



Friends of the Newark Free Library

September 2020

Editor – Patricia Rachek

Fast Friends: Zooming into the Future Together

Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member

This fall, the Friends of the Newark Free library are finding new ways to support our library.

Thanks to Friends funding, programs such as Musical Adventures for kids and Watercolor Workshops for adults as well as library staff meetings are now available online via Zoom. First library cards are being authorized digitally rather than with a pen. And new walkie talkies are helping staff to keep pace with the demand for curbside book pickup.

Other activities have adapted as well. This summer the Friends funded awards for children and adults participating in the reading program—which will be distributed soon. On October 2, author Doug Tallamy, an expert in gardening with native plants, will speak to library patrons on Zoom. The event is free; to register visit: <https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/event/7050806>

Some customary activities have been paused. The ukuleles and sewing machines we purchased last year are silent for now. There won't be opportunities to showcase the library and give out new cards at Community Day or to throw a costume prep party for the Halloween Parade.

But through it all, the library continues to add to its online presence and COVID-safe services. Since August, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has made free books available to children under 5 via the Delaware libraries. Kids from throughout the state can receive one new book in the mail each month from birth until their fifth birthday at no cost to the family. Information and registration are available online here:

<https://lib.de.us/imagination/>



New book and movie bundles and a special site for recent acquisitions have been launched to spark a new interest if your inspo is running low. Crafts, Dungeons & Dragons missions, story time and other activities continue to be available online, and access to wireless Internet and printing services are still available from the parking lot. The Hoopla service has expanded the number of movies, books, and magazines available online. You can learn about and try out any of these offerings from the Newark Free Library Home page:

<https://nccde.org/333/Newark-Free-Library>

As the library continues to innovate and adapt, the Friends will be there to help speed along the next wave of advances. Stay tuned.



From the President

Dear Friends,

Recently I googled “Libraries During Pandemic” and found it amazing to read how libraries across this country are responding to meet the needs of their communities, including our own Newark Library. You can read how Newark Library is responding by reading the weekly email announcement from the library. It includes descriptions of the wide variety of programs, new books, etc, available to YOU.

Our Friends has been supporting the Newark Library since the 1960s through financial support for special programs and to assist our libraries in their work. This is THANKS to each of you!

Friends Board members have been busy during the pandemic writing thank you notes for financial gifts, producing outstanding newsletters to keep you up to date, maintaining our excellent Friends website, continuing to manage the budget and membership. Every board member has an important role in supporting our Friends.

How can you help the Friends and the Newark Library? Financial support, of course, but also consider writing a short book review and submitting it to the Newsletter Editor at friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com.

Our readers share that this is one of their favorite parts of the newsletter. Also, any ideas or suggestions, you have for the Friends, please let us know at the email mentioned above.

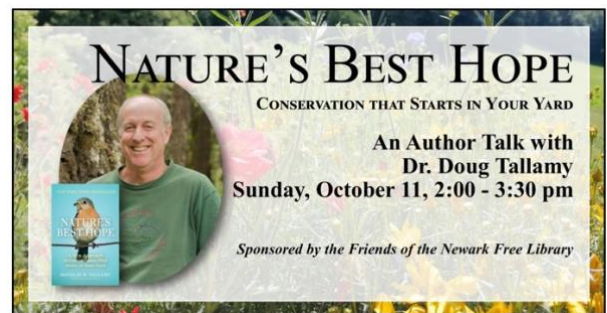
Thank you,

Judy Taggart

SAVE THE DATE!

Author Talk with Dr. Doug Tallamy
Sunday, October 11 @ 2pm via Zoom

Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard is the latest book by Dr. Doug Tallamy, a UD professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology and highly respected expert in the field of wildlife conservation and native species. The Friends of the Newark Free Library are sponsoring an author talk with Dr. Tallamy on Zoom, on **Sunday, October 11 at 2:00 pm.**



Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain *us*. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Planet Earth. The good news is that none of this is inevitable. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can and must take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature’s best hope.

Click here to register for this program:
<https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/event/7050806>

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From the Library Manager

Pat Birchenall



Library Services to Go!

Many of you have taken advantage of our new curbside pickup service since we began offering it in early June. Curbside pickup is a great way to get books and DVDs into your hands in a safe manner. Though not as fun as browsing the shelves, it has proven to be very effective. It is so popular that we have averaged around 550 curbside appointments per week during the last month.

To use the service, you can go to our online library catalog and place holds on items yourself, or you can call us at the library to place your requests by phone.

Staff members process the items you have requested, pulling them from our shelves or receiving them from other branches. Once the items are gathered, staff will call you to schedule a curbside appointment.

We discovered soon after starting the curbside service that we needed a better means of communicating between our circulation desk and our curbside station in the lobby. The Friends helped us solve this problem by funding the purchase of walkie-talkies which allow us to communicate quickly without having to run back and forth between the two areas.

Our bookdrop is open 24/7, and we ask that you bring your books to the bookdrop rather than handing them over to a staff person during curbside service. For everyone's safety we continue to quarantine returned items for 72 hours before checking them in. No fines are assessed for the quarantine period.

Phone service is available Monday – Wednesday from 10am – 7pm, and on Friday and Saturday from 10am - 5pm. We are here answer your reference questions and to help you find books and DVDs since patrons are not able to come in to the library to browse.

You can request a book bundle – a group of books we select for you based on your interests and preferences – by filling out a form on our website or by calling and talking with a staff member. They have so much knowledge and expertise about our collection that they can find just the right titles for you. Book bundles are available for both adults' and children's items. We're here to help you!



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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

ELECTION OF SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2021

If you have objections to the slate below, please email me at JudithTaggart1@verizon.net by September 20. Otherwise the slate is approved.

Judy Taggart, President, 2nd term

Deb Morehead, Recording Secretary, 1st term as officer

Kathie Davis, Corresponding Secretary, (appointed until spring 2021)

Noreen Campbell, Treasurer, 3rd term

Barbara Jo German, 3rd term

Adebanjo (Banjo) Oriade, 3rd term

Patricia (Pat) Rachek, 3rd term

Sue Peters, 2nd term

Catherine Germani, 2nd term

Carol McKelvey, 2nd term

Mark Rusinko, 1st term

Lynne Wegman, 1st term

Continuing Board members are:

Mary Ann Gladnick, Vice President

Katy Ferrero, Board Member

Roy Lopata, Board Member

Nominating Committee: Barbara Jo German, Chair; Mary Ann Gladnick, Dorothy Sharkey

We are especially pleased to welcome Mark Rusinko and Lynne Wegman to the board. You can read their bios in the newsletter.

Both **Jo Anne Deshon** and **Doug Tong** have completed their eligibility and will be properly recognized at the Spring 2021 Annual Meeting. Both have been devoted long time board members.

Over the years Doug has written many book reviews for the newsletter and supported Friends special events. Jo Anne can never say no and has supported just about every project/activity the board has provided for the library. She has given tirelessly to the Friends.

Now Boarding!

Welcome the newest Members of the Friends of the Newark Free Library Board



Lynne graduated from Newark High School and has two degrees from the University of Delaware: one in Elementary Education and the other in Early Childhood Development and Special Education. She taught in the Christina School District for 33 years. After retiring, Lynne was asked to work part time as a reading interventionist at her old school, Gallaher Elementary, which she did for seven years. Lynne is married with two children, two stepchildren and two grandchildren. Now that she is fully retired, Lynne enjoys reading, biking and camping as well as volunteering in the community. For two years she volunteered at Christiana Hospital, monitoring the waiting area for families of critical care patients. For the past six years she has been taking metalsmithing classes at the Delaware Art Museum and loves making and designing jewelry.

Having lived in Newark for more than 31 years, Mark now calls it his home. He grew up in Niagara Falls and received a ceramic science and engineering degree from Penn State. He worked as a manufacturing engineer in western Pennsylvania and then came to Delaware for a job opportunity making armor at Lanxide Armor Products. Mark has a married daughter who has been a librarian for over 10 years. Mark's wife of nearly 40 years passed away after a long battle with breast cancer, and he married again a year ago, enlarging his family with three more children and four grandchildren. He loves to read and travel, is active at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Landenberg and participates in several small bible study groups. Enjoying retirement, Mark hopes to go on some short-term mission trips soon.



Brunch Cancellation

Due to the corona virus uncertainty and the wisdom of hosting the brunch event inside the library in relatively close quarters, we have decided to cancel the brunch for this year.

Hopefully we will be able to host the brunch again in April 2021. We will keep you apprised of future plans and we thank all of you for your continued support.

WEBSITES :

Friends of the Newark Free Library

www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com

Newark Free Library main page

<http://www.nccde.org/Newark>

New Castle County Happenings library page

<http://www.nccdecs.org> and click on libraries and then Happenings Guide

Meet A Friend:

Q&A with teacher, lifelong learner, and chocolate-bearer John Reddington

Q: John, when did you first come to Newark and what brought you here?

A: I arrived in the mid-60s. I taught for eight years at the University of Delaware, and then I taught AP English (mainly to seniors) and Latin (mainly to students whose parents had required it) at Newark High School. The AP students sought fresh ideas as they prepped for college. They were attentive, appreciative, and friendly. They were just the best.



*Photo credit:
familybusinessmagazine.com*

Q: What are some other highlights of your teaching career?

A: I especially liked teaching Shakespeare for Non-Majors at UD. I had nurses, engineers—students from a wide variety of backgrounds. And again, they were very motivated and wanted to be there. I had specialized in Shakespeare in my PhD studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and it was a pleasure to share my knowledge and love of Shakespeare with students who were truly interested in his plays. I found that teaching *Twelfth Night* and *King Lear* were especially enjoyable, whatever the level of the student, college or AP.

I concentrated on teaching my students to write well, and I was excited to have one student who later had short stories published in *The New Yorker*. But in class we focused on explanatory writing—thinking lucidly in prose. Of course, we all know that this is the hardest kind of writing to do. Digging ditches is its physical equivalent, absent the aching back.

Q: How did you become involved with the Newark Free Library?

A: At first I would go to the library just for a change of scene and to read *The London Review* and *The New York Review of Books*. It was a pleasant place to be. I really came to admire the librarians, for the care they took of the library and all of its patrons. To say thanks, I started bringing them a couple of 3 lb. boxes of Govatos chocolates each February—I still do.

I also support the library financially every year, and I served a term on the Friends board. One highlight of those years was establishing a memorial writing prize in honor of John Wriston. John had been the first biochemist at the University of Delaware, and he was active in the American Association of University Professors. In retirement, he wrote about his native Vermont and showed his commitment to literacy by collecting used books for local prison libraries. He had been on the Friends Board and edited the newsletter, and we felt the prize would be a fitting tribute. We presented \$1,000 to the high school junior or senior who wrote the best essay on that year's topic, which was typically an autobiographical experience related to the library, learning or reading. We kept the prize competition going for about five years. Then a creative writing class took its place, and is still dedicated to John.

Q: What do you enjoy about the library now and hope for its future?

A: These days listening to audiobooks is among my favorite forms of entertainment. Recordings of Shakespeare performances really engaged my students, and I still love to hear English read aloud. Audiobooks also take me back to the way I enjoyed radio programs. It is very satisfying to imagine fiction in that way.

I am curious to see what's in store for our library. The state and county governments have been very supportive, so I am optimistic. One of the best things about the library is the little kids coming in and learning that reading is fun—we will always need to support that.

Interviewed by: Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member



Introducing the Ultimaker S3 3D Printer

Lauren Gouge, Library Staff

Newark Free Library has acquired a second 3D printer, an Ultimaker S3 dual-extrusion machine. This printer has a larger print bed than our original Lulzbot Mini, which will allow us to create bigger items than previously possible.

The new printer has a feature which enables any required support structures to be rendered with a special type of plastic (PVA) that is easier to break away when the print is complete. The PVA is water soluble, so difficult supports can be melted away with warm water. This enables the new printer to print jobs that the old printer could not render.

We are presently using the printer to make one part of a face shield. The project is headed up by coworkers at the Route 9 Library and Innovation Center, as part of an effort to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders.



Now that the Library is offering curbside pickup for borrowers, we are pleased to add 3D Print requests to the services we can provide.

If you have an item you would like us to print for you, you can email the .STL file to us, along with your name, your library card number, and color preference (if any). We have many basic colors and will try to accommodate your request whenever possible. The plastic is also paintable, so you can add details to your finished piece.

Email your .STL file to NewarkRef@gmail.com.

You can find many design files available free at Thingiverse.com, simply download a file and attach it to your email.

Music Programs of 2020

Pamela Nelson, Reference Librarian

Before the closure of the Library to the public on March 16th, several music programs were presented during the winter months.



Mélomanie joined us in January in a program of *Provocative Pairing of Early and Contemporary Works* including pieces by Elisabeth-Claude de la Guerre, Georg Philipp Telemann, Maurice Ravel, and Ingrid Arauco, a Philadelphia composer who attended the concert for her world premiere.

In February, the **Sylvia Olden Lee Music Guild** presented a program of Spirituals and readings in honor of African-American History Month.



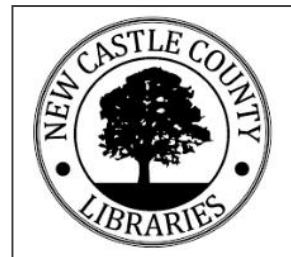
One program that has been developed recently is **Virtual Open Mic**. It started as a cooperative between the Claymont and Woodlawn Libraries and now Newark has joined the venture. It is scheduled every other Wednesday evening at 6pm on Zoom.

The **Adult Open Mic** will return in the fall. **Virtual Teen Open Mic** continues at this point on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday evenings of the month from 6pm - 7pm. The next month's sessions will be Sept. 2nd and Sept. 16th. Attendees share music, poetry, stories, etc.

Registration is required and is done through the Virtual Calendar from the Library's homepage. <https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/event/6765616>

How to Enjoy Virtual Library Programs @ Your New Castle County Libraries!

Pat Birchenall, Library Manager



About virtual library programs

In the last several months, many of us have become familiar with using Zoom, whether it's for a family group call, a business meeting or for entertainment. Libraries have switched to the Zoom format for programs and activities too. Storytimes, book groups, lectures, even craft programs are now available to you via Zoom. A great advantage of the virtual format for library patrons is that in addition to attending programs hosted by the Newark Library, you can also attend virtual programs offered by other New Castle County libraries as well. This means you have more choices than ever before.

How do I find out what programs are available and when?

Go to nccde.org/Newark <https://nccde.org/333/Newark-Free-Library> and scroll down and click on the link – **View Library Virtual Events Calendar**. The New Castle County Libraries calendar of virtual events will appear. Click on each event to learn more about it and to register.

Do I have to register for programs and events?

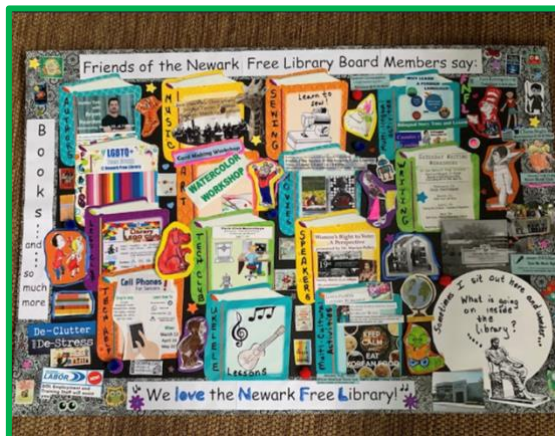
Many events and programs require online registration – it is quick and simple, and requires just a first name and an email address. You will receive an email confirmation right away, and a reminder email close to the time of the program. One or both of these will contain the link you will need to join the Zoom program. Some programs are presented as Facebook Live events. You do not need to register for these. A link to the Facebook event is included in the detailed description.

I still have questions about using Zoom for library programs – what do I do?

Please give us a call at 302-731-7550 and we can assist with your questions. Our Information Desk staff is available Monday – Wednesday from 10am – 7pm, and Friday – Saturday from 10am – 5pm. We're here to help!

Awaiting Its Public

This new collage was created by the Friends for a county-wide art contest to "share what you love most about your community through art." The collage was on display outside the library for the announcement of curbside pickup at Delaware libraries in June. For now, it's awaiting its unveiling at the library and its image here serves to remind us of the library fun we miss and are working to bring back.



I've Been Reading...

**APOLLO 8:
The Thrilling Story of the First Mission to the
Moon**
By Jeffrey Kluger

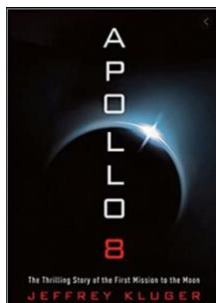
Henry Holt, 2017; 307 pp.



Reviewed by Roy H. Lopata

If on a wintry December night your eyes turn skyward with wonder at an iridescent full-moon set against an inky black sky; if you continue to marvel at the miracle of space flight; and, most of all, if you are a baby boomer with a fond remembrance of a long ago Christmas Eve when the crew of the Apollo 8 command module broadcast the first close up televised images of the moon and began reading the Bible's opening words: "In the beginning . . ." , this brisk and exultant history of man's first lunar orbit of the moon in 1968 is for you.

Kluger begins with a summary of America's 1960s space race with the Soviet Union including the stories of NASA's Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space programs through their initial technical struggles, culminating with the tragic launch pad fire that cost the lives of the first set of Apollo astronauts. Kluger focuses, in addition, on the selection process that NASA used to pick America's space pioneers and also provides interesting background material on the lives and families of the Apollo 8 astronauts – Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders.



Soon Kluger turns to the heart of the book with its detailed description of the initial and unexpected decision to send Apollo 8 on its circumlunar voyage; the accelerated efforts of the NASA scientists and engineers to solve the innumerable technical problems involved in preparing the Saturn V rocket and the command capsule for launch; and the revised training schedule for the astronauts chosen for the journey. Kluger is especially good at reminding readers of the dangers inherent in space flight with new and largely untested equipment in an environment never before explored by man.

The book concludes with a vivid day-to-day description of the trip to the moon and back beginning with the start of the mission on December 21, 1968. Eventually, Commander Borman and his crew were to become the first humans to travel beyond the Earth's orbit; the first to see all of Earth from space (resulting in the iconic "Earthrise" color photo originally published in *Life* magazine); the first to orbit the moon; the first to directly see the Moon's far side; and first to experience the Moon's gravitational force. Along the way, Kluger highlights the difficulties that arose – some of which were unknown to the public at the time -- and then sets the stage for the crew's Christmas Eve broadcast reading from Genesis that became an iconic moment in the history of manned space travel. Kluger then takes us along with the crew as it returns to Earth, noting in particular the difficulties involved in correctly hitting the tiny window in the Earth's atmosphere that would insure that Apollo 8 would not burn up or miss the planet entirely, sending the crew to a certain death.

Finally, one thread that runs consistently through Kluger's text is the positive and hopeful coda that the Apollo 8 journey provided after the tumultuous

Continued on page 10

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events of 1968, including the Tet offensive in South Vietnam, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, the riots in cities across America and around the globe, the Democratic Party's chaotic national convention in Chicago, and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Whether that hopeful moment continued into the future is a topic for another volume.



Franklin and Washington, The Founding Partnership (2020)

Edward J. Larson



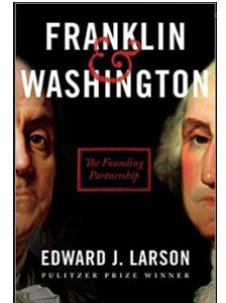
Reviewed by Bob Taggart

The two early American warhorses, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, are well-known to this nation's citizenry. However, few realize how much they worked together for much of their adult lives to construct the new nation. Even in colonial times, the two knew of each other for their military exploits against the French and their Indian allies in western Pennsylvania. Living in London for much of a 15-year period as Pennsylvania's colonial agent, Franklin lost touch with Washington for several years, but the contentious policies of Parliament drew them back together.

In the 1770s, Franklin served as postmaster and printer, and then as President of Pennsylvania during the Revolution, while Washington became very involved in Virginia's politics. They were both convinced of the necessity of Revolution and

often communicated on how to proceed in opposing Parliamentary actions. They became ever

closer during the war, and especially in the second Continental Congress, and even more so at the Constitutional Convention. Washington was always the steadying influence during the Convention as the revered general and national hero. Everyone looked up to him and assumed he would become the leader the new nation needed so much. Meanwhile, Franklin was the great mediator. He was world renowned for his political leadership, foreign diplomacy, and outstanding scholarship, and so taken seriously. Franklin was most effective at hosting convivial dinner parties at his home where men from all sides met together after tense daily sessions at the Convention. The two men served as the glue that kept representatives on target toward building a new government that would make the future nation possible.



The two leaders remained close to the end of Franklin's life in 1790, even though Franklin had become President of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and presented several petitions to Congress to prohibit slavery. As one might expect, Washington was opposed to such entreaties, though he later instructed that his slaves be freed upon his (and Martha's) death. The author made clear that the two men shared a positive republican ideology and a faith in rational progress for the new nation, as true "Enlightenment" men. But Larson also believes Franklin was more forward-looking than Washington. Certainly, the nation benefitted tremendously from the work of both men, which was enhanced by their cooperation together.



Support The Friends

We hope you will **find your way** to support the Friends of the Newark Free Library.

This fall, we ask our current members to contribute as generously as possible for the year ahead. Donors who contribute \$15 or more will become Friends of the Newark Library for 2021 and will receive our newsletter and an invitation to our annual spring thank-you brunch and performance event.

Your gift helps the Friends:

- Purchase new books, music, and films in both traditional and digital formats
- Improve the library’s technology
- Develop educational programs
- Respond to unexpected needs and opportunities
- *Assist Newark residents in their pursuit of knowledge, rewarding careers, and safer, healthier, happier lives.*

Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. For tribute gifts, an acknowledgement card is sent to the honoree with the name of the donor.

To give by credit card, click on the PayPal link at:

<https://friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com/>

A PayPal account is not required.

To give by check, please make your check payable to: Friends of the Newark Free Library and mail it to:

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