Covid exposure. In addition, many libraries had to deal with folks bound and determined to alter the way libraries do business.

What are libraries fighting back about? Well, in 2021, while the rest of the world was concerned about and overwhelmed with the Covid-19 virus and all its variants, in almost every state, libraries, particularly school and university libraries, were facing numerous challenges to retain books on their shelves. Books that certain groups identified as evil and were attempting to 'ban' and have removed. One wonders if this wasn't an orchestrated attempt by these nefarious groups to take advantage of a situation. While the civilized world was distracted by Covid, these creeps were attempting to carry out a book removal coup.

Libraries are not going to take it anymore, and they are pushing back thanks to the American Library Association (ALA). According to the ALA in their recently released (April 4, 2022) State of America's Libraries Special Report: Pandemic Year Two, libraries faced not only the difficult challenge of the deadly pandemic but also the insidious and evil forces of 'book banners.' ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 729 challenges to library, school and university materials and services during 2021. This resulted in more than 1,600 individual book challenges or removals, mostly of books by or about Black or LGBTQIA+ persons.

But libraries, through efforts by the ALA, have faced the challenge and have stepped up heroically.

The ALA notes that recent polling data collected by them shows that seven in 10 voters oppose efforts to remove books from public libraries, including majorities of voters across party lines. (<https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2022/03/large-majorities-voters-oppose-book-bans-and-have-confidence-libraries>). The data also show that there is universal high regard for librarians and a recognition of the critical role that public and school librarians play in their communities.

In the fight against these evil doers, the ALA has launched a nation-wide program, Unite Against Book Bans (<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org>). This program, according to the ALA, "...is a national initiative to empower readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship." We need to push back and get these folks out of our libraries. If we all work together on this 'push-back,' good things will happen; and our efforts will be successful in thwarting this evil menace threatening our reading lives. Please consider going to the ALA Unite Against Book Bans website (<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org>) and register to join in

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Michael J. Cummings,  
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The 2022  
Beach & Bay  
Cottage Tour

the collective effort to fight these folks. Make your voice heard – join in the fight against book bans.

Summer is here and lots of exciting things are happening at the South Coastal Library. Summer always means an up-tick in activities at the library as vacationers flock to town and locals come out of hibernation. Visits to the library jump considerably and Library Director Sue Keefe and her incredibly hard-working staff are kept busy with the demand for “beach-read” books, computer time and seats for in-house craft, educational and cultural programs. The best news is that folks can finally come into the library and fully use the facilities. Covid begone!

In July our Friends Group (Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL)) will hold the 30th Annual Beach and Bay Cottage (B&BC) Tour. This year, the Tour returns to a limited in-person format. There will also be a virtual component of the Tour where all houses can be visited. Over the past 30 years, this annual Friends event, overseen by our Vice President Kathy Green and her terrific Tour Committee has raised more

than \$1.3 million to benefit the library. All funds raised by the Tour go directly to the library to help pay for books, in-person events such as craft classes, lectures, concerts, and our very popular children's programs. Proceeds from the Tour also help us fund the library's public-use computers, our children's room computers, computer upgrades and programs, on-line craft classes, free in-house access to Ancestry.com, and the in-house public-use photocopier. Proceeds also help fund the state-wide library e-catalogue where patrons can download and stream free books, audios, and movies through their library cards.

Please consider buying a ticket to the Tour, whether virtual or in-person. You will thoroughly enjoy your experience and you will help in the Friends efforts to keep our library the jewel that it is. *(You can read more about the Tour, ticket options, and how to buy tickets on page 10.)*

Our all-volunteer Friends group is thrilled to continue to support the South Coastal



Library (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 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 outstanding community resource that it is.

All The Best,  
Norbert

## Staff Pick | Claire Cassidy

# What do zombie t-shirts, mermaid jars, book bags, and wooden signs have in common?



Absolutely nothing ... besides being a small sample of some of the amazing crafts we made during our brand new and extremely popular MakerSpace Monday!

Thanks to FOSCL, the library was able to purchase the latest Cricut machine with all the accessories, a button maker, doodlers, jewelry-making kit, wood signs, tote bags, and more! The list goes on. We now offer a MakerSpace Monday program, where people can check out the latest crafting trends.

Participants are loving it; they can come in and bring their own project or make one of the crafts provided - the design options are endless, and the only limits are your imagination (and program hours)!

So far, our patrons have made mermaid signs, decorative jars, book bags, t-shirts, and banners.

With the Cricut machine, vinyl, and subscription being so expensive, the fact that South Coastal Library has one available for public use has our patrons quite literally jumping for joy - quietly, of course.

This hugely popular program is evolving with each class, and as we add machinery and equipment, we are always amazed by the creativity of the attendees. We can't wait to see what they will make next.

Join us for the next MakerSpace Monday - see program calendar for details <https://southcoastal.lib.de.us/> --just click on the “full calendar” link under the *What's Happening* column to see the latest library events.







It is almost a reconciliation to having my leg broken to contemplate the amount of reading I am going to do this summer. I am getting better fast and I am afraid I'll get well so soon I won't get to read enough.

*David McCullough*

Not for a moment do I recommend breaking anything in order to get in more reading time. Summer is almost here and that alone gives most of us some extra time to sneak in a few more books. If you need the extra incentive, you can join the library's Summer Reading Program—Oceans of Possibilities—to keep track of what you've enjoyed, join in some of our classes, events, and other library “fun times” and maybe even earn a little prize or two. (It doesn't matter the reader's age—a little toy now and then always brightens the day.)



To find out more about events and to register for some of them, go to <https://southcoastal.lib.de.us/> and click on the “full calendar” link under What's Happening. Our classes, programs and events are designed to promote love of literacy, to enhance social interaction, to increase historical and scientific knowledge, to assist healthy lifestyles and much more. Summer plans include the following:

✓ The Pokemon Scavenger Hunt returns! Designed to provide a safe environment and promote healthy activity as a family unit, this summer-long event was such a hit last year that it is returning!

✓ Craft classes for all age groups! Includes our new MakerSpace

Mondays, where you can experiment with the latest craft trends.

✓ Children's story times, activities and other events return! Meet Wilmer the Whale, learn about the world's oceans, join new storytellers as they take you to other worlds, and more!

✓ PAWS pups are back—program offers a non-judgmental way for children to hone reading skills. What wonderful dog would ever give a new reader anything but encouragement?

✓ *Did They Do It?* Murder book club returns. Please leave with the same number of bodies you arrived with—no littering in the library.

✓ From easy summer music to jazz guitar, join in our musical concerts this summer.

Thanks to almost complete funding by the Friends of the South Coastal Library, all events are free of cost to the community. If you need more information or help in finding/registering for an event, please call the South Coastal Library at 302-858-5518.

# GOOD SHOPPING!

## Shop and Do Good— All at the Same Time!

Did you know that you can earn money for FOSCL? Each time you shop on Amazon, a small percentage of your purchase will be donated to FOSCL. Go to “smile.amazon.com” and click on “activate now.” Enter “FOSCL” as your organization and viola! You'll be earning money for the group that supports your library.

## Pop Up BOOK SALES

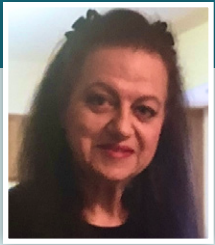
### Get ready for your summer reading!

Upcoming booksales will be held on every other Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon.

#### Future dates are as follows:

- July 9 & July 23, 2022
- August 13 & August 27, 2022

Looking forward  
to seeing you!



**I spoke with Mike Cummings, a self-made and very successful entrepreneur, an accomplished golfer, a generous donor to the community through Contractors for a Cause and the B&BC Tour, but most importantly, a loving husband dedicated to his family.**

**Editor's Note:** Friends of the South Coastal Library (FOSCL) raises funds to supplement the county budget for the South Coastal Library allowing for additional resources, services, and programs for the Bethany Beach community. FOSCL also sponsors the School Partnership Program inviting authors to our local schools to talk about their books and purchasing a copy for each student, thereby, increasing young students' interest in reading. FOSCL holds two fundraisers every year. One is the book sale; the other is the Beach & Bay Cottage (B&BC) Tour where the public may visit featured homes in the Bethany Beach area. • This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

### Interview with Michael J. Cummings Founder and CEO, Miken Builders

**You have a long history of being involved with the B&BC Tour.** I've been a sponsor just about every year of the B&BC Tour; and this year I'll be offering my house as one of the five homes that people may visit in person.

**What features in your home would you like for patrons to notice?** This house was featured in *The Coastal Style* magazine [April 2022]. It is in the style of a coastal farmhouse, a short distance from the boardwalk and beach. In the kitchen, the stove hood with a driftwood band gives a nautical feel, and the basket chandeliers in matte black feel rustic. It all comes together to give the home a coastal, farmhouse feel while maintaining an elegant atmosphere.

The stone fireplace makes the living room cozy while the driftwood base to the glass cocktail table adds a touch of nautical interest. The second-floor hallway with vaulted ceilings, beams and lanterns continues the coastal feel.

The house was built by my company, Miken Builders, a family business that's been successful for 35 years. We specialize in customer service, open communications with the client and all involved, and creativity towards design.

**What role, do you believe, South Coastal Library plays in the lives of Bethany Beach residents and visitors?** South Coastal Library is part of our family. When the kids were little, for school we'd take them over there for resource and library books; now the

grandchildren go over there for story time. The kids just love it. It's a great resource for the community.

**You're quite the philanthropist. How do you give back to the community with Contractors for a Cause? What does it do, how does it do it, and what are some examples of the charitable work it has done?** We first started raising money for The American Diabetes Association about 25 years ago. My oldest son has diabetes. One day at a restaurant, I ran into the Nantais family whom I knew from Wilmington, and they told me that Justin [Justin Jennings, son of Mary Ellen Nantais] was dying of brain cancer and one of his dreams was to build a house at the beach for people to come to after treatment. So, we switched gears from raising money for The American Diabetes Association and started raising money to build Justin's beach house. Ideally, this keeps the money we raise local as well. We started the non-profit, Contractors for a Cause in 1998, and have been raising money for our local community ever since. My co-founder James Kyger of All States Construction, Mark Hart and Andy Lyons were the original board members. Today, we maintain around 50 members who are instrumental in our continued success. It took us about 7 to 8 years to raise the money to build Justin's Beach House. We had a lot of naysayers who thought we'd never be able to do it because it was such a big undertaking. So, after 8 years we raised enough money, and many suppliers donated materials for the house to be built. It took us about 2 years to finish building that house. It gave our



Michael J. Cummings, Founder and CEO, Miken Builders

foundation members great pride to see the first family enjoy this incredible beach home. After that, we raised and continue to raise about \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year that we put back into the community through scholarships for the two high schools. We continue to fund Justin's Beach House for the upkeep through the 5k run they sponsor.

We have a Helping Hands program where we fund remodeling services if a person doesn't have the means to put a roof on their house, fix a leak, or needs a handicap ramp. We have a Good Neighbor fund where we've paid for funerals; we've paid for a local kid to fly in a medical helicopter to Atlanta for surgery because he broke his neck on the surf. We do many things to help our local community and to serve the local people. We can assess a person's situation, figure out what they need, and we can help make it happen. Miken Builders also sponsors the Surfin' Snowman race ever since it started. We sponsor needy families identified through the Catholic church and donate to them



everything they would need for a traditional Thanksgiving meal and Christmas gifts.

**What are some common pitfalls that home owners make in renovating their homes?** In some of these older homes, people are so personally connected to them that they do so many renovations and they end up with half an old home and half a new home instead of tearing it all down and rebuilding. The biggest thing that I try to do is educate our clients that the equity really doesn't catch up. You get to a point where you have to tear down and just rebuild because the economics just don't work. Also, there are other factors like old houses have 2 by 4 and new houses have 2 by 6 and better insulation.

We build 12 to 14 custom homes a year from Rehoboth to the Ocean City line. I'll take a reservation. Then, I'll interview with the prospective client, and if they want to work with us, they'll sign a letter of intent to build. It's not a contract to build their house but it's to hold a spot in our schedule. Then during the design time, we're doing budgeting, value engineering. Either I or my chief estimator attend all the design meetings and go through the process with them to make sure that their design will meet their budget. A lot of people go to an architect and have a long list of wishes. Well, the architect doesn't have to build anything so he gives them all they want. Then, they go get a price on it and it's oh my god, it's \$200,000 or more than we even wanted to think about spending. We create the team effort in the beginning and we're working through to the finish line where people get a beautiful

home, the budget they want to spend, and working with a quality builder.

**How do you deal with today's home improvement shortages and rising costs all the while maintaining client satisfaction?**

It's a real challenge; it's really changed our industry as far as how we order things and be proactive. We almost have to order things before we go under contract. We try to do 80% of our ordering in the first 20% of the job. We try to communicate to our clients first how this whole process proceeds under a good, healthy environment, and then how it's going to proceed under today's environment. When people can better understand the new dynamics, they accept it. It's so hard to hold prices these days; Miken absorbs some of the extra costs.

**How did you decide to go into the construction business?**

After high school, I wanted to go into public service. I was an EMT. I delivered a baby when I was 17 on Friday the 13th in a blizzard, a very exciting day. I have done CPR on more people than I like to remember. I liked public service and firefighting but it was so hard to get on the fire department. During that time, I was going to Del Tech Community College for fire protection engineering. In my second year of college, I realized I'm not the kind of guy to sit behind a desk. After 2 years of Del Tech, I went into the Air Force reserves and went to basic training and trade school. I was doing civil engineering but basically, I was a carpenter in the Air Force. I was in for 10 years, and was awarded Air Man of the Year in the Delaware air guard in Wilmington. I

came home and went to night school for carpentry to finish my journeymanship. Afterwards, I was working for a company in Wilmington remodeling houses in New Castle County. While working on a project at Winterthur Museum I met Donald Jester that had a plastering company and did a lot of work at Dupont. They wanted him to start a general contracting company; so Don had heard of me and called me up one night; I was 25. We had a plan to start a business, and I became a partner with him and doing work up at the Dupont company.



Living Room, Courtesy of Krista Valliant, *Coastal Style*\*



Kitchen Courtesy of Krista Valliant, Coastal Style\*

I would go in at 5 at night till 1 in the morning with a crew and renovate the office spaces while the office workers were home. Then I would bid on work during the day. I expanded that business to working for local hospitals, Verizon, and the University of Delaware. The first year I had two employees and then each year we got bigger. At one point we had 40 employees. Through my contacts at Dupont, Miken worked on a lot of executive's personal homes including the CEO. As I was growing the business, I went to a lot of business seminars but basically, I'm self-taught. After about 15 years, Don wanted to retire being 20 years my senior, so I purchased his stock and the rest is history. I owe so much to Don and his wife for seeing something in me and giving me the opportunity to be self-employed. I would not have been able to achieve what I have without them.

**What are some rewarding moments in your long history of leading Miken Builders?** I live my life that failure is not an option. I've been through the 1990 recession, then 2000, and then 2009. I never threw the towel in; it's more like what do we need to do. No matter how good or bad the economy was, I kept my employees working. I remember a few times in the last 35 years, I had to call my employees in and say hey guys I can get rid of 1/3 of us or we all take a 10% cut and work our way through this and I'll reinstate

it once we get back on our feet. I've had to do this twice but I always kept my word. That's why I have some employees that have been with me for 36 years. I had a vision and pushed forward. I've had some rough years but I always persevered through them.

I always felt true success is a journey not a destination. A lot of people go into business and get so big and try to make all this money too fast; but, the real sustainable entrepreneurs, have a steady, slower pace. I always knew that if I didn't make this work, I wouldn't get another chance.

In Mikens' lobby, we have a trophy case of about 50 construction awards; two of my superintendents have been recognized as Superintendents of the Year and Miken Builders was voted Custom Builder of the Year by Delaware Home Builders Association.

**What are some fond memories from your childhood?** Unfortunately, my childhood had some sad years. In 1967 the day after Christmas, my dad had an aneurysm and he died; 44 years old. I was 7 years old, the youngest of four kids. My mom was a wonderful lady but at 39 years old and a stay-at-home mom it was rough. My mom never had a driver's license so she walked to work at JC Penny about a mile from our house for 20 years. She raised



Cummings Children, Teenage years



me, my two sisters, and oldest brother on Social Security. She was an amazing woman. Mom passed away when I was 29 but left us kids with strong family values that we still are all close today and talk daily. I found my mom when she died. I did CPR on her but it was too late. I gave

the eulogy at my mom's funeral. I told everyone to go home and call your mom and dad, tell them you love them because the next time you turn around, they may be gone.

**You have such a sunny disposition. How do you do that?** Well, I'm just so grateful of what I've been able to accomplish. That's why I loved having kids so much and grandchildren because I only had a father for a short time. It's just the right place at the right time, right personality, treating people the right way. I've just been blessed that God has given me this path, that I was able to take it, and make something of it.

**Do you think your hardship in your childhood drove you to become the success that you are?** Oh yes, I remember when I was early in my career and stressed, I had stomach ulcers. I was 30 years old. My wife said Mike just go back to being a carpenter. I said no; I'm going to see this thing through. I'm not going to get another chance to take my life to the level that I want to or I can. You have to go through some pain to do that. I'm glad I'd hung on in there. Hopefully, I can teach other people that you have to persevere through the hard times and not walk away because it's the easy thing to do whether it's your marriage or your business. My wife Kathy is the rock of our family.

**How did you know how to be a father figure? You had no role model.** I had a scout master when I was 12. Every time someone would say "Hey Dad" I would look up and he noticed that and he took me under his wing. He would take me to his place on Long Neck and I would spend weekends with him and his wife. If there ever was a father figure, it was him, and I owe him a lot of gratitude.

Being a father came naturally to me; and Kathy is just an amazing mother. I was always working, working, working. She really molded the kids and was the glue of the whole family. All my children are in business for themselves which I am so proud of them.

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I got into golf after college. When I bought my first clubs, they didn't have left-handed clubs, and they were ladies' clubs. I used them for a long time until I could afford a new set of clubs. My dad always loved golf. It's one thing I really enjoy and I'm always trying to get better at it. **Do you have any holes-in-one?** Yes, I have five holes in one. **Do you travel for golf?** I like to travel for golf. I was just out in Scottsdale in February. I've done Pebble Beach, Scotland, Ireland. I love going out west to play. With the mountains it's so beautiful. It's like a golf course fell out of the sky into the desert. I have a place in Florida; right on the ninth hole. I love being around people and playing with friends.

When I'm not golfing, I enjoy spending time with my family. I love spending time with my grandkids; I've never had any grandparents because they passed before I was born. I'm super grateful for my business, for my family, for my friends.

**What advice would you give to our youth today in leading a fulfilling life?** It's just about perseverance in good times and bad and always keeping your head up and looking for new opportunities and making the best of everything that comes your way. I haven't made money on every job I've ever done, but I've always learned something.

**Tell us something very few people know about you.** I am an ordained minister; so, I could do weddings. It all started when my daughter wanted me to marry her. I also performed my younger son's, Sean, ceremony. I've done six weddings so far; I have a whole, planned ceremony. I've been doing it for about 10 years.

Mike Cummings is a builder and he'll persevere through any difficulties whether he's building beautiful, high-quality custom homes, communities through Contractors for a Cause, relationships with friends, loving memories with his family, and as in golf, always striving to hit them long and straight!

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## Past Interviews

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

### SUMMER 2022

Mike Cummings  
Builder/Developer

### SPRING 2022

Gerald Hocker  
State Senator

### WINTER 2022

Rachel Lynch, Director  
Sussex County Libraries

### FALL 2021

Rosemary Hardiman,  
Mayor of Bethany Beach



**Libraries and museums are magical places. They can stir emotions, spark inspiration, ignite imagination, launch creativity, transform, and transport you.**

Growing up in small-town America, the library was where I was introduced to the Hardy Boys and my wife, Suzy, got to know Nancy Drew. Today, I favor works by a multitude of popular authors and as a member of the South Coastal Library Book Club, and an avid reader in general, Suzy also has a wide range of authors and genres.

The Ebensburg Public Library, on the corner of High Street and Caroline Street, was a converted frame house with hardwood floors, dark oak crown molding and shelving from floor to ceiling. It had a smell I can recall even now. To this day, I remember my library card number was 222. Mrs. Jones was our librarian. The Ebensburg Library, like many small-town libraries, was an anchor in the community. Friends and neighbors, young and old would visit the library and leave much richer than when they arrived.

Back then, the brick-and-mortar library was hallowed ground, and the knowledgeable librarian demanded our respect. You knew silence was golden in this special place; the stacks were pathways to other times and places; and, the books were revered.

In short, Suzy and I recognized early on that reading was a lifelong, critical skill and it was a principle we applied to parenting. I'll share a memory to underscore my point here.

When our son, Brian, was about 7 years of age, he wanted a 2XL Talking Robot by Mego more

## AUTHORS, ARTISTS, AND ARTIFACTS... *oh my*

than anything else in the world, and we wanted him to have it but we felt he should earn it. It just so happened that at about this time the *Charlie Brown 'Cyclopedia* came out. Each of the fifteen volumes featured a different subject matter. Brian agreed to a deal that would earn him the dollars he needed to purchase 2XL and a set of the 8-track tapes that provided the robot's voice. Brian could choose whatever volume of the Charlie Brown 'Cyclopedia that interested him and he was to study it to prepare for a 10-point quiz on that particular subject. Each correct answer to the quiz earned him a dollar. It didn't take him long before he was interacting with his very own 2XL.

Throughout the history of mankind, libraries have been a repository of historical information, creative genius, and a wealth of human knowledge. From the Library of Ashurbanipal to the Library Company of Philadelphia to Bethany's South Coastal Library to the Ebensburg Public Library, libraries have served as an important community and societal resource.

The buzz word or metaphor I hear and read about regarding the libraries of today is the library as a "platform." To me, this means that the library is changing to encompass new programming, processes and possibilities. For example, to be relevant to a technologically savvy clientele, libraries have evolved and now offer computer and related services. Did you know that the famous Library of Alexandria was a platform for archiving a remarkable collection, for translating and copying texts, and it also included a cafeteria, botanical gardens, and laboratories? Recently, our family visited the Memorial Hall Library in Andover, Massachusetts, and I noted that telescopes, microscopes, camera equipment and other items were available for loan.

In my book, museums are akin to libraries and I was most fortunate in my career to have lived the museum experience as the Executive

Director of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA). I also was afforded the opportunity to serve on the Cambria County Historical Society's Board of Directors. Like libraries, museums are an important community resource. Museums preserve history, reflect culture and celebrate a collective heritage. Focusing specifically on my experiences from the art world I know that art museums foster creativity, curiosity, conversation and community. Art inspires, challenges, entertains and prompts self-reflection. Art encourages an understanding and appreciation for other peoples and different cultures.

Over the years, we collected and enjoyed the artwork of prominent national artists and award-winning regional

**The Ebensburg Library, like many small-town libraries, was an anchor in the community. Friends and neighbors, young and old would visit the library and leave much richer than when they arrived.**

artists including Will Barnet, Alfred Bricher, Colleen Browning, Adolf Dehn, Arthur Diehl, Shirley Goldfarb, Donald Robinson, Fred Danziger, Michael Strueber, Ron Donoughe, Kamal Youssef and others. As a side note, a favorite artist and friend, Rita Haldeman, vacationed at Bethany Beach and painted landscapes, flora and fauna from this area.

As has been the case with the library platform, museums have embraced the dynamics of change in order to survive and thrive. Throughout my tenure as SAMA's Executive Director, my staff and I endeavored to enhance the visitor experience and to expand our community outreach. In addition to a robust exhibition schedule, SAMA installed sound systems, developed video capabilities, completed a sculpture

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# SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM NEWS

## Flying Over Delmarva A-Z:

People, Places  
and Planes

An Activity Book

Joanne K. Guilfoil, Ph.D.



## Summer Reading

Learning Center (ELC) in Dagsboro and Melissa Timmons, Lord Baltimore Elementary School (LBES) Librarian, on a weekend raid of the Book Sale shed, where untold treasures awaited. Finding many things appropriate to each school's population, LBES came away with 75 books to add to its library collection while the ELC scored 75 picture books and 16 big books for its three- and four-year-olds. It

was a most successful first effort, which we hope to repeat several times during the year in conjunction with the pop-up book sales. Many thanks to the Book Sale Committee for its enthusiastic support of the new project.

FOSCL is also sponsoring its first Spring author visit at the Dagsboro Early Learning

Center. In coordination with Dr. Janet Hickman, Dr. Joanne Guilfoil will be on hand at ELC on May 25th and 26th for a presentation to young students there. Dr. Guilfoil will share highlights from, *The ABCs of Flying Over Delmarva*, a paperback book about Delmarva aircraft for young readers. Her book portrays each alphabet letter with a large color photo of an airplane or pilot, a drawing to color, and words that rhyme. 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. We are excited to inaugurate this new relationship with ELC, and look forward to including them in our program planning for the 2022-23 school year.

For more information on Joanne Guilfoil  
visit [shorebooksllc.com](http://shorebooksllc.com)

## AUTHORS, ARTISTS, AND ARTIFACTS... oh my

garden, offered special lectures on a variety of topics, scheduled small venue concerts, published research and partnered with a myriad of community organizations.

For example, SAMA's arts education program enrolled over 15,000 children (K-12) annually, providing an exposure to the arts that would otherwise be denied the rural population of this southwestern region of Pennsylvania. The Museum/Healthcare Partnership initiative touched the lives of thousands of people – the infirmed, elderly citizens, disabled veterans, and those suffering from chronic pain. First Lady, Laura Bush, presented SAMA with one of six national awards from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in 2002. Our worldwide podcast on American Realism featured the leading art historians and educators from across the United States. SAMA's Monuments & Masterpieces program was introduced early on in my association with the museum and it opened doors to the Carnegie Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, and other museums around the world. Of course, my kids would draw and paint their own pictures. I would display their artwork in my museum office, along with works of acclaimed artists and talented regional artists. I guess you could say my grandkids hung around with the best of the best.

Libraries and museums are both noteworthy treasures to any community. SAMA's Bedford Museum was calculated to have an economic impact of \$1.2 million annually to the community. It is most unfortunate that, despite the value they add, these not-for-profit entities struggle to survive. Operating funds are difficult to

come by because costs continue to mount and there is so much competition for the discretionary dollar. Fund-raising initiatives, caring communities, foundation dollars and government support are the life blood to our libraries and museums. They are an important public trust and continued support from our various constituencies is paramount to the future well-being of our libraries and museums. And, yes, your active involvement and generous support can help make a difference. By establishing and maintaining our libraries and museums and by providing a dynamic venue of programs and activities of a public, charitable, civic, cultural, literary, and educational nature our libraries and museums enrich our lives today and assure an even brighter future for generations to come.

Step into the world of libraries and museums and experience the wonderful magic they can offer! You can be spellbound by a book, mesmerized by a work of art, or awestruck by some relic. Having done so, you'll wish others would do the same.

*Gary and Suzy Moyer celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2020. He has his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Saint Francis University and his MBA from Indiana University. Suzy attended Saint Francis University and had a lengthy career in the dental and healthcare fields. In 2017, they relocated to the Bethany Beach area where they truly enjoy visits from their children and grandchildren. Gary currently is editor of the Bay Colony Beacon newsletter. Suzy is Chairperson of the Bay Colony Book Club.*



Experience “Tour with a Twist”—both Virtual and In Person. **VIRTUAL TOUR** is from July 17 through August 6. Your Virtual Tour ticket entitles you to view the 12 unique homes on the Tour from anywhere at any time during those three weeks on any electronic device computer, tablet or phone. Visit as many times as you like.

The Combo Tour includes the VIRTUAL TOUR plus the opportunity to visit 5 of the 12 homes In Person on ONE of two days—Wednesday, July 27 OR Thursday, July 28. Only 500 tickets will be sold for each day. You must choose one of the two days when you purchase your ticket. Your ticket is valid ONLY on THAT day. The same 5 homes will be open on both days.

### TOUR TICKETS

Virtual Tickets are \$35.00 and Combo Tickets are \$50.00. Combo ticket includes a 30th Anniversary Tote Bag and printed Tour Book, which is also your In-Person ticket. Tickets are available for purchase **ONLINE ONLY**. Virtual Tour tickets are available for purchase until 6:00 p.m. on August 6. Combo tickets are available until they sell out or July 28. Tickets may be purchased by visiting the Cottage Tour website at [beachandbaycottagetour.com](http://beachandbaycottagetour.com)

When you purchase a ticket, either Virtual or Combo, you supply your unique email and create a password. You will use them to “Log In” on [beachandbaycottagetour.com](http://beachandbaycottagetour.com) to see the VIRTUAL Tour starting Sunday, July 17 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 6. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please check your inbox, spam and junk mail. The Virtual Tour videos will be available for viewing from July 17, the first day of the Tour, until 11:59 pm on August 6, the last day of the Tour.

If you purchase a **Combo ticket**, your ticket and tote bag will be available for **pickup** at the South Coastal Library on Saturday, July 23 from 10 am to 3 pm and Monday through Wednesday, July 25 to July 27 from 10 am to 5 pm and Thursday, July 28 from 10 am to 3 pm. **We do not mail tickets.** In the event Covid prevents In-Person home visits, you will be notified via email and there will be **NO REFUNDS**. This does not impact the Virtual portion of the Tour.

**Additional Tickets.** You may purchase more than one ticket although you must purchase each ticket individually. The cost of a Virtual Tour ticket is \$35 and the cost of a Combo Ticket is \$50. When you purchase additional tickets, you must have a unique email address (e.g., your friend’s email address) for each additional ticket purchased. You must click on “Log Out” after each purchase and then “Log In” for another purchase. The person you purchased the Ticket for will receive a confirmation email (check inbox, spam and junk mail). They will use their unique email and password to “Log In” on [beachandbaycottagetour.com](http://beachandbaycottagetour.com) to view the Virtual Tour. The Virtual Tour videos will be available for viewing from July 17, the first day of the Tour, until 11:59 pm on August 6, the last day of the Tour.

### LOST PASSWORD

If you purchased a ticket and lost your password, go to the Tour website and click on “Log In” enter your email address and click on Forgot Password.

### DONATIONS

Make a **DONATION** on our website, [beachandbaycottagetour.com](http://beachandbaycottagetour.com), and click on the **DONATE** button.

**Donations of \$50.00 to \$149.00 receive a 30th Anniversary Tote Bag.** Tote Bags will be available for pickup at the South Coastal Library on Saturday, July 23 from 10 am to 3 pm and Monday through Wednesday, July 25 to July 27 from 10 am to 5 pm and Thursday, July 28 from 10 am to 3 pm.

**Donations of \$150.00 or more receive an invitation to the July 22 Cocktail Party AND a 30th Anniversary Tote Bag.** If the Cocktail Party is canceled you will receive a Virtual Tour ticket. You will receive your Tote Bag at the Cocktail Party.

### RAFFLE

Purchase RAFFLE tickets for artwork and restaurants **ONLINE ONLY** by going to our website, [beachandbaycottagetour.com](http://beachandbaycottagetour.com) and clicking on the RAFFLE button. A list of restaurants as well as pictures of the framed artwork are on the Tour website. The framed artwork can be seen in person at the South Coastal Library after Memorial Day.

### QUESTIONS

Please call the FOSCL Office at **302.537.5828** or email us at [info@beachandbaycottagetour.com](mailto:info@beachandbaycottagetour.com)

*Thank you for your support and enjoy the Tour!*

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





# Tour Information & Donations

**In-Person Tour: July 27 & 28, 2022    Virtual Tour: July 17 - August 6, 2022**

## WHAT:

- You can experience this year's tour in two ways.** With the purchase of a **Virtual Only ticket**, you get to view all 12 homes from the comfort of your own home. With the purchase of a **Combo Ticket**, you not only get to see all 12 homes virtually, but you also get to visit five of the 12 homes In-Person. (The five In-Person homes are preselected.)
- Virtual Only Tickets** are \$35.00 and the **Combo Ticket** (virtual and in-person) is \$50.00. The Combo ticket includes a 30th Anniversary Tote Bag and a printed Tour Admission Book which is also your In-Person ticket. **Tickets are non-refundable.**
- The In-Person tickets are limited to **500 tickets for Wednesday** and **500 tickets for Thursday**. When you purchase your ticket, you **MUST choose your Tour Day and your ticket is only valid on that day**. The same 5 homes will be open on both days.
- If you purchase a Combo ticket**, your ticket and tote bag will be available for pickup at the South Coastal Library on Saturday, July 23 from 10am to 3pm and Monday through Wednesday, July 25 to July 27 from 10am to 5pm and Thursday, July 28, from 10am to 3pm. **We do not mail tickets.**
- In the event Covid prevents In-Person home visits, you will be notified via email and there will be **NO refunds**. This does not impact the Virtual portion of the Tour.

## HOW:

- Tour Tickets and Raffle Tickets **MUST be purchased on the website, beachandbaycottage.com** beginning May 1.
- When you purchase a ticket, either Virtual or Combo, you supply your unique email and create a password. Use them to "Log In" to view the VIRTUAL Tour until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 6. The Tour videos will be available at beachandbaycottage.com starting Sunday, July 17, the first day of the Virtual Tour.
- Additional Tickets:** You may purchase more than one ticket although you must purchase each ticket **individually**. The cost of a VIRTUAL Tour Ticket is \$35.00 and a COMBO Tour Ticket is \$50.00. When you purchase additional tickets, you must have a unique email address (e.g., your friend's email address) for each additional ticket purchased. You must click on "Log Out" after each purchase and then "Log In" for another purchase.
- You will receive a confirmation email for your ticket purchase (**check your inbox, spam and junk mail**).
- Credit Cards **MUST** be used to purchase Tour tickets online. **All tickets are NONREFUNDABLE.**

## Donations may also be made by cash or check using this form

- Donations can be made online at [beachandbaycottage.com](http://beachandbaycottage.com) as well as by check or cash.
- Donations by CASH, along with the following completed form, should be dropped off at the South Coastal Library. **Please DO NOT mail Cash.**
- Donations by CHECK (**made payable to: Friends of the South Coastal Library**), along with the following completed form, may be mailed to: Beach and Bay Cottage Tour, PO Box 753, Bethany Beach, DE 19930 OR dropped off at the library.



## FOR DONATIONS ONLY

**Please complete form CLEARLY and include your email address**

**Please PRINT your name as you would like it to appear in the program.**

Name

Email

Home Mailing Address

City  State  Zip

Phone

☐ Please make my donation anonymous

☐ **Cash** (For in-person donation ONLY)

☐ **Check enclosed** (Make check payable to **Friends of the South Coastal Library**)

☐ **Charge my Visa or Mastercard** (\*ALL info below is required if paying by credit card)

CVV code from back of card  Exp. Date

Card Number

Name on Card

Signature



## Look at what you can get!

**With your \$50 Donation:**  
30th Anniversary Tote Bag

**With your \$150 Donation:**  
An invitation to the July 22 Cocktail Party  
**AND** a 30th Anniversary Tote Bag.  
If the Cocktail Party is canceled you will receive a Virtual Tour ticket.

## Show your support by making a tax deductible donation.

- ☐ Underwriter ..... \$1,000
- ☐ Benefactor ..... \$500
- ☐ Sponsor ..... \$250
- ☐ Supporter ..... \$150
- ☐ Patron ..... \$100
- ☐ Contributor ..... \$50
- ☐ Friend ..... \$25

**For your name to be included in the Tour Book, your donation must be received by June 3, 2022.**

## Your Total Donation

\$

**Please make a copy of this form for your records.**

**You will receive a confirmation email once we receive your donation - be sure to include your email address.**

For additional information, contact  
Kathy at 610-762-4692 or  
Phyllis at 301-526-5673  
or email us at  
[info@beachandbaycottage.com](mailto:info@beachandbaycottage.com)

**Visit our website at [www.beachandbaycottage.com](http://www.beachandbaycottage.com)**

# Has this ever happened to you?

Helen N. Pastis

As you're driving down a one-lane road, a car pulls right in front of you with such little space that you slam on the brakes, causing everything on the seat next to you to go flying toward the dashboard and end up in a heap of a mess on the floor. Glancing in your rear-view mirror, you don't see a car behind you for miles. And to add insult to injury, they are now driving five miles below the speed limit. Really? The driver couldn't have waited a few seconds and pull in back of you? Did they have to cut you off so sharply? What do you do? Do you curse? Do you make unspeakable hand gestures? How about both?

I do neither. I simply recite a poem by Ogden Nash that always has a calming effect on me and explains life's unpredictable and puzzling challenges. And here it is:

God in his wisdom made the fly  
And then forgot to tell us why!

## 2022 Upcoming Events

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

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

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

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			