

# Lewes Public Library Annual Report

# 2022

## A Year of Accomplishments

July 2021 - June 2022





### **LEWES PUBLIC LIBRARY**

111 Adams Avenue, Lewes, Delaware 19958

[lewes.lib.de.us](http://lewes.lib.de.us) | (302) 645-2733 | [lewes.library@gmail.com](mailto:lewes.library@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/lewespubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/lewespubliclibrary)

Instagram: [instagram.com/lewes.library](https://instagram.com/lewes.library)

Twitter: [twitter.com/Leweslibrary](https://twitter.com/Leweslibrary)



### **LIBRARY HOURS:**

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Lewes Public Library anticipates the needs of the community and adapts, creates and supports classes and programs for all ages that encourage a love of reading, exploration and discovery. The Library provides access for a wide variety of educational, informational and recreational materials to all members of the community through traditional resources and emerging technologies.



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Friends,

The library began working its way back to normal this year, yet the changes brought on by the pandemic still had a significant impact on operations. Though we were not subject to any closings, we continued virtual programming and designed unique outdoor experiences for our youngest users. Storytimes in Stango Park, Touch-A-Truck on the back lawn, and skimboarding lessons for teens were all creative ways to get people together in a safe and fun way. As people returned to the library, the introduction of hybrid technology allowed patrons to choose at-home or in-person participation for many of our programs.

With record inflation and supply chain issues, increased support was necessary for the library to maintain, and add, library materials and programming opportunities. We were grateful to see community support for the library reach record levels. Between our annual appeal, fundraising events, donations, and sponsorships the library raised more for operating expenses than ever before.

As we strive to become an exemplary community center, working with other local non-profits, businesses, and governmental partners, we have searched for new ways to provide services and reach those community members with the greatest need. From working with the Cape Henlopen School district to provide local families with transportation to our weekly storytimes, the Food Bank of Delaware to provide access to free breakfast and lunch, to AARP providing tax preparation for low-income families and senior citizens, we are constantly searching for new and better ways to serve our community.



“ We are proud of all we have achieved in programming, outreach, engagement, and innovation during this rebuilding year. I know you will enjoy reading more about these accomplishments on the following pages. ”

As we move into 2023, the library is hard at work on our next five-year strategic plan. Much of the data for the plan was a direct result of the survey answers provided by our users, volunteers, and staff members. We are taking in all that we have learned to create action steps that will directly benefit our community and ensure that our staff and volunteers provide users with the best possible service.

Thank you all for your continued support as the library works hard to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Be on the lookout for new, exciting changes as we work to support our community throughout fiscal year 2023.

Warmest regards,  
Lea Rosell, Library Director



## Full-time staff members:

**Lea Rosell**, Library Director

**Kristen Gramer**, Assistant Director

**Emily Ellinger**, Teen Services Coordinator

**Heather Kershaw**, Operations Manager

**Rebecca Lowe**, Development Director & Adult Program Coordinator

**Jennifer Noonan**, Children's Librarian

## Part-time staff members:

**Annette Bristow**, Circulation Assistant & Graphic Design Coordinator

**Tracy Dietz**, Volunteer Coordinator

**Beth Eisenhour**, Circulation Assistant

**Linda Evans**, Circulation Assistant

**Beth Law**, Circulation Assistant & User Tech Services

**Ava Lenz**, Library Page

**Paul Monitzer**, Library Page

**Marin Plank**, Circulation Supervisor & Media Specialist

**Dana Ravyn**, Consumer Health Information Specialist

Not Pictured:

**Dorina Davis**, Circulation Assistant

**Julie Gunning**, Circulation Assistant & Program Coordinator



## CELEBRATING OUR 2022 RETIREES

**Pat Mylander**

**Louise Pfarr**

*Thank you for your  
dedication to the library and  
so many wonderful memories!*

## LEWES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Chanta Howard Wilkinson, Esq.**, President

**Rachel Grier-Reynolds**, Vice President

**Ellen Powers Le**, Treasurer

**Maureen Miller**, Secretary

**Hugh Leahy**, Member-At-Large





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Lewes Public Library is so much more than books. Proudly the busiest library in Sussex County, the Lewes Public Library is a vibrant community center offering classes, workshops, computer and printing access, social services, meeting spaces, and, of course, digital and print materials—all for free. The library offered over 1,000 free programs to the community in 2022 and has seen nearly a 20% increase in active users over the past three years.

## 2022 By the Numbers



**223,671**

Items checked out



**110,982**

Visitors to the library



**27,433**

Library program attendees



**17,978**

WiFi and desktop computer uses



**17,415**

Active library users  
(as of 6/30/22)



**3,122**

New library cards issued



**1,113**

Programs, classes, and workshops



**694**

Meeting room uses by community groups

## What's New in 2022!



Electronic RFID tags and self-checkout for faster service



Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots available for checkout



Online newspaper archives for genealogical and historical research



Health, social, and teleservice appointments



Kanopy online video streaming service



Strategic planning for the library's future



Taking it outside: storytime, movie nights, Touch-A-Truck, and more

# Lewes Public Library Volunteers

July 2021 – June 2022

Sandy Ahn  
Karen Allen  
Maggie Allen  
Nancy Ashburn  
Terry Baker  
Candace Barbarcia  
Lou Braithwaite  
Marjorie Buchanan  
Tucker Bullock  
Lisa Burnham  
Alexa Carmentes  
Holly Clark  
Denis Clements  
Harry Davies  
Sandy Davies  
Susan Dodd  
Kim Douglas  
Lisa Eastright  
Judy Edwards  
Nancy Ellsworth  
Paul Faircloth  
Kelly Fanto  
Ed Fick  
Karen Fischer  
Marge Fox  
Karen Freda  
Celine Friedrichs  
Peggy Gastner  
Sandy Gent  
Robert Gotwalt  
Beckie Healey  
Kim Hess  
Claire Hickey  
Amy Hiller  
Bill Hiller  
Terri Hollingsworth  
Janet Hunter-Wilson  
Mary Jo Johnson  
Carole Kamrad

Barbara Keeney  
Terry Kelly  
Suzanne Ketchum  
Terene Labrecque  
Lynn Lambertson  
Sahn Le  
Donna Lee  
Jamie Lenoci  
Lauren Levin  
Linda Levin  
Carol Lewis  
Denise Liberatore  
Elaine Lotto  
Ruth Macintire  
Pam Malsch  
Helen Marrama  
Patti Martin  
Wendy McColley  
Leslie McDonald  
George McGinley  
Terry Mezger  
Maureen Miller  
Brenda Mitchell  
Rose Moorehead  
Mary Jo Moyer  
Barb Nonnemaker  
Carl Opderbeck  
Cynthia Opderbeck  
Leslie Osucha  
Josette Page  
Connie Pappas  
Barb Pearsall  
Joni Peet  
Kim Pennec  
Patti Pilkington  
Joseph Pillion  
Michelle Pinder  
Dana Ravyn  
Tom Reitz



## Volunteer of the Year **Nancy Zollo**

Nancy has been an invaluable volunteer at the Lewes Public Library since 2012. She has volunteered for transit on a weekly basis and is also on the Board of Friends of the Lewes Public Library. Nancy is a retired teacher who has lived a life of giving and has touched many.

Pat Rickenbach  
Pat Robbins  
Linda Robinson  
Ida Rowe  
Jeff Rowe  
Peg Ryan  
Nancy Sakaduski  
Tom Schmidt  
Sheryl Schulte  
Kat Semeraro  
Barb Shelton  
Susan Shue  
Barb Sleasman  
Kathy Smith  
Patricia Smith  
Richard Smullen  
Kathy Solano

Linn Solano  
Pam Sorce  
Sharon Stein  
Mary Ann Steinmeyer  
Loretta Stickley  
Dennis Storey  
Cheryl Strickland  
Chris Tomasetti  
Bonnie Warrington  
Xavier Wauters  
David White  
Bonnie Williams  
Joan Williamson  
Edie Wittko  
Carol Woodcock  
Cynthia Yang  
Nancy Zollo

*- Volunteers Remembered-*  
Gloria Dixon Linda Schiding



# VOLUNTEERS

**Volunteers serve as a vital part of the Lewes Public Library community.** Their dedication to patrons, library staff, and the overall success of the institution can be seen and felt day in and day out. Throughout this year, their reliability and flexibility helped the library to remain efficient. The commitment of our volunteers is evident in their time and generous efforts, and LPL is very grateful for their continued dedication. As I have told you many times before, you make my job a joy and all of us here at LPL are fortunate to work among such wonderful people. Thank you so much for everything you do for us.

Tracy Dietz, Volunteer Coordinator



2022 Summer Youth  
Ambassador Volunteers

## 2022 Volunteer Contributions



- 120 Adult Volunteers = 6,000 hours
- 28 Teen Volunteers = 600 hours
- 8 Summer Youth Ambassadors = 225 hours

*Thank You*



Left to right: Bill Hiller applies book coverings to new arrivals, Sandy Gent and Pat Smith prepare carts of transited books for Lewes patrons, Jeff Rowe re-alphabetizes the children's DVD section.



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## TOUCH-A-TRUCK TUESDAY

The library launched an innovative Touch-A-Truck program this winter as a way to continue programs outdoors for preschoolers until vaccines were available for their age group. Children and their families enjoyed learning about the vehicles in our community and the people who drive them with an up-close view of everything from construction vehicles, a police helicopter, a garbage truck, farm machinery, and more! Attendance for this popular program reached 1,300 from December through April.



Thanks to our community business and partner participants: Lewes Fire Department, Cape Henlopen School District, Lewes Police Department, Fort Miles, City of Lewes, Baker Petroleum, Atlantic Concrete, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Postal Service, Ritter Family Farms, State Police Aviation, and WRDE.



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## STORYWALK & AUTHOR VISIT WITH BRIAN FLOCA



Caldecott-winning author and illustrator Brian Floca visited Lewes in May for special events surrounding his book, "Lightship," based on a lightship just like The Overfalls in Lewes. He visited with the 3rd grade at Lewes Elementary School, who then took a walking field trip to The Overfalls and read the StoryWalk of "Lightship." Floca also presented at the Maritime Day Celebration at Canalfront Park on May 21. The StoryWalk was installed from mid-April through the fall for the entire community to enjoy.

The library was pleased to partner with The Lightship Overfalls Foundation, Cape Henlopen Educational Foundation, Sussex County Department of Libraries, and Groome Methodist Church to bring the StoryWalk and Mr. Floca's visit to Lewes.



## TOOLS FOR TOTS



In partnership with Child Inspired Therapeutic Services, the library hosted two 4-week sessions of family-centered workshops to promote healthy child development. Programs took place outdoors on the patio after storytime and included hands-on activities for children and information for caregivers. Workshop topics included sharing and turn-taking, developing language with music, handling tantrums and meltdowns, picky eating, creating sensory bins, heavy work play, providing choices, and potty training.





# TEEN PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Teens were busier than ever at the Lewes Public Library this year with chess, Magic the Gathering, and Dungeons & Dragons gaming sessions; Girls Who Code computer training; Roots & Shoots environmental club activities; summer sports and games; Shakespeare classes and performances; Teen Advisory Board meetings; the annual job fair; movie nights; and more!



**Teen Advisory Board Member Eleni Apostolidis** hosted a bake sale to raise funds for the teen department's new VEX Robotics program. The sale raised almost \$250.



**The Writer's Room and the Troupe** brought teen writers and actors together to create 5 short plays that were performed in front of a live, public audience.



A job interview preparation workshop was offered to participants in advance of the **Annual Teen Job Fair**, which featured 12 local businesses seeking seasonal and year-round employees.



**Tactical Laser Tag with Anchors Aweigh Entertainment** was a highlight of the summer reading program. 40 teens participated in games at Stango Park.



# TEEN PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Making a splash at the annual Water Wars! Teens and tweens played water games and had a water balloon fight with over 1,500 balloons.



The library's **Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots** environmental club partnered with the City of Lewes to plant 25 native trees at George HP Smith Park in Lewes for Arbor Day.



The "Oceans of Possibilities" teen summer reading challenge culminated with a **private skimboarding lesson** from Alley Oop Skim Camp of Dewey Beach.



**LPL's Teen Summer Sports Series** returned for a second season. Teens met on Wednesday afternoons to play games like flag football, wiffle ball, and (crowd favorite) kickball.



The library's teen **Dungeons & Dragons** club met on Saturdays to create role-playing adventures together. Led by expert Dungeon Master Kalen Stevenson, the members develop their own unique characters, each with special skills and abilities, and then roll the dice to see how the group's journey will unfold within fantastical storylines that are created in real-time.



# ADULT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Lewes Public Library welcomed thousands of participants for adult programs and services including author talks, discussion groups, festivals, conferences, educational sessions, performances, and financial and social services.

Even greater access to programs was achieved this year through implementation of new meeting room technology that allows groups and presenters to meet in a hybrid in-person/online format.

## Notable Events and Offerings

- Return of the **Shakespeare Festival** in-person, including lectures, concerts, demonstrations, film screenings, workshops, costume displays, and performances.
- **Science and Society Lecture Series**, featuring world-renowned scientists presenting on a variety of current topics.
- **Financial literacy and retirement planning classes** in partnership with the Delaware Money School.
- A one-man **performance of "A Christmas Carol" by Gerald Dickens**, great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens.
- Two 8-week "Whimsical Masterpieces" **pastel art workshops** with local artist John Donato, generously supported by the Delaware Division of Arts.
- **Dramatic readings by professional actors** of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" and "The Thanksgiving Visitor," Mary Shelley's "Transformation," and Simone Weil's "The Iliad or the Poem of Force," supported by Delaware Humanities.



Shakespeare Festival costume display



Actor Gerald Dickens



Whimsical Masterpiece pastel art class



Pastel Art from John Donato's class



# ADULT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Over **70 author discussions**, including bestselling authors such as Jaime Raskin, Kathryn Schulz, Susan Page, and Anne Lamott, in partnership with Browseabout Books.
- America's largest discussion program on world affairs, Foreign Policy Association's **Great Decisions Discussion Series**.
- Evening potluck-style gatherings of the library's popular "**Cooks and Books**" community cookbook appreciation group.
- Served as the virtual venue for the **2021 History Book Festival**.
- **Social services, job and career help, and income tax preparation assistance** supported by on-site social work specialists and AARP volunteers.
- **Support for the local writing community**, including hosting the 14th Annual Lewes Creative Writers' Conference and offering weekly poetry and FreeWrite! sessions facilitated by the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild.
- **Discussion groups** in hybrid in-person/online format, including Food 4 Thought, Socrates Café, Browseabout Book Club, and Spanish conversation.



Representatives Lisa Blunt Rochester and Jamie Raskin



Author Kathryn Schulz



Authors Anne Lamott and Neal Allen



Socrates Cafe members meeting in hybrid format



# WINNERS CIRCLE

## Cause for Celebration!

Congratulations to our 2022 honorees and prize winners!



Lewes Public Library Christopher J. Smail Memorial Scholarship recipient Charlotte Olewiler with Karen Smail, library board members, and staff members.



Teen Summer Reading Challenge winner Aaron Wiswesser poses with his grand prize, a new skimboard.



Jeff and Ida Rowe were the lucky grand prize winners of the library's annual 31 Chances fundraiser drawing and received a deluxe, autographed edition of Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen's book "Renegades: Born in the USA," donated by Browseabout Books.



Hugh Leahy, Board Member-at-Large, received the Delaware Library Association's Trustee Citation, awarded annually to a library trustee who has contributed significantly to the development, support, and appreciation of a local library.

## 2022 Loopin' Grand Prize Winners



Top fundraiser Suzanne Savoy celebrates with her new Priority Branded Dogfish Bike donated by Dogfish Head.



Raffle winner Gil Hofheimer is congratulated by Brian Kellman from Lewes Cycle Sports and Library Director Lea Rosell on his win of an Electra Cruiser Go! Step-Thru E-bike donated by Lewes Cycle Sports.





# FINANCIAL REPORT

As an independent library within the Delaware Division of Libraries consortium, only half of the Lewes Public Library's funding comes from government sources. The rest is raised by the library annually through donations, fundraising, grants, and materials fees. **This year's annual appeal, the Library's largest fundraiser, raised a record \$118,000—**a 17% increase over 2021, with a donor participation increase of 62%.

**The community's support of the Lewes Public Library is essential** to allow for the thousands of free programs, services, materials, and resources it provides—and to help the library increase these offerings. This year's record fundraising and participation is a recognition of the important and valuable role the library plays in the Lewes community.

## Source of Funds

Sussex County	\$367,751	41%
Annual Appeal and Donations	\$141,367	16%
State of Delaware	\$118,336	13%
Fundraising Special Events	\$65,877	7%
Friends of the Lewes Public Library	\$64,004	7%
Prior Year Surplus	\$59,482	6%
Grants	\$50,685	6%
Fines and Fees	\$28,251	3%
Solar Energy Credits	\$7,938	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$903,691</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Use of Funds

Personnel	\$432,918	48%
Building Operations	\$103,405	11%
Surplus & Reserves*	\$87,998	10%
Library Materials, Collections, & Programs	\$81,252	9%
Grant Expenditures	\$60,294	7%
Patron Operations	\$41,493	5%
Professional Fees	\$39,164	4%
Solar Panel Loan	\$29,440	3%
Fundraising Expenses	\$27,727	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$903,691</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Surplus & Reserves includes \$33,255 surplus carried over to support 2023 operations, \$35,127 grant funds received and not yet spent, and \$19,616 transferred to long-term reserves.

## The Legacy Society and the Underwriters Endowment Fund

### *Honoring the Heart of Lewes*

The Lewes Public Library is a bustling community center for all ages, interests, and walks of life, welcoming over 110,000 visitors each year. Nearly 30,000 people attend library programs, classes, and workshops each year – all for free. This extraordinary engagement with the library's many classes, services, materials, and workshops illustrates what makes Lewes so special. Our involved, curious, and active community of lifelong learners are the heart of Lewes.

What better way to honor this incredible community and the wonderful resources offered by the library than to become a Lewes Public Library Legacy Society Member or Underwriter?



**The Legacy Society** is made up of all those who have remembered the library in their wills, as well as those who have made lifetime donations to the library of \$25,000 or more. Gifts may be directed to library operations for immediate use where need is greatest, or to the endowment fund to build a financial foundation for the library for years to come. Direct donations and pledges may be made at any time, or members may choose to remember the library in their wills, costing nothing during their lifetime.



**Underwriters** are those who contribute \$2,500 and more to the Underwriters Endowment Fund. Working together, these contributions will build a \$5 million endowment to support the library in perpetuity and ensure its long-term success without the need for constant fundraising. Contributions may be paid at once, over a period of 1-5 years, or as a bequest. With only earnings withdrawn from the fund, the library will be afforded both a reliable source of income and a secure financial foundation.

Supporting the work of the library ensures our shared values of education, exploration, inclusion, and service continue to grow and thrive in Lewes for generations to come. We invite you to make the Lewes Public Library part of your legacy.

For more information about the  
Underwriters Endowment Fund, the Legacy Society,  
and other opportunities to give to the library,  
please contact our Development Director, Rebecca Lowe, at [lewes.library@lib.de.us](mailto:lewes.library@lib.de.us).





# PARTNERS

The Lewes Public Library is fortunate to work with many wonderful individuals, community organizations, and businesses whose giving, gifts, and donations have made an incredible impact on our fundraisers, programs, events, and outreach initiatives. We wish to express our sincere gratitude for their generosity and for their contributions to our success!

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide  
AAUW Coastal-Georgetown Branch  
Abbott's Mill Nature Center  
ACLU Delaware  
Alzheimer's Association, Delaware Valley Chapter  
Atlantic Concrete Co  
Baker Petroleum/Exxon  
Beacon Pediatrics, LLC  
Pam Becker  
Beebe Hospital  
Linda Berdine  
Big Red Truck Digital  
Browseabout Books  
CAMP Rehoboth  
Cape Gazette  
Cape Henlopen Educational Foundation  
Cape Henlopen School District  
Center for the Inland Bays  
Child Inspired  
Children's Learning Garden  
City of Lewes Streets Department  
Clear Space Theatre  
Jack and Denise Clemons  
Ronald Collins  
Gerald and Linda Cowan  
Dairy Queen of Lewes  
Delaware Audubon Society  
Delaware Community Foundation  
Delaware Department of Health and Social Services  
Delaware Department of Technology and Information  
Delaware Division of the Arts  
Delaware General Assembly  
Delaware Humane Association  
Delaware Humanities  
Delaware Library Association  
Delaware Sea Grant



Delaware State Fire School  
Delaware State Police Aviation Section  
Delmarva Apple Users Group  
Dewey Beer Company, LLC  
Dogfish Head Craft Brewery  
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library  
John Donato  
Philip Drouin  
Fred and Linda Dylla  
East of Maui Dewey Beach  
Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore  
Edible Delmarva  
Lesley Eitchen  
Fort Miles Museum and Historic Area  
Dr. Stacey Fox  
Groome Church  
Rita Healey  
Greg Hite  
History Book Festival  
Dr. Ilona Holland  
Just Between Friends Shop  
L.E.A.P.  
League of Women Voters of Delaware

## PARTNERS continued

League of Women Voters of Sussex County, Delaware  
Lauren Levin  
Lewes Chamber of Commerce  
Lewes Community Garden  
Lewes Cycle Sports  
Lewes Fire Department  
Lewes Gourmet  
Lewes Historical Society  
Lewes in Bloom  
Lewes Police Department  
Karen Lunstead  
Magee Farms  
Ann Manley  
Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra  
The Money School/Delaware Community Reinvestment  
Action Council  
The Music School of Delaware  
The Nature Generation  
Colin Norman  
Ocean Suds II Laundromat  
Operation Warm  
Overfalls Foundation  
PUZZLES  
Nancy Powell  
Read Aloud Delaware  
Rehoboth Beach Writers' Guild  
Rehoboth Community Resource Center  
Ritter Family Farms  
Seaside Amusements, Inc.  
Seaside Jewish Community  
Shore Line Garden Railroad Club  
Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice  
Sussex Bird Club  
Sussex Consortium  
Sussex County Council  
Sussex County Department of Libraries  
Sussex County Habitat For Humanity  
Suzanne Savoy  
Dr. Marlene Saunders  
Pam Sorce  
The Station on Kings  
Kelly Thunstrom  
Billie Travalini

United States Coast Guard  
United States Postal Service  
University of Delaware, College of Earth, Ocean and  
Environment  
University of Delaware Cooperative Extension  
WBOC  
WRDE  
David White  
Syl Woolford  
Mike Zito







## *Thank You Lewes Public Library Donors*

The Lewes Public Library is exceptionally grateful to the nearly 1,300 donors who supported the library in 2022. Thanks to a significant increase in donor participation, the library achieved record results in its three major fundraising campaigns.

Donors showed support in many ways: Annual Appeal, 31 Chances fundraiser, Loopin' for the Library bike ride, Underwriters Endowment Fund, Legacy Society, First Readers program, direct contributions, honoraria, memorials, and stock contributions.



We invite you to meet some of the wonderful donors who make the library's work possible.

### Sharing a Passion for Reading

**Carole Kamrad** grew up in a family of dedicated readers, with a house full of books. Carole's mother was a library volunteer in their hometown in New Jersey, and Carole has followed in her mother's footsteps as a volunteer at the Lewes Public Library. She enjoys the friendships she has built at the library and the book recommendations from her fellow volunteers. "It's so easy to look up the books on the Delaware Libraries app and place a hold to be picked up at the Lewes Library."

Carole is a supporter of the library's **First Reader program**, through which she purchases newly released books for the library. She especially likes donating large print books to help grow the library's large print collection. When the books arrive, First Readers get the first checkout before the books go into the library's collection.



**"I joined the First Reader program because even a library can never have too many good books. This is one way to give back because I get to read so many books for free from the Delaware Library system. Without the library, I would have to buy all the books I want to read --which would be quite a lot."**

### Book Recommendation



My favorite book, published in 1989, is "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving and was the first book of his I read.

View a full list of donors at [tinyurl.com/LPLdonors22](https://tinyurl.com/LPLdonors22)





# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## A Family of Readers at Home in the Library

**Carrie and Mike Curry** live in Lewes with their three children – one each in high school, middle school, and elementary school – and often enjoy biking to the library to pick out books and attend events. As active library users and supporters for many years they say,

“ We want to give back to the place that helped develop our kids into passionate readers and serves our broader community. ”

They especially appreciate the welcoming staff who are always happy to recommend books, as well as the many events for families such as story time, game night, movie night, and summer programs. “The staff is so attentive and know us well enough to say ‘hi.’ We love walking in and feeling welcomed and encouraged to stay.”



### Book Recommendations



**For adults:** “The Library Book” by Susan Orlean. It really opened my eyes to the crucial role that libraries play in communities.

**For Kids:** Anything by Mo Willems, especially the Elephant and Piggie series.

## Making Memories, Connections, and Magic

**Arin Kluchnik**, a former RN, and her husband George, a physician with Beebe, live with their four children in Lewes. The busy family especially appreciates the free programs offered by the library. “**I love that the library is more than a place for books,**” says Arin. She and her younger children have loved storytime (especially the songs), Touch-A-Truck (the kids’ favorite!), preschool gym class, and child/parent activity days with Child Inspired. “We do the coolest things with you all!”

Arin has met a wonderful network of parents who have gotten to know each other during the programs, and Ms. Jen, the children’s librarian, has also been a great resource selecting books, modeling how to make learning fun, and helping explore topics of diversity and inclusivity. Arin chooses to support the library because it has been such an invaluable resource for their family.



### Book Recommendation

**“Maurice the Unbeastly” by Amy Dixon.** I like that the main character stands out, and he isn’t afraid to be different! Good things come from unique people who don’t quite fit in.



“ I want the library to keep on making magic for me! I don’t know what I’d do without the Lewes Public Library. ”

View a full list of donors at [tinyurl.com/LPLdonors22](https://tinyurl.com/LPLdonors22)





# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

"WE ARE AWARE THAT ONLY ABOUT 50% OF THE LIBRARY'S ACTIVITIES ARE FUNDED THROUGH THE LOCAL OR DELAWARE STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER OUR SUPPORT TO HELP KEEP THE STAFF FOCUSED ON THEIR SUPERB SUPPORT OF THEIR USER COMMUNITY."

-FRED AND LINDA DYLLA

## Lifelong Learning, Exploring, and Creating

Following long and distinguished careers in the sciences, **Fred and Linda Dylla** became full-time members of the Lewes community in 2014. They share passions for art, history, and science, and their love of learning has been supported by the many programs and resources at the Lewes Public Library.

Along with their colleague Colin Norman, the Dyllas developed the library's popular "Science and Society" lecture series and have been thrilled with the implementation of Zoom technology for the lectures. **"Through Zoom we are now able to attract internationally recognized scientists to deliver talks who would normally not travel to Lewes,"** says Linda. Fred also uses the library's meeting rooms to host a weekly art studio and utilizes the library's interlibrary loan system to acquire rare books from around the country to aid in his research.



“ It is obvious that we are impressed with all that the Lewes Library provides to the greater Lewes community-from pre-school children to our active retiree population. The citizens of greater Lewes can be justifiably proud of all the Library offers our community. ”

## Book Recommendations:



**Fred:** Edmund Morris's superb biography of Thomas Edison

**Linda:** Jane Goodall's "The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times." Jane's observations of her life are amazing.

View a full list of donors at [tinyurl.com/LPLdonors22](https://tinyurl.com/LPLdonors22)

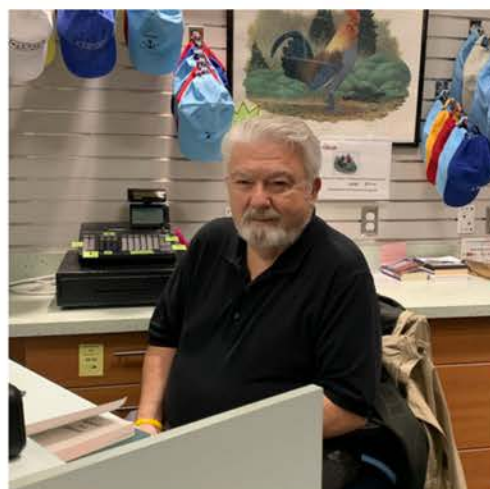


# A BUSY YEAR

Top: exploring the WRDE Weather Jeep at Touch-A-Truck.

Middle row, left to right: Dolly Parton visiting Delaware libraries to celebrate her Imagination Library program, hands-on participation during the Reptile Wonders summer program, enthusiasm for the teen tech suite's new gaming systems.

Bottom, left to right: utilizing technology in a library study room meeting, helping patrons with Friends Shop purchases, enjoying the grand prize from the library's summer English as a Second Language program.





## Why Does the Lewes Library need Friends' support?

Many people don't realize the Lewes Public Library receives only about half of its funding each year from government sources, and it must raise the rest independently. Friends of the Lewes Public Library, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization, is the library's largest private funder. Friends has supported the Lewes Public Library's collection and programming for 42 years.



## What did Friends contribute to the Library?

Friends of the Lewes Public Library is responsible for funding the purchases of all of the library's lending materials (100% of books, magazines, DVDs, and CDs) and supports many of the free programs offered to our community.

In FY2022, Friends raised \$64,000 for the library, comprising 7% of the library's total budget. Over the past 15 years, Friends has contributed \$862,000 to the library and has committed to providing \$70,000 for FY2023. Our dedicated volunteers provide 5,000 hours of volunteer time annually (equivalent to 2.4 full-time employees), and our fundraising efforts result in \$0.97 of every dollar collected going directly to the library.



## How does Friends raise its funding?

- Membership dues: the single most important source of Friends' funding. Please consider becoming a Friends member!
- Year-round operation of the Just Between Friends book shop located within the library. It is a special place for book lovers! Items for sale include: unique hats and socks, NEW children's books, note cards, gift items, movies, music CDs, as well as hardback and paperback books.
- Specialty book sales throughout the year, including history, rare books, biographies, beach reads, holiday gifts, mysteries, and cookbooks.



**We need  
YOUR HELP!**

### Become a Member of the Friends of the Lewes Public Library.

We are very grateful to those who became members of Friends last year, enabling us to meet our financial commitments to the library.

### Join our Volunteer Team!

The Friends of the Lewes Public Library needs volunteers to operate the shop; sort, evaluate, and price books; and assist during book sales throughout the year.

**For more information go to the  
Friends section of the library's  
website at [lewes.lib.de.us](http://lewes.lib.de.us).**



Organized in 1980, the all-volunteer Friends of the Lewes Public Library is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Delaware corporation with the sole function of supporting the Lewes Public Library, itself a separate 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Delaware corporation.



# Lewes Public Library...

encouraging reading, exploration and discovery

