



FRIENDS OF WICOMICO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

Bookshelf News

We continue to be open 6 days a week - Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. However, as the Bookshelf continues to grow in popularity, so does our need for volunteers to help with sales and the organization of materials. We are often asked by Friends members how they might show their support other than through their membership donations. Since we are always looking for new recruits, this is the perfect option! The minimal necessary training only requires approximately 1 hour of your time, after which volunteers are able to sign up for 2-hour shifts at their convenience on whatever dates or times fit their schedules. It is not necessary to commit to a consistent volunteer schedule. This is also a fantastic opportunity for FOL members and/or other book lovers to browse for gently-used, inexpensive books and audio visual materials for themselves and others. So if you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a volunteer for the Bookshelf, please contact Untia Bigelow at ubigelow@wicomico.org or by calling 410-749-3612 ext. 140 for further information.

Winter Book Sale!

Our Winter Book Sale will be held at the Paul S. Sarbanes Branch of the library (downtown Salisbury) from December 2nd- December 4th. Please note a few important changes from previous book sales! This year, all sale items will be on display in the **main part of the library**, rather than in the basement. The library will be hosting the **Friends Premier Night** on Friday, December 2nd from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. This event is exclusively for Friends members who, at this time, will be invited to enjoy refreshments and have the opportunity to browse and purchase materials prior to making the Book Fair available to the general public. The Book Fair will be open to everyone on Saturday, December 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 4th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. We will continue to offer the Bag of Books bargain on Sunday from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., where for \$15.00 Friends of the Library members may purchase as many books as they can fit into a special Friends tote bag. Options for obtaining or renewing a Friends' membership can be downloaded from the Wicomico Public Libraries website at <http://www.wicomicolibraries.org/friends>



Light of Literacy Awards

The awards breakfast and ceremony will be held May 18th from 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center. We will be accepting award nominees in January 2023, so please begin now to consider nominating any organizations, groups, businesses or individuals worthy of recognition. We will highlight Digital Technology/ Literacy this year, but continue to look for any works that have promoted learning through literacy, as well as innovative educational programs in one of the literacies, a program or literacy service that benefits the community, a person or program that has demonstrated a dedication to excellence in one of the literacies, or an individual or program that has motivated others to support the cause of literacy. Award categories include: 1). a student (enrolled in formal instruction and not more than 22 years old; 2). an adult (over 18 years of age); 3). an educator who works in the education profession with students from birth through the 12th grade; 4). an individual who works or teaches formal, post-high school instruction; 5). a profit or non-profit organization, and 6). an individual or organization whose actions demonstrate a dedication to providing and promoting digital literacy. More detailed information regarding the current theme, award categories/criteria, and nomination forms will be available in the near future on the Wicomico Library website. (www.lightofliteracy.org)

Upcoming Events

Winter Bi-Annual Book Sale
December 3-4, 2022
(Friends Preview sale - Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m.)

Wicomico Public Libraries
Annual Holiday Vendor
Saturday, December 10, 10am-4pm

Highlighting Volunteers – Joanne Doyle & Team



Pictured: Ginny Young, Joanne Doyle and Pat Layton

For approximately 10 years, Joanne Doyle and a team of volunteers have been fulfilling a vital service for the Wicomico County Public Libraries by sorting through hundreds of books that are donated to the library each week. As a former librarian who worked in the reference department of the downtown branch, Joanne was quick to recognize how spearheading and organizing this necessary task could be a tremendous, time-saving service to the library staff. Although she initially undertook the task by herself, she was soon joined by Pat Layton (who early on realized how massive the job was for just one person) and then shortly thereafter by Mary Huebner and Ginny Young, all of whom have subsequently worked together for many years. The team has recently been joined by Jan Caviglia, who has also provided much needed and appreciated assistance through her service. These five ladies (all of whom are former librarians) meet each Friday, whereby they spend several hours sorting and categorizing bins full and overflowing with donated materials. Each book is carefully examined, after which a determination is made as to whether it should be saved for the Friends of the Library book sales, placed on display for sale in the Bookshelf, or designated as a book that is no longer salvageable. They also put aside numerous boxes of free books to be given away. There are Little Free libraries at the Boundless playground near the Chipman Center and at Ben's Red Swings. Pat takes children's books each week to refill those shelves, and they are free for the taking for anyone to whom they might be of interest.

Only books that are in good or excellent physical condition are kept. These are then categorized on shelves by topic and genre.

The ladies emphasize that donated materials should be clean (not smelly or dirty) and must not be falling apart with broken spines or torn and missing pages, etc. Additionally, encyclopedias and old medical journals, textbooks and travel books are outdated and thus unsuitable for resale. Conversely, art and music volumes, good fiction books (hardback and paperback), biographies, history books (particularly those with local history or a local connection) and children's picture books are always extremely popular with book lovers. The most sought-after books are those of classic literature. And how exciting it is to find an ancient children's book or an occasional first edition or a book signed by the author!

Due to the huge numbers of materials donated each week, Joanne, Pat, Mary, Ginny and Jan often run out of space and storage boxes, and are also frequently challenged with moving heavy bins and flatbed carts. When this happens, they find themselves indebted to Chip Dibbern, who is always ready to help by assembling boxes, loading and unloading carts and bins, pushing heavy cartloads of books to various locations - anything they ask him to do. He is their "go-to" person who is always willing to help in any capacity doing whatever/whenever needed. We owe all of these dedicated, selfless volunteers a huge debt of gratitude and a heartfelt "thank you" for their tremendous commitment and service to our community!

Call For Membership Renewals

A reminder that the time for renewing Friends of the Library memberships is rapidly approaching. (**Current memberships expire on 12/31/2022**). To renew or obtain a membership, visit the Wicomico Public Library website at www.wicomicolibraries.org/friends. As in the past, a membership of any level enables the member to select two free items from the Bookshelf!

Looking to the Future

The Friends would like to consider possibilities for expansion of our increasingly popular Bookshelf. We are particularly interested in the idea of generating more revenue to support the local libraries through the sale of gift shop-type items. If you or anyone you know might be interested in partnering with the library to sell your artisan goods in the Bookshelf, please contact Untia Bigelow at ubigelow@wicomico.org for more details.