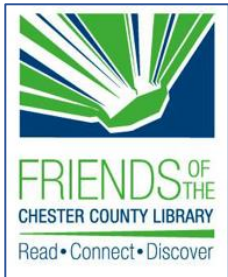


# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Improving the lives of library users through advocacy, service, and funding

Spring 2024



## A SPRING IN OUR STEP

We're excited, friends! Spring is on the horizon and with it a whole new crop of programs, events, and fun at the Chester County Library. In this issue, we share stories about how we engage with the Chester County community, tease our upcoming **Friends Spring Book Sale**, celebrate our amazing library staff, and so much more. Keep reading for all the details!

## GROWING OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Book clubs for all ages. Story times for kids. Chess and gaming clubs for teens. A tech center and makerspace for all. Cultural celebrations throughout the year. These are just a few of the programs and events offered by the Chester County Library—and supported by The Friends.



Libraries are so much more than just books. Our amazing staff, the library's leadership, The Friends, and our volunteers work hard to offer our patrons as many programs and events as we can. Every single thing on our busy calendar is offered with one goal in mind: to create a lasting connection with as many members of the Chester County community as possible.

The Friends helped support various features at recent cultural celebrations, including henna artists for Diwali and The Penn Lions dancers, decorations, and food for Lunar New Year. Over 175 people attended the party! Access the library event calendar at [www.ccls.org](http://www.ccls.org) to see what is planned for the months ahead.





## BRIGHT IDEAS

(made with your help!)

Your patronage at our spring and fall book sales help us sponsor not only programs and initiatives, but also equipment and structures that help make your time at the library even more rewarding. Colorful, functional, comfortable, and creative, these items are how we put your support to use—and then you get to use *them*. It's your generosity come to life.

### WHEELY HELPFUL

You're in luck if you visit the library by bike this spring and summer. The library has a new bike rack and repair center. Secure your ride *and* make any needed tune-ups—all from the comfort of the parking lot. It's our way of saying, "Thanks for visiting!"



### ONE FISH, TWO FISH...

Little library visitors will have a blast sitting on this colorful, new rug in the kids' play area in Youth Services. Plus, it's not just a comfy place to sit and check out the fish in the aquarium. It's also a way for kids to practice their numbers and counting.



### A TECH-NICAL MARVEL



From computers to 3D printers and STEM kits to die-cutting machines, our Jacobs Technology Center and Makerspace are treasure troves of tech, equipment, machines, and more. While The Friends have helped purchase several printers and machines, we also routinely support keeping supplies in stock. If you've never visited this amazing spot on the second floor, the time is now! Embark on a creative endeavor, get help with computing, or even convert those old VHS tapes into DVDs. The possibilities are virtually endless. And there's a friendly staff ready to help with anything you need.

# FRIENDS SPRING BOOK SALE

## APRIL 12, 13 & 14

Our next Book Sale is scheduled for **April 12 - 14**. Recent bestsellers and books in a variety of subjects including history, music, art, religion, romance, science, humor, sports, gardening, and crafts will be available for purchase at bargain prices. Music and movie CDs and DVDs are priced at \$0.50 each. A huge selection of children's books will be available in a separate room. Check out our **Specials Room** for a huge selection of children's books. (**Please note:** we accept cash, checks or Paypal, but not credit cards.)

The sale starts on **Friday, Apr. 12 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. for members of the Friends of the Chester County Library**. All Friday night attendees must have a current membership before they get into line outside the Struble Room. Place-saving using boxes, crates, etc. is not allowed.

Memberships start at \$15 for an individual and \$20 per household and can be purchased in advance by mailing in the membership form (available at the Library or on *The Friends* website) or by purchasing a membership at the Library's Main Checkout Desk prior to 4:30 p.m. on Friday night. There will also be a membership sign-up table beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday night. **Memberships can also be obtained online with a PayPal account. (Must be done prior to Apr. 10 to attend the Friday night sale.)**

The sale is open to the public starting on Saturday, Apr. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, Apr. 14 is Bag Sale Day, which takes place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We supply the bag; you fill it and pay \$10. Show your 2024 Friends membership card and pay only \$7 per bag. For less than a whole bag, the books will be sold at half-price.

*All proceeds from the Book Sale benefit the Chester County Library.*

**Save the Date!** Friends Fall Book Sale will be held Oct. 4-6, 2024.

*"The Friends would like to thank the many volunteers who work to make our Book Sales a success.  
We could not do it without you."*



It's that time of year again! First celebrated in 1958, **National Library Week** is sponsored by the American Library Association and celebrates our nation's libraries and library workers' contributions, while also promoting library use and support. This year, several of the days of the week have special themes:

**Monday, Apr. 8: Right to Read Day**  
**Tuesday, April 9: National Library Workers Day**  
**Wednesday, April 10: National Library Outreach Day**  
**Thursday, April 11: Take Action for Libraries Day**

Whether it's a simple, "Thank you." or an email of support, please make sure to celebrate the hardworking Chester County Library staff.

**Friends Meetings:** The Board meets at the library on the *first Tuesday of each month* with the exception of July. The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Chester County Library is held the *first Tuesday in December*.

Contact us at [cclfriends@ccls.org](mailto:cclfriends@ccls.org) for more information.

The Friends of the Chester County Library

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[www.chescolibraries.org/about](http://www.chescolibraries.org/about) 610-344-4433





## WHAT A CREW!

“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”  
— Albert Einstein

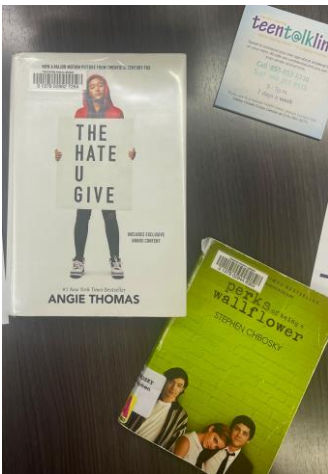


“Librarians save lives: by handing the right book, at the right time, to a kid in need.”  
—Judy Blume



In the spirit of National Library Week and celebrating the plethora of programs and events held at the Chester County Library for our community, we want to acknowledge those who make it all happen: the knowledgeable, trained, and kind librarians, library workers, and volunteers. This stellar group of humans always lead with one important question: “How can I help you?” Thank you for your help, patience, generosity of spirit, and heart. We (The Friends, patrons, bookworms, community members, etc.) would be lost without you!

## THE POWER OF BOOKS



As the banning of books in public spaces proliferates across our country, library staff and readers alike are taking action to make sure intellectual freedom and the right to read are protected and nurtured at their libraries and in their communities.

During this past October’s Banned Books Week, Chester County Library’s Community Engagement and Reference Librarian Kelly Quigg participated in a program born from a discussion with the LGBT Equality Alliance Board’s Vice-President. With the enthusiastic permission of The Friends, Kelly took two frequently banned books from the stacks (see left) and created book kits to “release” as part of the BookCrossing program. BookCrossing is a website for sharing and tracking the movement of books.

Kelly’s passionate about this issue, sharing, “Book banning tells individuals that resemble the characters in banned books—especially LGBT people and people of color—that they are unwelcome, unaccepted, and even dangerous. Neither the books, nor the people represented in them, are dangerous, but this type of thinking sure is.”

Although she didn’t get any updates on the books once they were out “in the wild,” Kelly’s hopeful that “...finders simply enjoyed the books so much that they couldn’t bear to pass them on to someone else.” Still, her goal of working to make sure patrons see themselves in the books on the shelves is as strong as ever. A recent interaction with a patron showed her that her passion is paying off. She says, “I recently had a library visitor tell me that Maya Kobabe’s graphic novel, *Gender Queer*, literally saved their child’s life.” Books have power, and Kelly, librarians, library workers, and readers are lucky to be the stewards of it.