
Next Book Sale Friday, June 2, 10–5, and Saturday, June 3, 10–4

Meet Rachel West, Hockessin Library's New Manager

Meet Rachel West, Hockessin's new library manager. Rachel comes to us from Appoquinimink Library, where she was the youth services librarian for five years. Rachel says that she is very excited to be on the managerial side of things in her new position. Rachel replaced Beth Borene, who moved to the Kirkwood Library in April.

Rachel is originally from Georgia and moved to Delaware 12 years ago. She started her career as a legal assistant and then decided to switch fields and become a librarian. She completed her master's degree in library science from Drexel University in 2012 and has been working in libraries ever since. Rachel says that being a librarian is a vocation and not just a job. As her parents met in a bookstore, you could say she was destined to spend her career with books. She likes helping people, loves to read, and is very organized—all-important qualities in a librarian.

Rachel lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania, with her partner Jay and 16-year-old dog Savvy, who will be having a sweet 16 party soon. Rachel's favorite book is *The Princess Bride*, and she also likes the movie. She enjoys cooking, particularly Southern food and Indian dishes, crocheting, and live music. She considers herself a new plant mom and is taking advantage of the sunlight from her office window to grow her houseplants.

Rachel says that she is looking forward to serving the Hockessin community in her new role as manager and supporting the library's excellent staff members. The Friends of the Hockessin Library are excited to be working with Rachel.



Rachel West in her Hockessin Library office

Among Friends

One of the things I enjoy about being president of the Friends of the Hockessin Library (FOHL) is meeting new people, like the volunteers at book drops and book sales and our book-sale customers. This spring I met Rachel West, the new manager of the Hockessin Library. Rachel joined the library in April, taking over for Beth Borene. Beth moved to the Kirkwood Library; I will miss working with Beth, and we all wish her well in her new role. The FOHL looks forward to working with Rachel.

2023–2024 Executive Committee

Every year at our May meeting, the FOHL Board votes in the new Executive Committee. At this year's meeting, the following Executive Committee members were elected: President Geri Krolin-Taylor, Vice-President Cindy Gamble, Treasurer Juli Powers, and Secretary Maria Iverson.

I want to thank all the FOHL Board members for all they do for the organization: Arthur Au, Susan Foster, Cindy Gamble, Becky Green, Cameron Green, Maria Iversen, Linda Lauria, Sirena Manista, Sandy Massa, Reza Moqtaderi, Juli Powers, Terri Ristine, and Doris Roth.

Retiring Board Members

Two board members retired recently: Elaine Serpe and Arthur Au.

The FOHL December Board meeting was a celebration for retiring Board Member Elaine. She was on the FOHL Board for 20 years, served on many committees, and was instrumental in so many aspects of the organization. During my term, Elaine chaired the Membership, Public Relations, and Social Media Committees. She volunteers for the book sales and book drops. She is a treasured FOHL resource, and I often look to her for organizational knowledge. Elaine, who is soon to be a grandmother for the first time, will continue to volunteer at book sales and book drops. Thank you, Elaine!



Geri Krolin-Taylor and Elaine Serpe

Arthur, who has been our treasurer since the fall of 2020, retired from the Board in May. In addition to serving as treasurer, Arthur is a regular volunteer at our book sales and book drops, when he is not in the middle of tax season as he is a tax accountant. Arthur will transition the treasurer duties to Juli Powers over the summer. Thank you, Arthur!

New Board Member

In December 2022, Juli Powers joined the FOHL Board. Juli lives in Newark and is an ICS relationship manager III/vice president with Wilmington Trust/M&T Bank in Wilmington. Juli loves to read and is a member of several book clubs. She is our new treasurer and enjoys helping with our book drops. Welcome, Juli!

Signs and Designs

There are two more people I want to thank. Library Specialist Cheryl Clem designs our book sale and book drop announcements that we put on Facebook, add to the website, and give out at the library. Thanks, Cheryl! Another thank you goes to Antonio Narvaez, who has painted book sale and logo signs for us. The signs are lovely! Thank you, Antonio.

How the FOHL Supports the Library

With the money raised from book sales and memberships, we support the library in many ways. Over the past few months, the FOHL purchased items for the Library of Things, donated poinsettias during the holiday season, continued to maintain the Larry Thurrell Reading Garden, bought cubbies for the children's room, renewed Delaware Library Association memberships for our librarians, and provided funds for the adult summer reading program.

Enjoy the summer and visit the library often.

Geri Krolin-Taylor, President

Summer in the Library for Kids

It has been a beautiful spring here in the library. Story time kids have enjoyed diving into the Longwood Gardens Community Read family book for this year and will be taking advantage of the raised garden bed in the Larry Thurrell Reading Garden for our last session. But as much as we've enjoyed spring, summer is fast approaching and with that is the start of Summer with the Library for Children and Teens.

The Summer with the Library program runs June 1 through August 19. Participants are going to be asked to read 20 minutes each day to earn a book. Throughout the summer we'll have programs and activities to enhance the summer reading library experience.

See you soon!

Terri Jones, MLS, Youth Services Librarian

Beanstack Friend Code: WH58M1G

What is Beanstack? Beanstack is an online platform that motivates people to read by tracking when, how much, and what they read. Find reading recommendations, reading challenges, and motivational tools for readers of all ages at <https://ncde.beanstack.org>.

All Together Now

This year's Summer Reading Program for Adults begins June 1, 2023. The theme for all age groups is "All Together Now." For the seventh year in a row, all New Castle County Libraries will be offering a coordinated program, using the Beanstack online platform <https://nccde.beanstack.org>.

During the past several years, the Hockessin Library's adult patrons have successfully made the technological transition to using computer devices to track their summer reading. All are encouraged to register and share the love of reading! Although this year's program is still being developed at this time, I look forward to challenging the Hockessin community to increase our number of participants, books read, and reviews.

The library will also be offering special programming and events to highlight this year's theme. Stay tuned by signing up for our email newsletter. Here is the link to the library's webpage:
<https://www.newcastlede.gov/329/Hockessin-Library>

Staff thanks the Friends of the Hockessin Library for their generous, continual support, making the purchase of incentives for this year's program possible.

Much appreciated,
Shelley Stein, Adult Services Librarian



Dedicate a Book to Your Graduate

Celebrate your graduate's educational achievement by sponsoring the purchase of a new book for the Hockessin Library—give the gift of reading as a graduation present.

The Friends of the Hockessin Library holds a complete list of desired books to be purchased in every genre and category from fiction to biography to youth to reference. Each sponsored book will bear a nameplate dedication that can be customized. Most of all, this is a gift that keeps on giving, as it will be enjoyed by others for years to come.

For more information about the Friends of the Hockessin Library Gift Program, call Board member Cindy Gamble at (302) 489-9061 or email membership@friendsofthehockessinlibrary.org.

Give the Gift of Reading

Honor your graduate by sponsoring a new book for the Hockessin Library and dedicating it to your graduate.

Donor Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Beneficiary or Honoree _____

Book - Area of Interest _____

Notify? Yes ___ No ___ Phone _____

Address _____

Special Information to Include on Bookplate:

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Make check payable to Friends of the Hockessin Library. Mail to P.O. Box 55, Hockessin, DE 19707

New! Library of Things

The Library of Things at the Hockessin Library is up and running. This collection of non-traditional materials to borrow includes games, puzzles, and blood pressure monitors. As an initiative to lend objects instead of books, the Library of Things enables library users to borrow something rarely used rather than buying it. The Library of Things can be found in the short stacks behind the reference desk. The Friends of the Hockessin Library provide funds to purchase items for the Library of Things; watch how it grows over time.

At Left: Hockessin Library's Library of Things

Growing Our Ranks

With a desire to increase both our number of members and volunteers, the Friends of the Hockessin Library participated in the Hockessin Library Teen Fair and held a membership drive in the foyer of the Hockessin Library during April. Our Membership chair, Reza Moqtaderi, was delighted to report 7 teens signed up to volunteer on book collection and book sale days. Reza also noted the membership drive was a big success and increased our ranks by 10 percent.

We send a warm welcome to our new members and thank our current members for their support. Your FOHL membership supports the Hockessin Library in several ways:

- Raising funds to support library needs through used book sales and membership dues
- Maintaining the Larry Thurrell Reading Garden at the Hockessin Library for community enjoyment
- Advocating for the Hockessin Library by participating in events such as Library Legislation Day and the Library Board Friends Forum
- Promoting public awareness of the library, its activities, and services

If you are not yet a volunteer, please consider joining us by helping at a book sale, watering the reading garden, or in another small way. Volunteering for the FOHL offers an opportunity to meet others who live locally, spend some time in the library, and participate



Volunteers Susan Foster, Elaine Serpe, Geri Krolin-Taylor, Linda Lauria, and Sandy Dowling await the opening of our last book sale.

in our local community. Currently, volunteers are needed for these positions:

- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Schedule volunteers for book collection days and book sale days
- **Garden Waterer:** Join a small team that waters the Reading Garden during the growing season
- **Membership Table Staff:** Greet and inform library visitors about FOHL during our next membership drive in September (two-hour shifts)
- **Bus Trip Planner:** Help plan a bus trip for spring of 2024

To volunteer, simply send an email to membership@friendsofthehockessinlibrary.org, and we'll get back to you right away.

Thank you for choosing to give us your time and effort. We appreciate your help.

Friends Focus is published by the Friends of the Hockessin Library, Inc.

Please send comments or questions to:
P.O. Box 55, Hockessin, DE 19707 or email
membership@friendsofthehockessinlibrary.org

Officers

Gerri Krolin-Taylor	President
Cindy Gamble	Vice President
Juli Powers	Treasurer
Maria Iversen	Secretary

Hockessin Library Hours of Operation

Monday - Wednesday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Thursday	Closed
Friday & Saturday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Follow us!

www.facebook.com/friendsofthehockessinlibrary
www.friendsofthehockessinlibrary.org



2023 USED BOOK SALES

- June 2-3
- September 8-9
- November 17-18

Hockessin Library Community Room

- Several thousand gently used books in a variety of genres
- Cash or check only
- All proceeds benefit the Hockessin Library

friendsofthehockessinlibrary.org

