



# FRIENDS OF WICOMICO PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER 2023

# NEWSLETTER

## Spring Book Sale

The Friends of Wicomico Public Library would like to thank all volunteers who offered their time and energy to help with the Spring Book Sale this year! We are very appreciative of the support we received from many new volunteers, and wish to extend a special thank you to all those (first-time and experienced) who helped by working multiple shifts and days at the event. Thanks to your combined efforts, our proceeds were the second-highest from a spring Book Sale on record since 2015, and we experienced our greatest fiscal year on record for Book Sales dating back to the fall of 2014. Our book sales from Spring 2023, Fall 2022 and the 2022 Folk Festival flash sale netted us a total profit of \$9,410.64.

We are also pleased to report that since 2017 the Friends have raised a total of \$212,000 through our book sales and other numerous activities and initiatives - despite our activities being curtailed for two of those years due to unprecedented Covid restrictions. Your support made this possible and has enabled us to make many additional contributions to our Wicomico Public Library!

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## Upcoming Events

*2023 Folk Festival*

*September 22 – 24*

*Please plan to join us again for our next book sale to be held at the Paul S. Sarbanes Branch (downtown library) throughout the weekend of the festival!*

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## Letter From the Director

We were proud to shine a spotlight on the Luminaries and Nominees at this year's Light of Literacy Awards. We are thankful for the amazing things those individuals and organizations are doing to advance literacy in our community. Their mission is our mission.

We at the library love books. We think reading is an important skill unique in its ability to enable education, spark innovation and provide inspiration. But the library also leads in recognizing that being literate means possessing all the skills needed to thrive. This year's theme and special award in the area of Digital Literacy highlights the library and its partners' role in helping people thrive in a world that largely functions in a digital environment.

Thank you to our Friends of the Library steering committee and volunteers who led in organizing the Light of Literacy awards. I've heard from so many who were inspired simply by attending the event. This would not have been possible without the vision and careful planning of the Friends of the Library.

Please consider becoming a Friends of the Library supporter, or renewing your membership. You can learn about the benefits, and the different tiers of membership on our website at [wicomicolibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library](http://wicomicolibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library).

By becoming a Friend of the Library, you actively support the special mission of the public library to be a valuable resource enabling life-long education, innovation, and inspiration for the residents of Wicomico County.



*Seth Hershberger, Jordie Clark, Maryland State Senator - Mary Beth Carozza, Farah Yahya, Audrey Orr, and Charles Dashiell*

*Highlighting Volunteers –  
Liz Layton*



Liz Layton became involved with the Friends of the Library 10 years ago when she assumed the responsibility for managing the Bookshelf (located in the lobby of the Paul S. Sarbanes Branch of the downtown library). Although the book store was already in existence when she joined, members of the Friends were taking on several new initiatives at that time, and Liz willingly agreed to help with setting up, organizing and running the Bookshelf. Since then she has trained most volunteers who work in the store and has been instrumental in making numerous suggestions for improvements to the day-to-day operations and organization of the store. Among her other responsibilities, Liz can often be found stocking and arranging incoming books and conducting sales in the Bookshelf on a regular basis, stating that she “loves working there, talking to other book lovers, and discovering new authors.” Due largely to her efforts and commitment, the Bookshelf has continuously grown in popularity over the years and is a major source of additional funding for our Wicomico Public Library. As an active and vital member of the Friends of the Library, Liz also helps with the annual spring and fall book sales and other FOL fundraisers.

Liz was raised in New York City, attended Smith College in Massachusetts as a zoology major, and then returned to New York after graduation, where she was employed at Sloan Kettering working on cancer research pertaining to mouse leukemia. She and her husband, Garrett, moved to Salisbury in 1966, where she has been an active member of the community ever since. By 1967 she was working at our local hospital. Through her position there, Liz was sent to the Center For Disease Control where she learned how to set up the Infection Control Department at what was then Peninsula General Hospital (now Tidal Health). After her first child was born, Liz continued to work part time at the hospital for the next 15 years. In 1990 she earned a master’s degree in English from Salisbury University and then worked as an adjunct instructor at Wor-Wic Community College, teaching courses in literature, writing and composition. She volunteered to teach the Junior Great Books program at Pinehurst Elementary School and worked at WSCL radio station. Later she recorded the minutes for the Eastern Shore Symphony Society, Salisbury School and the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra in her role as a board member for each of those organizations.

Although her husband continues to work for Morgan Stanley, and Liz still volunteers on a regular basis, they love to travel, often spending time visiting their two children and 6 grandchildren. Thank you, Liz, for your many contributions and tireless involvement in our community!

*Become a Friend of the Library*

Friends of Wicomico Public Library is a member-supported group of library advocates and fundraisers. Every dollar raised from memberships, book sales, and fundraising events goes directly into the library system supporting programs and services. Visit our webpage for more information at [www.wicomicolibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library](http://www.wicomicolibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library) or scan the qr code below.

