

"Farewell, George Needham" Interview

Most of us know that George Needham, Director of DCDL since Fall, 2015, is retiring on September 30. He has been an exemplary leader, strategist, and community collaborator. The Friends of DCDL can't thank him enough for his encouragement and support. I think readers will be very interested in George's answers to these interview questions as we work together to move the library – and the county – forward.

1) Although access to information has been democratized in the digital age, the report "The Future of Skills: Employment in 2030" says that librarians, curators, and archivists will be the 9th most in-demand professional group. Why?

Access to information may have been democratized to a certain degree, but it hasn't been organized very well, has it? Librarians, curators, and archivists have the skills that make it easier and more efficient to find the information that has mushroomed on the web. Libraries are the facilitators for acquiring organized, proprietary, expensive, and--most importantly--trustworthy information that isn't out there on the "free" web. Also, we care deeply about issues like provenance, copyright, authenticity, and preservation, in contrast to the tech companies, which see information as a commodity or as a by-product of their marketing efforts. Librarians and other cultural heritage professionals are constantly looking for the material that will have lasting value. (Interview continued on Page 2)

Book Sale Coordinators

Three of our great volunteers agreed to be Book Sale Coordinators for 2023. Karen Cowan, President, said "With Brad Cowan going off the Board at the end of 2022, we wanted to make sure our book sales continued in the same well-organized fashion that they have been in the past, so we divided the Book Sale Manager into two different components - Delaware Sale and Liberty Sale.

Karyn Grieser will coordinate our Delaware sales and Donna and Steve Jackson will coordinate the Liberty sales. All three will shadow Brad to find out the "nuts and bolts" of book sale. Karen added, "We need a Liberty coordinator rather than an Orange coordinator because our Friends offices and one of our book sale sites will be at Liberty Library. Sales will still be held at Delaware because we currently have the set-up to hold book sales without moving and carrying a lot of boxes. Many thanks to Donna, Steve and Karyn for taking on these important roles.

Liberty Maker Studio Fundraising

We have over \$20,000 pledged for our \$150,000 Maker Studio Fund Raising Campaign! We are raising money to equip the Maker Studio at Liberty and to help keep the technology current at both Liberty and Delaware. We have donations from families, businesses, and other organizations who understand the benefits of the Maker Studio to adults and children. Members of the Friends of DCDL who love the Library and want to help the Library meet its mission of "...using traditional and innovative technology to encourage curiosity, free inquiry, and lifelong learning in a friendly environment," are encouraged to donate for the Maker Studio. Donations can be made at <https://delawarelibraryfriends.org/maker-studio-donations-page/> or contact Karen Cowan at president@delawarelibraryfriends.org or 614-398-0434. Help us and the Library meet our goal!

We encourage everyone to visit the Maker Studio at Delaware to see the equipment and examples of the creative uses available to us all. We think you'll be impressed at the array of options waiting for you!

Calendar Highlights

Join us for these great Friends of DCDL events!

- 📖 Stop by our table on **July 11** and **August 1** at the Powell Lolli-Pops Concerts. Kids receive a free book!
- 📖 Our next book sale will be at **Delaware Main** on **August 12 from 5-8pm** and **August 13 from 9am-3pm**. We'll also have a **Media Sale on August 13** from 9am-3pm in the Community Room.
- 📖 Our (probably) final book sale at **Orange** will be **September 10 from 9am - 3pm** before we move our Friends offices and sales to Liberty.
- 📖 At the **Powell Street Market** visit our tent for a book sale on **September 18 from 9am - 4pm**.
- 📖 Our popular **Young Writers Workshops** return to **Orange on October 1** with tickets going on sale in early September. Stay tuned for ticket info!

Details on these events and more will be emailed to Friends members and are available on social media and at delawarelibraryfriends.org.

Welcome, Friends!

We welcome the following New Members:

Cindi Bardash	Katherine Budden	Marilyn Clark
Al and Charlene Kerze	Kent Krueger	Scott Pharon
Cheri Thompson	Lin Whelan	Vicki Weiland

At the William Kent Krueger luncheon, we had the privilege of being joined by Mary Jan Santos (*seated*), former Director of DCDL and a founder of the Friends of DCDL. Also pictured from left to right are Karen Cowan, William Kent Krueger and George Needham.

Join us for future author visits co-presented by DCDL and the Friends of DCDL:

Felicia Day on 10/15/22

Tommy Orange on 11/12/22

Neal Shusterman on 1/11/23



Board of Directors and Committees

Karen Cowan, President	president@delawarelibraryfriends.org
Doug Wilson, Vice President	vicepresident@delawarelibraryfriends.org
Linda Silverstein, Secretary	secretary@delawarelibraryfriends.org
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Standing Committee Chairs

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Nominations, Cheryl Stagg	treasurer@delawarelibraryfriends.org
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Publicity, Nichole Klatte	publicity@delawarelibraryfriends.org
Special Events, Penny Mong	events@delawarelibraryfriends.org

Keep Current with the Friends!



For up-to-date info on ticket releases, events and more!

Facebook: Friends of the Delaware Library (@FriendsoftheDelawareLibrary)

Instagram: Delaware Library Friends

Twitter: @friendsofDCDL DW Library Friends

Website: delawarelibraryfriends.org

Email: Make sure the Friends have your **preferred email address**. Send it to membership@delawarelibraryfriends.org.

Not receiving our email? Please check your spam folder for event notices, newsletters and other information. We use MailChimp and you can unsubscribe if you choose. Your email is not shared beyond the Friends and DCDL.

George Needham Interview (cont.)

2) The DCDL has become a multi-faceted resource focused on community-building and includes branches that serve very different neighborhoods and constituencies. The county also has two independent libraries: Wornstaff in Ashley and Community Library in Sunbury. How do you see the future of the libraries evolving with county growth?

We see Delaware County growing rapidly, and, like so many other public services, we find ourselves chasing a moving target. Our new Liberty Branch will serve the community around Powell, Liberty and Concord Townships, and the huge Olentangy Schools campus on Sawmill Parkway. A drive along Sawmill Parkway or any of the main roads that cross Sawmill shows hundreds of new houses, apartments, and condos under construction. We also see that the area around Ostrander, northern Concord Township, and Scioto Townships may be the next big growth area in our service district. Chauncey Montgomery at Community Library in Sunbury and Erin Francoeur at Westerville Public Library (which serves the parts of Genoa Township in the Westerville School District) are thinking about how to serve the equally busy areas around Polaris, Africa Road, and Galena. We try to serve best by serving together; we share many clients and try to ensure that there is service available to all Delaware County residents. And by all residents, I mean just that: we want to offer something to the many diverse clientele we see in Delaware County.

3) We are in the midst of a politicized atmosphere in which schools have become a battleground over what information should be presented about history and current events and what books should be offered. Can public libraries help address these issues?

Public libraries have traditionally been the place where people can find a broad spectrum of information, drawing upon a balanced collection that presents a variety of topics and opinions. We don't support a curriculum or a political stance. Our role is not to tell people what to think, but rather to offer tools to allow them to think for themselves. If we can continue to provide that service, we are accomplishing our mission.

4) What advice do you have for the Friends of DCDL as we seek to best support the library in the future?

I don't want to sound like I'm pandering to the members, but just keep doing what you are doing. The Friends provide funding and advocacy for the Library, and we sincerely appreciate the support you provide. And your constant support of the staff is so welcome in these crazy, high-friction times. So thank you - and stay the course! Submitted by Becky S. Cornett