



GONSER GAZETTE



Anniversary Edition

Newsletter of the Friends of the Kutztown Community Library

October 2019

Library Hours

Monday 9:30am-7pm
 Tuesday 9:30am-7pm
 Wednesday 9:30am-7pm
 Thursday 9:30am-7pm
 Friday 9:30am-5pm
 Saturday 9:30am-4:30pm
 Saturday Oct & Nov. 9:30am-2pm
 Sunday Closed

2019 Friends Board

Gail Young President
 Carm Sosik V. President
 Doug Sherry Treasurer
 Annette Heffelfinger Secretary

Board Members:

Tory Bieber, Karen Howard, Trish Ott, Naomi Owen, Barbara Stolz, Joanne Yoder

Friends Meetings:

3rd Tuesday at 2pm

2019 Library Board

Cathrine Ruhf President
 Barbara Coffin V. President
 Martin Smith Treasurer
 Rebeka Birch Secretary

Board Members:

Ernest Angstadt, Harry Heffelfinger, Lucy Muth, Robert Shade, Mindy Wagaman

Board Meetings:

2nd Thursday at 7pm

Library Staff

Janet Yost Director
 Taylor Kutz Youth Librarian
 Charlotte Hoare Asst. Librarian
 Joanne Englehart Asst. Librarian
 Jackee Sharayko Asst. Librarian

Mary Beth Friedle, Lacie Henninger, Mackenzie Keller, Megan Waidelich

From Gonser's Home to Bieber Alley

By Zoey Adam and Megan Meyer
 KU Interns

The Kutztown Community Library (KCL) celebrated the birthday of Louisa Gonser, the library's founder, the week of Aug. 11. Staff celebrated with a cake and a prize machine for patrons.

KCL started off in the upper floors of Louisa and John Gonser's home on 339 West Main Street in Kutztown, known then as the Kutztown Public Library, several years before becoming a state library. The couple was incredibly involved with the community, helped various organizations, and also gave up another one of the floors of their home to be used as a church.

When John died in 1927, many of his shares and properties, as well as a portion of his financial assets, went to Louisa and other friends and family. Louisa died on Jan. 3, 1941; her will stipulated that her trust, fueled by funds from selling her possessions, be used to support the creation and upkeep of a library and a YMCA.

While the YMCA was able to use the Gonser house in 1943, the library had to wait for new leaders to take the reins. The Business & Professional Women's Club requested permission from the Borough to reestablish the library, then finally reopened it and its Reading Room in 1949. As recorded in library files

regarding the status of the Louisa Gonser trust, "On February 8, 1956... the Orphans' Court of Berks County permitted the sale of the Gonser residence by the Borough... This decision was based upon the Borough's

willingness to relocate both the YMCA and the public library at the then-borough building." The library received its charter for incorporation on March 11, 1959, and was dedicated on May 30. After being properly opened, the library relocated several times as it grew. In 1958, it moved to Old Town Hall (the previous Borough building) on North Whiteoak Street. When the Berks County Library System was established,

the library joined the system. Soon, it moved again in 1989 to the lower level of the Borough Municipal Building. The library—now named the Louisa Gonser Community Library—moved to its final and current location, 70 Bieber Alley, in 1998. The name change to Kutztown Community Library occurred in 2011.

Currently, KCL serves a population of nearly 19,000 people and provides a wide variety of weekly and monthly programs for the community. This year marks the 70th anniversary of KCL. The Pennsylvania Library Association also recently announced that KCL earned Gold Star status in the PA Forward Star Library Program.



John & Louisa Gonser stand on their front porch during the Sesquicentennial parade

Donors make the world go round

By Zoey Adam
KU Intern

The Kutztown Community Library (KCL) has been powered by the generous actions of local residents from its very founding to the present day.

“We often speak about Louisa Gonser as the founder of our library when, in fact, it is a combination of ... many individual community members,” said Library Director, **Janet Yost**.

Lists and plaques of donors are located all over the library, placed on furniture and walls, to commemorate contributions by both organizations and individuals. These donors have their place in all aspects of KCL, paving a way for the improvements of the current building. Many of these were from the Capital Campaign in 1999, which accepted commemorative and memorial gifts toward the library. The Giving Tree in the Community Room also showcases donations in memory of or commemorating loved ones by a variety of community members.

The Capital Campaign, aiming to raise \$400,000 for the library’s current location, benefited from all these and more. “There were no government grants available to us, no added financial support from the city or township or state,” said **Patt McCloskey**, former KCL Director, in a library file. “It was people knowing that a library is an important centerpiece to a healthy community.”

Gonser did not pioneer the library’s initial progress alone. The **Business & Professional Women’s Club** started the original Reading Room in Gonser’s home, and the library proceeded to move three times after that. Many volunteers were involved in and supportive of the process of moving. Special notice is made of the last move in 1999 to the library’s present location.

“Everyone came out of the woodwork to help,” said McCloskey. “We put 14,000 books on the shelves—I was so impressed. This community is amazing.”

The late **DeLight Breidegam**, founder of East Penn Manufacturing Co., and his



Our home at 70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown

wife, **Helen**, have been connected to the community for many years—they have fueled many local groups with their philanthropy, such as Moravian College and Kutztown University (KU), through the Breidegam Family Foundation. In 2017, Helen alone aided at least 100 charitable organizations. The Breidegam family’s contributions have been vital in supporting the efforts of the library. They were

instrumental in the funding of the current library itself, as well as the remodeling of the Karen Howard Community Room. Helen also donated significantly to the replacement of the library’s HVAC system—an important part of making patrons comfortable and safe from hazardous weather. She also has made many book donations over the years. “Helen Breidegam was always a supporter of the library,” said former KCL Director, **Karen Howard**. “It was always a pleasure to see her come in with her shopping bags filled with books.”

The late **Sara Mack**, born in Topton, was an authority on libraries. She graduated with a B. S. in Library Science from Kutztown State Teachers College, and an M. S. in Library Science from Columbia University. Mack was a Board Member of the Louisa Gonser Community Library, now known as KCL, and, according to Women of Library History, “an outspoken and passionate believer in a library’s ability to be a transformational force in a community.” She also recorded a detailed history of the library’s founding and moves.



Sara Mack

Howard, the namesake of the aforementioned **Karen Howard** Community Room, was the Library Director before Yost, having retired in 2008. Her son, Dr. Robert Howard, and his wife, Amy, donated significantly to the room and named it in honor of her. After retirement, she has continued her service as a participant in Friends of the KCL projects and has been instrumental in the library’s growth. Immediately before



Helen and DeLight Breidegam

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Community keeps us spinning

>> from page 2

Howard, McCloskey served as an interim director between Howard and her predecessor **Karleen Ruiz**, who served separately as both a Director and Children's Librarian for 38 years, retiring in 2001. Ruiz passed away in 2002, but the library will always remember her service to her community and her long-standing dedication to KCL. All the Directors in the history of KCL are duly worth the praise they receive for their efforts in maintaining and enriching the library.

Carl W. Mantz, practicing attorney and former Pennsylvania State Representative, has offered his services to KCL for close to two decades as a Board member. He also acted as a representative to KCL for the Kutztown Borough Council.



Jane Dietrich

The Jane Dietrich Book Room is dedicated to Friends Board member (**Mary**) **Jane Dietrich** for her work in supporting the KCL. She is a current member of the Friends of KCL, and for over a decade, she volunteered her time to Summer Reading. The Book Sale held in the back room every Saturday was an event she created and ran.

The Dreibelbis Estate, made up of the assets of **John and Perma Dreibelbis**, named KCL as one of its beneficiaries. John, who taught art at Kutztown School District and at KU, and Perma, a retired secretary, gave a generous donation toward the library's needs.

The late **Barbara H. Stratton**, former nursing professor and wife of former KU President Lawrence M. Stratton, was the source of the donation of the children's



Paige poses by Kathleen Walck's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten mural

area. Her children—Lawrence, Barbara, and Anna—funded the area on her behalf. She was previously a co-chair for the Capital Campaign. **Kathleen S. Walck** is the creator of two murals in and near the children's area: one of a multitude of animals (including a tiger



Patt McCloskey, Karen Howard, Janet Yost, Megan Waidelich, Mary Beth Friedle, Taylor Kutz celebrate Louisa Gonser's Birthday

and a giraffe) in 2008 and one of the "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" fox in 2017. As for the mural on the back of the building, **KU students in the Communication Design (CD) program** and **Lisa and Steve Schnell** worked together to create a masterpiece representing the local area. It features Keith Haring figures, a horse and buggy, and a piece

centered on a library theme. CD students also helped design other library visuals, such as those of the "HATCH Campaign" and "1000 Books Before Kindergarten," as well as KCL's logo.

KCL is also home to two Eagle Scout Projects: one a large art bulletin board by **Lucas Kuebler** and the other a staircase outside the library by **Scott Fields**. Both of their projects benefit library patrons and showcase their dedication to their community.



2010 Friends Officers: Lillian Karch, Barbara Stolz, Mary Jo Johnson, Jane Dietrich

Friends of the KCL are a major part of enhancing and supporting the library through monetary donations, volunteered time, and help with various parts of KCL. They run the Holiday House Tours, bus trips, and other fundraisers, and have previously funded the placement of new signs outside the library, the Summer Reading Program, and many aspects of the Community Room. Their efforts make much of what the library offers possible.

Other helpful organizations include the **Kutztown Lions Club**, **Kutztown Grange #1836**, the **Fraternal Order of Eagles #839**, and the **Kutztown Rotary Club**. There are also **past and present Board members**, **local businesses**, **volunteers**, and **countless others** who deserve the greatest thanks for all of their contributions.

The time, money, and hard work put into KCL means everything to the benefit of the community and the library that serves them.

Can you help the library?



Quilts and art on display: Stop in to see our display of local artists' work. Currently, we have photographs by Rev. Dr. Harry Heffelfinger and the Historical Society's Quilt that will be raffled on Nov. 9. From Dec. 5 to Jan. 9, we will be hosting the KASD Traveling Art Show. Let us know if you have art or a quilt that you'd like to display.

Fun jewelry: Take a peek in our jewelry display case near the circulation desk. You will be amazed by the glittering treasures inside. Most jewelry is priced at \$2. We are always looking for donations so be sure to check your jewelry boxes and donate today!



Linda & Ron Rodolff run the Book Room

Book Sales: There's something for everyone at our **Book Sale** on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have best sellers, paperbacks, how-to books and more. New or gently used donations are accepted during library hours.

Get smart about money

By Zoey Adam
KU Intern

Many financial aspects seem nebulous to the average person. KCL is offering programs created from the Smart About Money and NEFE (Reimbursement Program) to inform library patrons.

SMART
ABOUT
MONEY

"Buying a Home: From Curious to Getting Serious" is an upcoming program on Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. It is a presentation by local real estate agent and loan officer Joanne Yoder, who will elucidate the various processes in buying a home. This includes knowing what to look for during home-buying and the specifics on how one actually goes about purchasing a home. Also, a financial workshop on Social Security will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7.

KCL's prime directive with these programs is to educate local citizens on the ins and outs of finances as well as on smart choices, new concepts, and good habits. This financial literacy benefits not only the individual but the whole community. A better understanding of money and how to handle it makes it that much easier on everyone.

Visit the Smart About Money at smartaboutmoney.org to take free online courses, create a budget and take quizzes.

Adult programs @ the library

Cover to Cover Book Club: Thought-provoking book discussions are held on the 2nd Tuesday 7 p.m.

- Nov. 5 (special date)- *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck.
- Dec. 10- *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg
- Jan. 14- *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts

Craft Night meets the 1st Thursday at 6:30 p.m.. A different craft is featured each month.

Paint n' Sip: Join us in sipping drinks and painting tiles on Friday, Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the library. The event will be held with the help of KU art student Emma Fries. The tiles will be displayed on the bulletin board starting Nov. 11, showcasing the work of library patrons young and old.

Stop & Create: Come make tiles with us on Saturday Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This is a drop-in session for teens and adults.

Smithsonian D.C. Bus Trip: On Saturday Nov. 9, ride with us to visit the Smithsonian Institution. The bus will leave at Kutztown 7 a.m. and leave Washington, D.C. at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$70.

Kutztown Area Garden Club meets the 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. Join us to hear interesting speakers, video presentations, and plant exchanges.

Conversación con Amigos is a bilingual night of game playing and lots of talking with new and old friends. Enjoy people who come from a variety of backgrounds, native speakers, and those who want to practice and learn... a great mix! We are a relaxed, and warm group that meets the last Wednesday at 7 p.m. for adults and teens.

New intern incoming

Zoey Adam is our new Professional Writing intern for fall 2019! She is pursuing a B.A. in professional writing with a minor in public relations at Kutztown University (KU), and she lives in Shoemakersville, PA. Her responsibility is to create and edit the library's written work (including this newsletter!). The library is new to her, so she's looking forward to getting to know the community.



Zoey Adam

Outside of the library, she is a tutor at KU's Writing Center, the Senior Editor for HerCampus Kutztown, and the Secretary/Head of Poetry for one of KU's literary magazines, *Shoofly*.

Outside of all that, she likes horror novels and writing poetry. She is the proud owner of two gerbils, Amaretto and Latte, and a silly cat, Percy. Feel free to come up and say hi!

Teen Reading Lounge

By Zoey Adam
KU Intern

Trapped between the freedom of a child and the responsibility of an adult, teens can often find themselves at a loss of their place in the community. To remedy this, the library hosts a program created by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Teen Reading Lounge (TRL).



Kayleigh and Isis show off their water bottles

TRL offers sessions where teens can engage with literature and chase their curiosity in a library setting. Participating teens are expected to read a book for the session and come to the group with any questions or commentary they have.

It is important that teens are able to express themselves and know that their opinions matter, and by KCL making a “teen space,” they are encouraged to share their ideas. “We communicate with our peers, make friends, and express feelings,” said one teen. TRL is a program of enthusiasm and kindness, but most importantly, respect.

TRL is prized for its commitment to not just literacy and community, but civic and social activity as well. Teens are encouraged to plan and participate in a service project for their local area. As a start, a group of teens recently held a game of bingo to raise money for youth programs.

But TRL is not all work and no play; KCL likes to incorporate fun into learning. “We have painted with water guns, used journals to write stories, and heard from informative visitors,” said youth librarian, Taylor Kutz. “Shelby Schwoyer, the group facilitator, comes up with great ideas, and I can’t wait to see what’s to come.”

This program runs every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Snacks and copies of each book are provided.

Reaching for the stars

By Zoey Adam
KU Intern

Megan Waidelich, a sociology intern at KCL from Albright College, works to create an environment that fosters learning and encourages growth of Kutztown residents via various outreach programs.

By capturing young minds with outreach, such as storytelling and exposure to books outside of the home or classroom, KCL carves important pathways for children to achieve their goals and be successful in the future.

Waidelich produced “Slumbertales,” which are videos of staff, volunteers, and library lovers reading a story hosted on YouTube. Children who watch these videos are given the opportunity to have a bedtime story where they may not have one otherwise.

However, the library is not a resource only for children, but for teens, adults, and seniors! She has facilitated reading to middle schoolers in the Life Skills class. “Often, programs are not accessible to these students,” said Waidelich. “I wanted to make the extra effort to cater story times to their particular needs.” Seniors could appreciate Waidelich’s events too, as she held a Nursing Home story time at Kutztown Manor to read books, do various crafts, and have conversations.

During an intense heat wave, she provided local construction workers with filled water bottles, communicating KCL’s appreciation for hardworking community individuals.

Waidelich, partnered with Friend, Inc. Community Services, created Food 4 Fines as a way of relieving fines owed to the library.



Megan Waidelich gives water to a local construction man

Youth programs @ the library

Toddler Story Time: Mondays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m., ages 0-3

Preschool Story Times: Mondays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 11 a.m. ages 3-5

Gather round for stories told by Miss Taylor, sing songs, and play with bubbles. Craft/activity will follow.

Tunes and Tots: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Miss Lacie plays music and reads stories. For ages 2-5.

Wiggly Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Prepare for kindergarten or preschool, play with toys and blocks, do yoga, and more.

LEGO Construction Crew: Volunteer needed to lead play sessions with LEGO blocks. Call the library.

Teen Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Teens can hang out, play games, do homework, and take part in an activity of their choice.

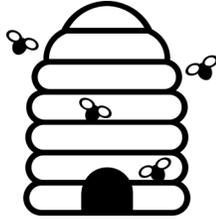
Art Cats: Thursdays at 4 p.m. Children 1st grade and up can share the experience of creating art together.

Pokémon League: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Play the trading card game against your fellow Pokémon Trainers. See if you have what it takes to be a Pokémon Master!

Volunteers are vital

Volunteers are the busy bees that boost the hive of activity we run. They provide many services that help keep us running smoothly. These include:

- Shelving items
- Reading shelves for accuracy
- Checking the book drop
- Cleaning DVDs and CDs
- Hanging posters around town
- Filling Pop-Up Libraries
- Story Time preparation
- Light dusting
- Gardening



Does this sound like something you'd be interested in? KCL has openings at various times, six days a week. Come in and pick up an application today!

Need WiFi?

The library has wireless mobile hot spots that use T-Mobile data to provide you with unlimited internet access.



Fee is \$40 per month or \$12.50 per week. WiFi hot spots can be renewed. This is perfect for road trips, homework, and visitors.

What is your dream vacation?

Dreaming of your next vacation? Having your passport processed at KCL is convenient, the same price as at the Post Office, and you're supporting your community library.

We have appointments during the week including early evenings and Saturdays. We also take passport photos. Give us a call!



Joanne processes a passport

Giving Tree

Preserve the memory of a loved one or honor someone special by making a gift donation to the **Kutztown Community Library**



The library is able to offer services and media to educate and entertain with the help of generous members of the community. Your donation will be honored by an engraved leaf or acorn placed on the Community Room Giving Tree.

Please consider requesting donations to the Kutztown Community library in lieu of flowers and including the library in your estate plans.

Giving Tree Levels

Green Leaf	\$200-\$499
Bronze Leaf	\$500-\$999
Silver Leaf	\$1000-\$1,999
Gold Leaf	\$2,000-\$4,999
Acorn	\$5,000 or more



Leaves can be engraved with three lines of no more than 13 characters each. Please leave an empty box between words.

Line																			
Line																			
Line																			

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send a notification of the gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____

I wish to donate anonymously.

I would like information on Estate Planning.

The Kutztown Community Library is a 501(c)3. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please make checks payable to: **Kutztown Community Library**, 70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown, PA 19530

It's Friends membership renewal time

There's always something new going on at the library with all the books, DVDs, programs, and other activities. However, the library needs your support to continue providing parts of the library that aren't covered under the budget.

The Friends of the KCL are a non-profit group whose contributions—whether they be fundraising, dues, or donations—supplement the library's budget. This allows for all of the library's offerings to be improved beyond what can currently be afforded. Funding is partially provided by state, county, and local municipalities, as well as passport processing and public donations.

Friends are sent our monthly eNewsletter, a copy of the Gonser Gazette, and advance notice for special events like book sales, bus trips, and programs.

Being a Friend means being a force in funding the betterment of the library. Please join the Friends of the Library or renew your membership today. Thank you!



The Friends sponsored numerous Summer Quest activities including cupcake decorating, yoga, interactive theater, and henna tattoos.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I would like to receive an eNewsletter. Email address: _____

We will not sell or pass on your email address. Please add me to these additional email lists:

- Book Club Bus Trips Craft Night Live & Learn Conversación con Amigos Youth Activities

Tax deductible membership dues are for the calendar year January 1 to December 31.

- \$10 Friend \$25 Family \$50 Contributor \$100 Benefactor

- \$250 Individual Lifetime Member \$350 Family Lifetime Member

In addition to my Friends membership, I am making a donation of \$ _____

- New Renewal New address Donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of the KCL**, 70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown PA 19530



Kutztown Community Library

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kutztownlibrary.org



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Customize your emails from the library. Select one or all of our special interest categories. It's up to you!



Go to Kutztownlibrary.org > About Us. Scroll to sign up for our eNewsletter. Choose from: Book Club, Bus trips, Conversación con Amigos, Craft Night, eNewsletter, Live & Learn, and Youth Activities.

Weather Closing Alerts

Wondering if the library is open due to the weather?

Our closings and delayed openings are listed on WFMZ's Stormcenter. Visit

www.wfmz.com to sign up for alerts. We also post on Facebook and send out emails.



OPEN HOUSE 70

Join us for the **70th Anniversary Open House** on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come celebrate with refreshments, tours, and community fellowship!

Visit various stations around the library to learn about:

- Computers & technology
- Youth programs
- Adult programs
- Passports
- Admission passes
- WiFi program

RSVP at 610-683-5820 or kutztownpr@gmail.com.