



FRIENDS
OF THE **NEWARK**
FREE LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 2024

FriendsOfNewarkFreeLibrary@gmail.com | 750 Library Avenue, Newark, DE 19711 | Editor – Patricia Rachek

Architect for New Library to Headline April Annual Meeting

Sue Peters, FNFL Vice President

On April 14, the architectural team for the new library will speak on their progress. During the design phase, architects from Quinn Evans are taking advantage of input from two public meetings sponsored by the Friends as well as results from the online community survey conducted by New Castle County.

Quinn Evans recently received a major honor. The firm won the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Architecture Firm Award for 2024. According to the AIA web site, this annual award is “the highest honor the AIA bestows on an architecture practice. The award recognizes a firm that has consistently produced distinguished architecture for at least 10 years.”

Quinn Evans was the architect for the North East Library. You can read their description of the project bit.ly/northeastlibrary. Better still, take a quick (20-30 minute) drive to North East and see their work for yourself. Street address: North East Library, 485 Mauldin Ave, North East, MD 21901

All Friends members are welcome to attend the April Annual Meeting. Tell your friends! There’s still plenty of time to join and be the first to hear the latest news about the Newark Free Library. Stay tuned to friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.com and facebook.com/FNFLib.

Sign
up
now

Annual Meeting
&
Thank You
Brunch

APRIL 14, 2024
11:30-1:00

Join us for our final meeting/brunch in our current building. See what the future holds for us.

To register and pay, please visit:
bit.ly/FNFLbrunch



The North East Library as shown on on the Quinn Evans web site.

A Word from the President



Dear Friends of the Newark Free Library,

Happy New Year! 2024 should be a vibrant year at the Newark Free Library packed with community engagement, cultural enrichment, and celebrations. It will be the 50th anniversary of our current library building and the FNFL and the library staff will be sponsoring special events to commemorate this occasion. The programs will include various children's events such as presentations by authors with free book give aways, and an increased number of Friends' sponsored music events. Keep an eye on the Friends' and the Library's websites and social media for updated information.

We are excitedly waiting to see how plans are unfolding for our new library. The anticipation of our new library has prompted many members of the FNFL to visit other libraries locally, nationally, and internationally and send pictures of them to share ideas. These libraries offer a unique perspective on the evolution and significance of library spaces.



I recently had the opportunity to visit the Library of Celsus in Ephesus, Turkey with its rich history dating back to around 117 AD. This library was considered one of the largest and most impressive in the ancient world. It housed thousands of scrolls and was an architectural marvel of its time, showcasing intricate details, columns, and a facade adorned with statues representing wisdom and knowledge. Despite suffering damage over the centuries, its grandeur remains a testament to the importance of knowledge and learning in ancient times. It is fascinating to see how libraries have adapted and remained essential throughout history and how modern libraries adapt to the specific needs of individual communities throughout the world today.

We are thankful that many of you attended one of the two public engagement meetings and completed surveys to share your ideas for our new library building. Your input has been helpful for planning a 21st century library in our community. Please mark your calendars and attend our annual meeting and brunch on Sunday April 14 to hear updates and plans from the architectural team. More information will be coming.

With your support, FNFL has sponsored a variety of programs this past fall including children's author events, a Halloween Trick or Treat event, and Deaf poetry night where all children received a free book from the generous Dianich donation. In addition, we funded a variety of music programs for the entire family. Many of these programs are highlighted in this newsletter. We work closely with the library staff to plan events.

One of our biggest events was our annual participation at Newark Community Day in

In This Issue

- 2 President's Letter
- 4 Library Manager's Letter
- 4 Capital Campaign
- 5 Deaf Awareness Month
- 5 Roxy Author Event
- 6 Children's Programs
- 8 I've Been Reading
- 9 The Face Behind The Films
- 10 Halloween Fun

A Word From The President

(continued)

September. We gave away at least 1,000 donated used books in good condition to children and adults and distributed information about programs at the library. There was also a place for people to give input about what they would like to see in the new library. A library staff person was available to sign up people for a library card and the Friends encouraged people to become FNFL members. Many current and past board members along with several other FNFL members helped with this event. It was a well-attended community event.

Several board members attended the annual county meeting for board members and library directors from New Castle County Libraries. Diana Brown, Community Services Manager for New Castle County, gave an excellent presentation explaining the uniqueness of the libraries in this county. Some board members also attended the State Library Association meeting in Dover. Both meetings were informative and were great for collaboration with other Friends' groups throughout the state.

We hope to see you in the library, at our monthly board meetings and upcoming events. Please ask your friends to join the FNFL. They can join online or fill out a form available at the library. We always welcome new members and appreciate the support.

Thank you for being a Friend,
Barbara Jo German, President



From the Library Manager



Exciting things are happening at the Newark Free Library. You may have noticed colorful lines painted all over the property as the ground assessment phase of the new building process continues. Soon the design phase will begin for the Newark Free Library Capital Project, which is an official title meaning we are getting a new building. As you may already know, there will be public engagement meetings with the community to help the county create a vibrant and inclusive space that enriches the lives of all who visit the library.

It is an exciting time as we plan the future and honor the success of fifty years of library services and the staff who dedicate their lives to serving the public on this site of 750 Library Avenue, which opened on December 9, 1974. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for new building updates as staff receive them from the New Castle County project team. Updates may be few for now because we are just beginning our new building journey, but they will increase as we turn the corner to 2024. Meanwhile, stop by to share your favorite life enriching library memory with me or leave a comment on our page. <https://www.facebook.com/newarkfreelibrary>. I'll see you @ the library.

Pam Stevens, Library Manager

FNFL Capital Campaign Goal of \$1.25 Million Approved

Sue Peters, Vice President FNFL

The Friends of the Newark Free Library Board of Directors has officially voted to take on the challenge and opportunity of raising at least \$1.25 million for the new Newark library!

The vote followed months of study by the Capital Campaign Committee, a group of Friends including both Board members and interested Friends. Board member and former Newark Mayor, Polly Sierer, is chairing the FNFL Capital Campaign Committee.

"I am glad the Board has chosen a goal above the \$1 million that New Castle County requested," said Polly. "We want the campaign to cover its own costs and to contribute more than one million dollars toward making the new library the best it can possibly be."

Planning for the campaign is continuing while the design and features for the new library are being developed by New Castle County and its team. The committee is looking into recent campaigns for local libraries and researching foundations and corporations to approach for financial support. The campaign will also develop individual giving levels (from two to five figures), and research donor recognition options, among other initiatives.

The committee needs volunteers with many different skills, including grant writing, event planning, communications, graphic design, legal expertise, and accounting. If you are interested in joining the Capital Campaign Committee, please contact Polly at pasierer@comcast.net.

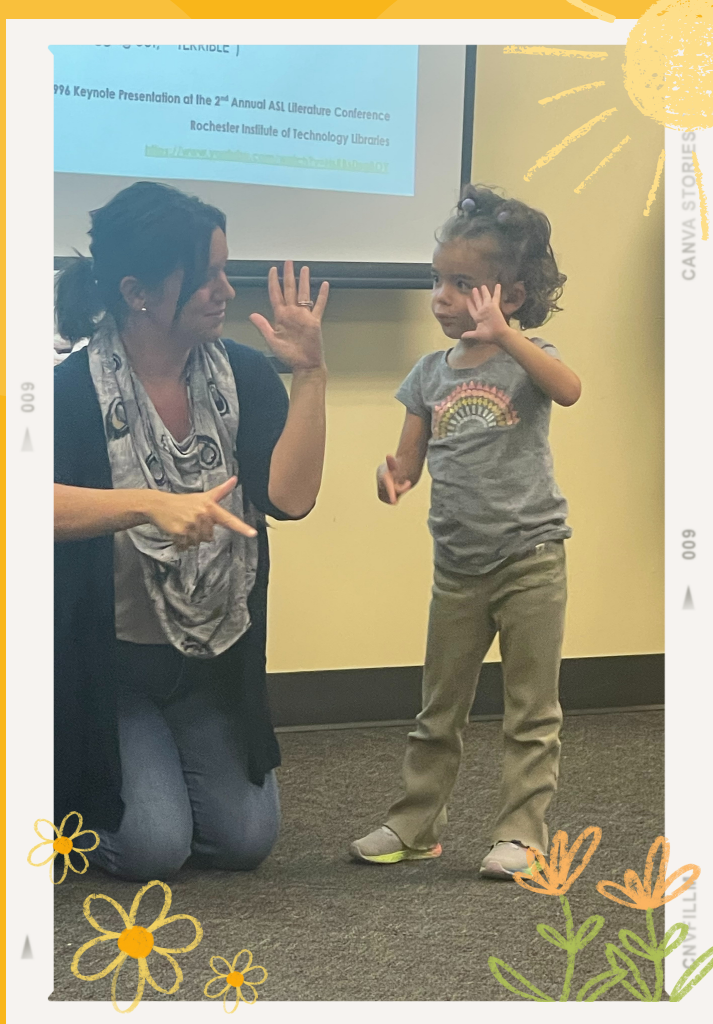


Deaf Awareness Month

Mary Anne Gladnick, FNFL Member

To celebrate deaf awareness month in September 2023, The Friends of the Newark Free Library (FNFL) invited teachers and students from the Delaware School for the Deaf to share their original American Sign Language (ASL) poetry pieces. The teachers demonstrated the rules and nuances of ASL poetry as they engaged and entertained the audience of approximately seventy-five attendees. Karen Martin, the main presenter, compared and contrasted the challenges of ASL poetry to the conventional literary art form as Kelli Adasko signed. The presentation was both enjoyable and informative.

The enthusiastic audience enjoyed refreshments, courtesy of the Friends who distributed books featuring deaf protagonists to the children. Funding for this event was made possible through a generous donation by the Dianich family.



Roxy Author Event

Katy Ferrero, FNFL Correspondence Secretary

On Nov. 4th, Physical Therapist and Children's book author Hillary Sussman visited our library to share her two delightful books about a three-legged dog named Roxy. The books deal with important topics such as: It's okay to be different and Words matter. The stories have animals for the primary characters in situations familiar to children. The rhyming format and colorful illustrations make the stories ideal for read aloud.

Ms. Sussman was a wonderful presenter, who brought along props such as a prosthetic leg to show the children. Her enthusiasm for the stories was contagious as the children listened closely to the stories. Each child took home a copy of each of her books (funded by the Dianich donation). The Friends served refreshments, while Ms. Sussman signed books for everyone. We held a drawing and two lucky children got to take home a Roxy stuffed animal. This was an event truly enjoyed by parents and children!



Children's Programs at Newark Free Library



By Matthew Symes, Youth Services Librarian

2024 in the Children's Department at Newark Free Library is packed with new and exciting programs for kids and families! In January we welcomed two amazing performers.

On Saturday, January 20th we hosted Newark Free Library's Icicle Ball with Pam, the Kindersinger! This celebration of winter showcased winter songs, puppetry, and stories. After the performance families were treated to snacks and giveaways from the Friends and made winter themed crafts in the Children's Room. Then, to kick off Black History Month early, Newark was visited by Illstyle & Peace Hip-Hop Dance Group on January 26th for an exploration of history through dance.

As spring comes to Newark, so too does the Longwood Gardens Community Reads! This year the community will read a picture book version of *The Secret Garden*, and Newark will be visited by two programs in support of the book. At the end of March, Crystal Murphy will perform stories with a brand-new shadow art show! Keep an eye on our calendar for an official date announced soon! Then, on Wednesday, April 3rd at 10:30AM, learn to love the outdoors with the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science. This interactive hour will include a book reading, a scene-setting tent, and plenty of touchable specimens.

This spring, we are excited to showcase the addition of Citizen Science Kits to our Library of Things. These kits, funded by the Friends, support at home science experiments and give kids and adults the opportunity to provide real data to scientists in the field. To support our kit on the Night Sky, we will be visited by the Delaware Astronomical Society for a constellation show and star party. The party will feature telescopes to look at the sky, moon, and stars, and we will use the Night



Sky kits for the first time.

Once the weather gets warmer, our Biodiversity & Pollinator kits will be used to host a BioBlitz with our community. During the BioBlitz, Patrons can use the kits to observe nature in the area and add their observations to a community science board! Without the Friends support of these kits, none of these programs would be possible. Stay tuned for announcements on the program dates.

The Friends of the Newark Free Library make all these programs possible with generous donations and support. Make sure to stop by and bring your families for these wonderful programs and more coming soon!

Email Addresses Requested



To: Our AMAZING Friends



From: friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com

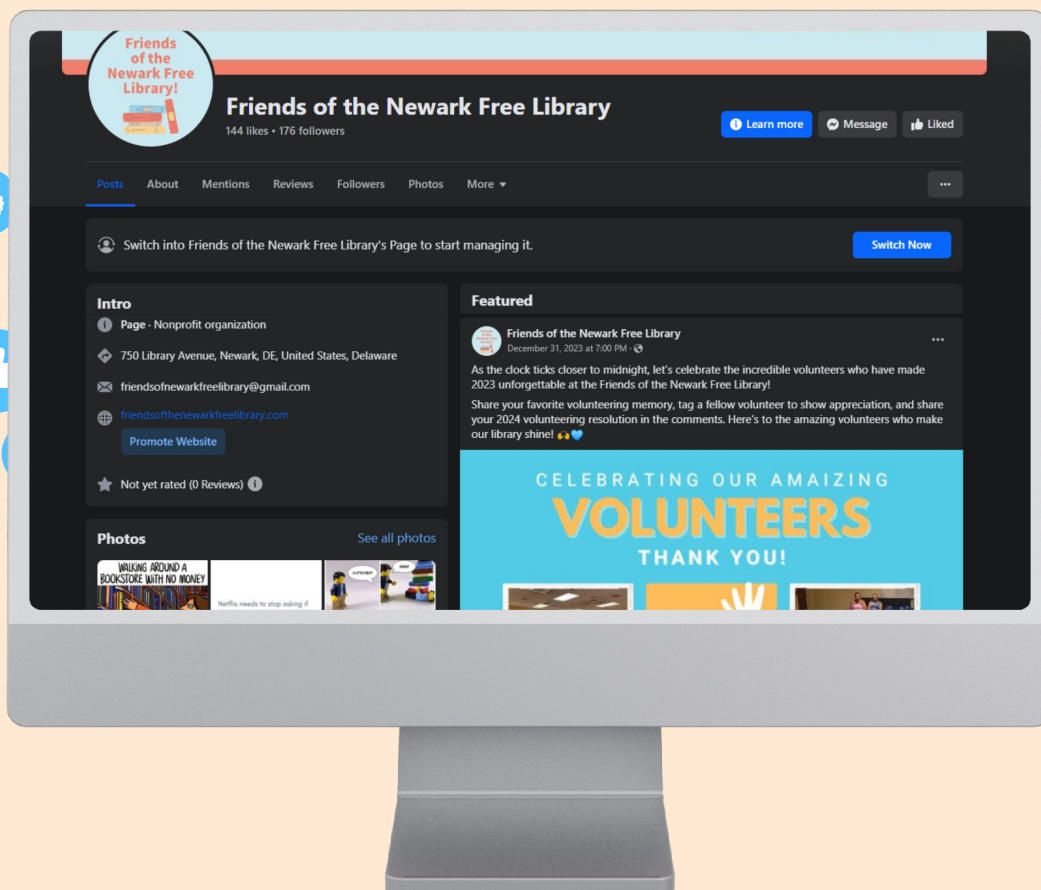
This is an exciting time for the Friends. We'd like to share updates with you about library events and news regarding the plans for our new library.

If you haven't already shared your email address with us, please consider doing so. We don't share your email with other organizations and don't send out frequent email updates. However, we want to keep you informed of opportunities to volunteer or share your opinions. As the cost of postage increases, digital delivery of our newsletter saves us money that can be used to benefit the library and its patrons.

Send your new or updated email address to:
friendsofnewarkfreelibrary@gmail.com

Okay!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



I'VE BEEN READING

Mike Nichols: A Life

By Mark Harris | Penguin Press, 2021; 673 pp. | Reviewed by Roy H. Lopa



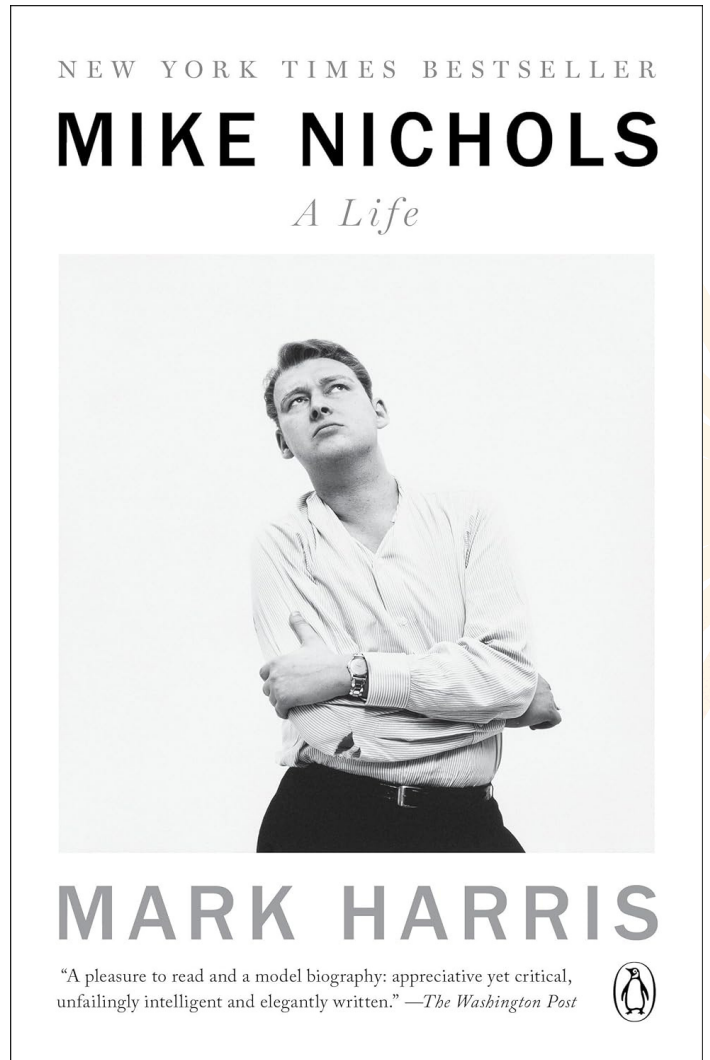
Mark Harris in his *Mike Nichols: A Life* has offered us a good book but not a great one, considering the almost unbelievable life that Nichols led. Harris had as source material Nichols's career as a performer and director of stage and screen that included his late 1950's and early 60's cult classic comedy duo with Elaine May; his groundbreaking film direction of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *The Graduate*, *Carnal Knowledge*, *Working Girl*, *Silkwood*, *The Birdcage*, and *Angels in America*. On Broadway, he directed *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Plaza Suite*, *Annie*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *Spamalot*. These are just samples from a career that ranged across every movie and stage genre imaginable.

Nichols's personal life provided a biographer with enough details to fill a book of their own. For example, we learn that Nichols, a Jew born in Germany in 1931, escaped the Nazis when he was seven years old. Barely speaking two sentences of English, he joined his three-year old brother and together they sailed alone to join their father in New York City. Nichols, not surprisingly, had a very difficult time adjusting to his family's new life in America, especially after his father died when Nichols turned thirteen. He had few friends and a fraught relationship with his mother. Despite an uneven grammar school academic record, he managed to test into the University of Chicago in 1950.

It was in Chicago where he found his niche. He joined an acting improv group called *Compass Players* -the predecessor to the famed *Second City* troupe. This eventually led to his meeting Elaine May and their development of a new and exciting satirical comedy act that became an overnight nationwide sensation at nightclubs and on television.

Before his death in 2014, Nichols managed to have four wives including television newscaster Diane Sawyer. He dated women like Jacqueline Kennedy, Gloria Steinem, and others too numerous to mention. All the while Nichols struggled with depression, a cocaine addiction, and a smoking habit he could not shake. He also had a heart attack and a nervous breakdown. Somehow, he squeezed in time to raise prize winning Arabian horses.

So, this ought to be a biography that cannot be put down. Unfortunately, while the first half of the book holds the



readers interest, especially with Nichols's difficult childhood, the remainder of the volume bogs down with tedious details of Nichols's numerous projects including struggles to finance movie and stage ideas, casting problems, difficulties in rehearsals, and feuds with and between cast members. While these background descriptions help explain some bombs like *Day of the Dolphin*, after a while it becomes difficult to separate one project from the next.

In summary, if you are deeply interested in a life that impacted much of stage and screen in the United States through the last half of the twentieth century, you will find Harris's volume worth the read but do not feel obligated to read each chapter – you can skip a few and still grasp Mike Nichols's crucial role in the history of American show business.

The Face Behind the Films: A Chat With Bryan Gollicker



By Lisa Brown, FNFL Communications Specialist

Step into the world of movie magic as we unveil the secrets behind our iconic Friday Film Series! Meet Bryan Gollicker, the mastermind behind two decades of cinematic delights at Newark Free Library. A Library Specialist and passionate film buff, Bryan's been curating your Friday favorites since 2003. Join us as we dive into the enchanting world of films and discover the genius behind the films!

Q. How do you choose movies for the Friday Film Series?

A. Originally, there were a lot of foreign films, and maybe 5-10 people would attend. To make it more accessible, I shifted to current, lesser-known films, often Oscar-nominated or from Sundance. Since the audience is older, I choose films that would especially appeal to those in their 50s and 60s.

Q. Can you share a memorable First Friday Film that was particularly well-received?

A. If the film I select wins an Oscar, it usually draws a packed audience. Timeliness is crucial—when a film is on TV, and within a month, it's available at the library, it's always a hit. We've had some movies with 60-70 attendees!

Q. How did you decide to pursue a career as a Library Specialist?

A. I enjoy helping people, and the library gave me a unique way to do that. People think I must know a lot, but it's more that I know where to find things. Through the process of helping people, you learn a little bit about everything.

Q. Can you share your innovative approach to organizing DVDs?

A. Growing up in video stores and working at Blockbuster fueled my passion for movies. I used this background to improve our library's film collection, organizing it by genres like drama and comedy with added sub-sections. Inspired by film history classes at UD, I'd like to further categorize classics by decade, making the collection even more browser-friendly.

Q. How do you stay current with trends?

A. Staying plugged into pop culture is key. I focus on ordering items based on what people want rather than just my preferences. I also collaborate with colleagues. Leveraging each other's expertise allows us to better assist patrons.

Q. How do you balance traditional library offerings with new technologies to meet the needs of library patrons?

A. Despite the rise of digital media, people still value physical items. While ebooks are convenient, maintaining a substantial collection of physical books is crucial. Some libraries make the mistake of reducing book collections when opening new branches, leaving patrons feeling the library lacks substance. Embracing our vintage image is



Bryan and his dogs: Holly, a collie/Shepherd mix, and Pepper, a Great pyrenees/Newfie/Retriever mix

The Face Behind the Films: A Chat With Bryan Gollicker (Continued)

important. It would be cool if we could incorporate pictures of Newark and its history in the new library. Striking a balance between future technology while preserving our vintage roots is key.

Q. If you could recommend one book or resource to every library patron, what would it be and why?

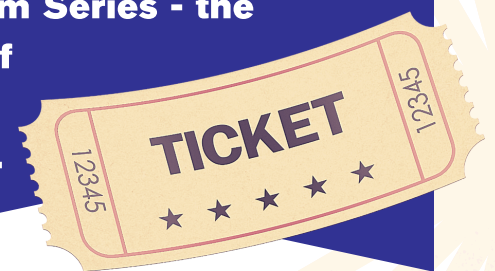
A. Because I love movies, I frequently recommend JoBlo, a website with movie listings and reviews. I also introduce patrons to our online test prep resources, like Learning Express.

Q. If you could pick anything for the new library to have, what would you want it to have?

A. I'd like a dedicated room for adult programs with comfortable theater seating that we could use for movies, music events, and talks. Having more study

rooms and an on-site social worker with daily office hours would be nice too. Often, patrons seek immediate assistance, and having a social worker available daily would address this need effectively. I'd also love to have a career expert on staff since we get a lot of requests for career help.

As the curtain falls on our conversation with Bryan Gollicker, we invite you to join us for films, fun, and community at our **Friday Film Series - the first Friday of the month from 2-4 pm.**



HALLOWEEN FUN!



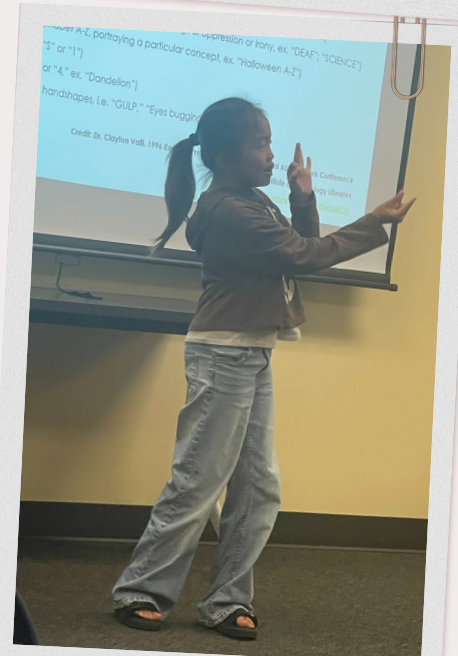
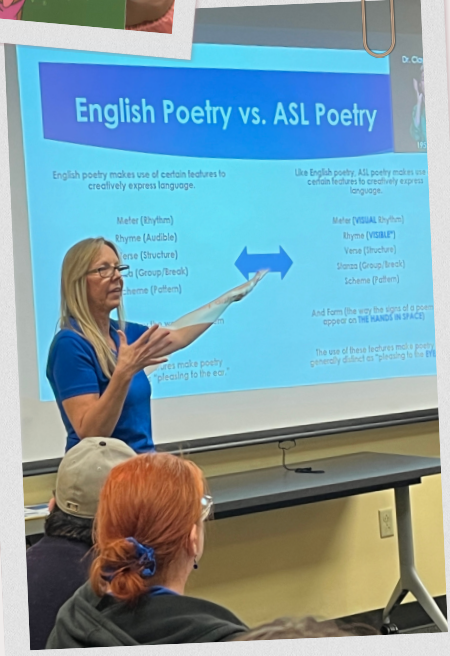
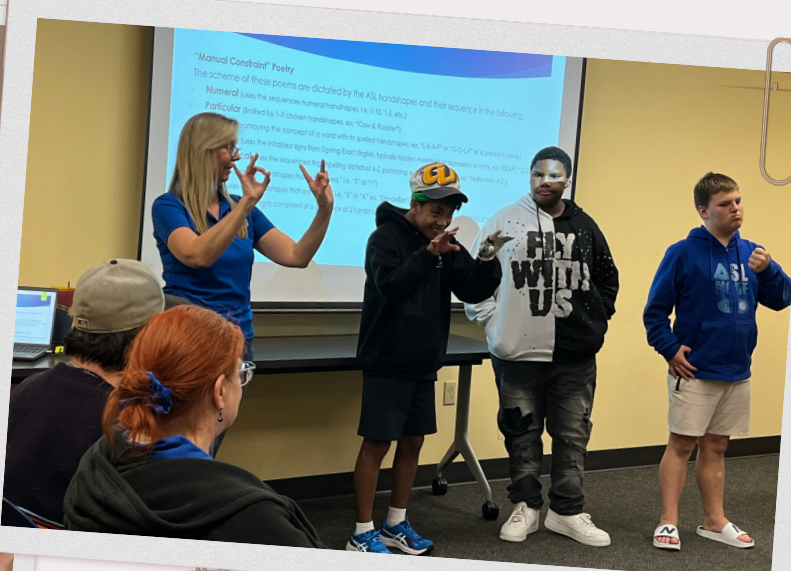
Katy Ferrero, FNFL Correspondence Secretary

The library staff and Friend's volunteers hosted two holiday events for children and families at the library. In the morning the children arrived in costumes ready for Halloween story time. They were entertained by library staff (also in costumes!) with stories, songs, and crafts.

Dressed as a wizard, Matt Symes led the children on a Halloween parade around the library. The Friends provided refreshments, as well as a free book for each child (funded by the Dianich donation).

Later in the evening, the Friends participated in passing out candy during the Trick or Treat event in the library. Thank you to the board members and volunteers from the Friends who helped make these events happen!





WE ❤️ OUR FRIENDS

Friends of the Newark Free Library
750 Library Avenue
Newark, DE 19711

