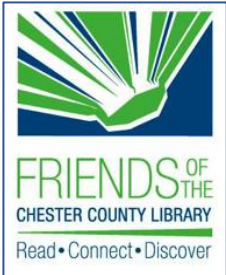


FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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

Fall 2025



IT'S BEEN A BOUNTI-FALL YEAR (SO FAR)! 🍁

It's almost fall, and you know what that means—crunchy leaves underfoot, sweater weather, pumpkin everything...and, of course, the **Friends Fall Book Sale**! We're back with all the scoop—from exciting new items the book sale proceeds have helped us harvest for the library, to the events and staff conferences we've been proud to support. Let's dig in!

PHILLY FUN & FRESH IDEAS: CCLS STAFF AT ALA 2025!

The Friends of the Chester County Library generously funded continuing education this year, sending 22 CCLS staff members to the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Some attended the full conference, others for a day, and all gained valuable insights from sessions on artificial intelligence, branding, cataloging, censorship, community engagement, inclusive libraries, gaming, literacy, programming, and staff support. Staff also attended keynote talks (including George Takei and Carla Hayden) and explored the extensive exhibit hall. All graciously thanked the Friends for the opportunity and shared highlights:

"I really enjoyed my one-day visit to ALA. I attended three sessions plus some poster sessions as well as visited the exhibition floor."
—Lois

"It was helpful to connect with other librarians and see how they're facing similar challenges that we face every day. I was able to attend sessions ranging from historical librarianship, to generative AI, to welcoming immigrant and refugee populations into the library."
—Jamie

"I was both impressed and proud to realize just how much Chester County Library & Henrietta Hankin Branch are already implementing many of the ideas and programs that were highlighted. Chester County Library truly is an innovative and cutting-edge library." —Kelly

"Attending ALA Annual was a rewarding experience. I was inspired to introduce a new program to our library and advocate for library users with dyslexia. I was able to meet many of my favorite authors."
—Danielle

ALA American Library Association

"I learned so much and left with lots of great ideas, as well as inspiration and affirmation. I left the conference enriched, inspired, and excited to return to the library with what I had learned."
—Laura

"This was the first ALA and was such a wonderful experience. I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to mingle and learn from peers in my field, and see the mass of vendors, authors, and other creatives who support the libraries under one roof." —Mikaila

"It was such a pleasure to attend ALA. This was my first time ever attending the conference, and I was so invigorated by what I experienced there. I feel re-energized and excited to do the work, not to mention a renewed pride in and fondness for my profession. It's great to be a librarian!" —Emily C.

cont'd

"I attended 15 sessions over three days, including 10 sessions focused on picture books, their authors, and their use in programming, infant programming, STEM programming, and upcoming title releases." —April

"Overall, it was a great chance to see/hear what's happening in libraries around the country and also interact with some new people. I had great conversations with a few different library workers, as well as exhibitors." —Lauren

NOTES FROM DIGIPALOOZA '25

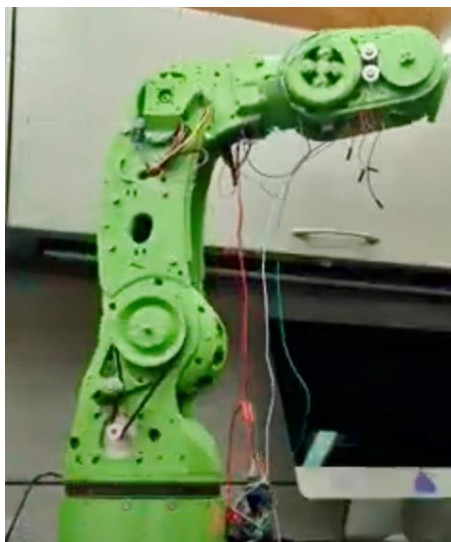
Stephanie Sharon-Missanelli shares four highlights from this year's Digipalooza conference, *"Libraries, Readers, and the Future We're Building Together."*

- Flexible access models can help librarians lower costs, serve patrons faster, and even build new collections (like world languages).
- Social media data should guide and strengthen CCL's content strategy and social posts.
- Artificial intelligence is reshaping libraries and publishing. OverDrive is committed to using it ethically and sustainably to enhance collection development and readers' advisory tools.
- Fairer licensing for e-materials is in the works, including potential ownership of at least one copy per title and eliminating time-based lending models—helping libraries build more sustainable e-collections.

Our biannual book sales are more than just a way for you to fill your shelves—they're the spark that fuels even more library magic. The funds raised go right back into supporting the library, its staff, and our community. From technology upgrades to multimedia resources to professional development opportunities, your love of books keeps inspiring new possibilities. Here are a few of the projects we were proud to sponsor this year...

COMFY, CREATIVE KIDS!

What good is a good book, puzzle, or computer game if kids don't have a comfy place to enjoy them? The Friends helped purchase these snazzy, new chairs for the Youth Services area.



WHAT THE TECH? A ROBOT ARM!

The Friends helped fund our new Robot Arm in the Jacobs Technology Center (JTC). Built from the ground up by JTC staff member, Remy Way, the arm is fully open-sourced and 3D-printed—meaning we can enhance it and even print replacement parts in the future.

This summer, the Robot Arm made its debut in our Teen Summer Reading Maker Programs, where participants learned the mechanics behind it and watched it perform tricks. Participants enjoyed learning the mechanics and logistics. Check out the arm in action here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mxb925sa>

This fall, we'll be offering more programs featuring the Robot Arm, and it will also be part of this September's **Library Card Sign-Up Fest**. This exciting new STEM addition now lives in our Makerspace, where patrons can get hands-on with it during Makerspace Open Hours.

FRIENDS FALL BOOK SALE

OCTOBER 3, 4 & 5

Our next Book Sale is scheduled for **October 3 - 5**. 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. Check out our **Specials Room** for book sets for all ages, including *Percy Jackson & the Olympians*, Roald Dahl collections, and *The Daily Stoic*. There's also several biographies, and a collection of works by Robert Louis Stevenson. All of these are perfect for holiday gifting! (**Please note:** We accept cash, checks, PayPal, or Venmo. We don't accept credit cards.)

The sale starts on **Friday, Oct. 3 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 p.m. on Friday night. **Memberships can also be obtained online with a PayPal account. (Must be done prior to Oct. 3 to attend the Friday night sale.)**

The sale is open to the public starting on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5 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 current 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.

"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."



Save the Dates!

This October, there are two important weeks for libraries. Mark your calendars and check out ala.org for more info!

Want to get involved? Go to bannedbookweek.org to learn how you can participate!



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 for more information.

The Friends of the Chester County Library
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THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

In May, the Chester County Library and Henrietta Hankin Branch Library hosted a special luncheon at Bone Fish to celebrate the dedicated volunteers whose generous service plays a vital role in supporting library programs and operations. Approximately 60 attendees were honored for the impact of the libraries' 152 active volunteers, who collectively donated an impressive **11,198 hours in 2024**.

Volunteers support the library in a wide variety of ways, from shelving books and assisting with events to helping in makerspaces and behind-the-scenes operations. Their contributions allow the library to extend its reach and maintain high-quality services for the community.

Among the many volunteers recognized, several individuals stood out for their extraordinary commitment. Four volunteers donated over 500 hours, and six exceeded the 1,000-hour mark.

A special recognition was given to **Theresa Hammond**, a Chester County Library Friends Board member, who has donated over **4,000 hours** of service over the years. In appreciation of her dedication, Hammond was presented with a commemorative clock.

In addition to celebrating volunteer contributions, the event acknowledged the ongoing support from the **Friends of the Chester County Library**. Our nonprofit organization funds numerous library initiatives, including staff appreciation events like this luncheon, professional development opportunities, furniture and equipment upgrades, essential resources for the libraries' makerspaces, and sponsorship of summer reading programs. CCL appreciates the Friends making this meaningful celebration possible.

Love libraries? Want to volunteer? For more information, visit <https://chescolibraries.org/about/how-you-can-help/volunteers/current-volunteer-opportunities/>



Below: Jenna Persick (left) and Ronna Dewey (right) present Theresa Hammond with her award.

