



DELAWARE SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN CRISIS

By Jennifer Delgado, Librarian, H.B. DuPont Middle School

Did you know that school libraries and librarians are optional in our schools? Each year principals are given a set number of staff (called the “unit count”) based on the number of students enrolled. While principals must hire a nurse, there is no requirement to hire guidance counselors, librarians, or other student support faculty. Unfortunately, especially in our more vulnerable schools, the librarian is one of the first to go when finances are tight, in spite of research that clearly shows the effectiveness of quality school library programs.



More than 19 national studies (<http://www.scholastic.com/slw2016/>), including one conducted in Delaware (Todd 2005), have confirmed the correlation between library programs with full-time, certified librarians and increased academic achievement. Perhaps even more important is the finding that academic gains are more pronounced for students in poverty than for their wealthier peers in schools that employ certified school librarians. No Delaware student should be without a school librarian, but especially not the over 40% of Christina School District students living in poverty.

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Websites:

Friends of the Newark Free Library

www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.webs.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



Friends of the Newark Free Library

Continued from p1 DE School Libraries in Crisis

Last year in Christina School District, all secondary librarians (grades 6-12) were let go in an effort to trim the budget after the first referendum vote failed. Many believed that the librarians were to be reinstated if the second referendum vote passed. The referendum passed, but no librarian positions have been reinstated and no openings are posted (all DE school positions are listed on www.joindelawareschools.org). According to the *CSD Paving the Way* website, millions of dollars from the passed referendum would be used to directly fund teaching positions. "Four million will be spent to hire teachers. The District will hire teachers to fill teaching positions in those areas that faced the biggest cuts in 2015. This will help to restore class sizes to their previous levels, and restore staff to areas that were affected such as school libraries, counselors, and support staff."

What can you do to help?

Attend school board meetings and briefly address the board to let them know that you are paying attention to this issue. School board meetings are open to the public, and you don't have to be a parent to voice your concern about public education matters. Board meetings begin at 7pm, dates and locations can be found here http://www.christinak12.org/pdf/2016-17_CSD_BOE_Meetings.pdf.

Contact your building principal to let them know you are concerned about the school library program, and that you feel your school should have a certified school librarian. Principals are ultimately tasked with the decision what positions to fill in their building.

Support school libraries through the Delaware legislature. Two years ago Representative Paul Baumbach sponsored a bill to require a certified school librarian in every Delaware school. The bill passed in the House but not the Senate. We aren't done fighting for this important legislation! Contact your Representatives and Senators to let them know you support funding for

a certified school librarian in every school. Find your legislators here <http://cqrcengage.com/alade/>

FROM THE PRESIDENT



SHU-CHIEN LIANG

I hope this newsletter find our Friends well and that you have had a wonderful, relaxing summer, whether it was the long awaited gathering with your family and friends at the beach, bringing your children or grandchildren to log everyone's summer reading progress at the library, or enjoying simple things in life such as watching the Rio Olympics. Time passes by fast but pleasant memories always last.



Here is a quick recap for you on the Friends activities during the last quarter. We held our annual outreach programs at the New Night Newark and Newark Farmer's Market and gave away many children's books, cookbooks, and gardening books.

The Friends sponsored evening music programs by Melomanie, Songs of Travel, and the Daniel Bennett Group drew large crowds to the library, and the participants came away with great enjoyment and satisfaction with the unique music presentations and great entertainment.

The popular Jungle John event was made even more popular with the refreshments provided by the Friends. Last but not least, several incentive awards were purchased for the winners of the Adult Summer Reading programs. Many thanks to all the board members who coordinated and ran these events, and made them successful.

If you visited the library recently, you probably have noticed the new smart TV by the information desk. Thanks go to the New Castle County Council, in particular Councilwoman Lisa Diller, for the \$500 grant towards the purchase of the hardware. I hope this helps to make you better aware of various services and programs provided by the library. I also hope you enjoy the new Mailchimp format of monthly library report assembled by our library manager, Pat Birchenall and her excellent staff.

As one of the Friends groups in the Delaware library system, the FNFL receives monthly updates on the use of eMedia such as e-books and e-magazines. In the recent report, the overall use of eMedia circulation was up slightly in July vs. the same period in 2015. The huge increase of 19% in e-audiobook circulation was offset by the decrease in e-book use due to limited funding for additional copies of high demand titles.

When I was reading the report, I realized how far behind I was on using the eMedia. I was pleasantly surprised how easy it was to access the 58 e-magazines. I got on the library website - <http://lib.de.us/emedial>, clicked on Flipster, entered my library card number, and voila. I was able to read past issues and print out an article. I have no doubt that, when more people use the eMedia service, higher demand will drive the purchase of more e-books, e-magazines etc., and in turn, we will all get to enjoy these wonderful digital technologies.

In closing, I want to thank all those who continue to be a Friend and welcome those who just joined the Friends. We appreciate your support. Please don't hesitate to drop us a note or suggestion.

FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

PAT BIRCHENALL



September is Library Card signup month! If you have been in the library this month, you may notice our Snoopy bookmarks and posters promoting library cards. Snoopy, the official mascot of the American Library Association's annual library card campaign, is a much beloved character, just as libraries are much beloved by their users.

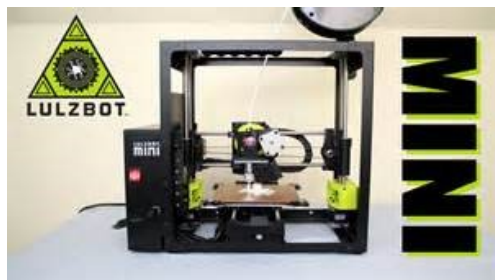
Library staff members plan to participate with the Friends in Community Day on September 18, to offer library card registrations on the spot. We also hope to take part in other events in the community to make people aware of all the services a library card can provide.

Have you used **your** library card lately? If not, this is the perfect time to take it out and use it. Can't find it? Don't worry, bring in your photo ID and you can get a replacement. Our cards are about to receive a facelift, with a new look and new colors. By the time you read this, the new cards will most likely be available throughout the state. If you are one of the over 222,000 people in New Castle County who have a card, then take the opportunity to let your friends and family members know about the library and how they can get a card of their own.

How do you get a card? Provide a current photo ID with your name and birth day, along with proof of your current residential address in Delaware, and you will have a free library card within a few minutes.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

SHERRI MCCARTHY – REFERENCE LIBRARIAN



Newark Free Library continues to find creative ways to use and promote the Lulzbot Mini 3D printer. For the Bingo portion of the adult summer reading program, we have made small prizes for those who finish one row on the card. The prizes made on the 3D printer include a variety of bookmarks and keychains.

Lauren Gouge, Library Specialist, used Newark's Lulzbot 3D printer to make a cookie cutter shaped like the Facebook "Like" symbol thumbs-up. Abby Newton – daughter of staff member Amy – used the cookie cutter to make spice cookies for the staff. Double thumbs-up!



The Lulzbot Mini 3D printer was also used in the Teen Tech Camp offered this summer (see separate article). Members of the public are welcome to drop off "print jobs" to be manufactured on our 3D printer. There is a "3D Printing Request Form" explaining the procedure and limitations. For instance, 3D print jobs must be of the file type "STL" (STereoLithography file) and must be submitted on a flash drive. The file must be able



to print in 5 hours or less. Ask at the Reference Desk for more information.

SHEET MUSIC AT THE LIBRARY

Some of Newark Free Library's patrons may be unaware of the large collection of sheet music that can be found in the nonfiction area at call number 786. These collections of piano music and piano / voice / guitar music are high-circulating items at our library. A variety of genres and artists are included, as shown in this sampling:

- Adele 19 and 21 and 25
- Elton John's Greatest Hits
- Frozen
- Prince's Purple Rain
- Wicked
- Top Country Hits of 20**
- Top Hits of 20** (this title is received every year)
- Top 50 Praise and Worship
- 100 of the Most Beautiful Piano Solos Ever
- Broadway Musicals Show by Show

There is also sheet music targeted at specific instruments shelved with the books on how to play that instrument. For instance, in guitar we have Play like Stevie Ray Vaughn and in banjo we have Earl Scruggs and the Five String Banjo.



Christmas music has its own nonfiction call number: 782.2817

SUMMER TEEN TECH CAMPS AT THREE LIBRARIES

SHERRI MCCARTHY

The Appoquinimink, Bear, and Newark libraries hosted three Teen Tech Camp programs over the summer. The Tech Camp was a partnership between the local Barrel of Makers DIY Delaware group and the libraries.

The Tech Camp consisted of six sessions designed to present the life cycle of a technology product, encompassing design, software, hardware, and manufacture, according to Simon Hamermesh of Barrel of Makers. The students began with an overview of contemporary technology and the resources available to continue to explore that technology – including, of course, library resources.

The students learned software programming using Scratch, a graphics-based programming language developed at MIT (see <https://scratch.mit.edu>). With Scratch, the students designed and created their own videogames.

The students learned to solder electronic components as part of creating an electronic Arduino microcontroller with a joystick attachment for powering their videogames. Arduino is an open-source electronics platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software, used in making interactive projects. See <https://www.adruino.cc/>



Finally, the students learned about the fundamentals of drafting and CAD when designing a case to house the Arduino joystick. The cases were manufactured using the library system's 3D printers, such as the Newark Free Library's Lulzbot Mini 3D printer.

By the end of the summer, 10 girls and 23 boys had completed the Teen Tech Camp at the three locations. Students ranged in age from 11 to 15 and are entering grades 6-9 in the fall. Several local schools were represented as well as home schooled families. The Brandywine Hundred Library will be offering the same Teen Tech Camp beginning September 13. Call the Brandywine library at 302-477-3150 for more information.

New Castle County libraries offer a variety of tech programs for youth and adults on topics including Scratch, Minecraft, 3D printing, Coding, Web Design, and more. For more information, go to <http://nccde.org/libraries> and click on the link to The Happenings Guide or on any individual library's website. Also visit New Castle County Libraries on Facebook.

Barrel of Makers is a community of crafters, hackers, artists, and hobbyists. They have two "maker spaces" in Wilmington featuring 3D printers, soldering kits, wood shop tools, and various classes. They frequently collaborate with local libraries to present programs. For more information, see <http://BarrelofMakers.org> or meetup.com/BarrelofMakers.

New Castle County Libraries presents . . .

Save the Dress 'Prom'iere

A Prom Dress Giveaway 2017

On January 2, libraries will begin collecting gently used, dry-cleaned formal dresses on hangers.

Stay tuned for details.
Questions? Contact your county library.



Don't Throw That Dress Away . . . Every Donation Matters!
County Executive
Thomas P. Gordon



nccdelib.org
facebook.com/ncclibraries



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE NEWARK FREE LIBRARY *MARIANNE GREEN*



As Friends of the Newark Free Library, our goal is to support and further the library's mission. We can be even better Friends, though, if we have a clearer understanding of the logistics that ensure that our library is up-to-date with the newest books, CDs, DVDs, and audio books. My interview with Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian at NFL, helped answer some of my (and other Friends') questions about how the librarians at NFL meet their patrons' ongoing desire for the latest information and entertainment.

New books are ordered from Baker and Taylor, a national leader in the distribution of books to libraries. NFL librarians order books through two programs. They utilize the "Automatically Yours" (AY) program to create a list of 1000 popular authors. Each time one of these authors publishes a new title, the book is automatically sent to our library, already processed and ready for placement on the shelves. Statistics on the number of times books are checked out or placed on hold help determine whether the list of authors should be modified.

Based on NFL's specifications, Baker and Taylor also prepares monthly electronic carts listing summaries of new books, by genre, along with numerous reviews from leading journals. Eight NFL librarians and library specialists focus on carts for different genres -- including fiction, nonfiction, music, children's and young adult materials, and

Spanish language materials -- to select books that would appeal to NFL patrons. According to Ms. McCarthy, some of the most popular adult books at the NFL are mysteries and cookbooks!

CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks, also a vital part of the library's collection, are chosen by a committee comprised of representatives from the ten libraries in New Castle County. Once the list is complete, the audiovisual materials are ordered from Midwest Tapes, a media distribution company, which processes them and sends shelf-ready copies to each library.

The NFL currently houses about 175,000 items (books, DVDs, magazines, audiobooks, and music CDs). In FY16, about 14,000 new items were added, 9000 of which were adult and children's books.

This is the short version of how Sherri McCarthy and her colleagues at the NFL use their talents and education to maintain and build the NFL collections. Knowing more about the operations of the library can strengthen Friends' commitment to the NFL, now and in the years to come.



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and much more.
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**MUSIC PROGRAMS FOR THE
FALL AND WINTER**
*PAMELA NELSON
REFERENCE STAFF*

After a successful series of music programs this summer including a 3rd *Live Music Open Mic Night*, a performance from three members of *Mélomanie* – provocative pairing of early and contemporary works, a vocal recital “*Songs of Travel*” with baritone Jason Buckwalter and pianist Andrew Stewart, and Jazz from New York with *The Daniel Bennett Group*, we are delighted to announce a new slate of performances for the fall and early winter.

The fall season begins with the 4th *Live Music Open Mic Night* on **Friday evening, September 30th from 7:00pm until 8:30pm**. Participants are welcome to register in person at the Reference Desk or by phone. In June there were performers on guitar, piano, ukulele, accordion, several vocalists, and a string quartet whose members all play in the Newark Symphony.



The 5th *Open Mic* session is scheduled for **Friday, January 27, 2017 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm**. Each musician signs up for a 10 minute-time slot in which to perform a couple of pieces. Listeners as well, are encouraged to attend the evening of music to support

the talented performers while at the same time enjoying refreshments.

This autumn the library will be hosting a special program for the Halloween season. The **Brandywine Harp Orchestra** under the direction of **Janet Witman** will present *Halloween Harps Spooktacula!* on **Wednesday evening, October 26th at 7:00pm**. Enjoy some seasonal music with the harp orchestra, whose members are appropriately dressed as ghosts and goblins.



This hilarious show features 8 harpists in comical situations: A Tap Dancing Owl, White Wabbit, Gypsy Rose, and a tuba playing Count Tubalot. Come in costume if you like, and join in the fun. All ages are most welcome to this program sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library.

On **Wednesday evening, December 7th at 7:00pm, *First State Ringers*** under the direction of **Lauren Cataldi-May** returns with a program of music for the holidays.



In addition to the selections, the director and musicians describe the various types of bells played and demonstrate the methods for ringing. Many of the ringers are long-time members of the ensemble. We are pleased to welcome them back this season. The program will also be enjoyed by audience members of all ages and is also sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library.

As the New Year begins, the library is fortunate to be able to continue to offer a series of music programs which are also sponsored by the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**.

As 2017 begins, we welcome back the *New Castle Trio*, a chamber ensemble which was founded in 2007. On **Sunday, January 29th at 2:00pm**,

Elizabeth Stevens, oboe; William Wheeler, bassoon and Daniel Stevens, piano present music from the Trio repertoire.

Ms. Stevens, who teaches at the University of Delaware, received her Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Performance at Michigan State University. Her Masters in Music in Oboe Performance is from Northwestern University and her Bachelor of Music is from the University of South Florida. She has held many academic positions and has performed in symphonies in Delaware, Illinois, Michigan and Florida. In addition, her fields of academic study have included musicology and instrument repair.



William Wheeler, a regular guest of the Michigan State University Bassoon Studio, serves as Principal Bassoonist of the Kalamazoo Symphony and has also soloed with the ensemble. In addition he has performed with the Lansing, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek Symphonies. To add contrast and

balance to his musical life, he manages the server at the Michigan State University Library (a sort of cyber-janitor).

Daniel Stevens, Associate professor of Music Theory, joined the faculty at the University of Delaware in 2008 after earning his Doctor of Philosophy in Music Theory from the University of Michigan. He has presented papers at national and international conferences and specializes in the songs of Brahms. Mr. Stevens, who continues to be



active as a pianist and cellist, received his Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of South Florida in Tampa, and later earned a Master of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he studied piano and chamber music.

In time for the Valentine's holiday, we are excited to present **"Romance for the Violin"** with renowned violinist **Ann Fontanella** and pianist **Jungeun Kim Burke** on **Friday evening, February 10th at 7:00pm**. The program will include a piece by Vieuxtemps followed by Vivaldi, *A Major Dance Sonata*; Saint-Saëns, *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*; Chopin, *C# minor Nocturne*; Schubert/Wilhelmj, *Ave Maria* and Weill/Fontanella, *Mack the Knife*.

Ms. Fontanella began playing the violin at a young age. At the age of 10, she appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra and at the age of 14 was one of the youngest artists ever accepted to Yale University's School of Music. Later that year she appeared on NPR's "From the Top." Ann released her debut album "Bach Schubert Bruch" in 2005. In addition to being a violinist, she is also a composer and a recipient in the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Competition.



The pianist for Ms. Fontanella's program will be **Jungeun Kim Burke**, Director of Instrumental Accompaniment at The Curtis Institute of Music. Ms. Kim began her studies at the age of three. After winning a Presidential Prize in the Korean National Music Competition, she performed with the Korean National Philharmonic. She earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Julliard School. Ms. Kim is the founder of the New York Summer Music Festival,

where she serves as the executive director. She joined the faculty of Curtis in 1999.

Please join us for the concerts in our music series. Many of the programs are made possible by the support of the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**. Young people are particularly welcome as the programs provide a great opportunity to enjoy music in an informal setting.

**NEWARK NATURAL FOODS CO-
OP FARMERS MARKET**
By EMILY THOMAS



On Sunday, August 7th, Friends of the Newark Free Library joined the Newark Natural Foods Co-Op Farmers Market as the non-profit booth of the week. In honor of National Farmers Market Week, the day also served as a special Summer Festival celebration, with live music, raffles, and kid's crafts. As guests walked from booth to booth, sampling the market's plethora of local produce and handmade goods, they also had the chance to visit the Friends' table for the latest updates on activities at the library, and free books on gardening and cooking, all donated by library patrons. By the end of the day, nearly all of the donated books had found new homes, and people of all ages stopped by to learn about and show their support for the Newark Free Library.

Thank you to the Newark Natural Foods Co-Op for inviting the Friends to participate in the Farmer's Market once again, and to all of the library patrons who donated books and made the event a success!

LIBRARY CALENDAR

ONLINE @

<https://de.evanced.info/delaware/lib/eventcalendar.asp>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 at 2pm and 6:30pm
FRIDAY FILM -Trumbo -124min.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 at 11am

SAT Practice Exam (Princeton Review)

Don't go into the SAT unprepared! Get ready for the fall test season by taking a free practice version of the SAT. Ages 12+. Registration at princetonreview.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 at 2pm

SUNDAY DOCUMENTARY FILM - Where to Invade Next? -120min

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 at 7pm

Open Mic Music Night at the Library

Looking for a place to showcase your musical talent? We are putting out a call for vocalists, acoustic instrumentalists, and pianists (baby grand piano will be available). Come be part of the fun! Ages 12+. Performers register at Adult Reference Desk or by calling [302-731-7550](tel:302-731-7550).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 at 1pm

Presidential Pet Tales (And Tails)

An afternoon of stories about America's First Families and their furry friends. From Washington to Obama, a wide range of faithful companions resided in and roamed around the White House - including dogs, cats, ponies and parrots, plus a few bears, tigers, horses and alligators. Ages 12+. Register at Adult Reference Desk or by calling [302-731-7550](tel:302-731-7550).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 at 1pm

Teen Writing Workshop with Joann Balingit
Teens are invited to come and work on their writing skills in preparation for a National Writing Competition. Joann Balingit will be present and representing the Diamond State Branch of the National League of American Pen Women. Students who attend school in Delaware, including home schools, will be able to submit their writing in any of eleven writing categories; winners of the regional competition go on to the national level, where they will have opportunities for publication and scholarships. This program is sponsored by Delaware Division of the Arts. Ages 12+. Register at Adult Reference Desk or by calling [302-731-7550](tel:302-731-7550).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 at 2pm and 6:30pm

FRIDAY FILM - Room - 118min.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 at 11am

How to Prepare for an Intensive Month of Writing
This workshop offers tips for writers planning to participate in National Novel Writing Month in November. Topics include carving out a time and place for daily writing stints; getting help and support from friends and family; practical issues such as meal planning and carpooling.

Ages 12+. Register at Adult Reference Desk or call [\(302\)-731-7550](tel:302-731-7550).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 at 2pm

Wilmington Drama League Pillow Plays
Wonderful plays performed by children for children. Call the library for performance title. All Ages. 2-4 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 at 2pm

SUNDAY DOCUMENTARY FILM - The Wolfpack-90min

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26 at 7pm

Brandywine Harp presents "Spooktacular"
Members of Brandywine Harp Orchestra present a seasonal concert of

spooky music and dramatics under the direction of Janet Witman. All Ages.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 at 2:30pm

3Doodler Workshop

Teens get hands-on use of a 3-D Printer that works like a pen. Come create something fun with this new technology! Ages 12+. Register at Adult Reference Desk or by calling [302-731-7550](tel:302-731-7550).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 at 2pm and 6:30pm

FRIDAY FILM - Captain Fantastic -118 min.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 at 2pm

SUNDAY DOCUMENTARY FILM-TBA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 at 2pm and 6:30pm

FRIDAY FILM - Joy -124 min.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 at 7pm

First State Ringers

Handbell Choir presents a concert of Holiday Music appropriate for all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 2pm

SUNDAY DOCUMENTARY FILM - TBA



www.lib.de.us/Flipster

BY AMY SHAY

BY AMY SHAY



with Molly Shay

--Al Mills, "Why I Write"

31st, a group of teens at the Newark Free Library

themselves appropriately and effectively."

in writing."

one was a dancer who wanted to round herself out."

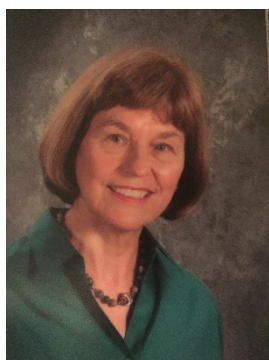
Laurenceau agrees with Chukwuocha and Mills that poetry benefits all of us, not merely self-identified writers. "The diversity of the group, including the ages, was just amazing," she said, and the Poets Laureate elicited from the participants a variety of work that impressed her and the other group members tremendously. Kori Sampson agreed and said in reference to an August 22nd poetry slam scheduled at Bear Library, "I look forward to attending the poetry slam because it is a great way for people who were and weren't in the twin poets' class to learn and hear about poetry."

"... I try to open their eyes to the Devil's illusion
 During these periods of confusion
 When their parents start to lose them
 I am trying to find them
 By using creative methods
 To get the same parental messages across
 Before their dreams get lost
 Some people call me a poet
 But really I am just a custodian of this chaos
 And 24 hours a day I am on my job . . ."

--Nnamdi Chukwuocha, "Why I Write"

PLEASE WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Jo German recently retired as a Speech-Language Pathologist from the Delaware School for the Deaf. While at DED, she served as the Mentoring Coordinator working with Creative Mentoring/Connecting Generations to recruit and set up volunteers from the community and local businesses to mentor students. She is a member of Holy Family Church and participates in activities that benefit the community at large, including the Hope Dining Room and the Newark Empowerment



Center. Barbara Jo is a volunteer reader at her granddaughter's preschool and enjoys her monthly book club. She currently works part time as a Speech-Language Pathologist with students who have severe disabilities.

Adebanjo Oriade is a physics teacher in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Delaware (UD).



He has worked in the DuPont Interdisciplinary Science Learning Laboratories since it was opened in summer 2013, and he designs learning activities and hands-on science experiences for students and educators. He teaches a summer course in UD, Origami Science (SCEN 115), in which students learn and creatively express concepts in science using paper folds. After earning his Ph.D. in Physics (UD), he taught physics to pre-medical and pre-engineering students for six years in Kansas. Banjo has a B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Jos, Jos, Nigeria. He speaks two African languages, Hausa and Yoruba. Banjo juggles and enjoys high performance computing. He has two sons who love the Newark Free Library, especially the Minecraft sessions.

Patricia Rachek is a speech and language pathologist who began her career working in the Baltimore City Public Schools before taking a position with the Department of Defense School System (DoDDS/DoDEA). During her career with DoDDS, she was assigned to the Philippines, Okinawa and Germany. Her



experience includes working with elementary, middle and high school students with communication impairments. She retired in 2014 and moved to Delaware. Since retiring, she has spent time getting settled, volunteering in the community, and traveling.



Emily Thomas serves as the Development Coordinator for The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (known as TLC), a non-profit environmental organization just over the Delaware border in

Pennsylvania. In addition to her work as the Development Coordinator, she also enjoys volunteering to host educational programs and hikes on TLC's nature preserves. She is a graduate of Pratt Institute with a B.F.A. in Writing for Performance, Publication, and Media, and served as Fiction Editor and later Editor in Chief of Pratt's literary and arts magazine. Prior to entering the non-profit world, she worked in the University of Delaware Theater Department costume shop, helping to create costumes for over 25 shows of UD's Resident Ensemble Players. Emily grew up in Newark, and is a life-long patron of the Newark Free Library with a love for reading, writing, and learning.

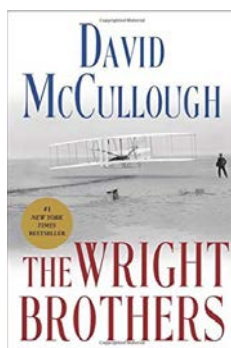


www.delaware.lib.overdrive.com

I'VE BEEN READING

The Wright Brothers

By David McCullough



Reviewed by Robert Taggart

December 17, 1903 is famous as the date the Wright brothers first flew a heavier than air powered plane that carried a pilot. Almost everyone knows that. But few of us realize what a magnificent long-term effort it was to achieve this success. Orville and Wilber Wright were bicycle builders in Dayton, Ohio who understood mechanics. They spent thousands of hours on the second floor of their bicycle shop experimenting with wings, propellers and engines before ever setting foot on the dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where this flight took place. Just getting to the desolate and windy shore was a dangerous enterprise.

When they did achieve flight, few in Dayton seemed to care or even believe it; neither did the U. S. government. However, the French government did believe in them. So in order to fulfill a contract by proving they could produce a reliable machine that would fly several miles, the Wrights set off for a field near Le Mans, France to demonstrate what they could do. Through hundreds of hours of meticulous experiments, they improved their airplane so much that they became lionized throughout France. Soon, they were flying before thousands of spectators. They also worked with an unflappable, humble demeanor, taking nothing for granted, an attitude that was well appreciated by the people they worked with.

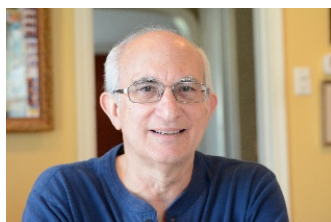
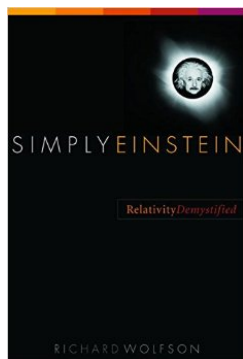
There were tragedies. Orville nearly died in 1908 when his plane suddenly nosedived into the ground. Wilber spent most of his time after 1909 defending their patents in endless lawsuits that so wore him

out that he died in 1912. Orville lived on through the two World Wars, sadly noting the terrible destructive capabilities of what he had thought of as a peaceful invention. The Wright brothers' fame has lived on for good reason. Their reputation wasn't just based on one flight in 1903, but the work of a whole decade of unwavering perseverance by two intelligent and appealing men and their always helpful and strong sister, Katherine, who managed the bicycle shop when they were away.

Those who enjoy reading about great American families who changed the world will like The Wright Brothers.

Simply Einstein: Relativity Demystified

By Richard Wolfson



Reviewed by Roy H. Lopata

Regular readers of the *Friends of the Newark Free Library Newsletter's* book reviews may recall that a recent review included a comment that my understanding of the Theory of Relativity is largely confined to explaining what "a first cousin once removed" means. So you can imagine how thrilled I was to stumble upon on our Library's shelves Middlebury College physics Professor Richard Wolfson's concise volume purporting to render Dr. Einstein's startling insights regarding space and time comprehensible to me and a nonscientist and non-mathematician audience. As a result, after reading Wolfson's account I can now safely claim a bit more knowledge regarding Einstein's Principles of Relativity (Wolfson notes that these "theories," are now considered "principles" of

modern physics), in addition to my grasp of the "principles of family relationships!"

Wolfson begins with a brief overview of the startling and counter-intuitive world that Einstein opened for us in 1905 and later expanded in 1916 that included traveling clocks with their time jumping into the future; universes alternative to our own; and the twins paradox that involves one twin journeying into space at a speed near that of light and then returning to find that he or she is twenty years younger than the twin sibling left behind. Following this, in the portion of the volume that I found most interesting, Wolfson summarizes the history of physics beginning with Aristotle, to Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Maxwell and others that provided the foundations for Einstein's work and, more significantly, developed the physical world view that Einstein changed in so many fundamental ways. He stresses in particular how Einstein overturned our understanding of gravity and motion that resulted from Newton and that still forms the basis for our everyday understanding of the domain in which we live.

Wolfson then explains in some detail the six scientific papers that Einstein published in 1906 that, in addition to authoring what became known as the Special Theory of Relativity, also included the first description on the photon that established the field of quantum physics and, in what Wolfson describes as, "a mere footnote," offered the most famous formula in science – " $E = mc^2$." Wolfson uses excellent diagrams and analogies with our three-dimensional world to help explain the import of the Special Theory's since proven assertion that, "the laws of physics are the same in all reference frames in uniform motion." Of course, despite the diagrams and analogies I can still safely say that even with several careful re-readings, I am not sure I follow grasp what the Special Theory means. I did understand, however, what I do not realize before -- $E=mc^2$ did not form the basis for nuclear weapons but instead simply asserts the interchangeability between matter and energy. He explains that the formula has been associated with atomic bombs because it is the most dramatic evidence to the transformation of matter to energy.

Beyond that, the link between Einstein and the bomb also resulted from his famous letter to President Franklin Roosevelt in 1939 that stressed the potential of nuclear energy for the production of extremely powerful weapons and the importance of insuring that the United States had them before Germany. Wolfson's concluding section explains the General Principle of Relativity, issued by Einstein in 1915, that replaces the idea of gravity as a force with the notion that it results from the curvature of space-time. Once again through clever drawings and simple prose, Wolfson explains what this new explanation of gravity means for an understanding of the nature of the universe including, among other things, how planets move about the sun, how and why weightlessness occurs during space travel, how gravity bends light, and the existence and description of black holes. Wolfson fortunately ends where I began when he notes in his final comments that the neither he (nor Einstein, for that matter) could fully grasp what relativity means because, "None of us has experienced in everyday life the conditions that show up the difference between Einsteinian relativity and Newtonian common sense." I feel better already!

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