

Winter 2021

Library Hours

Monday	10 a.m.—6 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m.—6 p.m.
Wednes.	10 a.m.—6 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m.—6 p.m..
Friday	10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

2021 Friends Board

Gail Young	President
Carm Sosik	V. President
Annette Heffelfinger	Secretary

Board Members:

Tory Bieber, Karen Howard, Gerry Hynes, Trish Ott, Naomi Owen, Joanne Yoder

Friends Meetings:

3rd Tuesday at 2 p.m.

2021 Library Board

Lucy Muth	President
Barbara Coffin	V. President
Harry Heffelfinger	Treasurer
Robert Shade	Secretary

Board Members:

Linda Foulke, Gerry Hynes, Judy Koller, Josh Sprinkle, Mindy Wagaman

Board Meetings:

2nd Thursday at 7 p.m.

Library Staff

Janet Yost	Director
Taylor Kutz	Youth Librarian
Jackee Sharayko	Circ. Manager
Charlotte Hoare	Asst. Librarian
Mackenzie Keller	Programs/PR
Joanne Englehart, Mary Beth Friedle, Lacie Henninger	

Quilt Raffle



Valerie's Backyard Garden Sampler

The library took a major financial hit during the pandemic and lost nearly \$50,000 from canceled fundraisers, fees and passport processing. Valerie Glodzick had made a quilt that was on display at the library before COVID-19 and, if sold, she would have donated a percentage of the sale to the library.

“Nothing like a pandemic to change your perspective on things,” Valerie writes. She suggested that the library should raffle off the quilt, and she would donate the total proceeds to the library.

The quilt was inspired by the Fleur-de-Lys Farm, formerly owned by Laurie Lynch. Laurie writes in her blog post that “it took Valerie about

six years to complete the quilt. It is a patchwork of gardens with bold sunflowers, birdhouses and birds (shapes made from cookie cutters), and hand-appliquéd and hand-embroidered flowers of many shapes and colors. There is a central cathedral window, a rainbow, and hens,

rabbits, cats, and ducks.”

“It has everything I have and wish to have in my backyard,” Valerie writes.

Valerie's Backyard Garden Sampler (70" x 88") is on display at the library. The drawing will be April 8, 2021. Tickets are available at the library (\$2 for one ticket, \$5 for three).

Library is Safe and Open

The library works to keep our patrons safe. Everyone entering the building must wear a mask, sanitize their hands and maintain social distancing.

High touch surfaces, computer stations, and restrooms are cleaned frequently throughout the day. Returned items



Items are quarantined for 3 days

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Patrons who want to limit their exposure can set up a private browsing appointment during our designated time 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., each day.

Requested items can be picked up at our low contact Grab & Go station. Call for an appointment.

Thank Your Elected Officials for Supporting Libraries

Has the library positively impacted you or someone in your family? It's time to thank your state representatives, state senators and county commissioners as well as our local municipalities for supporting libraries in 2020. Send an email, write a letter, drop off a postcard, or make a phone call thanking them for their continued support.

A personal message helps legislators understand the importance of your library. Let them know how your library made your life better.

Here are some sample messages:

- "I wanted to extend my sincerest thanks to you for your continued support to help our public libraries. As our youngest two children remained home since the start of the pandemic, library story times have been a lifesaver! Our boys couldn't be happier and look forward to the program every week."
- "I am grateful that you support funding to allow libraries to keep doing the amazing work they do. They have continued to serve your constituents throughout the COVID-19 closures and need your

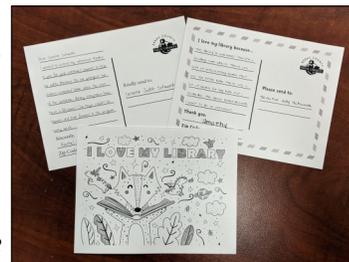
support to be part of the recovery process."

- One patron shares a lifetime of importance: "The library has always given me a place to be. As a child I would read there. As a college student I would study there. Now it gives me a place to work and meet people in my community." Will we be able to provide a healthy, growing library when the pandemic is over?

Address your message to your municipal leader, Berks County Commissioners, or your state legislator. (Yes, you can write to more than one person!) Find your

legislator at <https://tinyurl.com/yometdob>.

Your message will help show how much the community values its library. We have blank postcards available at the library for you to complete. Give us your completed letter or postcard by March 31 and we'll make sure they get to their destinations. Please do it today!



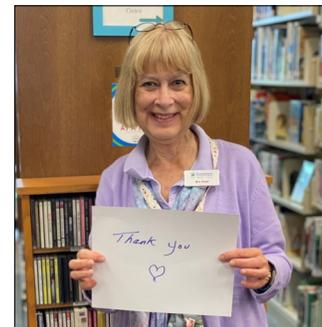
Postcards are available at the library



Joanne says "Gracias!"



Mackenzie, pen pal coordinator says "Danke!"



Charlotte says "Merci"

The Library is Open for You 24/7

The library is evolving with new digital resources and virtual services that are available for you 24/7.

KCL posts daily via FaceBook, Instagram, and YouTube with fun reading and resources to browse.

Zoom Story Times are held on Thursdays at 10 a.m. with Miss Taylor and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. with Miss Lacie. Check out our events calendar for the schedule and links at kutztownlibrary.org

Our YouTube channel features over 100 story time videos and tutorials available anytime.

Visit the eBooks and More page on our website for resource and tutorial links. The video tutorials offer help to get started with free online resources

available along with guidance on navigating popular platforms and technology programs.

Libby is the one tap reading app.

Download the Libby app from your devices app store. Open the app and find the Reading Public Library. Sign in with your library card. Find something interesting and start to read or listen to today!



The Research tab of our website offers databases including Ancestry.com, POWER Library, and job resources. Check them out while you're at home or use our WiFi in the library parking lot at any time.

Youth at the Kutztown Community Library

Resilient Youth Programs



Oleta at Zoom Story Time

Just when we thought we had a clear view into the year 2020, everything was put on pause. KCL does not see the everyday bustle of Story Times, Wiggly Wednesdays, and

Art Cats. However, the library continues to break down barriers with its events and activities.

We started living in a virtual reality, so Miss Lacie and Miss Taylor started hosting live and interactive story times on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. There are also new story times uploaded weekly to Kutztown Community Library's YouTube channel. The channel isn't just for stories; there are also easy to follow S.T.E.A.M. experiments great for elementary school ages. Links can be found at kutztownlibrary.org.

When families have had enough screen time, there are activity packs located all over the library to take home for free. Most recently, music shakers, clay challenges, and dinosaur math games were made available. The little ones are not forgotten. "Fun with Baby" kits feature bubbles, shaky eggs, feathers, stickers, and a little book for sensory play and learning at home. Now, as you're browsing for your next great read, you can also be looking for new things for kids to try at home!

Teens at the Library

The past year has been all about creating new ways to have fun, and teen programming at KCL is no different. Teen Book Drop boxes were introduced in the summer of 2020. These boxes include one book, a snack, and lots of activities to do at home.



Sophie gets a Teen Book Drop box

The best part is that it is free of charge and the boxes are to keep! This initiative was sponsored by the Friends of Berks County Public Libraries.

The fun didn't stop there. As the weather cooled, a new round of boxes became available with a fall theme. Another difference was that there were five different genres to choose from, including mystery, thriller, romantic comedy, science fiction, and poetry. These flew off the shelves.

To get the word out, Miss Taylor made a video showing off the boxes and shared it with middle and high school teachers. The response was so positive that the library ordered more boxes and made it a part of their Teen Reading Lounge program. They included a virtual meeting link where everyone could speak about the book they chose to read.

There is still time to be a part of this unique opportunity. Any teen can pick up a box from the library and be on the look-out for the next theme! Interested in viewing the video that describes the books? Check out our YouTube Channel.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Reading 1000 books would be an accomplishment for anyone. Can you imagine being able to say you did it before kindergarten?

Give your child this opportunity and sign up for the 1000 Books before Kindergarten program. After registering, you will receive a folder and reading logs to track your journey. Along the way, earn coloring pages, stickers, and books.



Gavin finishes 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

When 1000 books have been read, every child receives a t-shirt and picture with our beloved fox mural. Not only is this program filled with incentives, but it also prepares children for school and allows them to develop a lifelong love of reading. Achieve this goal together and start your reading adventure with 1000 Books before Kindergarten.

Mammograms can be a Lifesaver

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center's new evidence-based campaign, "A Mammogram Can Be a Lifesaver," encourages LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) people in the Lehigh Valley who are eligible for



mammograms to get screened for breast cancer.

According to the 2020 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment, 1 in 5 LGBTQ Pennsylvanians who are eligible for routine mammograms have never had one, including 45 percent of eligible transgender Pennsylvanians.

Most doctors recommend that people who were assigned female at birth should receive annual mammograms after the age of 45. Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center's campaign promotes early detection, which could ultimately save lives.

"Everyone should talk with their providers about when and how often they should receive a mammogram," said Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center's health programs and supportive services manager Kimberly Levitt. "It's important to remember that mammograms do not require a

prescription or referral, and there are many resources available to receive a screening."

"The unmet dream of achieving health equity requires new and creative approaches to health promotion," said Bradbury-

Sullivan LGBT Community Center's executive director Adrian Shanker. "Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center is on the front lines working to promote a high quality of health for all LGBT Pennsylvanians."

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center is partnering with the Kutztown Community Library for a virtual event on February 15 at 6 p.m. to learn more about breast cancer screenings. The events are free and open to all community members.

This campaign is funded by grants from the Network of the National Library of Medicine and Women's 5K Classic. To learn more about finding LGBTQ-affirming screening locations in the Lehigh Valley visit bradburysullivancenter.org/mammograms. To register for the event contact Mackenzie at kutztowndesk@gmail.com.

Take Home Crafts



The most popular pre-pandemic program was our monthly Craft Night. Since we can't meet in person right now, the library has take home crafts, for free or for a small cost to cover the cost of supplies.

Recent crafts have included felt succulents, pumpkin coasters, tree garland, and bath fizz kits.

In honor of Library Lover's month, we have four lovely cork crafts to make. The corks were donated by a family who has been saving them for years, just waiting for a good project to come along. The kits are perfect for families to do together.

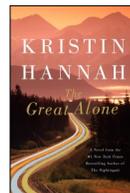
Supplies are limited. Get yours today!

Book Club is Virtual

The Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Join us with the meeting ID 835 6989 1593 and password 707022. Upcoming titles are:

March 9- *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah. Ernt Allbright, a former POW, loses yet another job. Then he makes an impulsive decision: he will move his family north, to Alaska.

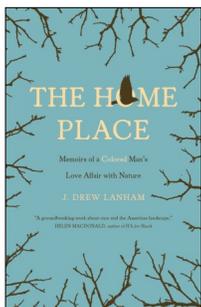
April 13- *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler. A quirky tale that transports Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* to Tyler's modern-day Baltimore, where a father's attempt to shoehorn his daughter into a green-card marriage has, of course, an unintentionally happy ending. -- *W Magazine*



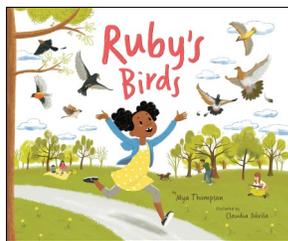
Longwood Gardens

Every spring, Longwood Gardens hosts the Community Read, a program designed to get people reading and learning about a topic related to nature. In 2021, the theme asks readers to discover how one finds a passion for nature and explores what can become of that spark.

Two book selections will help us explore these



topics: **The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature** by J. Drew Lanham and **Ruby's Birds** by Mya Thompson. *The Home Place* tells the story of Lanham's lifelong passion for birds, as well as his journey and struggles as a successful wildlife ecologist and black man.



Ruby's Birds is a delightful picture book about Ruby's discovery of birds in her own city neighborhood, and how they become her spark.

Illustrations by Claudia Dávila show Ruby's beautiful birds,

family, and community.

To celebrate the Community Read, the library will hold virtual events, offer independent take home activities, and host story times. Possible events may include a webinar on creating a safer habitat for birds in your own backyard, bird watching scavenger hunts, and outdoor writing exercises. Participation earns a raffle ticket to win a family pass to Longwood Gardens. Keep an eye out for future event announcements!

Explore the World, One Letter at a Time

by Marina Schnell

Maybe you can't travel the world right now, but your letters can! On December 1, 2020, Kutztown Community Library began the International Pen Pal Program with Altrip, Germany. Kutztown and Altrip will officially become sister cities in early 2021. Residents of both cities can start to get to know each other through this fantastic opportunity, and someday, the two communities may host mutual visits or an exchange program with students.

The pen pal program is open to ages 12 and up. When registering, participants can specify their preferences for a pen pal: age, gender, and how often they would like to write. They will choose between English, German, and Pennsylvania Dutch (which is still very similar to its root language, Palatine German). The program especially needs German speakers at the moment, and English speakers can join the waitlist for a pen pal. They can also list hobbies if they'd like to be paired with someone who has similar interests. Once they register and are matched with someone in Altrip, the letter-writing begins! Participants can drop off their completed letters at Kutztown Community Library without postage, and the library will mail them from there. If



The first pen pal letters are flying in!

they prefer, participants can arrange with their pen pal to write directly or correspond by email instead.

Pen pals get to experience the excitement of meeting someone an ocean away. Mackenzie Keller, Assistant Librarian at Kutztown Community Library and coordinator of the pen pal program, says, "I hope with the International Pen Pal Program, residents of Kutztown and the surrounding areas can explore and learn about another part of the world, especially now when we can't travel. I can't wait to see

what the program will become in a few years; hopefully, people will have made lasting and meaningful connections with the citizens of Altrip, from 4,000 miles away." What could be a better way to learn about the world from home?

If you are interested, sign up at the Kutztown Community Library or contact kutztowndesk@gmail.com for the registration form. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Kutztown Community Library in collaboration with the Borough of Kutztown and Mayor Jim Schlegel, the Kutztown Area Historical Society, and Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center.

Friends of the KCL Highlights



Annette Heffelfinger, Secretary

A friend of mine recently told me that her library's Friends group decided not to do anything during COVID.

What? Let me tell you, that was never an option for the FKCL.

Even though we couldn't do any of our traditional fundraising, we put our heads together and came up with our virtual summer

picnic and Friendsgiving recipes fundraisers. While it's true we didn't make as much money as we would have with bus trips, we did make some. And thanks to our faithful book room manager, Linda Rodolf, and our ongoing jewelry sales, we continue to add to our

treasury so we can support some of the library's vital programs.

For example, Summer Quest was virtual last summer, but the costs were real. The Friends contributed \$2500 so that our young people could experience summer fun and learning. The Friends are also continuing their support of Take-Home programing and other programs for adults, such as a virtual Antiques Appraisal held on January 23 and the International Pen Pal Program.

We all benefit from our wonderful library, from story times, to crafts, to interesting programs, to WiFi hot spots, to computers and copiers, to books and movies. So I invite you to join me in support of the Friends' first 2021 REAL fundraiser: membership in the Friends. The membership information is in this newsletter. Please join and be a friend to your library. All our funds go to support our library.

Three Books about Libraries and Their Importance to Society *by Gerry Hynes*

If you love books, you should check out these three. They document how information, compassion, and hope live on in community libraries. All are true stories of ordinary citizens taking great risks to protect their culture. After reading them you can't help but feel grateful that these marvelous places belong to us all.

The Library Book by Susan Orlean (Simon & Schuster, 2019)

On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire broke out in the Los Angeles Public Library. In seven hours, 400,000 books were destroyed and 700,000 more were damaged. Who set it still remains a mystery. Orlean tells the story of the LAPL fire and its aftermath to demonstrate the crucial role that libraries play in our communities. In addition she explains the history of libraries and their array of services despite a constant struggle for funds. Well researched and beautifully written, the book takes us on tours through the stacks to show why libraries remain essential institutions.

The Book Collectors: A Band of Syrian Rebels and the Stories that Carried Them Through a War by Delphine Minoui (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2020)

Daraya, Syria, fell under siege in 2012 by Assad's forces. For four years, no one entered or left, aid was

blocked, and bombs fell daily. A group searching for survivors came across a collection of books ranging from Arabic poetry to American self-help, Shakespeare's plays to world history. The rebels gradually added books they found in other bombed and destroyed buildings until the collection reached some 15,000. The journalist Delphine Minoui reveals them to be everyday heroes as inspiring as the books they read. Her true account of book lovers in a war-torn country was named a NPR Book of the Year.

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts by Joshua Hammer (Simon & Schuster, 2017)

In the 1980s, Abdel Kader Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist for a government library in Timbuktu, tracked down and salvaged 350,000 volumes of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that were crumbling in the trunks of nomadic shepherds. This fast-paced narrative describes how Haidara and his band smuggled the texts past dangerous checkpoints, through the Sahara Desert, to save them from destruction by Al Qaeda, ultimately delivering them to safety in southern Mali. Hammer vividly describes their adventures in the context of thousands of years of merciless acts of repression in the region.

It's Friends Membership Renewal Time



Mavis and August volunteer in the garden

The Kutztown Community Library is a busy place with lots of books, DVDs, programs and activities. Not everything that happens at the library is covered in the Library's budget.

The Friends of the KCL are a non-profit organization whose fundraising, dues, and donations supplement the library's operating budget with extra monies for materials and programs that enhance the library's services but are not an affordable part of the library's general budget. Funding is primarily provided by state, county, and local municipalities, as well as passport processing and public donations.

Friends receive the Gonser Gazette, our monthly eNewsletter, and advance notice of special events such as our Holiday House Tour, bus tours and book sales.

As a Friend, you will also have the satisfaction of knowing that you are a part of making our community library even better. Please join the Friends of the Library or renew your membership today. Thank you!



Joanne Yoder creates a fall centerpiece

Friends are library supporters who strengthen community ties by sharing a passion for books and learning. They are committed to promoting the library's role and its continued development.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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

Add me to these additional email lists:

We will not sell or pass on your email address.

- Book Club Bus Trips Craft Night Adult Programs Youth Activities

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 New email address

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

Pay online at kutztownlibrary.org > Support Us > Friends



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 5
KUTZTOWN, PA

or current resident

Giving Tree

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



Your donations allow the library to offer the community its services to learn, connect and discover. We added to the Library's collection, purchased needed equipment, and provided programs.

Your donations of \$200+ will be honored with an engraved leaf or acorn placed on the Community Room's Giving Tree. We are pleased to add eight new leaves for 2020. Honorees or families will be notified of your gift.

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

KCL is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Contact KCL for more information.

Need WiFi?

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



Fee is \$40 per month or \$12.50 per week. Hot spots are perfect for virtual schooling, road trips, and visitors. Plus it's inexpensive.



Need books for a long weekend or a quarantine session? Don't wait until it's too late. Shop our Book Sale on Thursdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have best sellers, paperbacks, how-to books, DVDs, and more.

We are now accepting a limited amount of book donations. Please call before you drop them off.

You're supporting the library!

