



Want to know what's new? Meet Adult Services Librarian Lisa Burris

Sue Peters, FNFL Vice President

“Always evolving” — that’s how Lisa Burris describes the offerings of New Castle County libraries.



Since January, Lisa has led the Newark Free Library team in buying materials, organizing programs, and providing updates to staff and patrons about the library’s services for adults. New programs are continually being launched.

For instance, the Newark Free Library is expecting to be an early site for the Delaware Libraries Telehealth Kiosk Project. This program aims to provide patrons with high-speed internet and a private space where they can participate in online medical and related legal and social work appointments. The initiative attracted national attention at the American Library Association meeting in Washington, DC, this past June. For info on

the kiosks and the recently added services Kanopy, a movie streaming service, and Museum Pass see the sidebar on page 2.

Lisa came to the Newark Free Library in part for the challenge of expanding library services in a different environment with new colleagues, capabilities, and patrons. The library’s upcoming renovation was also a draw. Lisa worked at Kirkwood Library when they moved into their new building, and she began working at Bear just after their renovation. “At Newark,” she said, “I have the chance to be involved in planning for the new space right from the start.”

Lisa is familiar with historic as well as 21st century spaces. She grew up in southern New Castle County, on land that has been owned by her family for 100 years. She has always enjoyed studying history and was delighted to learn a few years ago that one of her ancestors served Delaware in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Another brush with history came when she was at the Kirkwood branch and organized a presentation by world-renowned Amelia Earhart scholar, Richard Gillespie. Gillespie, who is affiliated with the Oxford, PA. based TIGHAR, The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, believes that Earhart landed her plane on Gardner Island. While still unproven, his theory has gained acceptance and widespread coverage in the *New York Times* and elsewhere.

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Despite her immersion in history and love of reading, Lisa did not initially aim to become a librarian. A University of Delaware graduate with a Bachelor's degree in English, Lisa also holds a Master's degree in Education from Wesley College, where she later became an adjunct professor of English. It was while working at Wesley College that Lisa decided to try full time work at the Bear Library.

“There,” she said, “Library Manager Susan Menson saw something in me I didn’t even see myself. She persuaded me to apply for the Ada Leigh Soles Memorial scholarship to pursue my MLS. She was right! I took a job and made it a career. Now, I encourage younger or part-time employees to pursue their education. I’ve been able to nudge five or six people along so far. Some of them have also become members of the Soles scholarship program.” Longtime Friend of the Newark Library Ada Leigh Soles would be delighted to see the good work that continues in her name.

Lisa has spent her first months at Newark getting to know the community, which she regards as essential to her role. “At the core of my thinking,” she said, “the library is for everyone – a place everyone should come in, feel welcome, and explore.”

New and Upcoming Services

Through the Telehealth Kiosk Project, the Newark Free Library will offer a private space equipped with an iPad and operated by trained staff. Initially, the program will focus on behavioral health, employment assistance, and legal services. Lisa Blunt Rochester, who secured funding for the kiosk project, demonstrates the use of a model kiosk (photo right).

When launched, the Kiosk will join recently added services Kanopy and Museum Pass, both made available through the Delaware Division of Libraries.

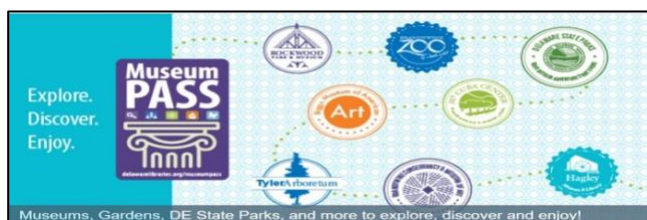


Lisa Blunt Rochester



Kanopy allows library card holders to stream award-winning movies and TV series from their devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) at home or on the go.

Museum Pass offers free access to state parks and cultural destinations, including Hagley Museum, to library card holders.



“Teaming up with other community organizations is definitely part of the future,” said Lisa, “We’d like to make more connections to the University of Delaware and other local groups as well.”

For information on the recently added programs, please visit:

For Museum Pass

<https://lib.de.us/museum/>

For Kanopy

<https://lib.de.us/kanopy/>

President's Letter

Dear Friends of the Newark Free Library,



The FNFL board members have been busy this summer planning upcoming events, working on improving our website (<https://www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com/>), and visiting new libraries in the area to learn about the newest trends in libraries nationwide. I encourage everyone to learn about and visit new libraries as we wait and plan for a new/renovated library in Newark. We have so much to look forward to while enjoying our current library.

One morning while my car was being serviced nearby, I walked over to the Newark Library and spent some time reading magazines, signing out books, and observing young children interacting with their parents, grandparents, and the children's librarian. The library was also busy with all the meeting rooms being used by various groups.

People of all ages were using the computers and signing out materials. There is something for everyone at the library in addition to audio, e-books, large print, and regular books. The Library of Things has been very popular. A complete list of things available to sign out or put on hold is available through the online library catalog.

You can find a variety of programs at the library including:

- Book Babies for ages birth to 17 months
- Jitterbug Music and Movement for ages 2-6
- Every Child Ready to Read for caregivers - helps your child develop literacy skills through Playing, Reading, Singing, Talking, and Writing as your child engages in a craft activity,
- Yoga Tales for ages 3-8
- Phonics Fun aimed at children entering first grade
- Zoom and in person Story Time for all ages
- Interactive family films
- Ukulele Club for kids and teens
- Lego Club, Teen Cooking and Culture Club,
- Dungeons and Dragons for kids and adults
- Book groups for adults,
- Yarn Group, Watercolor Workshop for adults, Cellphones for Seniors: Drop In Tech Help and many more.

The Friends sponsor many programs taking place at the library. For a complete list of special activities and upcoming fall events check out the monthly calendar on the Newark Free Library website. Events are also posted on Facebook and Instagram. Enjoy all that the Library has to offer.

Barbara Jo German President of the FNFL

From the Library Manager

Pam Stevens - Newark Free Library Manager



Thanks to the support from the Friends, we have a thriving Library of Things (LOT) Collection, a fact that shocks many of our patrons when they realize a library offers such material. As they express their enthusiasm, they often offer suggestions for items to add to our collection, such as a USB floppy disk reader, home improvement power tools, retro gaming consoles, EMF detector, sewing machine, baby toys, button maker, mini drone, electronic experiment kits, post hole digger, cd player/recorder, turntable, puzzle mat, and additional podcast items. I welcome suggestions from patrons and plan to add many of these suggestions to our collection along with duplicates of our most popular items.

Our most popular items to date, that were funded with help from the Friends, are the moisture meter, thermal leak detector, Exploding Kittens, action camera, Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza, Blokus, croquet, podcast equipment, cornhole, movie digitizer, live streaming equipment, audio digitizer, film digitizer, and laser measurer. I am pleased to report that many other New Castle County (NCC) libraires are following suit by adding a Library of Things.

Patrons are also getting involved by donating items. All but a handful of our puzzle LOT we acquired through donations. We have so many 1000-piece puzzle donations that we have exhausted our shelf space and staff in processing them. At the moment we are passing additional 1000-piece puzzle donations along to other libraries but we are accepting 500 piece and children's puzzles in new condition. Other donations we have received are a Casio keyboard, energy experiment kits, slide projector, RC cars, drones, VEX IQ robot kit, and a poker set. In addition to our free donations rolling in from patrons, there are also organizations that will send items to libraries for the betterment of the community. One such organization is the Spielman Foundation that sent us several board games. Whether its funding comes from the Friends, NCC support, or donations, the LOT collection continues to grow and remains popular among patrons. Thank you to the Friends for your efforts in bringing a 21st-century collection to your hometown, Newark Free Library, USA.





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

Peggy Griffith,
Youth Services
Librarian

When many of us think of Autumn we likely think about cooling weather, falling leaves, and the approaching holidays. To our many families who visit the Children's Room the next theme is "Back-to-School". This summer was brimming with fun, new activities, but now many grown-ups are shopping for school supplies and preparing for adjustments to their daily schedules.



As you begin to prepare for September and what that means for you and your family, please remember that the single, most important school supply is a Delaware Library Card. With a Delaware Library Card, you and your children have access to a wide variety of materials, and while books may be on the top of that list, we want you to know that we offer so much more.

This year we've seen the addition of a Children's Library of Things (LOT) with Learn to Tie Your Shoes and Learn to Tell Time kits. Our 3D printer has stayed warm printing items for our Interactive Films series. The Hydroponic gardens have fed local families by providing romaine lettuce and herbs. We strummed along all summer with friends in our Ukulele Club. Our Teen Hangout gave local teens a safe and welcoming environment to engage in social activities. We are at the halfway mark of a successful year!

Some of our major programs of note included visits from the University of Delaware, Iron Hill Museum, American Swedish Museum, Marshall Steam Museum, Housel Fitness, and Dungeons & Dragons. All of these amazing programs were brought to you through generous support from the Friends of the Newark Free Library. We wish to thank them for their continued support of our programs.

Autumn brings all new programs for families to be excited about. In October you will see the return of our Pumpkin Coloring Contest along with a 3D printed trophy. Our week-long trick-or-treat event will return but this time will culminate in one huge community event on Monday, October 31st: Spookebration! We want to tell you more, but you'll have to check out our Fall calendar for details.



**NEWARK HALLOWEEN PARADE
(LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN)**

Katy Ferrero

The City of Newark is holding its annual Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 30th at 3pm. The Friends will once again, be looking for participants to join us as we walk down Main Street dressed as beloved book characters. On Saturday, Oct. 22nd, we will hold a Costume making workshop at 10 am to 12 pm at the library. We will provide some inspiration and some materials to help you start the costume making process. Look for more information this fall in the library to see how you can participate in these activities.



Farewell to Pam Nelson

Lisa Burris, Adult Services Librarian

This is my very first article for the Friends of the Newark Free Library, so allow me to introduce myself: I am Lisa Burris, the relatively new adult services librarian at NFL. I say “relatively” because I have been working at the Newark Free Library for about eight months now, but I’ve worked in New Castle County libraries for 19 years. In that time, I’ve had dozens of colleagues, among them Pam Nelson, about whom I write today.

I first met Pam almost two decades ago, when I was hired as a full-time library assistant at Bear Library. As you may know, Pam has worked for both the Bear and Newark Free libraries for more than 20 years, and, before that, she was the children’s librarian at the Newark Free Library. It was my delight, when I transferred to Newark, to see Pam at my new library, and to know that I was among friends (with a lowercase “f”).

Pam Nelson, as unassuming as she is, would likely blush to hear me say it, but she has always been kind, thoughtful, witty, and almost entirely unflappable. I’ve never really seen her flustered. Pam is a dedicated volunteer at Longwood Gardens and Winterthur and is also a talented musician with the Delaware Symphony. Her passion for music has proved beneficial to her role as a part-time librarian: she was the primary selector for classical and orchestral music CDs for the entire county, and she also created the very successful music programs for the Newark Free Library, which have been generously supported by the Friends.



Diana Brown, NCC Library Manager, presenting NCC Proclamation to Pam Nelson.



Pam Nelson (center) with FNFL Board Members from the left: Barbara Jo German, Carol McKelvey, Sue Peters, and Katy Ferrero

To her benefit and our regret, Pam recently retired from the New Castle County libraries, and was given a wonderful sendoff by staff and the Friends of the Newark Free Library. We are certainly sad to see Pam go, but she has entrusted Bryan Gollicker and me with continuing her legacy of music programming. We have some things in the works for the Fall and Winter, so keep an eye out for them. After all, what is a holiday season without a visit from the First State Ringers? Stay tuned for more information about these and other programs at your Newark Free Library. As for our friend, Pam, she still pops up now and then as a library patron, and we are always pleased to see her. We are always pleased to see you, too, so come visit us soon.



How Easy is it to Make a Gift Through an IRA Distribution?

Sue Peters, FNFL Vice President

This summer, my husband Ray and I decided to try giving part of the required minimum distribution from an IRA to the Friends of the Newark Free Library. I had written a few articles encouraging readers to make such a gift. Sources said it was easy, so I did, too. It was time for a fact check.

First, looking around online, we learned the proper terminology and a few basic requirements. Such a gift is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Currently, you must be at least 72 years old to make one, and you need to use a traditional IRA that holds funds that you have not paid taxes on yet. Some other kinds of retirement funds can be used—ask your financial adviser for clarification. Oh, and you can't make a QCD of more than \$100,000 annually.

Our financial adviser Michelle Tracy at PNC Investments agreed that a QCD was a good idea for us, partly because it would reduce our taxes. You typically don't pay income tax on funds that are passed directly from an IRA to a qualified not-for-profit as a charitable gift. "In my experience," she said, "people usually enjoy giving to organizations that are important to them, and I encourage clients to do it. If you're charitably inclined, why pay taxes on your gift if you can make a QCD?"

Michelle asked us to provide the Tax Identification Number (TIN) and address of the Friends of the Newark Free Library, so she could confirm the Friends are qualified to receive a QCD. As a 501(c)(3), the Friends meets the requirements. She guided us through the straightforward paperwork and verification needed to make the gift happen. "I've had more trouble with two-factor authentication requests", said Ray. "It really was simple."

After that, Michelle let us know that the funds had been sent to the Friends. We contacted Friends treasurer Lori Hans to let her know to expect the check.

"It's very, very helpful if not essential to give me a heads up," said Lori. "Letting me know in advance ensures that we know who to acknowledge with a receipt and thanks."

Lori told us when the check arrived, and yes, we are happy to have made the gift.

So, fact check: Confirmed! While it takes a little thought and a couple of weeks, making a qualified charitable distribution to the Friends of the Newark Free Library is pretty easy. It should be even simpler next year.

Everyone's situation is different. You will need to talk to the financial and tax advisors in your life to see if a QCD is right for you. If so, here is the information you need:

- The Friends' full legal name is: Friends of the Newark Free Library.
- The legal address is: 750 Library Avenue, Newark, DE 19711.
- The Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN) is 23-7098836.

Your gift of \$500 or more qualifies you for lifetime membership in the Friends of the Newark Free Library. Your generosity will support purchases for the collections, technology, programs, and other priority needs of the Newark Free Library.



You are Invited...

FNFL at Newark Community Day



The Friends of the Newark Free Library will be at Newark Community Day on Sunday, September 18, 2022 (Rain date Sunday, September 25) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Delaware Green.

We will be distributing gently used and donated children's books and providing information about our library. There will be an opportunity to sign up for a library card, participate in an activity, or just take a break and read a book.

Stop by and join us!



FNFL Officers and Directors

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Vice President: Sue Peters
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WEBSITES:

Friends of the Newark Free Library
<http://www.friendsofthenewarkfreeibrary.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 British Are Coming:

The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777



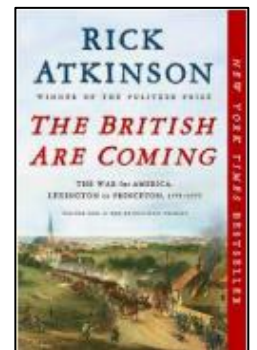
By Rick Atkinson

Henry Holt, 2019; 776 pp.

Reviewed by Roy H. Lopata

Rick Atkinson, the author of the outstanding three-volume portrayal of the American Army's World War II march to victory in Europe – *The Liberation Trilogy*, now turns his brilliant eye for the most gripping details and his magisterial writing skills to our Revolutionary War in the initial volume of three that assuredly will become the standard military history of our nation's founding. This is a prodigiously researched text that takes us from the initial shots at Lexington and Concord, to George Washington's courageous and risky 1776 Christmas night crossing of the Delaware River and the subsequent victories over the British and their Hessian mercenaries at Trenton and Princeton. Atkinson's description of these momentous events reads as if we are learning about these legendary battles for the first time.

Atkinson's volume leaves no important military engagement unexplored during these early years of the American colonists' war for independence. We learn how Great Britain's initial occupation of Boston impacted the day-to-day lives of those Americans – both British loyalists and supporters of the Revolution, caught inside the blockade of that city. In the meantime, in the surrounding countryside, newly appointed Commander in Chief George Washington struggles to form a continental army from rag-tag colonial militias and untrained volunteers. Later, Atkinson makes it clear why and how Washington's little army lost battles in Long Island, Manhattan, and White Plains but miraculously survived to continue the struggle. Atkinson explains that this soon became a bloody and difficult continental wide war as small but valiant American armies fought the King's soldiers in New York at Lakes George and Champlain, in South Carolina and undertook a foolhardy and eventually doomed invasion of Canada. Atkinson comments here that this venture north would be the first but not the last attempt by American armies to invade foreign nations in hopes of taking our version of liberty beyond our boundaries.



There are three key themes that emerge from Atkinson's lucid description of the first years of the American Revolution. Firstly, based on the most recent scholarship, he portrays the battles – both political and military – as a furious and violent civil war that pitted brother against brother, son versus father, and neighbor against neighbor. This was not a gentlemanly affair of petitions, declarations and polite army and naval engagements; the battles were bloody and ruthless and left many dead or dying from inadequate (and often nonexistent) medical care. Secondly, George Washington, after initial strategic and tactical blunders, learned quickly and became the indispensable and heroic political and military leader who was, indeed, "first in the hearts of his countrymen." Finally, Atkinson makes it clear that despite the size and strength of the British Empire's armies and navy (the largest navy in the world at the time), the Americans always had the advantages of the massive size of the thirteen rebellious colonies and their lengthy seacoasts relative to the extent of the British forces, making the eventual victory of the Americans more likely than not.

In sum, this is a remarkable and eminently well-written military history that makes the reader look forward with great anticipation to Atkinson's next two volumes.

In Pursuit of Jefferson

Traveling through Europe with the Most Perplexing Founding Father

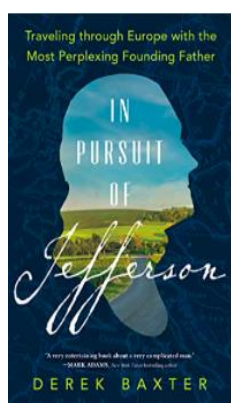
By Derek Baxter

Sourcebooks, 2022



Reviewed by Robert Taggart

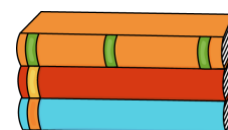
If you want a fun historical yet contemporary ride, this book is for you. In 1787, Thomas Jefferson, as ambassador to royal France, took a several months trip throughout France, touching on Italy and Germany, taking careful notes about what he saw. When two young American aristocrats wanted to do a European tour, he wrote *Hints to Americans Traveling to Europe*. Jefferson suggested that the young men use it as a study tour of French agriculture, art, landscaping, and political issues. Though the young men spent too much time in various spas, Baxter decided that this detailed missive would provide him with a great opportunity to know Jefferson, France, and himself better by following in Jefferson's footsteps.



What follows is a series of delightful tours by the Baxter family (wife and 2 young children included) of France and Italy two hundred years after Jefferson's travels. Some readers may find it annoying when the author and family interject their lives and opinions in a story about Jefferson's interesting travels, but I found it refreshing. The book is not only a rediscovery of Jefferson's fine intellect, but also a story of a family as it matures and absorbs all that Europe has to offer. The Baxter family discovers, as Jefferson did, the many delights of French and Italian wine, food, and architecture. The author also does a fine job of taking Jefferson to task over what made his trips possible: the 600 slaves he owned and often sold as so much cordwood whenever he needed money. He famously brought the 14-year-old slave Sally Hemings with him as his "assistant", with whom he purportedly had six children.

This book is a balanced account of Jefferson's life – his achievements as well as his slave-owning history. He lived an extravagant life based on other people's labors. It is worth noting that even at his famous UVA, as well as the Charlottesville Jefferson public library, his legacy is being questioned. Of course, Jefferson was a man of his time, but that does not absolve him of his slave-owning, and hypocrisy about the "rights of man". Still, Baxter is careful to give Jefferson his due. After all, his family apparently enjoyed the trips they took, which would not have occurred if Jefferson were not so fascinating!

Have you read a good book lately and can't wait to share it with your friends? Send your book review (400 words or less) to the Friends editorial team at: friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com. Be sure to write *Book review* in the subject line.



Opening Day at the Appoquinimink Library

A Preview of the new Newark Library?

Sue Peters, FNFL Vice President

“There is truly something for everyone here,” said Diana Brown, Community Services Manager for New Castle County Libraries at the June 24 ribbon cutting for the new library in Middletown.

Created with significant input from the community, the 28,000 square foot, \$20 million library offers more room for its collections. It is also home to a wealth of new spaces and technologies for just about everything under the sun.

“We’ve doubled the number of books in the children’s collection,” said Library Manager Kevin Swed, while holding up a staff T-shirt designed and produced in the new Maker Space. (The shirt design features the number 023.5, the Dewey Decimal number for library staff.)

Located at 206 Main Street in Middletown, the library is walkable and bikeable for many residents. Said Susan Kemer, President of the Friends of the Appoquinimink Library, “It is located within about a mile-and-a-half of five or six schools with the highest number of free and reduced lunches. Those students are within a two-mile radius of this place. We know that those students are the ones that probably need these tools.”

With a community meeting room that can seat 115, the APPO library also meets the public’s need for discussion and activity space. This all-purpose space is dedicated to the memory of James P. Young, a longtime Friend of the library and advocate for the new building who passed away in 2021.

The facility is a model of energy efficiency and sustainability with features including:

- High efficiency LED lighting
- Rooftop photovoltaic (PV) panels & solar powered site lighting
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Native species landscape design requiring no irrigation
- 4 EV charging stations

At the ribbon-cutting, speaker after speaker noted the collaboration and spirited discussions among town, county, state, and federal officials that made the library a reality. County Executive Matt Meyer, former County Manager of Community Services Marcus Henry, Mayor Kenneth Branner, Jr., New Castle County Council and the APPO Friends group were particularly mentioned for their involvement in the project. Many speakers called libraries a cornerstone of democracy.

Public opinion also strongly influenced the outcome; public meetings could involve more than 100 people. The process was not easy at times but was designed to yield the library best suited to the needs of the Appoquinimink community. The ribbon was cut as The Beatles’ “Come Together” played. Let’s look forward to making the process work as well for the new Newark library.



Library Managers Kevin Swed (APPO) and Pam Stevens (Newark), above left, declared the Music Room of the Recording Studio ready to roll. Patrons lost no time in joining in.



The Recording Studio also includes a Media Lab for editing and the Video Production Room right next door to the Music Room. The Video Production Room features a green screen and lighting equipment. (left)

The Friends of the APPO library raised \$700,000 toward the new library. A young donor (right) reads his family's name on the donor wall that recognizes significant contributions.



The children's section features a Lego wall and play areas



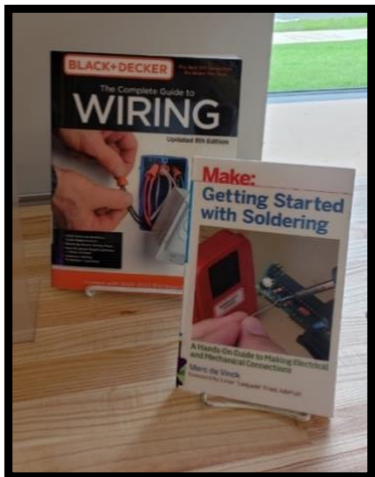
The teen hangout is video and board gamer ready.



Continued page 14



The **Maker Studio** soon filled with people eager to try their hand at activities like sewing, soldering, 3-D printing, painting, and coding.



Summer and Spring Library Programs Supported by the Friends	
Presenter	Program Title
UD Cooperative Extension	All About Eggs
Marshall Steam Museum	Float your Boat
Iron Hill Museum	Ocean Zones and Dinos in Delaware
Housel Fitness	Whales, Sails, and Dolphin Tales
Dungeons and Dragons	Ernie L.
Mlanjeni Theater	
Swedish Museum	Saving the Seas with Swedes
ASL classes	Fall 2022



Plenty of interested visitors at the Marshall Steam Museum display table.



