

THE YEAR THERE WAS NO BOOK SALE

Can we safely have a Book Collection this month? When can we safely sort books in the shed? Can we even have a Book Sale? Now that there is no 2021 Book Sale, how do we limit the number of books we collect for the 2022 sale?

These are the questions that the Board of the Friends of the Hockessin Library (FOHL) has had to deal with this past year. It has definitely not been business as usual!

Since the 2021 sale was canceled (and we had been collecting books for it), we have to limit the number of books we collect. Each year we collect around 60,000 books for the sale. These books are sorted and then stored in two trailers in Yorklyn. To date, we have already collected more than half of the books needed for the 2022 sale. If we continue to collect books monthly, we will have many more books than we need and can store. There is no point in collecting more than 60,000 books because we are not able to display more than that at the sale.

Sorting donated books has also been a problem because of the COVID pandemic. Many of our volunteer sorters were not comfortable working in the close quarters of our shed. Some chose to sort at home, while others were not able to sort at all. This really slowed the sorting process, with it taking us four months to sort all the books that were donated during the November book donation! Most sorters are returning to the shed once they are fully vaccinated, but we are still not able to sort all the books donated in the span of one month.

We are therefore not able to hold a drop-off book collection on the second Saturday of every month. Please check the status of each month's drop-off on either the FOHL Facebook page, the

Library's recorded phone message, or the FOHL website www.friendsofthehockessinlibrary.org.

Despite not having a book sale this year, which is our major source of income, our ability to support the Hockessin Library has not been affected due to a healthy "rainy day fund." We are pleased to be able to continue to support library programs and provide needed supplies and equipment.

We would also like to thank the many students and Boy Scouts from Troop 50 who have volunteered at our recent Book Collections. You have been a tremendous help!

You can help us reduce the sorting load by not donating unwanted items such as encyclopedias; old textbooks and technical manuals; torn, stained or mildewed books; highlighted or underlined books; and VHS and cassette tapes.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation! We are looking forward to having our next sale January 27–30, 2022!

Linda Lauria, FOHL Book Sale Chair



Among Friends

There is light at the end of the tunnel. It's true that more and more people are vaccinated, we can once again spend time with our loved ones, and we can look forward to more freedoms that the pandemic took away from us more than a year ago. But the light I am talking about is the joy with which patrons greeted the limited reopening of our Library. It's as though a great cloud has been lifted. We can actually enter the Library, albeit with restrictions, and once again enjoy the pleasure of being in a place that has meant so much to us for so long. And it will only get better!

Through it all the Library staff has forged on, delivering services despite the pandemic limitations and assuring us that they are still there waiting and planning for better times.

It is inspiring to support a library with such a remarkable relationship to the community, and it has been my honor and pleasure to help. The Friends of the Hockessin Library Board does its work through committees. A Public Relations Committee looks after member communications and keeps information about the Library flowing to the community on social media and in newsletters like this one. The Book Sale Committee works all year long, collecting, sorting, and storing books so that we can bring you a wide selection of used books in good condition in our January sale. The Investment Committee oversees the growth of our investments so that we are ready to support Library projects and programs. And the Financial Review Committee audits our financial practices to keep us on a sound footing. The Archives Committee secures the Friends history. The Reading Garden Committee sees to its maintenance and refurbishment. The Program Hospitality Committee provides refreshments and service at Library events, and the Display Case Committee produces the themed displays that inform and amuse patrons.

The officers manage the running of the Board, and we are fortunate that we have outstanding Board members who are now taking on those roles: more specifically, Geri Krolin-Taylor, president; Maria Iversen, secretary; and Arthur Au, treasurer. The Friends will greatly benefit from their leadership and new perspectives.

The Board hope to elect a few new members in the not-too-distant future. If you would like to learn more about the Board, send your enquiry to info@friendsofthehockessinlibrary.org.

Spring is here! Summer's coming! Keep your eye on that light at the end of the tunnel!

Susan Foster, Past Board President

From the Director's Desk

It's been a long year, full of new experiences and ingenuity, as New Castle County libraries worked to keep serving you while our doors remained closed. But as I write this in mid-April, the COVID-19 community spread is starting to lessen, and vaccines are at last becoming available to us all. For these reasons, we are once again starting to reopen our doors for in-building use!

Beginning Wednesday, April 14, Hockessin Library opened its doors for express, in-building use three days a week. We had 126 very enthusiastic visitors of all ages from 12 p.m. til 7 p.m. that day. They were able to browse a new collection of books and access our Internet computers by appointment for a 45-minute session. They could also check out holds or selections at the check-out desk. It was one of the better days of my 14-year career as a librarian, seeing how happy people were to return to the building.

The collections remain closed until COVID-19 spread lessens and vaccinations become more widespread. Reference can pull three

items while you wait if you don't find what you're looking for in the new sections. For those unable to yet come in, we will continue to offer curbside when staff is in the building. But please note that we will start to phase out curbside as we reopen for more and more hours.

During these early days, you may see a greeter in the lobby who asks you to hand sanitize and ensure that your mask is properly secured. You may see yellow social distancing labels on the floors. This is so that we all stay safe together and follow state guidelines. As I write this, we are still quarantining all items, so the indoor book drops remain closed, and we ask you to return all items through the outdoor book drops.

Due to staffing challenges, our schedule for welcoming you into the building remains fluid, so if we haven't yet solidified those hours by printing time, please stay tuned to our website and our phone message, or just give us a call before you visit.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Beth Borene, Hockessin Library Manager

In Memoriam

The Friends of the Hockessin Library (FOHL) lost two Friends in recent months: Joe Lake, Jr., and Eleanor J. Smith. We are thankful for all they did in support of the FOHL and the Library, and they will be missed.

Joe Lake, Jr.

Joe Lake, Jr., the local super historian of Hockessin, was a great Friend of ours. He grew up in Hockessin and was part of its controlled development. Joe and his entire family have been a huge asset to the town as well as the library. Retaining and rebuilding Tweed's Tavern and saving the Lamborn Library need to be added to this gentleman's accomplishments.

When the current library was built in 1976, Joe wrote *Hockessin, a Pictorial History*, and 1,500 copies were published. Those original copies have become collectors items, and the FOHL has benefited from their sales. When the library was expanded in 1997, Joe wrote a second edition all at his expense, and again the proceeds from those sales helped defray the expansion costs.

Joe gave us permission to put our used book collection shed on his property near the firehouse, rent free. (When the firehouse purchased the property, we moved the shed to its current location on the same property.)

Our thanks go to Joe for his generosity.

—Larry Thurrell, Board Member Emeritus

Eleanor Smith

It is with profound gratitude that the FOHL recognizes the dedicated service of Eleanor J. Smith, who passed away on February 15. Eleanor was an enthusiastic volunteer for many community organizations, her church, and Cokesbury Village. She generously donated her time to The Friends, actively serving on the FOHL Board and numerous committees until 2019. Her long-time commitment to the Library, her creativity, and her positive outlook will be greatly missed.

What Should I Read Next?

Unsure what to read next? The staff of the Hockessin Library offers these suggestions, all available with your library card! Whether it's cooking, birding, or just a next great read, your library staff recommend these books.

Books for Library Lovers (Recommended by Shelley Stein, Adult Services librarian)

This past year, many library users missed coming to the Hockessin Library, lamenting about not being able to browse or enjoy all the services the Library provides. The staff also missed interacting with our patrons and delivering all the in-house services and programs we usually do. Lucky for everyone, many books were published in the last year or two that extoll libraries and fill a library-wide hole. Here are some titles that embrace and share our love for libraries (and librarians):

- *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson
- *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
- *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean
- *The Library of Lost and Found* by Phaedra Patrick
- *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
- *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles.

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig (Recommended by Carol Maurer, Circulation aide)

Nora Seed was unhappy and set a time (midnight) to take her own life (trigger warning). She finds herself in a library with her school librarian and thousands of books pertaining to her own life. Saying yes or no to any situation changes the trajectory of a life. Nora has the opportunity to explore some of these lives. This book of science fiction/fantasy was a page turner for me. It made me think about how my own life could be different if I had made even one simple change in a decision.

Reading to Learn: Nonfiction (Recommended by Donna McCarter, Circulation aide)

I used to primarily read fiction, but a few years ago, a friend told me that they only read nonfiction because there wasn't enough time to read everything and they wanted to learn as much as possible. Well, I still read some fiction (sometimes you just need a quick read), but I now focus on nonfiction, trying to learn new things, be inspired, or become a better person. Here are a few of my favorite nonfiction reads:

- *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean
- *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers* by Maxwell King
- *How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else* by Michael Gates Gill

- *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them* by The Freedom Writers
- *Brain Storms: The Race to Unlock the Mysteries of Parkinson's Disease* by Jon Palfreman.

The Joy of Graphic Novels (Recommended by Fran and Halle Burns, Circulation aides)

Graphic novels are not your traditional comic books; they focus on stories from all genres and cater to different age groups and reading levels. With their rich and intricate pictures, graphic novels are able to engage readers like never before. These are five graphic novels, spanning multiple genres, that we have enjoyed during the pandemic:

- *Everyone's a Liebn When Ur a Liebn Too* by Jomny Sun (philosophy, science fiction, humor)
- *Blacksad* by Juan Díaz Canales (mystery, crime, noir)
- *Brazen* by Pénélope Bagieu (nonfiction, feminism, history, biography)
- *The Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen (YA, LGBT+, fairy tales, immigration)
- *Monstress* by Majorie M. Liu (fantasy, horror, steampunk)

Three Bags Full: A Sheep Detective Story by Leonie Swann, translated by Anthea Bell (Recommended by Rachel Despins, Circulation aide)

The story is told entirely from the perspective of a flock of sheep, that one morning discover its beloved shepherd, George, has been murdered. George's flock sets out to figure out who did it and has all kinds of adventures while doing so. I would recommend this if one is looking for a humorous read.

Pandemic Reading Hodgepodge (Recommended by Beth Borene, Library manager)

As a lifelong swimmer, I enjoyed these two works about fellow swimmers' journeys. Each is also chock-full of fascinating information about the history of swimming around the world. Both are love letters to my favorite sport and water.

- *Why We Swim* by Bonnie Tsui
- *Swim: Why We Love the Water* by Lynn Sherr

The first book is one of the most human books I have ever read, and as you reach the end, you realize that it doesn't have a single human being in it. It's deceptive in its simplicity—before you know it, you'll be thinking about your personal approach to life while you're laughing out loud. The second book is pure fun. I read it in one sitting after a stressful day and felt lighter with each chuckle, giggle, or guffaw that escaped my mouth. Highly recommended for a quick pick me up.

- *Everyone's a Liebn When Ur a Liebn Too* by Jomny Sun
- *A Wealth of Pigeons: A Cartoon Collection* by Harry Bliss and Steve Martin.

Sign Me Up!

Just clip this coupon and mail it to:
Friends of Hockessin Library, PO Box
55, Hockessin, DE 19707 (or drop it
by the Library) with your payment.

Yes, I'd like to join the Friends or renew my membership! Enclosed is a check made payable to "Friends of the Hockessin Library, Inc." for:

- ☐ \$10.00 Individual Member (1 yr.) ☐ \$20.00 Family (1 yr.) ☐ \$100.00 Lifetime
☐ \$40.00 Member/Family (5 yr.) ☐ \$25.00 Sponsor/Organization ☐ \$_____ Other (Gift)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Is there a special area in which you would like to volunteer?

- ☐ Book Sale ☐ Publicity ☐ Fund Raising
☐ Board ☐ Reading Garden Maintenance

Get Ready for This Year's Summer Reading Programs at Hockessin Library

Adult Summer Reading

This year's Summer Reading Program for Adults runs from June 1 to August 21, 2021. The theme for all age groups is "Tails & Tales." For the fifth year in a row, all New Castle Libraries will be offering a coordinated program using the Beanstack online platform. The last several years, Hockessin Library's adult participants successfully made the technological transition using computer devices to track their summer reading. All are encouraged to participate and share the love of reading! Although this year's program is still being developed at this time, we look forward to challenging the Hockessin community to increase our number of registrants, participants, books read, and reviews.

Children/Teen Summer Reading

We hope you spend the summer with the Library this year as we explore Tails and Tales all summer long. We again will be asking children and teens to track their reading throughout the summer and will have a book and certificate for those reading at least 10 hours. If you choose to use the Beanstack app to track your reading, you will be able to build up streaks for reading and track your reading along with your friends. Youth Services staff across the county have been working on scheduling performers to entertain us virtually this summer, and Terri will continue to post story times to YouTube at <https://bit.ly/3sNyFIU> and offer book groups for children and teens. We can't wait to see you in some capacity this summer!

Check with the Hockessin Library for more details. We thank the Friends of the Hockessin Library for their generous, steadfast support in making the purchase of promotional materials and prizes for this year's program possible.

Shelley Stein, Adult Services Librarian

Terri Jones, Youth Services Librarian



Friends Focus is published by the Friends of the Hockessin Library, Inc.

Please send comments or questions to:
P.O. Box 55 Hockessin, DE 19707

Main Library Phone: 302.239.5160

Officers

Geri Krolin-Taylor.....President
Arthur Au.....Treasurer
Maria Iversen.....Secretary

Library Hours of Operation

Beginning April 14, Hockessin Library has opened for express, in-building use three days a week. However, the schedule remains fluid, so please check the Library's website at <https://www.nccde.org/329/Hockessin-Library> or their voicemail for updates; or call before you visit.

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