



## *Light of Literacy Awards Ceremony*

Please consider nominating any organizations, groups, businesses or individuals who have demonstrated a dedication to excellence in one of the literacy categories, or an individual or program that has motivated others to support the cause of literacy. To view more details about the award categories and to fill out a nomination form, visit the library's website page at [www.lightofliteracy.org/nominate](http://www.lightofliteracy.org/nominate). We look forward to recognizing the many deserving "luminaries" among us who, through their innovation, dedication and commitment, have done so much to promote literacy in our community. Tickets for the event may be purchased online until May 11th. The Light of Literacy Awards Ceremony is also an ideal way for organizations to demonstrate their support of literacy in Wicomico County, by helping to sponsor the event. Visit [www.lightofliteracy.org/sponsor](http://www.lightofliteracy.org/sponsor) to elect from one of several levels of sponsorship, which also include tickets to the event.

## *Did You Know That . . . ?*

- A** Friends' Membership:
- enables the member to select 2 free items from the Bookshelf?
  - enables the member to enjoy a 10% discount on all items purchased from the Bookshelf?
  - gives the member the privilege of having the first choice of previewing all materials on display for purchase during our fall and spring book sales during our "Members Only" night?
  - costs as little as \$15 for 1 person or \$25 for an entire family?
  - entitles anyone with a \$50 membership to select a candle of their choice from the selection available in the Bookshelf?
  - entitles anyone with a \$100 membership to select one of the beautiful mugs available in the Bookshelf?
  - provides the member with a special library card for borrowing or renewing books and materials from any of the library branches?

If you have not already done so, please consider purchasing or renewing a membership in the Friends of the Library today. Memberships can be selected and/or renewed online at [www.wicomicolibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library](http://www.wicomicolibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library).

## *Spring Cleaning?*

We are happy to accept new or gently used books that are in good condition! Biographies, fiction and nonfiction books, as well as children's literature, are always popular with readers, while the most sought-after books are the classics! Please also consider sharing history, art and music volumes, along with CD's and DVD's. Donations should be left at the loading dock (where the Bookmobile is parked) and placed in the large bins provided. All acceptable materials will then be displayed for purchase in the Bookshelf or the Book Fair and/or made available at one of the Little Free libraries located throughout the community.

## *How Do the Friends Benefit The Public Libraries?*

The Friends organization provides the Wicomico Public Library with additional funding for many services they offer that might otherwise be limited or unavailable for members of our community. Some of the initiatives that our efforts have supported in the past include: Adult Special Programming, Staff Day Training, the Children's Holiday Program, the Homework Help Center and Project Read (which encompassed the Job Search Center and Summer Reading). The Friends have also provided supplementary supplies and items to support Library programming.

Your support of the Friends organization enables us to continue helping the Wicomico Public Library benefit citizens of all ages through their efforts to provide as many resources, services and programs as possible. Thank you for continuing to help us do even more through your Friends' membership, and by patronizing the Bookshelf, our Fall and Spring Book Fairs and any additional book sales held during other community events. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer in the Bookshelf or at one of our events, please contact Untia Bigelow at [ubigelow@wicomico.org](mailto:ubigelow@wicomico.org) or by calling 410-749-3612, ext. 140.

*Highlighting Volunteers –  
Richard and Marion Keenan*



*“Volunteers do not get paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”*

*– Sherry Anderson*

Richard and Marion Keenan have been active members of our community for the greater part of their adult lives. Each was a former instructor for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Marion having been a full-time lecturer of philosophy there for 6 years, while Richard enjoyed a 35-year professorship at the university, acting as chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages for the last nine years of his career. Additionally, while serving as an adjunct professor at Salisbury University, Richard taught film courses offered through the English department, and Marion was an adjunct professor for the philosophy department there. In addition to her university teaching, Marion taught online courses on Ethics in Hospice Management for NHPCO (National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization).

Eventually, Marion became a member of the Board of Trustees for Peninsula Region Medical Center (now Tidal Health). This role, in addition to her experience with teaching Medical Ethics courses, along with an interest in palliative care, made her a natural fit for what eventually led to Marion’s appointment as the first executive director for Coastal Hospice. She would continue to serve in this position for 25 years, from 1983 until her retirement in 2008. Under her leadership as its president, Coastal Hospice

grew to serve four counties on the Eastern Shore, assisting tens-of-thousands of patients. In addition to her duties for Coastal Hospice, she also found time to serve as a former president of the Salisbury Rotary Club, and is now an honorary member of the organization.

Richard’s involvement with the Wicomico County Public library began when he became a member of The Board of Trustees - a responsibility he assumed while still teaching at UMES and one that he continued to accept for 10 years. After retirement from UMES in 2007, Richard more actively supported our local libraries by remaining on the Board as a member, additionally assuming the role of Chair of The Board of Trustees from 2012-2022. He has further served as a member and chair of the Board’s steering committee while continuously volunteering with the Friends of the Library for nearly 15 years. Having joined Richard in helping the Friends organization, both Marion and he now volunteer in the Bookshelf on Thursday afternoons. They share a strong passion for books and libraries, and love having the opportunity to read while volunteering in the Bookshelf, where they especially enjoy meeting and chatting with patrons who visit the store. In addition to volunteering in the Bookshelf each week, Richard continues to be actively involved with helping organize the Light of Literacy Awards Breakfast each year and the Friends’ annual fall and spring book sales.

His love of literature and lifelong interest in film compelled Richard to write a book of his own entitled, *The Films of Robert Wise* (well-known director of 37 films, including such classics as *The Sound of Music*, *West Side Story*, *Star Wars* and *The Day the Earth Stood Still*). After meeting and consulting with Robert Wise numerous times, Richard’s book ultimately was completed and then published by Rowen and Littlefield. It received many favorable reviews (including one from the Directors’ Guild of America) and now the Paul S. Sarbanes Branch of the Wicomico County Public Library houses a copy on its shelves. Marion and Richard have traveled extensively since retirement and were delighted and amazed to have once seen a copy of Richard’s book on display while browsing in a bookstore in Amsterdam!

Married for 56 years, they are the parents of one daughter, a son and 5 grandchildren. This energetic, selfless couple has devoted decades to serving others and to helping better our community. In an age where time to devote ourselves to community causes seems increasingly less available, their commitment to helping others is truly inspiring and deeply appreciated. Thank you, Richard and Marion, for your extraordinary generosity and dedication!



*FRIENDS OF WICOMICO PUBLIC LIBRARY*

SPRING 2023

# *NEWSLETTER*

## *Letter From the Director*

Friends,

Thank you for your support of the library and our community. We depend on our Friends of the Library members for their volunteerism and for their help generating funding vital to the operation of the library.

And now we need our Friends to help us again. I would like to ask each of you to consider whether or not there is a person or group you can nominate to receive a Light of Literacy award, and then to take the few minutes required to submit your nomination.

We believe our Friends members are some of the best connected and most knowledgeable of the good work being done in our communities. As you consider possible nominees, remember that literacy is about more than reading, as the emphasis on digital literacy this year is meant to highlight. Literacy is most basically about having the tools and skills necessary to thrive in our world. So think about it this way if it helps: Who do you know out there helping other people learn to better thrive - whether they are doing that work to great fanfare or, even better, quietly with little public recognition?

Nominations are due on March 14th and I hope we'll receive many submissions from our Friends.

Seth Hershberger

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## *Upcoming Events*

*Spring Book Sale*

*April 14-16, 2023*

*(Friends Preview sale April 13, 5-7 p.m.)*

*Light of Literacy Awards Ceremony*

*May 18, 2023 8:00-10:00 a.m.*

*Wicomico Youth and Civic Center*

*Award Nominations Accepted Until March 14, 2023*

*Purchase tickets online until May 11th*

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