



# Friends of the Newark Free Library

Summer 2020

Editor – Patricia Rachek

## Friends From Afar How the Friends are Adapting

### Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member

Corona virus hasn't stopped the Friends of the Newark Free Library from supporting our library. The library made an impressive transformation, becoming a completely online presence in a matter of days. Our Delaware libraries added more digital materials, created support for learning at home, made new online activities available, and launched web-based versions of favorite events such as story time, Dungeons and Dragons clubs, and more. You can learn about all of these here <https://www.nccde.org/387/Online-Services>. In addition, wireless connections were strengthened and have been available in library parking lots throughout the shutdown.



The Friends of the Newark Free Library have also adapted. It's true that many of our typical events such as musical performances and author talks have gone on hiatus. And we moved our annual spring brunch to October 4. But we also purchased a Zoom subscription for the Newark Library to hold virtual meetings. The subscription is being used for library-sponsored programs such as the Musical Adventures for children and a water-color program for adults. Newark librarians are also using Zoom for staff meetings and system-wide committee meetings, including hosting of the adult programming committee.

The Friends of the Newark Free Library also continue to support the summer reading programs for children and adults, and we are planning to sponsor concerts in the fall as our state reopens. We also plan to participate in Newark's Community Day and Halloween Parade in whatever format they take on.

No doubt, some of the library's recent innovations will continue. Greater online activity benefits our digital native generations as well as those who find it difficult to travel to the library. For the many patrons who have missed in-person library visits and events, the beginning of curbside service is a welcome first step in creating a new normal.

The library and its patrons also are also facing new challenges. The library has always supported job seekers, learners trying to update their skills, and business owners pursuing the latest technologies and practices. Likewise, the library has been a fundamental resource for learning beyond the classroom. Now the library's services for education and the economy are more necessary than ever.

If you have an idea for a service or program the library could provide as the reopening of our state begins, please email the Friends of the Newark Free Library at [info@friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com](mailto:info@friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com)



## Letter from the President

Judith Taggart

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the Newark Free Library and the Friends. As described in Sue Peters article, our library is busier than ever, though in a very different manner, and our Friends is there to financially support library initiatives when needed.

I hope you are able to take advantage of the large variety of the Newark Library offerings. If you are unsure how to access, visit “Ask a Librarian” for assistance. Librarians want you to use the services and are ready to assist.

Elected officials at all levels need to hear that you love your library and how you are accessing services during these challenging times. As they campaign this summer and fall, please speak to candidates about the importance of the Newark Library in your life.

Thank you to Friends’ board members for their continued behind the scenes support to the library.

Two Friends events are still tentatively planned for fall. On Sunday, September 20, Newark Community Day, University of Delaware mall, the Friends will again offer a fun family activity. On Sunday, October 4, is the Friends Annual Meeting Brunch with a entertainment of beautiful harp music. Both events are very much up in the air so we will keep you posted.

If you have not signed up to receive “Newark Library Weekly Happenings”, visit the Newark Free Library website and do so. Each New Castle County library has it owns “Weekly Happenings” so you may wish to receive information from the other libraries. Each library offers a variety of program offerings and information.

## Great Selection for Book Clubs: The Darwin Affair

Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian

If you are planning a virtual or in-person book club for late June or early July ... take advantage of this! A few times a year, Overdrive sponsors a Big Read title that has no limits on how many users can check it out at once. No holds, no waiting! The Big Read title for June 22 - July 13 is **THE DARWIN AFFAIR by Tim Mason**. London, June 1860: When an assassination attempt is made on Queen Victoria and a petty thief is gruesomely murdered moments later—and only a block away—Chief Detective Inspector Charles Field quickly surmises that these crimes are connected to an even more sinister plot. Was Victoria really the assassin’s target? Are those closest to the Crown hiding something? And who is the shadowy figure witnesses describe as having lifeless, coal-black eyes? Soon, Field’s investigation exposes a shocking conspiracy in which the publication of Charles Darwin’s controversial *On the Origin of Species* sets off a string of murders, arson, kidnapping, and the pursuit of a madman named the Chorister.

Sounds like a great summer read! You can check out the eBook or the eAudio using the Libby or Overdrive app (beginning 6/22). The eBook and eAudio are also available in Hoopla. As always, if you need assistance with the app or your device, call the library for help at 302-731-7550. For more information about the book and the author, see: <https://biglibraryread.com/current-title/>.

### Inside this Issue

- 2 President’s Letter
- 3 Curbside Kick Off
- 5 Library Manager’s Update
- 6 What’s New at the Library
- 7 Music Program
- 8 I’ve Been Reading....

## Curbside Kickoff

Sue Peters, FNLF Board Member

On June 16, the Newark Free Library hosted the launch event for curbside pickup at the New Castle County libraries. County Executive Matt Meyer, Manager of Libraries Diana Brown, Newark Free Library Manager Pat Birchenall and Friends President Judy Taggart were among the library lovers on-hand to welcome the new program. You can read Newark Post coverage [here](#), view the NCC video [here](#).

“No more excuses!” proclaimed County Executive Matt Meyer, shown here finishing a book delivery. “If your child says that they don’t have a book to read, we’ve got millions of titles here for you.”



About 2,000 books had been requested from the Newark Free Library when curbside began, according to Manager Pat Birchnall (left) shown here with Catherine Wimberley. Initially, librarians were delivering up to 13 books each half hour. Perhaps they will be asking the Friends for help with new sneakers or physical therapy!

From left to right: NCC Community Services General Manager Marcus Henry, Judy Taggart, and Diana Brown helped to unmask the library’s safe, new book delivery program.





## Now Boarding!

### The Friends of the Newark Free Library welcome two new directors

Sue Peters, FNFL Board Member

With a shared interest in metalworking and distinctive backgrounds in teaching and engineering, two new members are adding their skills and experience to our board. Lynne Wegman and Mark Rusinko began their two-year appointments in April.



Lynne Wegman (left) graduated from Newark High School and has two degrees from the University of Delaware: one in Elementary Education and the other in Early Childhood Development and Special Education. She taught in the Christina School District for 33 years. After retiring, Lynne was asked to work part-time as a reading interventionist at her old school, Gallaher Elementary, which she did for seven years. Lynne is married with two children, two stepchildren and two grandchildren. Now that she is fully retired, Lynne enjoys reading, biking and camping as well as volunteering in the community. For two years she volunteered at Christiana Hospital, monitoring the waiting area for families of critical care patients. For the past six years she has been taking metalsmithing classes at the Delaware Art Museum and loves making and designing jewelry.

Having lived in Newark for more than 31 years, Mark Rusinko (right) now calls it his home. He grew up in Niagara Falls and received a ceramic science and engineering degree from Penn State. He worked as a manufacturing engineer in western Pennsylvania and then came to Delaware for a job opportunity making armor at Lanxide Armor Products. Mark has a married daughter who has been a librarian for over 10 years. Mark's wife of nearly 40 years passed away after a long battle with breast cancer, and he married again a year ago, enlarging his family with three more children and four grandchildren. He loves to read and travel, is active at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Landenberg and participates in several small bible study groups. Enjoying retirement, Mark hopes to go on some short-term mission trips soon.



#### Friends of the Newark Free Library Board 2020-2021

		<b>Directors:</b>	
<b>President</b>	Judy Taggart	Katy Ferrero	Adebanjo Oriade
<b>Vice President</b>	Mary Ann Gladnick	Barbara Jo German	Sue Peters
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Deb Morehead	Catherine Germani	Patricia Rachek
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Kathie Davis	Roy Lopata	Doug Tong
		Carol McKelvey	Mark Rusinko
<b>Treasurer</b>	Noreen Campbell	Lynne Wegman	

## Curbside Pickup Service at the Newark Free Library



Pat Birchenall,  
Library Manager

New Castle County libraries are still closed to the public, but effective June 16 all locations are providing curbside pickup of books, DVDs and other library materials. The Newark Free Library participated in a pilot for the service in early June, which allowed us to refine our procedures and workflow. We are excited to once again be able to provide you with items from the library's collection.

Do you want to order items for curbside pickup? These instructions will explain how.

### Curbside Pickup Process:

Use our online catalog or call the library at 302-731-7550 to request items. You may request five items per library account. If the items are available on our shelves, we will pull them as soon as possible. If they are not at the Newark Free Library, we will place them on hold for you.

Staff will notify you when your materials are available, and we will schedule a pickup time. Currently our pickup days/times are Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but we plan to expand our service to other days soon.



When you arrive at the library, park in one of the spaces designated for curbside pickup (see the accompanying photo).



Each space has a sign with a curbside pickup phone number printed on them. Once parked, call the number on the sign and provide your name, hold info, and your parking spot number. Staff will retrieve your checked

out items, and bring them to your car. Remain in your vehicle with the trunk open, library staff will place your items in the trunk and move away.

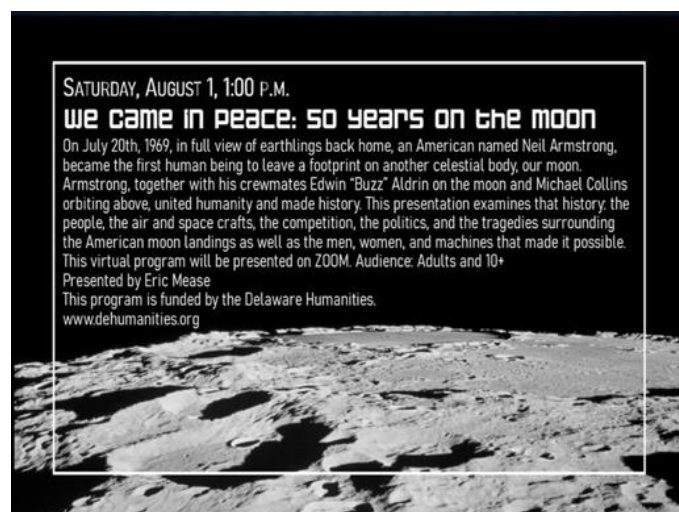
Staff will be wearing masks. Please remember to wear your mask too.

If you are arriving on foot or by bicycle, we will bring your books outside and set them on a library cart for you to retrieve.

All items are checked out for 30 days, starting on the day we call to schedule your pickup.

For further details, visit our website at [www.nccde.org/newark](http://www.nccde.org/newark), and click on the Curbside Pickup block near the top of the page.

### **Celebration of the American Moon Landings**



## What's New at the Library?

Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian



With our new Binge Box DVD Collection, you can pick a themed movie collection to suit your fancy. All of the movies are packaged in one convenient DVD case! Themes include Pasta Cowboys, Stop Saving Matt Damon, The Love We Share, Starring Your Favorite Brits, Who Taught You to Throw a Punch, and Somethin' Sappy. Some collections feature one actor or director; some are mixed by theme. Four to six DVDs are included in each Binge Box. Can you guess which movies are included in Never Travel with Tom Hanks?

Search the catalog and place holds using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y7je5x2h>



The New Books Section at Newark is **\*bursting\*** with new titles, just waiting for you to place them

on hold and receive via Curbside Pickup. You may call the library to have staff place holds for you ... or place holds yourself in the catalog.

There is no easy way to limit your search to new nonfiction titles. So just go to the catalog and search for your favorite topic.

### Calling All Anglophiles!

ACORN TV Shows Available on Hoopla



Based on the number of times I have placed holds on Foyle's War or Midsomer Murders (hundreds!), our Newark Free Library patrons enjoy British TV series. With your Delaware library card, ACORN TV shows are available through our online streaming service, Hoopla. In addition to the titles shown in the graphic, offerings include Line of Duty, George Gently, Miss Fisher's (Modern) Murder Mysteries, Vera, Agatha Raisin, and Foyle's War.

Click here to see the ACORN TV offerings in Hoopla: <https://tinyurl.com/yb9w6dl4>





## Music Programs for the Spring of 2020

Pamela Nelson, Reference Librarian

Before the closure of the Library to the public on March 16<sup>th</sup>, three music programs were presented during the winter months.

**Mélomanie** joined us in January in a program of *Provocative Pairing of Early and Contemporary Works* including pieces by Elisabeth-Claude de la Guerre, Georg Philipp Telemann, Maurice Ravel, and Ingrid Arauco, a Philadelphia composer who attended the concert for her world premiere. The members of the ensemble are Kimberly Reighley, baroque & modern flutes; Christof Richter, baroque & modern violins; Donna Fournier, viola da gamba; Ismar Gomes, baroque & modern cellos and Tracy Richardson, harpsichord. In addition to the **Friends of the Newark Library**, this program was made possible in part by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts and the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.



The first **Open Mic** of 2020 took place on **Friday** evening, **January 31st** from **6:30 – 8:30 pm**. Performers at this session included a poet/vocalist, banjo player, pianist, a number of guitarists/vocalists, accordion player, vocalist, and an ensemble including guitar, violin, and percussion instruments. We're fortunate to have a variety of musical styles, and many of the musicians and listeners are repeat customers.

In February, the **Sylvia Olden Lee Music Guild** presented a program of Spirituals and readings in honor of African-American History Month. Their inspiring and entertaining concert was attended by over 50 people. Sylvia Olden Lee was a well-known and accomplished vocal coach and pianist who accompanied famous singers such as Marian Anderson, Kathleen Battle, Jessye Norman, and Paul Robeson. The program was sponsored by the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**.



Because of the Library's closing there are a number of performances we have had to cancel, but hope to be able to reschedule in the future including: The First State Flute Choir; guitarist Kevin Cope's Recital; *Piano Extravaganza*, University of Delaware piano students from the studio of Christine Delbeau; May's Open Mic; First State Ringers' Patriotic Concert in June.

One program that has been developed recently is **Virtual Open Mic**. It started as a cooperative between the Claymont and Woodlawn Libraries and now Newark has joined the venture. It is scheduled every other Wednesday evening at 6pm on Zoom. The initial session took place on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, followed then every other week. May's dates are May 13<sup>th</sup> & May 27; then in June 10<sup>th</sup> & June 24<sup>th</sup>, etc. The link to enter the program is listed on the Virtual Calendar and on the Newark Friends' Facebook page. Both performers and listeners are welcome.

# I've Been Reading...

## A CIVIL WAR: ARMY vs. NAVY

By John Feinstein

Little Brown, 1996; 796 pp.



Reviewed by

Roy H. Lopata

*A Civil War* is one of the earlier offerings from noted sportswriter John Feinstein's now lengthy collection of "inside sports" accounts that include *A Good Walk Spoiled*, which captured the world of professional golf; *A Season on the Brink*, which took us behind the scenes of coach Bobby Knight's University of Indiana basketball team; *The Punch*, Feinstein's harrowing portrayal of basketball players' Kermit Washington and Rudy Tomjanovich on court slugfest and its sad aftermath; and many others, too numerous to describe here. In *A Civil War*, Feinstein takes us through college football's 1995 fall season from the perspective of the players, coaches, staff and student body at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, culminating in the season ending Army-Navy game in Philadelphia.

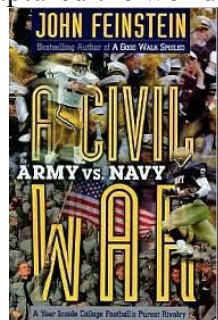
With the intimate access for which Feinstein has become justifiably famous, we follow the parallel ups and downs of the two college football teams who became participants in the sports' most storied

rivalry during a season that featured both glory and defeat.

What makes *A Civil War* so special and particularly readable, is Feinstein's remarkable ability to move back and forth through time with mini-biographies of the Army and Navy football players, coaches, and administrators while taking us through the season with heart pounding descriptions of each team's weekly gridiron battles. In other words, Feinstein's writing is so vivid and personal that only after we think about it for a moment do we realize that he could not possibly have been in the pre-game locker room meetings, on the sidelines during the games, or on the bus or plane rides home celebrating with the victors or consoling the losers since they all occurred at the same time!

Most important, Feinstein underscores that most of the young men who play this often brutal sport at the service academies are sacrificing their time and bodies solely for the glory of their teammates, their institutions, and the servicemen and women who they represent around the globe with almost no realistic chance of playing as professionals. Feinstein describes in detail their rigorous academic and physical, and social challenges, so demanding that exhausted football players often stand up in class to avoid falling asleep at their desks, during the week following a game.

These young men are clearly scholar-athletes, embracing the ideal of intercollegiate sports. Whether the reader participates in sports or cheers for a team *A Civil War: Army vs Navy* will capture their interest and spark their pride.





# THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE

*By Eric Larson*



Reviewed by

Bob Taggart

Eric Larson chronicles the single year May 1940 to May 1941 when Winston Churchill served as Prime Minister during the Nazi Blitz. He details Churchill's deft supervision of a team who succeeded in mounting an effective defense of Britain against the superior Air Force under Joseph Goebbels, when it appeared that Britain was doomed to an inevitable invasion (that never happened). Churchill was certainly eccentric and rigid in his personal life, but proved an effective leader who let Lord Beaverbrook and others "get the job done" with little personal interference. Churchill proved courageous and stalwart, yet optimistic and inspiring through personal appearances and uplifting speeches. Britain's Spitfires and Hurricanes provided crucial defense, confounding Goebbels despite the Germans' massive air raids.



Churchill also convinced Franklin Roosevelt to send ships and other materials through Lend Lease, at a time of strong Congressional opposition to European involvement. He succeeded through the assistance of FDR's assistant, Harry Hopkins and Ambassador Averill Harriman

as well as Churchill's constant contacts with Roosevelt through letters, phone calls, and visits. He just did not give up! Larson also details through personal journals the daily lives of Churchill's wife "Clemmie", teenage daughter Mary, troublesome son Randolph, and sexually active daughter-in-law Pamela, as well as the many weekend retreats at Chartwell and endless dinner parties. While interesting, the details can wear you down.

Overall, there is little that is new in this book compared to the huge amount of information already available about Churchill and the Blitz. But one gets a real flavor of what modern war was like to live through during this terrible period in British history. Did Churchill's leadership save Britain? Yes, but not as much as Hitler's decision on May 1941 to declare war on Russia for what he wrongly believed would be a quick victory. Is this book worth reading? Yes, but not as interesting as Larson's previous book, *THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY*. Now THAT was fascinating!

## Websites

**Friends of the Newark Free Library**

[www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com](http://www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.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