



Update on New Library Announced at Friends Annual Meeting

Susan Gays, FNFL Board Member

An at-capacity crowd of Friends and local officials gathered on April 30 for the Friends' first in-person Annual Meeting and Thank You Brunch since the pandemic. Guest speaker Diana Brown, Community Services Manager for New Castle County Libraries, and a key leader of the new library project, revealed the selected architectural firm Quinn Evans, as well as the construction management company Wohlson Construction Company, at the meeting.

Diana has been working closely with the Friends and provided an update and projected timeline for the \$44 million project. She praised the Friends' board for stepping up and whole-heartedly committing to a \$1 million Capital Campaign to demonstrate our support of the project. Diana noted that in the next few months the New Castle County Project Team will be seeking community engagement and input to identify what library users want to see in the new library and their vision for how it will be used by the community. She pointed out how lucky we are that the state and county collaborate on library projects and costs are shared 50-50, but that a building cannot function as designed if we do not have the ongoing funding for staffing and operation. The funding issue will be a topic for further discussion with the state and county.

Diana then introduced the Principal Architect for the project, Charles Wray, from the firm Quinn Evans who walked us through their multi-step design process, including numerous opportunities for community and staff input. Over his 40-year career Mr. Wray has gained extensive knowledge of local and state government processes and regulations. For the past 16 years, he has focused on the planning and design of almost 30 public and academic libraries, among them the recently completed Cecil County Library in North East, Md. He promotes a holistic approach to the design process. His wife Shannon Wray, who was unable to attend the brunch, provides design leadership on programming, space planning, lighting, acoustics, finishes, colors, and furnishings, and is committed to library design solutions that are as functional as they are beautiful. The Newark Library is in good hands with this accomplished team.

To read coverage in the Newark Post, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/41fCbGZ>

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Special thanks to State Senator Sokola; Representatives Baumbach, Osienski, and Romer; County Executive Matt Meyer; Councilwomen George and Diller; Carey Casey, General Manager NCC Services and Marcus Henry, former Manager of NCC Services; Newark Mayor Stu Markham, and representatives from Wholsen Construction Company for attending the luncheon and showing their support for the project.

Many thanks to Caffè Gelato for generously donating much of the cost of the brunch.

FNFL Welcomes New Board Members

The Friends of the Newark Free Library Membership approved two new Board members for two-year terms at the Annual Meeting on April 30, 2023.

Roberta Sullivan is a longtime Newark resident. She has worked in industry and has been a volunteer for various local efforts including the University of Delaware, the City of Newark and the AARP. Roberta is an ardent reader and supporter of the Newark Library and the FNFL. She is looking forward to assisting with the exciting and challenging upcoming events related to the library.



Darin Powell, a native of Sussex County, has been a resident of Newark for twelve years. He is a stay-at-home dad who graduated from the University of Delaware in 1991 with a degree in English. As a child, he loved going to the library and coming home with a big pile of books and still does, with interests ranging from historical fiction to biographies to nature. Now he makes regular visits with his four-year-old daughter, who is proud to have a library card of her own and spends hours in the children's play area. In his free time, he enjoys hiking and gardening, growing vegetables in a plot at the Newark Community Garden in Fairfield Park. His family attends St. John the Baptist Church, and he serves as president of the Cherry Hill Manor Maintenance Association, where he lives with his wife, daughter, and dog.

FNFL Officers and Directors

President: Barbara Jo German
Vice President: Sue Peters
Treasurer: Lori Hans
Recording Secretary: Deb Morehead
Correspondence Secretary: Katy Ferrero

Directors

Susan Gays	Banjo Oriade	Mark Rusinko	Robert Sullivan
Roy Lopato	Darin Powell	Polly Sierer	Lynn Wegman
Carol McKelvey	Patricia Rachek		

Ex Officio: Judy Taggart

President's Letter

Dear Friends of the Newark Free Library,



As we end the fiscal year, I started thinking about all the programs and activities FNFL has sponsored through generous donations. I am thankful for a very active and talented board and other Friend volunteers who have planned or helped in any way. It is great to have creative, dedicated, and hardworking library staff, board members and other Friends work together on these projects.

We recently had our annual Friends meeting/brunch that was attended by about seventy people including board members, elected officials, and other notable guests. Diana Brown, the Community Services Manager for New Castle County, was our guest speaker who then introduced Charles Wray, one of the architects for our new library. It is exciting to learn about all the trends in libraries.

It was wonderful to see the many familiar faces of library supporters that are active in the community. We elected and welcomed two new board members: Darin Powell and Roberta Sullivan. Roy Lopata, Katy Ferraro, and Deb Morehead were re-elected for an additional term.

Judy Taggart was honored in a special way for all her years of service to the Friends of the Newark Library. Click on the link to read the Newark Post article about Judy's service to the Newark Free Library - <https://bit.ly/3McxVnE>

Mary Ann Gladnick was also honored for all she has done. She is stepping down after serving on the board for the maximum years allowed by the bylaws. She has had many different roles on the board including planning the annual meeting & brunch and coordinating and distributing about 2,000 gently used donated books to places like the Hudson Center, YMCAs, and daycare centers in the area. She also served as Vice President and volunteered at most events the Friends sponsored.

Thanks to all who planned and attended the annual meeting/brunch.

The board continues to fund various music programs, the Library of Things, and other library requests. Check out the Newark Free Library sites on Instagram and Facebook and the monitor and posters for all the great programs and activities the library has to offer.



In March we hosted our first children's author event sponsored by the generous donation from the Dianich family. Dr. Ilona Holland read and discussed her historical fiction book *The Lost Locket of Lewes*. After the reading there were hands-on follow up activities related to the book. All children attending received a signed copy of one of Dr. Holland's books. We even had a cake with a picture of the book. Fifty people attended this popular event. Click on the link to read the Newark Post article <https://bit.ly/3MbwZia>.

Dr. Holland Book Signing at Author Event

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Letter from the President continued from page 3

Another historical fiction book about the courage of the DuPont children and life at Eleutherian Mills by Dr. Holland called *The Great Explosion* was distributed to classes and/or libraries in nearby schools. They were grateful to receive these books since many fourth graders recently visited Hagley to learn about Delaware history.

We are looking forward to more author events and book giveaways made possible by the Dianich fund later this summer. On July 22 author Kimberly Black is scheduled to present her non-fiction book *Hernandez Finds a Friend* written for younger children. It is a story about horseshoe crabs. The author will also conduct a writing workshop with the same theme for older children.

On August 18th author and juggler Lois Hoffman will present her book *Don't Touch That, Oscar* for young children and then the Hoffmans will do their juggling act. All children will receive an age-appropriate book. The library staff is planning some other events and the Friends are planning to give away books. We hope you will join us for these special children's events.



Left to right: Pam Stevens, NFL Manager, State Sen. Dave Sokola, Barbara Jo German, FNFL President and Judy Taggart meet in Dover at Library Legislative Day to build support for libraries in Delaware.

Below: Jitterbug group preschoolers received Board books from the FNFL to supplement many of the songs they sing in the Jitterbug group.



Thanks for your continued support to make these programs possible.

Thanks for being a Friend.

Barbara Jo German, President of the FNFL



The Friends helped make the Newark Easter Egg Hunt a special occasion by donating books from our gently used children's book collection and a prize basket which included several children's books, four Berenstain Bear stuffed toys, and of course, candy!

From the Library Manager

Pam Stevens – Newark Free Library Manager



Our NCC library staff and the services they provide to our community grow stronger every month with the addition of new employees and promotions. At the end of March Petel Piper joined us as an Adult Services Librarian and Matt Symes was promoted to our full-time Youth Services Librarian. Both Petel and Matt bring experience and fresh ideas from beyond the Newark Free Library to our services.

In addition, the process is in progress to fill our full-time Library Specialist position left vacant by the recent retirement of Sue Lipsy as well as our part-time Librarian position left vacant by Matt's promotion and Pam Nelson's retirement. Many vacancies in essential staffing have shone a spotlight on the competency and dedication of our staff who are here keeping our services going. We have a wonderful group of people who care about the quality of service they provide to the public and their part in the teamwork that makes it happen.

One new service we offer is providing a printed-out calendar of events for patrons to take home with them. One side lists our adult programs while the other side covers youth service programs. Copies can be found at all service desks.

Also, you may have noticed the telehealth service booth is now being staffed by a Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL) social worker on Fridays. Patrons can make an appointment at <https://bit.ly/41yib2D> to use the kiosk and can access social services from DDL at <https://bit.ly/3M8S9NU>. Our partnerships with social service workers will help with the increase in patron needs that are beyond the realm of what library staff can provide. These additional services will add to the already abundant wealth of programs, information, and help staff provide each day to our community.

Do you have an idea for our upcoming new Newark Free Library?

Polly Sierer, FNFL Board Member

The Friends will be sending a wish list for our new library to our New Castle County library development contact. If you have a suggestion about the design of the new library, please let us know no later than June 15th. Our input is important!

Ideas can be as small as having enough pencils by the online catalog or as big as a rooftop garden. Maybe you would like to see more space for tutoring or even a small classroom. Perhaps CDs are no longer relevant to you.

Email your suggestions to the Chair of the Friends Capital Campaign Committee, Polly Sierer. You may email her at pasierer@comcast.net.

Like all residents of New Castle County, the Friends will also have the chance to comment on the new library at public engagement meetings later this year.

Tribute for Judy Taggart

Susan Gays, FNFL Board Member

At the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Newark Library, State Representative Paul Baumbach paid tribute to long-time library champion and former Friends President Judy Taggart.



Judy Taggart and Rep. Paul Baumbach
Photo courtesy of Pam Stevens

Judy Taggart has been associated with the Friends board for more than twenty years. Judy was an effective leader on the Friends board who fostered focused discussions and decision-making processes. Under her leadership, the Friends continued their strong support of the Newark Free Library through outreach events, including hosting booths at community events, participating in the Halloween parade, and spearheading upgrades to AV equipment, furnishings, and carpeting in the library. During her tenure the Bookends Room was created in the old café space to provide a much-needed additional meeting room and study space. Judy spearheaded the campaign to raise the necessary \$50,000 from the community to fund the renovation.

In March 2016 Judy was appointed to the New Castle County Library Advisory Board and has served with distinction since then, advocating not only for the Newark Library patrons but for all those served by New Castle County Libraries. She serves on the state Council of Libraries, making recommendations on library policies that best serve the needs of Delaware residents. She has always kept the best interests of the community and library patrons in mind when making decisions about how to support the library.

Representative Baumbach presented Judy with a proclamation read in Legislative Hall, recognizing her long service. State Senator Dave Sokola delivered a commendation from the Senate. The Friends of the Newark Library sincerely thank Judy for her two decades of service.

To read more about this event in the Newark Post click on the link: <https://bit.ly/3McxVnE>

Summer with the Newark Free Library

“All Together Now” in the Children’s Room

By Matt Symes

This year’s summer reading theme “All Together Now” aims to bring our community closer together and build strong, lasting relationships we can all use to grow. The Summer Program line-up at the Newark Free Library aims to do the same thing. Throughout the summer, we are pioneering “**All Together Adventures**”, a story time and craft program which features themes of friendship, community, togetherness, and celebrating what is unique about all of us.

We are also extremely lucky and thankful to the Friends of the Newark Free Library for sponsoring the wide range of programs we are offering this summer. None of this would be possible without their constant support, and our community thrives because of it. Below are just some of the many programs offered.


In June, we kick off Summer Reading with a collaborative program on **June 14th at 2:00 PM with the Marshall Steam Museum at Auburn Heights for “Building Things Together”**, a program which uses recycled materials to build a neighborhood. This is followed by visits from two of our favorite community helpers. First, local firemen will be showing off how they keep the community safe and letting patrons **Explore a Fire Truck on June 16th at 10:30**. Then, **DE Smile Check**, helps teach about good dental hygiene & offers free dental screenings on **June 21st from 10:30 – 12:30**.

At the end of June, the fun ramps up with a musical program about working together to create harmony on musical instruments with **Mr. Boom Boom & Music Play Patrol on June 24th at 11:00 AM**. Then, get silly and witness some of the best storytelling around with **Silly Goose & Val’s Pals on June 28th at 2:00 PM**.

In July, we feature unique learning events that give the opportunity for collaboration and hands-on activities. First, learn music perfect for “little” rockers everywhere with **We Kids Rock on July 12th at 2:00 PM**. Then, learn about wacky science experiments with **Eric Energy on July 17th at 5:00 PM**. Finally, learn about proper pet care and wildlife conservation with **Tori’s Critters on July 26th at 2:00 PM**.

In August, we finish the summer with the fan favorite **Housel Fun & Fitness, Teamwork Dreamwork** show with dancing, stories, and games on **August 2nd at 2:00 PM**. **David Darwin**, as seen on *America’s Got Talent*, dazzles us with stunts like sword swallowing and balancing chairs on his face in a mystifying show on **August 7th at 2:00 PM**. **Silly Joe** sings silly songs and reminds us of what having fun is all about on **August 16th at 2:00 PM**. Finally, **The Science Guys of Baltimore** bring the summer to a close with some of the best science and fun experiments any of us have ever seen on **August 21st at 2:00 PM**.

Again, a huge **Thank You** goes out to the Friends of the Newark Library for always striving to support us in providing stimulating programs and keeping our community learning together. We hope to see you there this summer!



Friends Pilot Do More 24

This past March 2nd and 3rd the Friends raised \$588.54 through our first participation in Do More 24, Delaware’s Giving Day. Run by the United Way of Delaware and Spur Impact Association, this event focuses specifically on non-profits in Delaware and was more successful for us than the nationwide Giving Tuesday that takes place the week following Thanksgiving. In all, Do More 24 brought in more than \$2.3 million for 524 nonprofits serving Delaware. More than 15,000 individual donors contributed.

Do More 24 makes it easy to find causes to support in one visit to the web site. The program offers opportunities for nonprofits to collaborate as well as incentives and matches to maximize donations. This year, the Friends received \$550 in individual donations and an additional 6% from the stretch pool funded by community supporters. Do More 24 brought us new resources that will make a difference to the efforts we support, such as the music program, our collection, and the summer reading program. We also added new members through the event.

Thank you if you gave this year and please keep your eye out for Do More in 2024.

Thank you, Sue!

Sue Peters, Vice-President FNFL



**Sue Lipsky and Diana Brown, NCC Library
Community Services Manager**

Photo courtesy of Pam Stevens

Book Buddy founder and Toddler Story Time leader Sue Lipsky closed out her 22-year career at the Newark Free Library with a warm farewell reception on March 23. At the event, Sue received thanks and well wishes from her colleagues and the Friends along with recognition from New Castle County leadership.

Sue helped to start the Book Buddy program in 2009. Book Buddies are volunteers who deliver library materials to the homebound and their caregivers. In 2008, Sue worked on a multi-library team who studied similar programs around the U.S. and launched New Castle County's version the next year.

Diana Brown, New Castle County Community Services Manager, read a proclamation from County Executive Matt Meyer. This decree acknowledged Sue for her contributions to planning weekly Toddler Times, which includes stories, songs, activities, and crafts; moderating

a book group; quickly moving library activities online to keep people connected during the pandemic; and using her knowledge and experience to support new leaders at the Newark Free Library.

Sue began her career at the Hockessin Library, where she was hired as a page in 1995 and promoted to assistant in 2000. She joined the Newark Free Library as library specialist in 2002. Sue is continuing her involvement with the library as a member of the Friends.

ENERGY = Matthew Symes, New Youth Services Librarian

By Carol McKelvey, FNFL Board Member

Since March 2023, Matthew Symes has assumed the role of Youth Services Librarian. Working with Matthew are Janet, Susan, and Heather who represent a very happy, creative, and industrious unit of four.

Matthew, although young, has a solid history in library science having graduated from Drexel. He worked at the Kirkwood Library and then came to the Newark Free Library. He is a person with flexibility and drive, attributes which led to his appointment as Children's Librarian.

His love of reading is attributed to his aunt, Pam Ross. She worked for 40 years as a librarian in northern Pennsylvania and retired as the Executive Director of the system. Aunt Pam mentored Matt and nurtured his curiosity and love of reading.



Matt is a triplet (the only boy of the three) and has another sister and three stepbrothers. They enjoy reunions and keeping up with each other's activities. Matt likes traveling. He just returned from a vacation to Brazil visiting with a pen pal from high school and his family who hosted him at their home on the beach.

Participants in the library's Minecraft group benefit from Matt's mentorship. He has many ideas about attracting underserved populations early so they get the reading "bug." The series, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan, was Matt's favorite and ignited his desire to read. Since then, he has been an avid reader but also fully understands current internet and media formats. Because of his youth, curiosity, and drive he can advocate for programs that widen our ability to serve younger library patrons.

Stop by the Children's section any time and introduce yourself to this wonderful person and asset to our library.

New Castle County Councilwoman Valerie George Makes Time for the Library

Sue Peters, FNFL Vice President



Left to right: New Castle County Councilwoman Valerie George, Librarian/tour guide Sue Menz, and Legislative Assistant Marylee Murphy

With the new Newark library in mind, Councilwoman Valerie George has been touring libraries far and wide, including stops in Princeton and the Midwest, to see what works and what does not. She and Legislative Assistant Marylee Murphy added the current Newark Free Library to their itinerary, joining Friends board members for a tour on March 16.

Led by librarian Sue Menz, the visit covered the many functions of the library today with stops at the Children's and Story Time rooms, the highly utilized study and meeting rooms, the reading area favored by homeless visitors, the Library of Things, and the relatively new hydroponic plants growing in the teen books area.

Councilwoman George was an early adopter of e-Books and is a fan of books in any format: "Everything in life is in there," she said. Councilwoman George, a Democrat elected last fall, is serving her first term and is the

representative for District 5. She plans to continue her predecessor Lisa Diller's advocacy for the library and is looking forward to hearing from community members about what they need from the new Newark library.

Click on the link to see the Newark Free Library's calendar of events:

<https://bit.ly/3W4YkGZ>

Music Programs for the Spring & Summer of 2023

Matt Symes, Library Staff

This year, we have a full line-up of impressive musical talents from both local and national scenes. The Newark Library gives a big thank you to the Friends of the Newark Library for continuing to fund these wonderful programs and performances. Please join us in celebrating the wonderful diversity and musical talent we have in our community! Here are a few of the recent and upcoming performances held at the Newark Library

Local Newark Saxophonist, **Khayden**, often seen performing beautiful sets on Main Street stopped by the Newark Library on Saturday, March 11th to deliver soulful renditions of classic songs and tell the story of his life as an artist. He performed some uplifting Gospel, innovative original music, Disney classics, and finished with a powerful cover of Somewhere over the Rainbow with most of the audience singing along. Thirty-five patrons were in attendance and nearly half had never been to the Newark Library before!



In April, we continued the tradition of hosting University of Delaware students to showcase their piano skills and studies with Professor Christine Delbeau. **Lina Maria Marin Diaz**, Pianist and Chamber Music Fellow at the University of Delaware, was back again to perform her final Piano Recital as she pursues her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance. Her piano recital on April 8th showcased a culmination of her musical pieces and featured a wide range of works.

On April 22nd, we were graced with another piano recital with **Logan Slansky**. Logan Slansky is a Long Island-based Junior Music Education student at the University of Delaware, currently concentrating in Jazz Studies. Logan currently performs with the UD Wind Ensemble, Jazz I Ensemble, Chamber Jazz, and the UD Percussion Ensemble, as well as with his own college band, Happy Camper. He is currently primarily studying under the guidance of Professor Marie-Christine Delbeau, as well as with Tom Palmer, and Dr. Miles Brown.

In May classical guitarist **Peter Fletcher** performed an audience friendly repertoire on Tuesday, May 2nd. His program included Bach Chaconne in d minor, Four Preludes by Manuel Ponce, Giuliani's Variations on a Theme by Handel, and music by Tansman, Scarlatti, Albeniz, and Santiago de Murcia.

On Saturday, May 13th the **First State Bell Ringers** performed at the library. Under the direction of **Ruthie Toole**, this year's spring concert featured many classic songs played only with handbells!

June boasts an impressive line-up, including some brand-new performers never seen at the Newark Library. Join us on **Saturday, June 3, at 2:00 PM**, as we "Come Together" for an afternoon of simply timeless music with pianist and vocalist **Jay Daniels**. Musical selections include "Come Together," "Be My Life's Companion," "Just the Two of Us," and "I'll String Along with You."





This is a family-friendly event with music for both the young and young at heart as we “Come Together” in celebration of the Summer Reading Theme “All Together Now.”

On **Saturday, June 17th at 2:00 PM** don't miss out on a jazzy afternoon with this world-renowned Jazz Trio including **Tony Cimososi, Tony Miceli, and Koko Bermejo**. Their combined sounds and knowledge of music composition is truly inspiring to watch. Stick around after the performance for a Q&A with the band.

We hope to see you there and thank you for your constant support of Delaware Libraries!

Library and University of Delaware Collaborations: Spring 2023 Edition

Sue Peters, FNFL Vice President

The Newark Free Library and the University of Delaware share not only a hometown, but also a dedication to learning and creating opportunities for personal growth. Here is a snapshot of a few ways these mutual interests crossed paths at our library this spring.

Tech Club for Kids



Sabrina Barr and Annanya Venkataraman, students from the University of Delaware, led Tech Club for Kids this spring.

range from absolute beginners to teens with a few years' experience in Python, Annanya prepares challenges and conversations that can work at different levels. There are always two student leaders to keep the technology functioning and work one-on-one with the kids.

For the past 10 years, university students have led Tech Club for Kids at the library. Through this program, kids ages 7 to 16 explore topics in computer science with the guidance of college students who are enrolled in the university's “Engaging Youth in Computing” course.

Tech club is a drop-in Saturday morning program, and on the first Saturday of spring break every seat was filled. From 10:30 to 12:30, Annanya Venkataraman led a dozen kids in making and sharing an unplugged activity involving beats and then using the Scratch programming platform. Horns, drums, tigers, singers, doorbells, and sheep all became featured artists in students' productions.

“I wanted to work on the concept of sequencing,” said Annanya, “and music seemed like a good fit.” Annanya focuses on a different topic at each meeting, such as conditionals, looping, and iteration. Because the students

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Sabrina Barr participated in Tech Club for credit last fall. She came back this spring because “it’s so rewarding to see how quickly tech clubbers pick things up. It’s like learning a second language—it’s just easier when you’re the right age. I was older when I learned coding. It was more of an effort for me.”

The college student leaders for Tech Club are enrolled in the Engaging Youth in Computing course taught by Peggie Birch, an adjunct faculty member. Peggy taught computer science and business classes in high school and was one of the first teachers in the state to be trained to teach the Department of Education’s Computer Science Pathway. “The UD students in my course have significant computer science coursework under their belts already,” said Peggie. “I give them the background they need to develop lesson plans, work with various age groups, break down complex ideas for beginners, and generally be successful educators. My students teach in lots of different settings – right now they are working with kindergarten and 4th grade classrooms as well as in after school programs.”

The Tech Club placement is part of the Partner4CS projects, created by researchers Lori Pollock and Chrystalla Mouza at the University of Delaware to teach computer science skills to young people and to develop teachers of computer science. Since 2012, funding for these programs has been provided by the National Science Foundation.

“I’ve seen the impact when kids feel the success of ‘Hey, I’m good at this’ in their elementary years,” said Peggie. “It’s had such success in broadening participation in computer science. I just love it.”



Tech club will start up again in the fall. With laptops provided by the library, guidance from motivated university students, and no need to register ahead of time, it’s an easy, fun, and effective way for kids to develop their tech talents.

Spring Critters

Chicks, butterflies, and ladybugs all recently brought new life to the Children’s Room. The University’s 4-H Youth Development Cooperative Extension provided several varieties of chicken eggs, as well as an incubator and training for library staff. These were followed by caterpillars and ladybug larvae.



Librarians added journals and other activities as well as related readings to let kids get the most from seeing new life forms emerge right before their eyes.

These programs happened for the first time at Newark last year to great success. Stop by the Children’s Room this summer, when an ant farm will be in residence to exemplify the summer reading program theme: “All Together Now.”



Friends Get a New Website Thanks to Lerner Technology Capstone Program

This spring, a team of five UD business majors at the Lerner College of Business & Technology collaborated with Friends board members on big changes to the Friends website. When finished, the new site will look good on screens large and small. Under the hood, new functionality will make it easy for online visitors to join, donate, make memorial gifts, volunteer, get news, and register for events.

The Lerner College has run the capstone project for more than 30 years; currently, the program is headed by Dr. Ryan T. Rodalunas, DBA, Faculty Director of Technology Projects and Instructor of Accounting and MIS. The capstone project gives students the chance to run a real-world technology project in a six-credit spring semester course.

It's a very structured process. Companies and not-for-profits are invited to submit proposals for participating students to consider. Students vote on their most- and least-preferred choices and the results are used to match students with projects. Students meet regularly with not only their teammates, but also their clients and faculty mentor. Ellen F. Monk, Associate Professor of MIS and Associate Chairperson of MIS filled this role for our team. During the capstone process, students must complete a set of project milestones and deliverables that include defining the project through a formal proposal to clients. Importantly for the Friends, the final step is to provide documentation and training to make sure the Friends team can maintain and update the site after the students have moved on.



The Friends' student web team on proposal presentation day: Corey O'Donnell, Jesse Wallace, Patrick Chen, Caeden Hodny, and Jessica Howley. Through their work with us, they are completing their 2023 Lerner School of Business & Technology Capstone Project.

The Friends learned of the capstone opportunity from the Newark Partnership, who reported a very positive experience with their students. Likewise, the Friends have been very pleased with the technical knowledge, business skills, and work ethic of their web team. In just three months, the students researched the Friends' needs, recommended a suitable platform, and built the new website, which is expected to launch this June at FriendsoftheNewarkFreeLibrary.com

The Friends would also like to thank longtime supporters Paul Pomeroy and Dave Brond (President and VP of Strategy and Planning, respectively) from Aloysius Butler & Clark for their critical assistance in defining the website project and offering mentorship to the students.

To learn more about and submit a proposal to the capstone program, please visit:

<https://udel-7.hubspotpagebuilder.com/techcapstone>

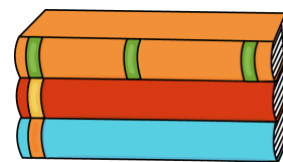


I've Been Reading....

Directed by James Burrows

By James Burrows

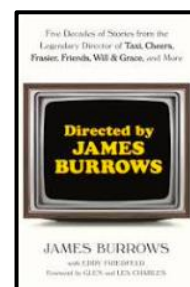
Ballantine Books, 2022; 350 pp.



Reviewed by Roy H. Lopata

If you happen by some unfortunate circumstance to glimpse *Directed by James Burrows* on our Library's shelves take my advice, in the immortal words of Dionne Warwick, and "Walk on By" -- well, actually take the advice of lyricist Hal David. This memoir purports to provide stories from Burrows' five decades of directing television's iconic situation comedies including *Taxi*, *Cheers*, *Frasier*, *Friends*, *Will and Grace* and more. What could be bad?? Well, this padded and dull recitation of TV script excerpts, simplistic acting and directing advice, and almost always-happy tales from behind the scenes, is a volume that you certainly can put down. Better yet, don't it pick up!

Anyway, I guess I am obligated to tell you a bit more about what *Directed by James Burrows* includes. We learn about Burrows birth in California in 1940 and subsequent childhood move to New York City. Abe Burrows, our author's dad, was in his day a relatively well-known writer and director of radio shows and Broadway Musicals. Burrows would attend undergraduate college at Oberlin in Ohio and the Yale Drama School's renowned graduate program. His initial theatrical work included production assisting with several Broadway plays and musicals before he started his television career working behind the scenes on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. He wound up directing several episodes of that popular series as well as several of *The Bob Newhart Show*. From there, Burrows joined with Glen and Les Charles and developed *Cheers* that premiered in 1982.



Once *Cheers* became a hit, Burrows became the "go to" director and/or producer of such shows like *Taxi*, *Wings*, *Frasier* (a *Cheers* spin off), *Friends*, *3rd Rock From the Sun*, *Will and Grace*, *Two and Half Men* and many more too numerous to mention. Unfortunately, we learn little of interest about these show's stars and other regular cast members except that they were almost universally incredibly talented, wonderful to work with, and lovable people. Here and there a polite and mildly negative comment slips in – usually associated with a potential show cast member not selected -- but Burrows certainly has led a charmed life sheltered from knuckleheads and otherwise unhappy folks.

Finally, what is perhaps the most jarring aspect of Burrows' memoir is the multitude of script excerpts he includes from his lengthy resume of TV hits. By and large, these do not come off funny on the page – perhaps I needed a laugh track. Even with trying to imagine these lines delivered by some of the most iconic characters in television comedy history like Ted Danson and John Ratzenberger ("Cliff Clavin") on *Cheers*; Danny DeVito and Andy Kaufman on *Taxi*; or Sean Hayes ("Jack") and Megan Mullally ("Karen") on *Will and Grace*, the written word utterly fails to substitute for watching and enjoying these shows. But what do I know? Burrows is a justly famed director and producer of many fondly recalled TV sit-coms and I am writing book reviews for the Friends of the Newark Free Library!

Looking for your next good read? Click on [recommendations](#) to see the May NCC staff picks.

The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President and Why it Failed.

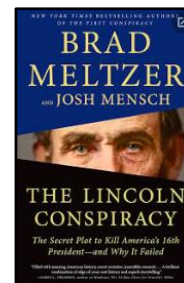
By Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch



Reviewed by Bob Taggart

If you want to read a mystery for which you already know the ending, but which is still compelling, this is the book for you. Most of the book takes place in 1860 and early 1861, when Lincoln was running for President at a time of increasing national tension over slavery and States' Rights. It culminates in a plot to kill the newly elected President as he travels through Baltimore. But what makes this book compelling is the way the authors structure it: short chapters that alternate between Lincoln's two-week journey and the activities in secession-mad Baltimore.

The authors begin by providing background on Lincoln as a young man, making it clear that he came from rural poverty and was forced to fend for himself by working at many difficult jobs, including rail-splitting. He was a self-made man with minimal schooling, who became a frontier lawyer, married a Southern belle, had children, and became well-known in central Illinois. He served one term in Congress and built many personal connections that led him to a dark-horse successful campaign for President. Most of the book, though, covers the time after his November 1860 election until the March 4, 1861 inauguration.



To get to the U.S. Capital Lincoln must travel through the slave state of Maryland and secessionist-mad Baltimore which was a daunting proposition at the time since there was no Secret Service to protect him. Allen Pinkerton, who headed a famous detective agency in Chicago, was hired by the President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad (PWB), Samuel Felton, to secure the integrity of PWB railroad tracks fearing his tracks in Maryland might be sabotaged.

In Baltimore Pinkerton went undercover with four of his detectives, including Kate Warne, the first woman detective in American history. Together they infiltrated three secret groups of secessionists, led by a local chapter of the Knights of the Golden Circle, who were planning to stop Lincoln, and any federal troops they believed he might bring with him, from reaching Washington D.C. Their goal was to cut D.C. off from the north. In addition, the Pinkerton agents also discovered a well-planned plot to murder Lincoln as he traversed the mile between the PWB east-side station to the B & O west-side station in Baltimore.

The tension builds chapter by chapter as Lincoln travels across the Northern states in front of supportive, crushing crowds. Instead of traveling through Baltimore during the day, Pinkerton had to convince Lincoln to change publicly announced travel plans and secretly board another train from Harrisburg to Philadelphia hiding behind a curtain in a cramped bed. The Pinkerton group and Lincoln made it through Baltimore at night and then to D.C. The huge, hostile crowd was flabbergasted when they met the PWB train the next morning without Lincoln. Nine days later, Lincoln delivered his inaugural address as the new President. The secessionist plot had not succeeded.

