



Spring Newsletter

Northumberland Public Library

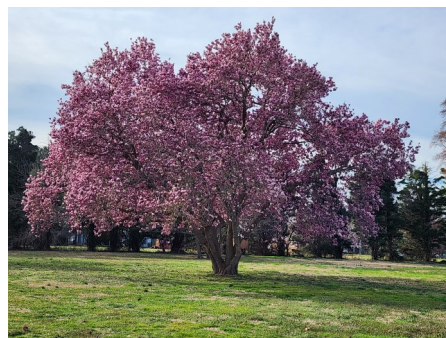
March 2023

Ah Spring. The Saucer Magnolia behind the Library is in all of its magnificent pink glory and the fat robins are hopping by my office window getting ready for the warmer weather. As I write this we are having a bit of a cold snap, but that will be over soon and we will be ushering in the crazy moments of summer. The many transients who call the Northern Neck home during the warmer months will be returning. For those of you who are just coming back, welcome, and for those of you who stay year round, time to come out of hibernation. There is so much happening at Northumberland Public Library, we hope one of your first treks out for spring will be to a Books Alive! event, our English Tea coming up in April or to the Bookstore while you are out and about. There really is something for everyone at the Library. Throughout this newsletter you will find so much information. Have a suggestion for future newsletters, let us know, or even better, write an article and send it to me, I will try to publish it in the summer edition.

Happy reading!

Jane

Jblue@nplibraryva.org



New Mobile Library Coming Soon



As many of you know we have been on the hunt for a new Mobile Library. Our old "Big Blue" has had many repairs in the past two years and just can't be fixed any more. Our mechanic shared with us that the parts are not being made and has had to scour junk yards for what we need. So, we knew it was time. In early 2022 the Board of Trustees voted to purchase a new vehicle through TechOps in Stevensville, Maryland. TechOps specializes in emergency and police vehicles but in recent years has branched out to include Mobile Libraries. Recently they built the new Mobile Library for LaPlata County in Maryland and have also been awarded the contract for a new Mobile Library in Middlesex county here in Virginia. The committee comprised of Bill Armstrong, Jim Landrum, Arthur Newman and Jane Blue have travelled to a number of local library systems to see what they have in place and took a trip to TechOps to see their operation before making the recommendation to the Board. Over the past 8 months we have done extensive fundraising to have the money necessary to make the purchase and we are so close to our goal. We need about \$46,000 of the \$216,000 needed and are hoping to receive some grants to fill in that gap. Next week we will purchase the van and then the work will start. We are so excited about this next step and hope to have our new Mobile Library out on the road sometime in the spring of 2024. Your help is still needed, donations are still being accepted please earmark them for the new Mobile Library.



Monthly Happenings at the Library

Computer Classes Every Monday 3-5 PM

No sign up required, bring your own computer or use one of ours, phone and iPad help too! No class when the Library is closed. Questions? Contact Arthur Newman.



Story time: Every Wednesday morning at 10 AM for ages 3 and up.

After School Club Every Wednesday from after school until 5 PM. See the flier for details and to sign up. Parents must fill out a permission slip. Transportation should be arranged with the school. Meets only when school is in session.



News from our Children's Program Coordinator, Marilyn Smith

There is always something happening in children's programming at NPL!

At Story Time on Wednesday mornings, our regular attenders are enjoying new stories and becoming great friends, too.

After School Club has 20 students in grades 1-6 enrolled. We provide a variety of activities each week. Students' energy and creativity keep Marilyn and Hannah on their toes at all times!

During spring break, students and families can come to the library for an afternoon of **board games on Tuesday, April 4, and for a LEGO Challenge Build on Thursday, April 6, both from 1:00-3:00.**

Coming this summer is "All Together Now!" our summer reading program for all ages.

Special events, which are held at the YMCA gym will include:

June 16- Jonathan Austin's Juggling and Magic Service

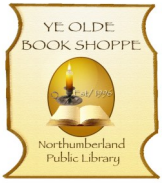
July 14- "Science Heroes: Saving the Earth Together" with Talewise. They present a great mixture of storytelling and science.

July 28- "Birds of Prey" with Earthquest. This includes 4-5 live birds to see and learn about.

For our younger readers, Story Time will include visits from our community police, fire department, and ambulance services. We'll read a story about what they do and have time to ask questions and explore the vehicles they bring.



Much more is being planned for the summer, so pick up a program guide at the library in May. We look forward to seeing you this summer!



Happy 9th Birthday Ye Olde Book Shoppe (YOBS)

A Very Brief History of Ye Olde Book Shoppe

by Richard Becker and Jane Blue

YOBS was officially established nine years ago this month, in March of 2014. There was always a tradition of NPL patrons donating books to the library for resale. And the library itself regularly deaccessions underused portions of its collection. For many years, these donations and deaccessions were kept in a shed behind the library and brought into the meeting room twice a year for a multi-week sale. In 2013 NPL director Alice Cooper petitioned the Board of Trustees for relief from the twice-yearly burden of packing and unpacking these books. Alice and the Trustees' vice-president, Eve Jordan, had their eyes on an empty commercial retail site two blocks down the street. The Board of Trustees was skeptical that book sales in sleepy Heathsville could ever cover the rent and utility expenses such an enterprise would create.

The Friends of the Northumberland Public Library led the early buildout and interior redecoration, especially Bill Estell and the Walkers - Jay and Earline. A "book brigade," similar to a bucket brigade, moved the shed inventory from the library into the newly renovated retail storefront. Carol Kenefick was the original store manager and "booked" the first official sales in April of 2014. To many people's amazement, there was strong interest in the shop from the beginning. Carol did yeoman's service establishing the routines and procedures of a commercial operation. The continuing puzzle was how to best monetize the donations and manage an ever-expanding inventory.



Another critical inflection point came in 2017 when Bob Taylor signed on as a store manager. Bob had extensive bookstore experience with B. Dalton in NYC and organized the shop around traditional book categories and added a retail bookshop's physical layout. Sales blossomed further, but inventory management remained a challenge. Paradoxically the more popular the store became, the more inventory it generated.

It wasn't until Jane Blue became library director in 2019 and established a working relationship with Thrift Books in Baltimore that the shop became a "going concern," producing regular and significant revenue for the library. Thus, the story of YOBS has been largely evolutionary, with many people contributing their expertise over the years – as it will doubtlessly continue to be.



January 2022 accident

In the past year the book shoppe has also seen challenges, first in January of 2022 when an elderly lady drove her car through the wall. We re-opened in March with new furniture and new book shelves in the seating area. Then in September of 2022 a local gentleman drove through the back wall taking out the bathroom, though we were able to reopen we waited for a new bathroom until the end of October.

(continued on page 6)

**COMING
IN
APRIL**

Game Day @ the Library

**Tuesday, April 4
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

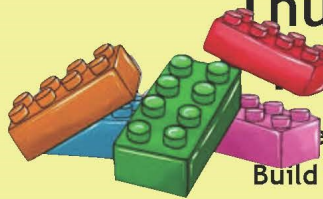
Play our games or bring your favorite!
Bring a friend or find one here!



LEGO Challenge Build

Thursday, April 6

1:00 - 3:00 pm



Free challenge! Free build time too
Build with LEGO and Keva planks

New Book Drop in Callao

Did you know we have remote book drops throughout Northumberland County?

Our newest one in the parking lot at Tootsies Diner in Callao is checked every Friday morning. We also have book drops in the Lillian Retail store in Burgess which is checked on Wednesday morning and in the Wicomico Church Post Office., checked on Friday afternoon and over the weekend.

If you can't get to us feel free to drop your NPL items only in one of these convenient locations!



Get to know your Library Staff:

Jane Blue: Library Director

Cate Land: Customer Service Supervisor

Arthur S. Newman: Community Outreach
Supervisor

Alison Towles: Librarian

Marilyn Smith: Children's Program Coordinator

Hannah Jett: Children's Program Assistant

Andrea Trescott: Library Assistant

Kara Goodrow: Library Assistant

Sandy Heath: Library Assistant

Karen Whelan: IT Specialist

Kathy Lewis: Bookkeeper

Gay Posey: On Call-Library Assistant



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Leaving a Legacy in Written Words Featuring Authors Gail Wilson Kenna, Ilona Duncan and Susan Moore

Northumberland Public Library Books Alive!

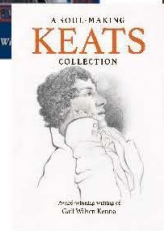
Sponsored by the Friends of Northumberland Public Library

Friday March 24, 2023 5-7 PM

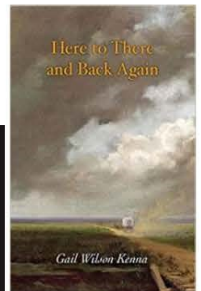
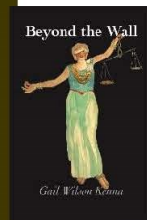
“All three of us are ardent believers in leaving a legacy in written words. Each of us was changed because of relatives who wrote letters and because family members saved them,” says Gail Kenna.

The featured authors to the first Books Alive event for 2023 will discuss their books, which take a reader through historical periods:

1849-50, 1903-04, and post-World War 2 Germany. The three writers will reveal how inheriting the letters changed their lives in meaningful ways. Light appetizers and wine will be served.



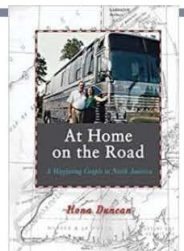
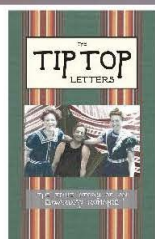
Gail Wilson Kenna, a college professor, has taught in Germany, Malaysia, Venezuela, Colombia, and throughout the USA. The wife of a retired Air Force officer, a mother and grandmother, the author of four books, a recipient of many writing awards, Gail serves as the Creative Nonfiction judge for the annual Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition in San Francisco. Currently, Gail and her husband live on a creek of the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia's Northern Neck, where she continues to teach and write.

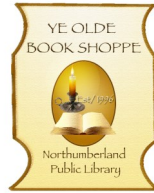


Susan Ferries Moore grew up in New England, graduated from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, spent her career in the environmental field, and retired as a corporate executive. A mother and grandmother, she currently lives in Virginia's Northern Neck, where she and husband Jack enjoy a view of the Chesapeake Bay. For decades Susan carted around a box of her Gram's letters from her family's summer home, known as "Tip Top," on Greenwood Lake in New Jersey. When she finally opened the box, began to read the carefully organized letters in their original, post-marked envelopes, Susan discovered a story that she knew she had to tell.



A native of Germany, Ilona graduated with her Abitur in Latin and science, was a German/French translator and Pan American World Airways stewardess. She speaks six languages, teaches piano and organ, and is the author of *My Jewish Great Grandmother* and *At Home on the Road*. At present, Ilona lives on the Great Wicomico River in Virginia's Northern Neck.





A Special Visit from a Podcaster

By Rives Hardy

Lory Hierstetter visited YOBS Friday, February 10th in the afternoon. After cruising the stacks she purchased several books, and then engaged the philosophers (Jim, Bruce, and Rives) in probing questions about the Book Shoppe's operation. She revealed that she was a private podcaster with a special interest in bookstores, producing podcast and blog articles about books, libraries, reading, and writing. She was visiting the area on a good book hunting journey, and would like to return to YOBS for a taped interview.

Lory, who is a youthful forty-seven, lives in Maryland with her seventeen year old son. She is a graduate of Stevenson College with a background in nursing. In addition to her podcasting work, Lory heads the Human Resources program in Carroll County, Md.

We look forward to her return.

You can listen to Lory's Podcast where she mentions Ye Olde Book Shoppe at <https://www.twosides2thetory.com/podcast/virginia-is-forbook-lovers>



Jim Landrum, Lory Hierstetter, Bruce Craig and Rives Hardy

(Continued from Happy Birthday YOBS page 3)

We are so thankful for Kathy's Corner and the use of their facilities!

Most recently a young lady, on her way home from a double shift drove through the wall after falling asleep at the wheel. This time the building has structural damage which will take much longer to fix. Check our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as our website for more information and for when we will reopen. Until then we will not be able to take donations so hold onto them. We are not out of business, just temporarily closed.

Thanks for your support these past nine years. We appreciate everyone who makes Ye Olde Book Shoppe a place of conversation and community.



March 2023 accident

Technology, oh no!

Article and Artwork By Arthur Newman

Technology is here to stay. And what makes that statement more disconcerting is, not only is it here to stay, but it's ever changing and for some even more confusing than ever.

Does this mean you should throw in the towel?

Here at Northumberland Public Library we have the answer and many are benefiting from what we offer to counter the frustration that you are experiencing from those pesky electronic devices. You may even feel that the technology is too smart, too complicated, too intrusive, too much.

So what is the solution? We offer a dynamic learning environment that allows individuals of all ages and skill levels to learn at a pace that makes digesting the elusive technology more palatable.

Since starting the computer/electronic class, many have come to get answers to questions like; How do I print wirelessly from my phone? How do I connect to the Wi-Fi

or hotspot? Is my data and identity safe? How do I know if I have been hacked? How do I know if this website is safe? How do I update my devices? Why does my device behave like this? What is the cloud? And many more questions.

Some only come to get a particular answer or instruction, others have made it the place to be every Monday afternoon from 3 to 5.

If you find yourself struggling with your electronic device or are finally ready to take the plunge to dive in, or maybe you are still sitting on the sideline not sure what to do, come on by and get the answers to your technical quandaries.

Computer classes meet every Monday, except holidays from 3-5 in the Library meeting room. If you do not have a laptop we can provide one for you to use, or you can bring your own laptop, iPad or phone.

For more information call us at 804-580-5051



English Tea



Join us for an English tea at Northumberland Public Library on Sunday, April 23rd at 3pm. There will be tea service with milk or lemon, homemade scones, sandwiches, and sweets. Ticket prices are \$20.

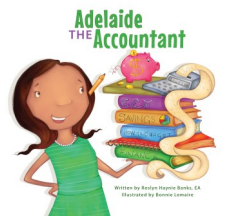




Catching up with the Friends

The Friends of the Library are gearing up for a busy spring. Coming up on Friday the 24th we will host our first Books Alive! event featuring Ilona Duncan, Gail Kenna and Susan Moore, check out the flier in this newsletter for more information. In April we will host an English Tea fundraiser which will benefit the new Mobile Library fundraising efforts. More information can be found in this newsletter as well. Be sure to get your tickets soon, they are going fast.

April 20th the friends will host local author Roslyn Banks at Northumberland Elementary school. Each student will receive a copy of Roslyn's book. April is National Financial Literacy month. Roslyn's talk to the 2nd and 3rd graders will focus on money management for kids, what they can start doing now to be good financial stewards.



The next Books Alive! event will be Friday May 19th from 5-7. We will welcome a local favorite and library staff member, Arthur Newman. Arthur has numerous published books but his newest "Doing Business as Kevin Templeton by Kiley Riley" will be the focus of this event. Recently published and available at the Library, Arthur will have copies of his book as well as stories to tell.

The Friends sponsor so much of summer reading. From special programs at the YMCA to story times and special events at the Library. It is wonderful to have such a supportive Friends Board. We need more board members and invite you to find out more if this is something you might be interested in. The board meets the 2nd Tuesday bi-monthly at 10 AM at the Library.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends of Northumberland Public Library, stop in for a brochure and fill out the membership form. Everyone is welcome.

Celebrating our Volunteers

Friday April 28th we will celebrate our volunteers. We will be closing early that day, at 4 PM to prepare. This event by invitation only is a chance for the Library staff to say thank you to our wonderful volunteers who cover everything from our bookstore to our lunches and so much more. Please be sure to RSVP by April 14th.



Special Spring Hours in April at Northumberland Public Library



We are **closing at 6 PM on Thursday April 6th** due to some building maintenance that requires the building to be closed. Thank you for your understanding as we strive to make your Library clean and safe for everyone.

We are **closed on Monday, April 10th** in observance of the Easter Holiday.



We will be **closing at 4 PM on Friday April 28th** to prepare for an event celebrating our Library volunteers. Thank you for your understanding.



Check out our social media pages:

YouTube [@northumberlandpubliclibrary](#)

Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/northumberland.library/>,

Or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandlibrary>

