



Friends of the Newark Free Library

September 2021

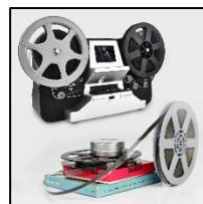
Editor – Patricia Rachek

Library Of Things (LOT)

Pam Stevens, LOT Librarian

Since the launch of the Library of Things (LOT) collection at the Newark Free Library on July 29, hold requests and checkouts for LOT have increased. 34 of the 44 items in the collection have been checked out or have been requested. Our top ten circulating items are as follows:

1. Triumph Cornhole Game
2. 8mm Movie Digitizer
3. Black & Decker Thermal Leak Detector
4. Kodak Film Scanner
5. Pyle Pod Casting Kit
6. Microphone Shield
7. Klein Tools Moisture Meter
8. Industrial Endoscope
9. Croquet Set
10. Rummikub Game



I believe the increase in awareness and circulation may be due to media coverage of the launch party from the Newark Post, WHYY, Delaware Live, and NCC Facebook Live with County Executive Matt Meyer (left), and Friends of the NFL. Our

gratitude cannot be expressed enough for all the Friends who made this possible and to Councilwoman Lisa Diller. You all really know how to make a positive impact on our community!

Can You Donate Things?

We are taking donations of like items in new condition. Items must have their instructions, all pieces, and be in their original packaging. Puzzles, games, household tools, and multimedia equipment are welcomed. Label your donations "LOT" if you drop things through the book drop. Please contact Pam Stevens for further information. Pamela.Stevens@newcastlede.gov continued page 2

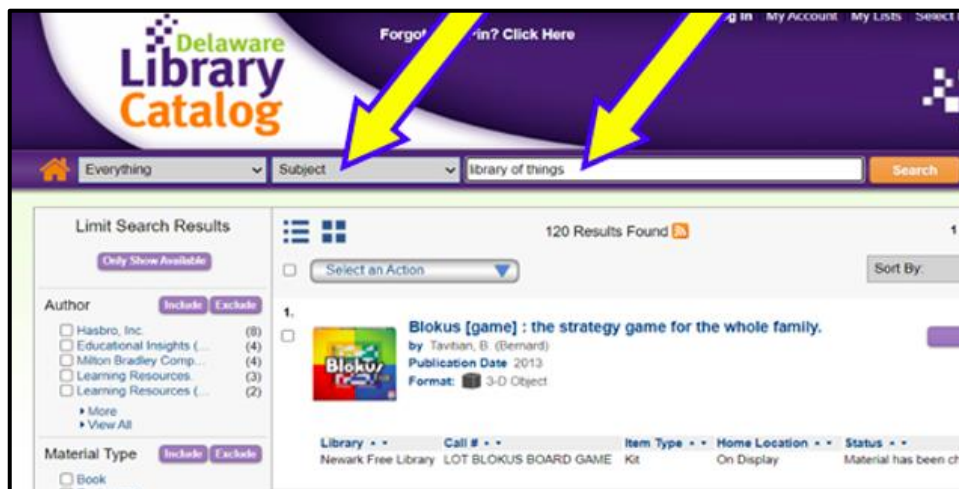
Inside this Issue

- 3 Appreciation for Sherri McCarthy
- 4 President's Letter
- 5 Music Program
- 6 New Legacy Society Members
- 8 Kudos for Pat Birchenall
- 9 NCC Reads
- 10 I've Been Reading...
- 12 A New Front Door
- 14 Must Read Cookbooks

Library of Things continued

How Do You Find Our Things?

The items can be found by searching the online library catalog by “subject,” and typing in “library of things.” (Pictured below). They can be borrowed... It’s your thing (insert music here) ... for three weeks at a time and transferred between libraries. Also, they are on display in the first and second display cases near our audio book collection.



Attendees cut the ribbon to officially open the Library of Things



From left: Marcus Henry, NCC Community Services General Manager; Paul Baumbach, State Representative; Judy Taggart, FNFL President; Ethelyn Rodulfa, FNFL; Pamela Stevens, LOT Librarian; Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member; Diana Brown, Director of Libraries; Sherri McCarthy, Interim NFL Manager

Appreciation for Sherri McCarthy

Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member

While July 29 saw the start of the new Library of Things, it was also time to say farewell to long-time adult services librarian Sherri McCarthy.

Sherri started working at the Newark Free Library in 2005, after receiving her master's in library science from the University of Alabama and starting her career in Alabama and upstate New York libraries. A reference librarian, she saw the Newark collection through many changes as digital resources became more widely available.

In recognizing her contributions, New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer stated, "If you can find what you're looking for in our library collections anywhere across the county, it may well be that Sherri was responsible for getting it ordered and on library shelves in sufficient quantities to meet patron demand--And that is a very tricky logistical and technological game."



County Executive Matt Mayer presents Sherri McCarthy with a proclamation recognizing her accomplishments and declaring July 30, 2021, her last day of work, as Sherri McCarthy day.



In addition, Sherri served as interim manager this summer, following the retirement of Pat Birchenall. Judy Taggart, President of the Friends, also thanked Sherri for her service and wished her well in her retirement to New York state. Judy presented her with a gift and a bouquet of roses as tokens of appreciation from the Friends.

Meet the Manager

The Friends will hold a reception for the next managing director of the Newark Free Library this fall. The director is expected to be selected in the next few weeks. Watch for event updates at the library and on social media.

President's Letter



Dear Friends,

September makes me think of transitions. Back to school, fall colors, cooler temperatures, shorter days, and a shift in our schedules. As we continue to face the uncertainty, our libraries are in the forefront of serving the needs of the TOTAL community.

So much is happening with our libraries at our national, state, county, and local level. Libraries continue to meet the needs of citizens even in these changing times. Please thank our librarians for accepting change. And, when you have an opportunity, please recognize, and thank our state and county elected officials. They could have reduced financial support during COVID; however, they did not.

Many of us continue to advocate for the Build America's Libraries Act which would increase federal funding for libraries. Representative Blunt Rochester has signed her support for the Build America's Libraries Act (S.127/H.R. 1581). Please thank her for this support.

Senator Coons and Senator Carper HAVE NOT supported the Act despite phone calls and letters. Even the Delaware Legislature, under Rep Paul Baumbach's leadership, sent a letter with bipartisan support to our Congressional delegation requesting support of this legislation for library infrastructure which would bring millions into Delaware.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED! We need to make sure Delaware is not left out. Please add your voice by writing or phoning Senators Carper and Coon's offices requesting their support of the Build America's Libraries Act. If you wish additional information, please visit the Delaware Library Association (DLA) website.

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

On a different note, many of you ask why we don't have more eBooks and audio books available in our libraries. I recently read an article on this topic and thought you would find some of the information informative. I drew an excerpt from the recently published article from ALA (American Library Association) "Waiting in Vain: The Behind -The - Scenes Challenges that Impact Your Ability to Access eBooks and Other Digital Content For Your Library" which was an interview with Michael Blackwell, Director, St. Mary's County Library, MD.

The article, published in May, explains that libraries do not own most of the digital content. Instead, libraries license it. Digital content circulation is owned by the publishers who can set limits on length of time libraries have the rights to share it or who can even decide we cannot have a license at all. Print books are purchased, owned, and circulated by the library.

Some of the smaller and medium size publishers have favorable terms for libraries. All of the Big 5 publishers who publish 95% of the best-selling titles have restrictive licenses for eBooks. The licenses expire after a certain time or number of circulations. Libraries must constantly relicense, often at relatively high prices. Audiobooks have no time limit; however, they have prices often nearing \$100 each. If you wish to read more about this issue, visit ALA I Love Libraries article, "Waiting in Vain". I hope this explanation somewhat clarifies the issue for you.

Judy Taggart, President



County Executive Matt Meyer Receives 2021 Distinguished Service Citation

The Delaware Library Association awarded Matt Meyer its top honor in recognition of his strong support of Delaware libraries, said Annie Norman, Delaware State Librarian. "County Executive Meyer is an effective collaborator and appreciates libraries' leadership role in the social infrastructure for the benefit of Delawareans."

The press announcement stated: "The Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated, almost 10% of households in Delaware did not have any internet service. Recognizing the pandemic made the digital divide in the community more acute, the County Executive's office worked with libraries to increase access. In addition to creating new hotspot locations, the county collaborated with the Delaware Division of Libraries to extend WIFI access to the libraries' parking lots and purchased 100 Chromebooks to distribute to patrons. These actions helped provide digital access to the hardest to reach communities."

Learn more about County Executive Meyer's support of the libraries here:
<https://nccde.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1996>



County Executive Matt Meyer can often be seen at Friends of the Newark Free Library events. Here he makes a delivery at the announcement of the start of countywide curbside services, which took place at the Newark Free Library in June 2020.

Music Programs at the Library

Pamela Nelson, Reference Staff

Virtual Open Mic, sponsored by both the Newark and Claymont Libraries, has continued through the summer. Musicians and writers have participated over the past year and a half in the virtual venue. The sessions, which have normally been held on the third Wednesday evening of the month, have been a boon to participants who want to share their art. Audience members are also welcome. The upcoming sessions are scheduled for September 15th and then October 27th in time for Halloween. The times for both months are from 6pm – 8pm.



The Library is pleased to be able to schedule a **Piano Recital** in October. Wilmington pianist

Mark Blaschke is scheduled for a performance on **Saturday, October 9th at 1:00pm**. We are pleased to have Mark return to Newark for a program including pieces by Scarlatti, Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, and Rachmaninoff. Please join us for the first live performance after many, many months.



The **First State Ringers** under the direction of Ruthie Toole will be returning in December for their Holiday Program.

After arranging for video performances last December and earlier this spring, we welcome the ensemble's in-house programs scheduled for **Saturday, December 11th and Sunday, December 12th at 1:30pm** on both days. Sunday's date is dependent on the libraries reopening on Sunday.

Both the Piano Recital and the Holiday programs are sponsored by the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**. The Friends support of the music programs is greatly appreciated. Please join us as we continue with programs in-house and virtual

Diane and Paul Sammelwitz Recognized with Legacy of Reading Society Membership

Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member



**Diane and Paul
Sammelwitz in 2010**

Diane and Paul Sammelwitz are among the first members of the Friends' new honor society for planned gift donors, thanks to a very generous contribution made at the end of 2020. With children and grandchildren who love books, their lifelong enjoyment of reading, and decades of support for the library, the Sammelwitzes have created a truly remarkable legacy of reading.

"My parents were both involved with the library for years, starting in the mid-1950s," said the Sammelwitzes' daughter Ellen Casey. "It would put them, especially my mother, over the moon to know they would be recognized in the library. Mom took me and my brothers there all the time. She also enjoyed being one of the presenters of Story Hour for many years."

The Sammelwitz family saw the library through many changes. Ellen remembers going to the children's library on Elkton Road located first in a brick house next to the main library, then moved to the former church at the corner of Elkton Road and Delaware Avenue. She also recalls the switch to the current site in 1974.

Over time, audiobooks became her parents' medium of choice. "They loved books on tape," said Ellen. "They were notorious for working around the house with the cassette player blaring." Paul served on the faculty at the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for more than 40 years, and the Sammelwitzes spent many summer months at the family farm and the lake house in New Milford, Connecticut. Paul could be easily tracked to the garage where he audio-read at high volume while caning chairs.

Among his accomplishments, Paul was the first faculty member to take charge of the University's flock of blue hen chickens. He was also a co-founder of Ag Day. You can read more about his career here:

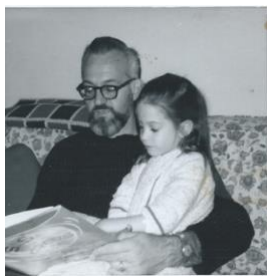
<https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2021/january/in-memoriam-paul-sammelwitz/>

Diane was also an educator. A graduate of the University of Delaware, she taught both preschool and elementary school. The couple enjoyed sports and outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking, and gardening. After 50 years of living in Newark, the Sammelwitzes moved to Jenner's Pond Retirement Community, but they still made frequent trips to Newark to visit the library, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and the co-op.

Diane passed in August 2020. That fall, Paul's financial advisor encouraged him to make larger charitable gifts, partly for estate planning purposes. Ellen recalls that increased donations were a bit of hard sell for her father, a depression-era baby. Finally, Paul decided to make very generous gifts to both family and nonprofits toward the end of last year.



**Diane Sammelwitz during
Story Hour in 1969**



**Paul Sammelwitz
reading to his
daughter Ellen in 1969**

He was glad he did. The gifts to family sparked meaningful letters and conversations that might otherwise never have happened. The Sammelwitzes had contributed to the Friends of the Newark Free Library for many years, and the Friends were fortunate to be among the many organizations Paul selected for larger gifts in 2020. Because he died unexpectedly on January 1 of this year, the Friends did not have the chance to acknowledge the Sammelwitzes' donation during his life. However, Diane and Paul's love for and contributions to the library will be remembered through the Legacy of Reading Society, and their generosity will help the library continue to grow and change in the years ahead.

Join the Legacy of Reading Society

Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member

To become a member of this society for Friends who have remembered the Newark Free Library in their estate plans, simply email the Friends and inform us that you have:

- Named the Friends of the Newark Free Library as a beneficiary in your will, living trust or estate plan or
- Named the Friends of the Newark Free Library as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, financial account, or insurance policy

Our email address is Friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com

The attorney drafting your bequest may find the following information helpful.

Our full legal name is: Friends of the Newark Free Library

Our legal address is: 750 Library Avenue, Newark, DE 19711

Our Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN) is 23-7098836

Be a friend to the end! Join the Legacy of Reading Society today.



Kudos for Pat Birchenall

Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member

State and county officials made the Newark Free Library an early stop during last spring's COVID reopening. They came to pay tribute to Managing Director Pat Birchenall at a farewell reception hosted by the Friends of the Newark Free Library on May 4.

Two proclamations, one from the State Senate and one from the State House of Representatives, were read, acknowledging Pat's accomplishments. Her leadership and composure during the pandemic, as well as her role in coordinating the NCC Reads program, were particularly commended.



State Senator David P. Sokola is also a beekeeper. He gave Pat a jar of "Bee Chill" (He lives in Beech Hill) Honey reflecting the welcoming and friendly atmosphere she has created at the library.



Friends' President Judy Taggart presented a plaque honoring Pat that will be hung in the library. Judy said, "The library is a warm, friendly place truly because of you."



Pat is pictured here, with, above from left to right: Diana Brown, Director of Libraries; Marcus Henry, NCC Community Services General Manager; Lisa Diller, County Councilwoman, District 5; Pat Birchenall; David P. Sokola, State Senator and Senate President Pro Tempore; and Matt Meyer, County Executive.

Read more about Pat's career here:
https://www.newarkpostonline.com/news/birchenall-retires-after-17-years-managing-newark-free-library/article_6626ba39-12a6-53f0-ab38-64c04eb51c64.html

NCC Reads rescheduled for October 22nd



Pachinko is the current NCC Reads selection. Founded with leadership from former Newark Free Library Managing Director Pat Birchenall, NCC Reads speakers have included Ann Patchett and Walter Mosley. Find out more about NCC Reads here:

<https://nccde.org/710/New-Castle-County-Reads>

Summer at the Library

This **summer**, 199 Children and 95 Adults completed the *Summer Reading Challenge*.

The Friends are **proud** to sponsor **prizes** for each reader who met the challenge.



Little Free Library (LFL) Installation

In late May, members of the Friends and representatives of Kingwoods Methodist Church (see photo) met to install the Little Free Library in the Brookside community on the grounds of Kingwood Methodist Church. Originally intended to be primarily for children's books, the Little Free Library has a variety of adult fiction as well. Two members of the Friends monitor the LFL regularly and restock the book supply if needed. Judging by the volume of books taken and replenished, the LFL is a welcome addition to the community.



I've been reading...

Barack Obama: The Story

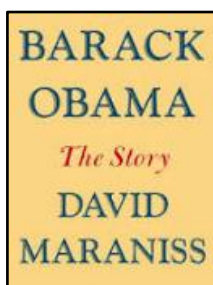
By David Maraniss

Simon and Schuster, 2012; 641 pp.



*Reviewed by
Roy H. Lopata*

If you happened to be one of those Americans who used to miss the years of “No Drama, Obama,” and you wonder how he came to be that way, David Maraniss’s remarkable portrayal of President Obama’s family ancestry and his formative years from childhood to his acceptance into Harvard Law School is the book you must read. In a tour de force of research and analysis, Maraniss traces the parallel stories of Obama’s white great-grandparents, grandparents, mom and dad in Kansas and does the same for his black forebears in Kenya. The twists and turns and ironies of his paternal and maternal families that eventually led to his birth in Hawaii in 1961 are almost beyond belief. The Kenyan colonial wars, poverty, tribalism, and eventual independence matched by the history of Kansas wild cat oil strikes, two world wars and the Great Depression and the resultant impact on the Obama family history make for gripping reading.



While much of the multi-national and multi-generational saga is too long to detail here, two brief examples help illustrate the background from which the future president came and how it shaped his adult personality. Regarding his namesake father, whom Obama barely knew, the senior Obama’s life in Kenya and later at the University of Hawaii and Harvard was marked by

fierce determination, single-minded ambition to succeed, obvious intelligence and a gift for public speaking, but was marred by alcoholism, domestic violence, and irresponsibility. Maraniss notes that his tribal heritage and education in the west made him an outsider within Kenyan’s post-independence politics. The future president’s equally ambitious and intelligent mother married Obama’s father at eighteen (not knowing he was already married with two children in Kenya) and, after giving birth to Obama in Hawaii, eventually divorced his father, remarried an Indonesian and lived for a time with her new husband and his extended family in a Jakarta suburb. Later, after returning to Hawaii, she finished her education earning advanced degrees in anthropology. Her research focused primarily on women’s work on the island of Java, requiring long stints in Indonesia and leaving Obama with his maternal grandparents in Hawaii. As Maraniss shows, Obama’s mother never lost her passionate interest, sympathy and understanding for other cultures far beyond her initial Kansas upbringing.

With this unusual bi-racial and multi-cultural heritage, Obama eventually attends Occidental College in Los Angeles for two years, transfers to Columbia to finish his bachelor’s degree, works for several years for a New York corporate consulting research firm, and then, for three years, heads a small community service organization in the Southside of Chicago. All the while, as Maraniss describes in rich detail, Obama struggles to fit in with his mixed-race heritage; impresses fellow students and co-workers with his intelligence and burning ambition; and appears to those he meets as a cautious, rigorously self-controlled and careful observer of the people and environment around him. Maraniss concludes with Obama’s acceptance into Harvard Law School in 1988.

In sum, while he does not say it, Maraniss’s gripping volume makes clear that Obama’s journey to the White House was probably as unlikely as any American’s, save perhaps Abraham Lincoln’s.

His Very Best: Jimmy Carter, A Life

By Jonathan Alter



Reviewed by
Robert Taggart

Our 39th President was not one of our great leaders, though he certainly tried hard enough. Jimmy Carter, from tiny Plains Georgia, has long been considered a middle packer, a decent but flawed President capable of great things but also of great failure. Carter worked very hard, with the meticulous planning known to engineers. He acquired these habits as a tough and self-sufficient farm boy, as a Naval Academy graduate who served 11 years in the Navy, including under Admiral Rickover on nuclear submarines. He was ambitious, serving as a state Senator and as a progressive Governor of a deep-south state. He then spent two years planning his campaign for President.

Carter was a moral man, a devout Christian who prayed up to 25 times a day while President. This endeared him to Baptists but smacked of self-righteousness to others. His outsider status as a Georgia farmer made him seem like a populist who took on elite interests, though this meant he was never quite accepted by those who ran the country, even within his own party. His never-ending quest for high moral standards set him up for charges of hypocrisy on those occasions when his results were less than perfect. The press never accepted this Southern farm boy. He did not care, but this cost him dearly in public and political support.

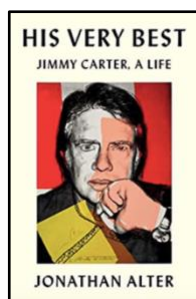
Still, Carter got a lot done in his first two years in office. He had success in foreign policy. Through the Camp David Accords he brought lasting peace between Egypt and Israel, which has held to this

day. He fought for human rights in several nations, getting many dictators to treat their countrymen and women better. He succeeded in turning over the Panama Canal to Panama, a result that probably stopped armed conflict, but also proved unpopular in America. He didn't care; he believed it was the right thing to do. Carter fully opened diplomatic relations with China, a process Nixon had begun. He also had many environmental bills passed on pollution controls and expanded the National Park System. He supported ethics laws, civil service reform, added many blacks and women to judgeships, including Ruth Badger Ginsburg, and founded two new Cabinet departments, Energy and Education. He was the first President to use his Vice-President in meaningful ways, even including Walter Mondale in his Cabinet meetings. He gave his wife Rosalynn important roles as well. She was his "steel magnolia" partner who fought for and with him on many issues, but also provided a softer, more humane version of himself. Rosalynn also worked effectively to promote mental health programs throughout America and abroad.

So, what did him in? First, he did not take politics very seriously. Many people viewed Jimmy as a hard-working, stubborn person who was hard to like. He was almost at war with his own party, especially Ted Kennedy. In addition, many of his problems were out of his control. Inflation raged throughout the Seventies, reaching above 10% by 1980. He solved this problem by appointing hawkish Paul Volker as Federal Reserve Chair, who cut the money supply. This policy stemmed inflation, but not until two years into the Reagan administration.

The Iran hostage debacle, including the botched rescue raid to free them, made Carter look weak and ineffective. He just could not overcome this foreign policy failure.

Alter's book is a balanced view of Carter's life. It shows why he was more effective than many have thought while also highlighting his shortcomings in a comprehensive and readable manner.



A New Front Door

Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member

The Friends are raising money in Pat Birchenall's honor for a project she chose -- making the entrance to the library more inviting and welcoming.

She provided examples of colorful murals and eye-catching installations that could draw people in as they are re-establishing the habit of coming to the library. Pat points out that a refreshed entry way would complement the new carpet and furniture that arrived while the library was on hiatus. For now, the Friends Board is exploring options and starting to draw up a scope of work practical for our library.

What becomes a legendary library most?

A colorful, welcoming mural?



The artwork in the entry to the Elkton branch of the Cecil County Public Library (middle photo above) was created by a local Maryland artist.

A portal that brings nature in?



Captivating Contraptions?



Interactive Light Board



Duplo Cubes and/or Walls



Slate Wall for painting

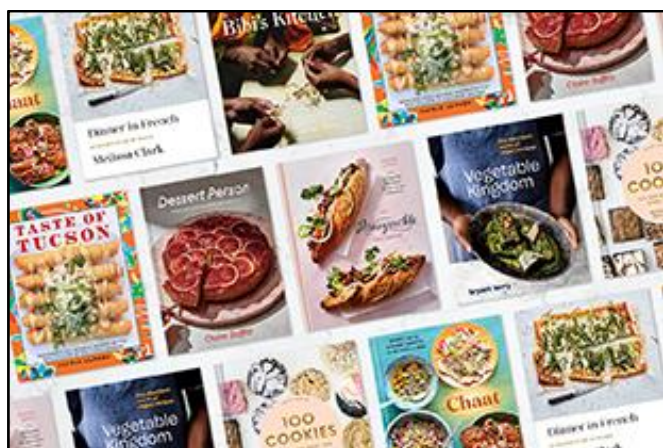


A Kuglebahn (rolling ball sculpture or machine)

Let us know your thoughts at [http://FriendsOfNewarkFreeLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfNewarkFreeLibrary@gmail.com).

12 MUST-READ COOKBOOKS RECOMMENDED BY LIBRARIANS

By Isimon on March 1, 2021. *(Reprinted with permission)*



Looking to mix things up in the kitchen? Each year, members of the American Library Association's Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) name the most essential cookbooks for public libraries, and this year's list features a diverse mix for newbie chefs and experienced cooks alike.

RUSA's 2021 list includes recent books spotlighting cuisine from around the world. There's something for everyone, from vegan and vegetarian recipes for plant-based eaters to decadent desserts for those with a sweet tooth.

Here are their top 12 picks:

Taste of Tucson: Sonoran-Style Recipes Inspired by the Rich Culture of Southern Arizona, by Jackie Alpers

Chaat: Recipes from the Kitchens, Markets, and Railways of India, by Maneet Chauhan and Jody Eddy

Dinner in French: My Recipes by Way of France, by Melissa Clark

The Good Book of Southern Baking: A Revival of Biscuits, Cakes, and Cornbread, by Kelly Fields with Kate Heddings

In Bibi's Kitchen: The Recipes and Stories of Grandmothers from the Eight African Countries that Touch the Indian Ocean, by Hawa Hassan with Julia Turshen

100 Cookies: The Baking Book for Every Kitchen, with Classic Cookies, Novel Treats, Brownies, Bars, and More, by Sarah Kieffer

Fresh From Poland: New Vegetarian Cooking from the Old Country, by Michal Korkosz

The Honeysuckle Cookbook: 100 Healthy, Feel-Good Recipes to Live Deliciously, by Dzung Lewis

Dessert Person: Recipes and Guidance for Baking with Confidence, by Claire Saffitz

New Homemade Kitchen: 250 Recipes and Ideas for Reinventing the Art of Preserving, Canning, Fermenting, Dehydrating and More, by Joseph Shuldiner

Falastin, by Sami Tamimi and Tara Wigley

Vegetable Kingdom: The Abundant World of Vegan Recipes, by Bryant Terry



WEBSITES:

Friends of the Newark Free Library
www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com

Newark Free Library main page
<http://www.nccdecs.org/Newark>

New Castle County Happenings library page
<http://www.nccdecs.org> and click on libraries and then Happenings Guide



Friends of the Newark Free Library

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 24TH

The Newark Halloween Parade is Back! (at least for now)

The Friends would like to march in the parade as a group again this year. Look for more information at the library, in emails or on Facebook. There may even be a workshop to get you started on costumes and event registration.



