



Generous Memorial Gift to Promote Children’s Literacy

Sue Peters, FNFL Vice President

The family of James E. Dianich has made a gift in his honor to support the library’s programs for young readers in the Newark community. Jim Dianich was a resident of Newark for many years who enjoyed reading and visiting libraries throughout his life. Jim was a mail carrier who worked in that occupation for several decades, mostly in the Claymont, Delaware area. He was also a serious stock investor. Using their inheritance from his estate, family members worked with the library and the Friends to recognize his dedication to reading with an approximately \$100,000 gift.

An avid walker, Jim brought his enjoyment of libraries wherever his footsteps carried him. Jim’s nephew, David Alkanowski, commented, “Whenever we would go anywhere near a library, he would want to go in.” David and his wife Janine earlier remembered Jim with a gift to the new Appoquinimink Library in Middletown.

Said Barbara Jo German, President of the Friends of the Newark Free Library, “Libraries are special to so many people. It’s wonderful to see this legacy gift connect Jim Dianich’s love of libraries to a whole new generation. We are very pleased and thankful to have the Dianich family as part of our community of book lovers.”

The first event funded by the gift to the Newark Free Library will be held in March and will feature Delaware author Dr. Ilona Holland. Dr. Holland had a distinguished career at the Harvard School of Education before turning her attention to writing children’s books. Her books *The Lost Locket of Lewes* and *The Great Explosion: A Powder Mill Chronicle* focus on Delaware topics. Dr. Holland offers a range of programs for children with activities such as writing about time travel and history. The Dianich gift will pay for copies of Dr. Holland’s books to be distributed for free at the event.

Said Library Manager Pamela Stevens, “We are very grateful for this gift. Jim’s legacy will strengthen the programs we offer children. We hope it will help them find a lifelong relationship with books and libraries like the one Jim Dianich enjoyed.”

More author visits are being planned for 2023 and 2024. The Dianich gift will also support the summer reading program through purchasing of supplemental books for next summer’s reading program. Other uses of the gift are also being explored. An ode composed by Jackie Dianich in memory of her brother-in-law appears on page 2.

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An Ode* to Jim

By Jackie Hawkins Dianich

**A quiet shy man
With a slight stutter
Often with a determined spirit.**

**A man who loved the soil.
He grew wonderful vegetables.
In his garden were red and blue berries.**

**He shared his garden produce.
It was a delight to receive.
What a treat at our evening meal.**

**He liked to travel to Vermont;
Philadelphia by train was a delight.
He walked and took in the sights.**

**He once had a companion.
It was a dog named Buster.
He and Buster explored Newark.**

**A voracious reader
Never passed a library
Without wanting to visit.**

**Jim enjoyed visiting with the elderly.
He especially liked Rock Hall.
He would visit for hours by water's edge.**

**Jim loved his siblings more than they knew.
He left his wealth to each of them.
It was a considerable amount.**

**And now, Jim and Buster are no more.
He is with his parents in Heaven.
He abides with other good friends as well.**

**I trust he is happy in Paradise.
Enjoying life with those who preceded him.
We send our love and gratitude.**

Revised, December 3, 2022

**An ode is a lyrical poem written in praise of a particular person or event. In this case, it is to praise James Ellis Dianich (b. 1933, d. 2020) whose generous inheritance to his siblings has made this Gift to the Friends of the Newark Free Library possible.*

President's Letter

Dear Friends of the Newark Free Library,



Happy New Year to all of you! We have so much to look forward to at our library in 2023. I hope you will be able to take advantage of the in-person programs that are now available at NFL. It is exciting to see so many people attending programs and using the library services once again. We continue to fund many of these activities with the donations that come from you, our membership, and look forward to finding more opportunities to help the library serve the community.

If you would like to be a volunteer at any of our sponsored upcoming events, please let us know by emailing us at friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com. We appreciate all our volunteers past and present who make these events possible. As we are anticipating a busy year ahead, we welcome your participation.

In September the Friends participated in Newark Community Day. This was a wonderful opportunity for our donated, gently used, quality children's books to be redistributed into the hands of children. It was so much fun to watch each child browse the collection before making their choice. Our library manager, Pam Stevens (far right below), was there to help people sign up for library cards and answer questions about our library services. The Lego estimating jar activity was very popular. A 6 1/2-year-old was the winner! We had cheerful volunteers to set up, haul books, and interact with the public. Overall, it was a wonderful experience (even the weather was good!).

Friends Booth at Newark Community Day 2022



Continued page 4



The Friends continue to stock our popular Little Library on Marrows Road with our donated children's books. Pictured to the left is Mark Rusinko, Friends Board member, restocking the Little Library, which is well used by the community.



October was a busy month for the Friends at the Library! We funded and hosted a Halloween Costume Making activity on a Saturday morning. About 20 families participated, using a variety of materials we provided to make costumes.



On October 30th, the Friends (above left) organized a group from the library to march in the Newark Halloween Parade. Friends and families came dressed as book characters. We also offered costume support for the Teen Cooking and Culture Group who marched in the parade with us. They even won a prize for best small group costumes! See photos on page 11.

On Halloween night, our library hosted its first Spookebration night for families. About 300 people attended to trick or treat throughout stations in the library provided by the Newark Police, Paws for People, the Friends, and library staff. Children received candy and a free book. Everyone had fun. This event brought many new families to the library and hopefully has encouraged them to come back.





Music programs are back! We were able to provide free concerts featuring the First State Bell Ringers and the Pencader Flute Duo. In the past we were able to fund so many musical events and hopefully, we will be able to return them to the schedule again.

Children's programming at the library continues to grow with our support. We have been able to provide extra sessions of popular programs in smaller groups. We are sponsoring a children's author event on March 25, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the library. Children will be able to meet the author, Dr. Ilona Holland, and receive a copy of one of her books. She writes historical fiction about events from Delaware history. More information will be coming later this winter. Thanks to a very generous donation, we are going to be able to provide more opportunities like this for children over the next several years.

Finally, we are excited that plans are being made for the construction of a new and improved, Newark Free Library! Currently there are preliminary plans for a 40,000 square foot two story building with 150 parking spaces on our present site. Information concerning public engagement opportunities will be coming this spring. Board members have been attending meetings and visiting new libraries in our area to learn about current trends in libraries nationwide. You may want to visit some of the new libraries yourself to see the possibilities. Consider taking a look at the Route 9 Library in New Castle, the Appoquinimink Library in Middletown, the North East Library in Maryland, and the new library in Kennett Square.

To keep up with all of the Friends' activities and more, check out our website, <https://www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com/>, read our newsletters, and follow the Newark Free Library's page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/newarkfreelibrary/>) and Instagram. We look forward to a busy and exciting year supporting our library.

Barbara Jo German
President of the FNFL

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Directors**

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From the Library Manager



The world and the Newark Free Library have been in a state of change since the Covid shutdown of 2020. Sometimes change can be challenging and sometimes it can lead to better things. One change that could add to the bright future of our library is the addition and promotion of staff members to fill vacancies. Please join me in welcoming Matt Symes as he joins our staff as a part-time Librarian, congratulating Alexandra Marquez for her promotion to Library Assistant, and congratulating Regina Schiff for her promotion to Administrative Aide.

As a part-time Librarian, Matt will take on music programming duties along with developing programs that utilize his gaming and coding experience. We plan to further expand our gaming experience for adults to include PS4, LEGO and boardgames, which will allow adults an outlet to meet with other adults in a public setting. The demographic of single adults without children is a population our library would like to reach more effectively and gaming programs may help facilitate that connection. For the younger crowd, Matt is planning to launch Minecraft EDU for ages 8-17 in March with a gamification theme and cooperative play among library branches. Participants will have an opportunity to learn coding and teamwork through game play. Minecraft EDU is another great example of the Friends of the Newark Free Library funding programs that are beneficial for our community.

You may already recognize Alex and Regina if you frequent our children's and circulation desks since they have been long-time staff members. Alex will be taking on circulation duties and working as a Library Assistant. She started here as a part-time Page and has valuable knowledge of our collection to be used in her circulation duties. Alex will also be able to continue providing bilingual programs to our community.

Regina has been promoted to Administrative Aide, which will utilize her many years at the circulation desk to lead staff in trainings, coordinate our inventory, and oversee Library of Things processing among other administrative duties. The Library of Things collection has grown and is growing fast, as a result of the generous donation and launch party from the Friends. As with any item in our collection with many pieces, staff time is spent on preventative processing to ensure that patrons know what pieces to return with an item and that the item survives circulating. The process in place has been running smoothly so far and many more items will be added this year.

In addition to these staffing changes and the skills that each member brings, I look forward to our Children's Librarian vacancy being filled within the next month. It takes a great team working together through change, challenges, and victories to produce the excellent service we provide to our patrons and community. I look forward to working with this great group of people every day and to the positive impact we can make in the lives of each other and our community.

Pam Stevens – Newark Free Library Manager

You are Invited....

Spring Music Programs at Newark Free Library

Two programs are scheduled for this spring sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Free Library. We hope you'll be able to join us and enjoy the music.

KhaydenArts Saxophone:

Date: Saturday, March 11th at 2:00pm

Description: Khayden plays soulful saxophone music ranging from original songs, to covers of popular music, and soloing over a backing track. He is from the Newark area. <https://www.khaydenarts.com/>

Peter Fletcher Guitarist:

Date: Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00pm

Description: His audience friendly repertoire will feature the famous Bach *Chaconne* in d minor, *Four Preludes* by Manuel Ponce, Giuliani's *Variations on a Theme* by Handel, the ever popular *Recuerdos de la Alhambra*, Paganini's *Caprice No. 24*, and music by Tansman, Scarlatti, Albeniz and Santiago de Murcia.



A New Newark Library is coming!
What's on your wish list?

Now is the time to get inspired by visiting other new libraries in our area:

Appoquinimink Library
204 E Main St, Middletown, DE 19709

North East Library
485 Mauldin Ave, North East, MD 21901

Rte 9 Library & Innovation Center
3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE 19720

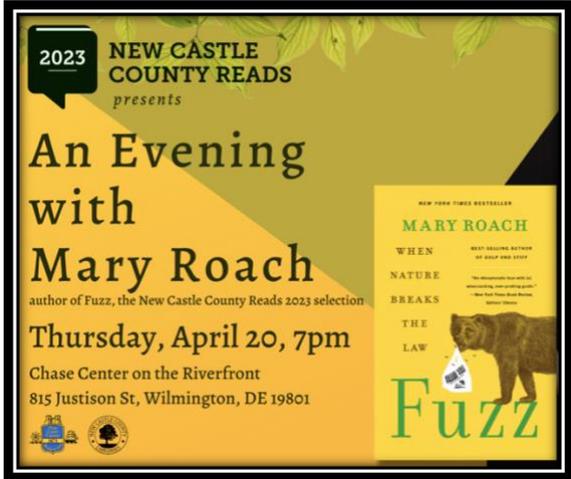


Support the Friends of the Newark Free Library using **amazon.com[®] Smile**

Amazon.com will donate to the **Friends of the Newark Free Library** to bring you NEW BOOKS, programs, and much more. Scan the QR code to get started! ...or visit smile.amazon.com



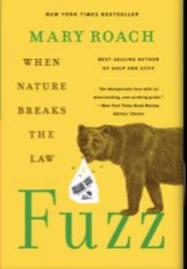
Click on the link to see the Newark Library's calendar of events:
<https://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/newark?cid=9403&t=m&d=2022-09&cal=9403&inc=0>



2023 NEW CASTLE COUNTY READS presents

An Evening with Mary Roach
author of *Fuzz*, the New Castle County Reads 2023 selection

Thursday, April 20, 7pm
Chase Center on the Riverfront
815 Justison St, Wilmington, DE 19801



Get Involved! The Friends Want Your Help

Do you or a family member have some expertise to share? Maybe you want to learn a new skill or gain some volunteer experience. Perhaps you would simply like to keep our library strong.

The Friends' board is looking for members to help support the library. Please email us at friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com if you would like help in any or all of these areas:

- Advocacy
- Children's book distribution program
- Communications (print, web, and social media, newsletter)
- Fundraising
- Graphic design
- Hospitality/ serve refreshments at events such as our annual meeting brunch, author events, music programs or children's activities
- Membership
- Service on our Board of Directors

Do you have a project or activity of your own in mind? Let us know about that too.

We look forward hearing from you soon.



SAVE THE DATE

April 30th, 2023

The Annual FNFL Meeting/Brunch

And

Newark Library Capital Project Update

11:30 – 1:30

Featuring

Diana Brown

Community Services Manager

Department of Community Services, New Castle County

A Visit to the North East Library

by Katy Ferrero, FNFL Correspondence Secretary

Barbara Jo German, Sue Peters, and I were graciously given a tour of the new North East Library by the manager, Heather Simpson. I just wanted to share a few of my impressions of the building.

You feel an immediate sense of spaciousness and light when you enter the lobby. Colorful displays of books serve as decorations. Wide corridors lead to community rooms and offices. The main downstairs space houses the adult collections, as well as work and training spaces.



Family Gathering Space



Children's Lighthouse Area

Upstairs has a large children's space accommodating toddlers to tweens. It has a separate teen space for middle and high school students. In between is a living room type area where families can read or play games. This library also has an outdoor space, and a cozy "sitting by an electric fireplace" room.



Reading Deck

Cecil County considers this a "people" library. Its collections are comprised of newer materials. But just like our library system, materials can be ordered from other libraries within their county. This library took ten years to plan and there are some issues with staffing such a large space.

It is easy to be impressed with this library. However, it is important to realize that we need to focus on what features we want in our library that will serve our community the best. By visiting other new libraries, it will help us explore the possibilities.

WEBSITES :

Friends of the Newark Free Library <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

I've Been Reading....

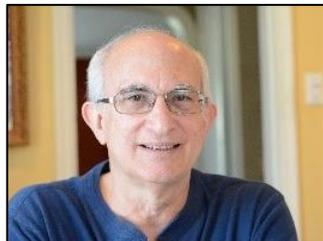
The Second Most Powerful Man in the World:

The Life of Admiral William D. Leahy,

Roosevelt's Chief of Staff

By Phillips Payson O'Brien

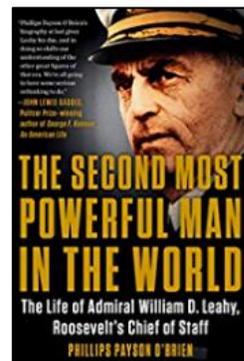
Dutton, 2019; 531 pp.



Reviewed by Roy H. Lopata

Admiral William D. Leahy unobtrusively served the United States of America as Chief of Naval Operations from 1937 to 1939; Ambassador to Vichy France from 1940 to 1942; and President Franklin Roosevelt's chief of Staff during the Second World War. In this biography Phillips Payson O'Brien strives to shed light on the crucial and previously overlooked role Leahy played supporting and advising the President militarily and politically during that titanic struggle.

Unfortunately, and as all too common in revisionist histories, O'Brien goes overboard in portraying his hero as, "The Second Most Powerful Man in the World;" in this instance second only to the President himself. In so doing he is forced to denigrate and downplay the vitally important contributions of other military and political leaders, especially the much better-known General George Marshall who served as Roosevelt's Army Chief of Staff. Beyond that, it's hard to rank Leahy as number two in a world that included, in addition to FDR, Winston Churchill, Stalin, Tojo and Hitler (how he forgot Hitler is beyond me!!!). As a result, this otherwise finely detailed and well written biography is marred by the author's continuing and at times herculean efforts to assure readers that Leahy was a crucial figure in the war effort whose contributions have been neglected by every historian of the period.



O'Brien begins by tracing Leahy's middle-class upbringing in Wisconsin; to his Naval Academy graduation in 1897; through his early navy career service on various naval vessels that included participation in the Spanish-American War off Cuba and the Boxer Rebellion in China. Leahy later returned to the Academy as an instructor and soon afterwards served as a naval aide to President Howard Taft. O'Brien then describes the most crucial event in Leahy's early naval career – his service in the Navy's Washington, D.C. bureaucracy beginning in 1913 that led to a deep and lifelong friendship with then Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Roosevelt.

After the First World War, Leahy captained various naval ships and through the 1920's and 1930's rose through the highest reaches of the Navy command. In 1937, Roosevelt selected Leahy to serve as Chief of Naval Operations, thereby placing him in overall charge of the U.S. Navy. O'Brien describes in some detail Leahy's careful cultivation of Navy brass and politicians, including Roosevelt, as he ascended to the new position as Roosevelt's Chief of Staff.

During the war, Leahy played important roles in decisions, which included the 1942 invasion of North Africa and the preparation for the four major war time conferences with Churchill and later with both Churchill and Stalin. He was a major advocate for the 1944 D-Day invasion of France. After Roosevelt's death in 1945, Leahy continued his White House service as Truman's Chief of Staff until 1949.

Leahy spent the remainder of his life preparing his memoirs which were poorly received. According to O'Brien, Leahy significantly downplayed his own role in assisting and guiding Roosevelt, as the president dealt with the enormously difficult challenges confronting the United States during the war.

O'Brien has provided a fine portrayal of an important World War II leader that has largely been forgotten by history. O'Brien, however, might have taken a cue from his subject's own autobiography and written a more nuanced and less assertive volume.



Teen Culture and Cooking Club at the Halloween Parade



Marching with the FNFL in the Halloween Parade.



Teen C&CC leading the way!

