

AN EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF LEWES

OCTOBER 2021

# LEWES NEIGHBORS



*Brenda Jones*  
DESIGNING LEWES

Cover Photo by  
Rachel Swick Mavity



Best Version Media





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Alison Houck is a certified public accountant based in Sussex County. She is a University of Delaware graduate and was named as Best Accountant in Sussex County in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Alison is an attentive and earnest listener, she takes the time to really understand what is at the core of client issues. She serves on the Board of Ambassadors and Finance Committee for the Beebe Medical Foundation and the Board of Directors of Children & Families First of Delaware.

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#### Dave Mooney



Owner, Slide-Lok of the Eastern Shore  
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Dave Mooney is the hands-on owner of Slide-Lok of the Eastern Shore, Inc. This is a family operated business that treats each customer as they would want to be treated. There are no high pressure sale tactics here, just a team attentive to the needs and concerns of each individual person before, during, and most importantly, after the project has been completed. He stands by his work, even years later.

### RENOVATION / RESTORATION

#### Doug Catts



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Doug Catts' 15 years as a leader in construction has enabled him to compile a team of expert craftsman, creative design professionals and skilled back-office staff to create a positive and rewarding client experience with Randall Douglas, Inc., a premier renovation and restoration company in Coastal Sussex County. Whether it is a single bathroom remodel or a whole-house renovation, Doug and his team strive to exceed their clients' expectations with the highest quality work and honest and open communication throughout the design/build process. His expertise also allows him to manage Mid-Atlantic Builder, a company focusing on site-prep, hardscaping and tree removal.

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# LEWES NEIGHBORS

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## TIMETABLE OF MAGAZINE DEADLINES

December 10	January
January 10	February
February 10	March
March 10	April
April 10	May
May 10	June
June 10	July
July 10	August
August 10	September
September 10	October
October 10	November
November 10	December



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## Welcome to October!

October is easily my favorite month here in Lewes. Don't get me wrong, all the months are great, but there's just something about October.

I am looking forward to the fall events and festivals. And, I am looking forward to visiting some of my favorite restaurants and coffee shops and even parking on the street without much fuss!

I hope you enjoy this month's cover story on Brenda Jones. A funny story about how I met Brenda: I waitress part-time in the summer at Lewes Yacht Club and Brenda was a guest at dinner one evening. I was taking orders and chatting with the table when someone asks me if I know this lovely woman sitting with them. I admitted I did not. They pipe in, well this is Brenda Jones. No lie, I gasped and said, "The Brenda Jones!!"

I have heard of Brenda's great work and designs for several years. I had just never had the pleasure of meeting her. And, I assure you it was a pleasure. I hope you enjoy "meeting" her also, through the story told in the following pages.

Remember - I want to tell YOUR story, too! Please send me your information so we can also have the pleasure of meeting. Email me: [rmavity@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:rmavity@bestversionmedia.com).

Have a great October!

*Rachel* Rachel Swick Mavity, Content Coordinator



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Rehoboth Beach, DE | Dover, DE | Ocean City, MD







While all the other children in elementary school were drawing pink flowers and yellow sunshine on green hills, Brenda Jones was drawing houses. And, this probably is not your toddler's version of a house with a central front door and smoke coming out of a jaunty chimney; no, Brenda was drawing master bedrooms, bathrooms, patios, and front porches, complete with railings.

Brenda grew up in Lewes – Quakertown actually. She attended kindergarten at Children's Beach House and then went through the Lewes and Cape Henlopen School District, graduating from Cape High.

Her summers were spent not on Lewes Beach as one might assume, but on Herring Creek where her family would spend the entire summer, boating, crabbing, and fishing.

Her family is at least 4th generation Lewes natives. Her mother, Nancy Jane Joseph grew up on a farm on Robinsonville Road and graduated from Lewes High School in 1952.

Brenda's grandfather had a horse-riding academy in downtown Rehoboth on 2nd and Maryland Ave. Brenda, her brother, and her sister worked on the farm growing up, and operated a produce stand for several years, where they learned how to work hard, the meaning of a dollar, and how to manage it.

Brenda's father, Willard Stratton Burbage was born and raised in Ocean View. He and Brenda's mother met while he and his buddies were cruising Rehoboth Avenue while she and her girlfriends were walking around the area of the Boardwalk back in the 50s.

He became a master electrician and worked for Fort Miles, Lewes Board of Public Works, and later at the Dover Air Force Base.

Her mother worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for Eugene Bookhammer, a Lewes businessman, for many years. She then followed him into politics to Legislative Hall to serve as his secretary when he became Lieutenant Governor.

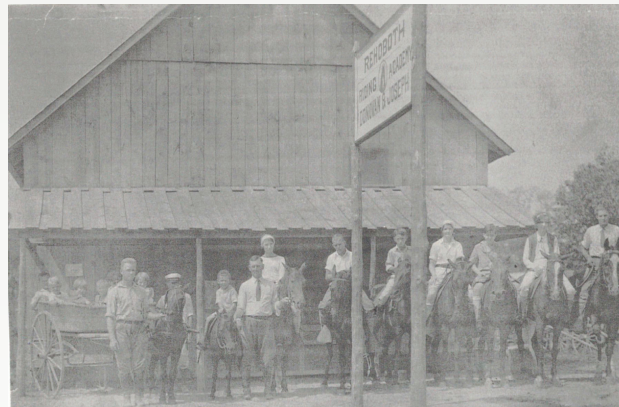
Brenda always had a knack for houses and after graduation, she went to Delaware Tech where she earned her architectural engineering degree. While there, she interned with Virginia Homes, a sectional home business, and after graduation, she worked at Nanticoke Homes, now Beracah.

Then, as they say, life happened. She got married and had two sons, Connor and Andrew. She helped with her husband's refrigeration and air conditioning business and raised the boys while doing drafting for some local home builders.

After she and her husband divorced, she had this moment of, "What now?"



Left: Brenda in the Cape marching band. Right: Brenda crabbing on Herring Creek.



Brenda's grandfather's riding school in Rehoboth;



Left: Brenda with her mom. Right: Brenda with her dad.



Photos Submitted by Brenda Jones





## Finding Design Again

"I remember thinking about what I loved to do and knowing that I wanted to get back into architectural design," she said.

It was time to see if she could earn a living on something that had mostly been a hobby.

She started with design projects in Rehoboth, King's Creek and Rehoboth country club developments and a new development called Canal Corkran.

Her business continued to grow by word of mouth. Brenda decided it was really time to make her business count and she wanted to do it in Lewes.

"Growing up in Lewes, I had a lot of knowledge about the homes here and the history. My family is from Lewes and I just felt like this was where I was meant to be," she said.

She started designing a home on 4th Street and worked to get her name out.

"It was 2003 when I was building my house and I was at a cocktail party. Someone was talking to me and I mentioned the house I was working on. They immediately said that they knew the designer because it was the same person who had done other homes in Lewes. I just kept standing there telling them that I was the designer and it took several minutes before they even believed me," Brenda recalls. "After that, I decided I needed to get a little more serious."

She decided to invest in some yard signs that she could place at her projects. She also had business cards made.

Today, (in this writer's opinion), Brenda is practically a household name in

Lewes. She has been recognized for her work in publications such as "This Old House" and "Delaware Beach Life." She has also received awards from the Lewes Historical Society for preservation and renovations.

## Paradise is what you make it

Brenda feels lucky looking back on her career and her life. She has two happy, healthy sons who still live in the area. She has numerous friends and plenty of work to keep her busy.

She also realizes that she is lucky to have had the opportunity to go into a career such as architectural design. When she was in high school, mechanical drawing was offered as a class. And, right down the road was a technical community college where she could earn her degree.

"I think about all those years when I was exploring this as a young woman and every class I would walk into, I was the only girl," she said. "Architectural design was predominantly a man's world."

One of her two favorite life lessons or sayings is: "consider how very fortunate you are."

The other is: "live in the paradise that you've created."

She smiles thinking of the hurdles she has overcome and she laughs when you talk about how busy she continues to be designing homes for her Lewes neighbors. She has at least three houses that she is working on within a stone's throw of her own home.

Then she quietly discusses how much she enjoys giving back.



Left: Brenda's dad with his buddies. Right: Brenda's elementary school class on a field trip in Lewes.



In 2010, Brenda was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had gone in for her annual mammogram and they saw a growth that later was confirmed to be cancer.

"I always tell women that the mammogram is what saved me. I didn't feel anything during self-exams – a lot of time you don't – but they saw it in the mammogram," she said.

She had surgery then radiation at Tunnell Cancer Center.

"While it was certainly not something I was prepared for, I feel so grateful for the kind and amazing team at Tunnell and at Beebe," she said. "After my treatments were over, I actually felt kind of sad that I wouldn't be seeing them anymore."

That's when she decided she could give back as a cancer survivor. She supports the Cancer Community and the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition where she became a peer mentor to those going through breast cancer treatment. She has also been a model for the annual Pink Affair event, which features cancer survivors as models walking the runway to raise money.

During the Christmas holidays, Brenda has hosted several homes on the Lewes Christmas House Tour.

"I love what I do, and I am grateful that I can make a living doing it," she said. "Lewes is my heart and I love helping to restore and renovate historic homes for modern day living. I love helping design and build new houses that blend into the streetscapes alongside historic Lewes. It's just the best feeling to know you have helped homeowners love their homes again, and the memories they will make there."

When asked what is in the future, Brenda smiles and says she hopes to find time to do all the things she loves, including visit the beach – a place she has not been able to make it to this summer with her busy business.

In her rare spare time, she enjoys painting with watercolors, doing craft projects, golfing, walking and playing with her dog, Sketch, and perhaps, someday, visiting the beach.

"I would say I am still as excited about architecture today as I was when she was a child. These days I am thinking about what the future looks like and I would like to be able to spend more time traveling and working on my hobbies," she said. "I think I will always have my toe in the architectural design field, but I'm not sure right now what that future looks like for me."



Top: Brenda with Connor and Andrew. Bottom left: Andrew and Connor back in the day.  
Bottom left: Brenda's dog, Sketch.



Brenda's dad on the job in downtown Lewes.



Brenda's dad in his younger years on Bethany Beach.

Photos Submitted by Brenda Jones



# COMMUNITY

## Public Art. What's it about really?

*Submitted by Lewes Public Art*

The City of Lewes Public Art committee will be hosting a community talk and information sharing program on November 3, 2021, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Virden Center. As part of its continuing educational mission, the program will have speakers will explore Public Art as a process, a resource, a place maker, and a community builder. The speakers will be a lifelong public artist, Kate Dodd and Lewes's own Rodney Robinson, utilizing his expertise as a landscape architect in open space use and design.

This will be a wrap up session for Kate as she deinstalls "Efflorescence" currently on display in George H.P. Smith Park. You have just a few weeks left to catch it.

While we will speak about the whys and wherefores of public art, we will also be requesting feedback and comments from the audience about their encounters with this summer's art installations - "Unbounded II" by Rachel Mica Weiss in Canalfont Park and "Efflorescence" by Kate Dodd in George H.P. Smith Park. We would like to address questions as well as your thoughts about future projects.



Free Parking is available. Masks are required in all U of D buildings. We hope to see you there for a great discussion! Let's all learn from each other.

For more information visit us at [lewespublicarts.org](http://lewespublicarts.org) or on Facebook. [facebook.com/lewespublicarts/](https://facebook.com/lewespublicarts/)

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# Learning from Plants

Submitted by Nina Melillo

Many people plant flowers to add fragrance and beauty to their gardens. Others may plant gardens to reap the benefits from the harvest. One obscure reason people could and should sow plants is to learn from them. I'm not sure many people know this, but society could learn a lot from plants. Plants live harmoniously with one another. Through understanding not only the life cycle of plants but comprehending how they live together and help one another thrive, humans could help make the world a better place. This post will discuss how to learn from plants to create social harmony.

## Interview With Beronda Montgomery

I recently heard an interview with Beronda Montgomery on "Lessons From Plants."

"Beronda Montgomery is a writer, science communicator and Michigan State University Foundation Professor in the Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics." Source: Wikipedia

She discussed the why and how we could learn a lot from raising plants in our homes and outside gardens.

## How to Learn From Plants

We had learned a lot these past months and I sincerely hope our short-term memory doesn't forget all the good that has resulted from the recent trials and tribulations.

Here is where Beronda Montgomery comes in. During the interview she said many people found solace in raising plants. She believes, as do I, that all humans need to be with natural organisms. Actively interacting with life creates a healthy lifestyle and helps us become better humans.

## What Plants Can Teach Us

Plants teach us about the process of life, how it begins, how it is nourished, how it thrives, and finally how it succumbs to death. By raising plants, humans learn patience. We also learn how plants benefit from each other.

They become more sustainable when grouped together because they share humidity and release chemicals that naturally deter pests, thus helping each other grow.

## Talking Plants?

There has been some scientific proof that plants actually talk to one another. Plants use their roots to listen in on their neighbors and will secrete chemicals in the ground that will promote growth to adjacent plants to help them emerge from the shade and thrive in the sunlight. The plants alter their growth patterns by "talking" to one another.

Through companion planting, they also help each other. Plants add different nutrients and moisture to the ground which plants and sun benefits themselves and their neighbors and encourages growth.

Plants are also constantly reaching for the sun. That could be a good metaphor for humans: without the sun all species will die. By reaching for the sun we will also continue to thrive and better ourselves.

## Let's Learn From Native Americans

Beronda Montgomery went on to explain how Native Americans use a polyculture technique for growing crops. They realized that different varieties of plants need each other to survive and thrive. Instead of growing all the same crop over massive fields, such as corn where all the stalks are competing for the same nutrients, it's better to create biodiversity.

By planting different varieties of plants in the same area, the plants will do better because they won't be battling for the same nutrients. Taller plants will provide shade for the shorter plants that don't require as much sun and some plants inhibit pests that harm others. That is why Native Americans planted corn, beans and squash together.

## Polyculture VS Monoculture: People Living In Harmony

This polyculture directly relates to the human race. It's much better to create

an environment where all people are not competing for the same "nutrients" and where each will benefit from each other. Monocultures are not healthy or sustainable. Inevitably we all will begin to travel and spread our wings. We love to explore and experience new things.

Some people want to return to "the good old days" where the French lived in France, the Italians lived in Italy, the Irish lived in Ireland. Those days are long gone, my friend. Look at the United States! With the exception of Native Americans our country was built by immigrants from all areas of the globe. That's why America is called the melting pot.

## Learning From Each Other And Plants!

To live in harmony with each other, it's imperative that we recognize the contributions we all can make and learn to benefit from each others' gifts and talents. We need to take a page from our plants. They naturally know how to benefit from each other's attributes.

Now we humans, who are supposed to be so superior, need to learn a thing or two from the plants we cultivate through, among other things, using patience and empathy. (I admit I was sad when a plant of mine died!)

Yes, Beronda Montgomery has it right. We can learn an awful lot by adapting the life processes of plants to our life experience.







## Classes Coming Up at East Coast Garden Center

*Submitted by East Coast Garden Center*

Come get dirty and learn about your fall gardens in these upcoming classes at East Coast Garden Center!

10/7

**Pruning:** Pruning can be essential to the health and appearance of many shrubs and trees, and yet many people are reluctant to take it on. In this class you'll learn the fundamentals of pruning. The topics include when to prune, where to cut, eliminating problematic branches, thinning out, and frequency. Effective pruning can improve the overall structure and health and encourage new growth or flowering.

10/14

**Terrarium Make & Take:** The Terrarium Make & Take Class is a demonstration lecture that will familiarize you with the fundamentals of making a terrarium. You'll learn about the requirements for the various types of glass containers. We'll also show you different plant and decorative options. Then, you'll be able to assemble your own terrarium to take home. The cost of the class is \$30 to cover materials. We'll also have upgrades available for further customization at additional costs.

10/21

**Bacteria, Fungus & Mold – Mysteries Solved:** During this class, learn how different environmental pathogens cause common diseases in the home landscape, including fungus and molds. Tips on identification, control, and management will also be shared along with reference resources. Bring a bagged sample or pictures to share and help identify!

10/28

**Houseplants:** While Fall is for planting, it's also the perfect time to enhance your indoor green scape with houseplants before Winter arrives. We'll review the environmental and health benefits of plants along with their aesthetic attributes. Additionally, you'll receive information on a wide variety of plants and the products and growing conditions essential to their health.

Learn more about these classes and other upcoming events at [www.eastcoastgardencenter.com](http://www.eastcoastgardencenter.com) and click the Events tab.  
East Coast Garden Center is located at 30366 Cordrey Road, Millsboro, DE 19966.

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# October CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Submitted by Lewes Public Library

Below is a listing of Lewes Public Library programs in October that may be of interest to you. For more information or to register for programs, visit the website ([lewes.lib.de.us](http://lewes.lib.de.us)) and go to the Programs for Adults page. For author events, people can also sign up through our Virtual Author Events webpage at [tinyurl.com/zoomwithauthors](http://tinyurl.com/zoomwithauthors). Each event indicates whether it is being offered in-person, online, or in-person and online (meaning you can either attend it at the library or join via Zoom). Registration is required for all online programs, or for hybrid events where a person wants to join online.



## Thursdays, September 30 - November 18

### Whimsical Masterpieces: Pastel

Time: 1 p.m., In-person

Join us for a fun, engaging, and empowering artistic experience for adults who would like to investigate their creative potential while building a basic level of mastery using oil pastels.

This artistic journey provides an approachable and challenging entry-level environment to gain a basic command of oil pastel painting. Over an 8-week period, (one hourly class a week), participants will be actively engaged in producing their own final artwork under the guidance of local professional teaching artist, John Donato. In addition, participants will investigate idea creation, personal style, and finishing techniques, and have access to ongoing social support from their teacher and peers.

At the conclusion of the class series, participants will have the opportunity to be recognized and reveal their artwork to the public during an event hosted by the library, and have it displayed onsite for the month of December. Class size is limited to 12 people so registration is required. Participants are expected to attend all 8 sessions.

## Saturday, October 2

### Coast Day Presents a Screening of The Meg

Time: 6:30 p.m.

The library and Delaware Sea Grant are teaming up to host an outdoor screening of *The Meg*, the 2018 blockbuster based on the book by University of Delaware alumnus Steve Alten, Coast Day special guest. This offering is part of Coast Day 2021.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and join us on the back lawn of the library to watch as a group of scientists exploring the Marianas Trench encounter the largest marine predator that has ever existed - the Megalodon. This movie is rated PG-13. More information about it may be found here.

Free popcorn will be available while supplies last. Please bring your own drink. Registration is requested but walk-ins are welcome.

## Sunday, October 3

### Lunchtime Story Readings for Adults

Time: 12:30 p.m.

The Lewes Public Library's Spoken Word Society and Shakespeare Festival is pleased to present Lunchtime Story Readings by Suzanne Savoy. Bring your lunch—or just a cup of joe—to this half-hour short-story reading by actor Suzanne Savoy or a guest reader with a brief chat following. Note: these stories are intended for adults due to thematic material and language.

## Tuesday, October 5

### Science and Society

#### The Future of the Colorado River

Time: 5 p.m.,

Online

Join us for a

conversation with

Professor John Schmidt on the future of the Colorado River. The river is a critical lifeline for much of the southwest, supplying water to farms, power generators, and cities as far away as Los Angeles. But it is in trouble. A warming climate has reduced river flows, Lake Mead and Lake Powell have shrunk to less than 50% capacity, and climate models suggest that the flow could drop by another 30% by 2050. Recent studies indicate that in a drier future, all the demands for the Colorado River's water cannot be met while still protecting sensitive ecosystems and endangered species. These grim forecasts set the stage for upcoming negotiations over allocation of the Colorado's water—and the future of the river itself.

John (Jack) Schmidt is a professor of in the Department of Watershed Sciences and the Janet Quinney Lawson Chair in Colorado River Studies at Utah State University. He has devoted more than 30 years of research to the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River, focusing on the relationship of ecosystem health and the dams, reservoirs, and diversions associated with river management. He has worked to encourage collaboration between federal and state agencies, tribal interests, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions in an effort to ensure that policies for the river are based on sound science.

## Wednesday, October 6

### Natural Selections Book Club | Eager

Time: 5 p.m., In-person and Online

The Natural Selections Book Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month to discuss nature-themed books. All are welcome.

This month's discussion is on *Eager: the surprising, secret life of beavers and why they matter* by Ben Goldfarb.

## Thursday, October 7

### AAUW Notable Books Discussion | Milkman

Time: 10 a.m., In-person

The American Association of University Women Coastal-Georgetown Branch sponsors a Notable Books discussion that meets on the first Thursday of the month. This month's book is *Milkman* by Anna Burns.

### Life After Work

#### How to Create a Good Life in Retirement

Time: 3 p.m., Online

Whether you plan to stop work all at once, or ease into retirement by working part-time, at some point you will need to arrange for multiple sources of income to replace your paycheck. What do you need to think about as you

transition from work life to retired life? Where will your income come from? How can you make it last? Join us for an enlightening webinar that will get you thinking about your next phase of life and what you need to do to prepare for it.

Peter Gaertner, CFP® is a Financial Planner and community educator with Affinity Wealth Management, LLC based in Wilmington, and a Money School instructor. He has instructed retirement and estate planning courses at Delaware State University and the Lifelong Learning Center at the University of Delaware, and has shared his expertise with many other community members.

## History Book Festival Presents Carol Leonnig

### Zero Fail

Time: 5 p.m., Online

In collaboration with the History Book Festival, join us for a talk with Carol Leonnig, author of *Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service*, an offering of the 2021 virtual History Book Festival. Joining Leonnig in conversation is author Ed Ruggero.

Carol Leonnig is a national investigative reporter at *The Washington Post*, where she has covered the Secret Service for much of the past decade. She is a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner.

Ed Ruggero is a West Point graduate and former Army officer who has written fiction, military history, and titles on leadership. His *World War II* novel *Blame the Dead* was featured at the 2020 History Book Festival; a sequel, *Comes the War*, was released in February 2021.

## Thursday, October 7

### Managing Taxes in Retirement

Time: 5 p.m., In-person

This class examines various tax issues related to retirees. We will discuss how Social Security benefits are taxed, Medicare premiums, RMD's (Required Minimum Distributions), charitable giving and other tax-related items. Presented by Robert Jeter, CFP, CRPC, a Financial Advisor at InFocus Financial Advisors, Inc. and instructor with the Money School, a program of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council.

## Monday, October 11

### Estate Planning

Time: 10 a.m., In-person

In this Money School workshop, learn the importance of Estate Planning and what could go wrong if not prepared if something was to happen. Presented by Kenneth Reese, a certified financial planner with Black Diamond Financial Solutions, Inc. and an instructor with the Money School, a program of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council.



### Conversation with Jack Clemons | The Outliers

Time: 5 p.m., Online

Join us for a conversation with Jack Clemons, author of *The Outliers*, a combination of mystery and historical fiction set in Lewes, Delaware. A lawman with bleak eyes stalks a ne'er-do-well with a rakish smile through a quiet waterfront town in Delaware, near the turn of the last century. Both have recently arrived by steamship from New Jersey, and as far as a Nanticoke Indian youth named Sonny is concerned, they can't leave Lewes the same way soon enough.

Jack Clemons is a professional writer and consultant as well as a speaker and presenter on NASA's space programs. Earlier in his career he was an engineering team leader on NASA's Apollo Program and senior engineering software manager on the Space Shuttle Program. He has also held the role of Senior Vice President of Engineering for Lockheed Martin. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Florida. His works of fiction have earned him a 2018 Established Artist Fellowship for Literary Fiction by the Delaware Division of the Arts and membership in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. His book *Safely to Earth: The Men and Women Who Brought the Astronauts Home*, a memoir of his time on NASA's Apollo and Space Shuttle programs, was published by University Press of Florida in September 2018.

### Tuesdays, October 12 and October 26

#### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Time: 10 a.m., In-person

This support group is for those caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other type of dementia. The group is

facilitated by Ruth Pryor, an Alzheimer's Association volunteer. The Alzheimer's Association's mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all those affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

### Tuesday, October 12

#### Conversation with Kevin McGonegal

##### Wicked Wilmington, Delaware

Time: 5 p.m., Online

Join us for a conversation with local historian Kevin McGonegal, author *Wicked Wilmington, Delaware*, featuring tales of Wilmington's infamous past. Take a journey through crime and vice in twentieth-century Wilmington, from a Tatnall Street bawdy house to the corporate boardrooms of the DuPont Company. Visit the old New Castle County Workhouse, scene of a break-in by a lynch mob and the daring escape of a notorious murderer. A police chief trying to keep his corrupt practices under wraps, agents raiding political headquarters and a detective murdered on the street were all part of city life in the early twentieth century. In later years, stories of a professional killer pleading self-defense, hiding his connections to a mobbed-up Teamsters boss, and runaway lovers caught up in an international extortion scheme show the city's darker side. Co-sponsored by the Delaware Historical Society

### Wednesday, October 13

#### Topical Essays: A Discussion Group

Time: 3 p.m., In-person

Topical Essays is a monthly series of seminars based upon essays whose topics include philosophy,

the arts and literature, science, politics, economics communications, and much more. Participants are asked to read an essay chosen by the facilitation team and then submit a written response in advance of each session. In the group meeting, we have a lively discussion on the posted piece and on the participants' responses to it. Topical Essays meets the second Wednesday of each month from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Essays are available for reading at the website, [www.lewesseminar.com](http://www.lewesseminar.com) a month in advance. Responses are due no later than the day before each meeting and are also posted on the website.

### Thursday, October 14

#### History Book Festival Presents

##### Charles Kenny | The Plague Cycle

Time: 5 p.m., Online

In collaboration with the History Book Festival, join us for a talk with Charles Kenny, author of *The Plague Cycle: The Unending War Between Humanity and Infectious Disease*, an offering of the 2021 virtual History Book Festival.

For four thousand years, the size and vitality of cities, economies, and empires were heavily determined by infection. The cycle of plagues set the tempo of civilizational growth and decline, since common response to the threat was exclusion—quarantining the sick or keeping them out. The unprecedented hygiene and medical revolutions of the past two centuries have allowed humanity to free itself from the hold of epidemic cycles, but climate and population fluctuations and global trade have left us more vulnerable than ever to newly emerging plagues. Greater global cooperation toward sustainable health is urgently required, with millions of

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lives and trillions of dollars at stake.

Charles Kenny is a writer-researcher at the Center for Global Development who has worked on policy reforms in global health as well as UN peacekeeping and combating international financial corruption. Previously, he spent fifteen years traveling the world as an economist at the World Bank.

### Understanding Annuities

**Time:** 5 p.m., In-person

Annuities are some of the most complex investment instruments ever created. This class presents an unbiased and educational look at how annuities work, the different types and features of annuities as well as the benefits and downsides to each. Presented by Robert Jeter, CFP, CRPC, a Financial Advisor at InFocus Financial Advisors, Inc. and instructor with the Money School, a program of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council.

### Celebrating Italian-Americans: Fiorello La Guardia

**Time:** 6 p.m., In-person

La Guardia was the first Italian-American elected to Congress [1916] and to the mayoralty of NYC [1933] during a time when hyphenated Americans were regarded with hostility and discriminated against. How did La Guardia's ethnicity shape his values, character, and rise to power?

Join us for a presentation by Jo-Ann Vega, proud Italian-American, who has designed and delivered well-received ancestry and history programs at the library. Jo-Ann has 30 years of experience making presentations to business, community, and academic groups. Registration is requested.

### Thursday, October 14

#### Lewes Library Evening Book Club

##### The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires

**Time:** 6:30 p.m., Online

This book club meets online monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. All are welcome! This month's discussion is on *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* by Grady Hendrix.

### Friday, October 15

#### Simone Weil's "The Iliad or the Poem of Force"

**Time:** 7 p.m., In-person

The Lewes Public Library Spoken Word Society presents Simona Girugea performing Simone Weil's "The Iliad or the Poem of Force."

"The true hero, the true subject, the centre of the Iliad, is force. Force employed by man, force that enslaves man, force before which man's flesh shrinks away. In this work at all times, the human spirit is shown as modified by its relation to force, as swept away, blinded, by the very force it imagined it could handle, as deformed by the weight of the force it submits to."

French philosopher Simone Weil's "The Iliad or Poem of Force" two-part essay was first published in French in the *Cahiers du Sud* (1940-41) and then translated into English in 1945 by Mary McCarthy and appeared in the journal *Politics*. It provides a significant insight into the potential for force and violence to overcome the human spirit. Simona Girugea, accomplished actor and senior lecturer in the University Theater at Colgate University, will perform a powerful dramatic portrayal of Simone Weil. The performance will be followed by a talk back with Girugea, followed by a reception sponsored by the online journal *ATTENTION: The Life and Legacy of Simone Weil*. The following day Professor Jane Doering will lead a discussion with Simona Girugea on the essay.

### Saturday, October 16

#### The Actor & Scholar in Conversation:

##### Simona Girugea and Jane Doering on Simone Weil

**Time:** 4 p.m., In-person and online

Simone Weil's "The Iliad or the Poem of Force" is a profound exploration of the power of force and the hubris of mankind in attempting to control it to our advantage. Force is inherently destructive, and we risk it overwhelming us when we unleash it upon ourselves. This two-part essay, published in the *Cahiers du Sud* in 1940-41, is every bit as relevant today in all human interactions, from the interpersonal to the geopolitical. Join us for a discussion of this piece by Professor Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame and renowned Weil scholar Dr. E. Jane Doering and Simona Girugea, Senior Lecturer in of the University Theatre at Colgate University, who adapted this piece into a compelling one-woman dramatic piece (performed at the Lewes Public Library the previous evening, Friday, October 15). Hosted by Ron Collins, Lewes Resident and Senior Editor of *ATTENTION*, an international website and newsletter dedicated to the work of Simone Weil, the discussion will probe this compelling essay in depth.

Jane Doering is professor emerita of the College of Arts and Letters at Notre Dame University. She received her PhD from Northwestern University in 19th and 20th-century French literature and culture. She also holds a Masters of Education from Goucher College and an M.A. in French Literature from the University of Notre Dame, along with a Diplôme d'études from La Sorbonne, Paris. She received the Notre Dame Kaneb Teaching Award for excellence in teaching. Her books include *When Fiction and Philosophy Meet: A Conversation with Flannery O'Connor and Simone Weil* (2019), co-authored with Ruthann Knechel Johansen; *Simone Weil and the Specter of Self-perpetuating Force* (2010); and *The Christian Platonism of Simone Weil* (2014), co-edited with Eric O. Springsted. She has authored over three dozen articles in English, French, and Italian on the multi-dimensional thought of Simone Weil, and delivered a numerous talks in the USA, Canada, France, Italy, and Israel. Her professional responsibilities include being a longstanding member of the governing board of the American Weil Society and of the international Association pour l'étude de la pensée de Simone Weil. She is also on the board of advisors of *ATTENTION*, an online journal on the life and legacy of Simone Weil. The conversation will be followed by a reception sponsored by the online journal *ATTENTION: The Life and Legacy of Simone Weil*.

### Monday, October 18

#### Savvy IRA Planning for Baby Boomers

**Time:** 12 p.m., Online

IRA planning is a complex process. The decisions baby boomers make now can have a tremendous impact on their overall retirement plan. To help attendees better understand IRA planning, this workshop will cover:

- 7 strategies for Savvy IRA planning
- 6 roll over options for your retirement plan funds
- 3 common required minimum distribution mistakes
- The difference between indirect and direct rollovers
- How to coordinate your IRA planning with your overall retirement, estate, tax, education, Social Security and financial plans
- 3 different options for spousal IRA beneficiaries

Peter Gaertner, CFP® is a Financial Planner and community educator with Affinity Wealth Management, LLC based in Wilmington. He has instructed retirement and estate planning courses at Delaware State University and the Lifelong Learning Center at the University of Delaware, and has shared his expertise with many other community members.

### Tuesday, October 19

#### Cyber Awareness for Seniors

**Time:** 10 a.m., In-person and online

This presentation is designed for Senior Citizens addressing basic cyber awareness, securing social media/email accounts, using security features such as multi-factor authentication, and how to handle scam calls/contacts with Do's and Don'ts. This workshop is presented by The Delaware Department of Technology and Information.

### Wednesday, October 20

#### The Four Stages of Taxes in Retirement

**Time:** 1 p.m., Online

Retirees often don't understand how taxes work in retirement. But they're keenly concerned about the size of their tax bill each year. Also, tax planning changes through the four stages of retirement. It's harder than you think and it needs careful planning. Learn what's involved in creating a retirement tax strategy. Peter Gaertner, CFP® is a Financial Planner and community educator with Affinity Wealth Management, LLC based in Wilmington. He has instructed retirement and estate planning courses at Delaware State University and the Lifelong Learning Center at the University of Delaware, and has shared his expertise with many other community members.

### Wednesday, October 20

#### Conversation with Rochelle Riley | The Burden

**Time:** 5 p.m., Online

Join us for a conversation with Rochelle Riley, author of *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery*, a powerful collection of essays from well-known Americans on what life post-slavery remains like for many African Americans.

Many African Americans, who are descended from people whose unpaid labor built this land, have had to spend the last century and a half carrying the dual burden of fighting injustice and rising above the lowered expectations and hateful bigotry that attempt to keep them shackled to that past. These descendants have spent over 150 years seeking permission to put this burden down. *The Burden* aims to address this problem and is a must-read for every American.

Rochelle Riley is an award-winning newspaper columnist who is no longer seeking permission to put the burden down and has helped raise millions of dollars for just causes, especially the fight for improved adult literacy. She offers commentary on MSNBC and NPR and contributes to *Essence* and *Ebony* magazines. She was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2016, received the 2017 Ida B. Wells Award from the National Association of Black Journalists and Northwestern University, and was awarded the 2017 Eugene C. Pulliam Fellowship by the Society of Professional Journalists.

### Thursday, October 21

#### History Book Festival Presents Howard W. French Born in Blackness

**Time:** 5 p.m., Online

In collaboration with the History Book Festival, join us for a talk with Howard W. French, author of *Born in Blackness: Africa, Africans, and the Making of the Modern World, 1471 to the Second World War*, an offering of the 2021 virtual History Book Festival.

In a book that weaves historical detail with personal reportage, Howard W. French retells the story of medieval and emerging Africa, demonstrating how the economic ascendancy of Europe, the anchoring of democracy in America, and the fulfillment of so-called Enlightenment ideals all grew out of Europe's dehumanizing engagement



with the “darkest” continent. Born in Blackness retrieves the lives of major African historical figures whose legacies have been downplayed or erased, telling the story of gold, tobacco, sugar, and cotton — and the greatest “commodity” of all, the millions brought in chains to the New World, whose reclaimed histories help explain our present world.

Howard W. French is a professor of journalism at Columbia University and former New York Times bureau chief in the Caribbean and Central America, West and Central Africa, Tokyo, and Shanghai. A two-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, he has authored five books.

#### Thursday, October 21

##### **Eight Common Estate Planning Mistakes**

**Time:** 5 p.m., In-person

This class covers common estate planning mistakes and how you can avoid them. Uncover some of the common myths about estate planning and learn suggestions on how to optimize your financial future and legacy for your benefit and the benefit of your loved ones.

Deirdra A. McCarney, Esq from Sergovic Carmean Weidman McCartney & Owens, P.A. and Robert Jeter, Financial Advisor from InFocus Financial Advisors are the co-presenters and instructors with the Money School, a program of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council.

#### Friday, October 22

##### **French Movie Club | 2 Autumns, 3 Winters**

**Time:** 10:30 a.m., In-person

Join us in person for a conversation on a French movie previously seen at home. Please note: basic French conversational ability is required. This group is for

participants 18 years and older. This month’s movie is *2 Autumns, 3 Winters* (2013). Written and directed by Sébastien Betbeder and starring Vincent Macaigne, Maud Wyler, and Bastien and Bouillon.

Arman is 33 and ready to make a change, starting with a run in the park. When he literally bumps into Amélie - slightly cynical but nevertheless lovely - on the jogging path, he’s dead-set on making a connection with her. As a bit of contrived fate brings them together, Arman’s best friend Benjamin suffers an unexpected stroke, relegating him to the hospital for weeks where he falls for his doting young physical therapist. Over the course of two autumns and three winters, Arman, Amélie and Benjamin share the incidental moments, unexpected accidents, unconventional love stories and unforgettable memories that will define who they are.

Registration is requested but not required. The video/DVD is available at the library’s Circulation Desk to borrow for one week. It also is available to watch on the online digital library service, Hoopla.

#### Saturday, October 23

##### **The Battleship USS New Jersey**

**Time:** 1 p.m., In-person

USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62) was built at the former Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and placed in commission in May 1943. The second of four ships of the IOWA class to be completed, NEW JERSEY was destined to become the most decorated battleship in the history of the United States Navy. The “Big J” fought in WW II, Korea, Vietnam and the Lebanon crisis earning 19 battle stars and campaign ribbons during her many years of active service. Decommissioned for the last time in February 1991, NEW JERSEY would eventually become a world

class memorial and museum in Camden, NJ. Thousands of tourists walk her decks each year, and gain a sense of what it must have been like to go to sea in this majestic warship.

Presented by Captain Walter M. Urban, Jr. USNR (Ret.), who served as a Public Affairs Officer in the US Navy Reserve. He performed active duty for training onboard NEW JERSEY in February 1985 and February 1991. He also served extensively on NEW JERSEY’s sistership USS WISCONSIN (BB-64) from 1988 - 1991. In his official capacity, Captain Urban was involved with the media supporting the recommissioning of all four IOWA class battleships from 1982 to 1988. Since 2001, he serves as the Military Liaison Officer, and member of the Board of Trustee onboard NEW JERSEY.

#### Saturday, October 23

##### **Gravediggers**

**Time:** 7 p.m., In-person

The Library’s Shakespeare Festival is proud to present a live performance of *Gravediggers*, the tale of two men digging a grave in the context of the worldwide pandemic. Humor, suspense, pathos, and a surprise ending make for a powerful evening of reader’s theatre.

Written by NYC actor/author Dan McCormick, *Gravediggers* was recently broadcast by NPR affiliate KUNM, NYC’s Abingdon Theatre, and the Detroit Repertory Theatre. This performance features compelling performances by Mr. McCormick and Roy Steinberg, artistic director of Cape May Stage.

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## Monday, October 25

### Conversation with Josh Hitchens Haunted History of Delaware

Time: 5 p.m., Online

Join us for an online conversation with Delaware native and paranormal historian Josh Hitchens as he talks about his latest book, *Haunted History of Delaware*, a spooky road trip through the First State. Joining Hitchens is Marcos Salaverria, Director of Education for the Lewes Historical Society.

Delaware's long history has created many ghostly echoes in the present day, places where the souls of the dead have not yet found rest. Experience the eerie legend of Fiddler's Bridge, meet the ghosts in the Governor's Mansion, and learn the truth behind the Selbyville Swamp Monster. Discover many more terrifying tales that will chill your bones. These are the stories of the most frightening phantoms that lurk in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties—read them if you dare.

Josh Hitchens was born and raised in Sussex County, Delaware. Since 2007, he has been a professional storyteller for the Ghost Tour of Philadelphia. Josh is also a theater director, actor and playwright who has been called "Philadelphia's foremost purveyor of the macabre" and "Philly's horror maven" by the local press. Josh also researches, writes and narrates the podcast *Going Dark Theatre*, which is dedicated to examining the human stories within true tales of haunted places, unsolved mysteries and horrific history from all over the world. *Haunted History of Delaware* is his first book.

The event is co-hosted by the Lewes Historical Society.

## Tuesday, October 26

### Cooks & Books Presents Ericka Sanchez | ¡Buen Provecho!

Time: 5 p.m., Online

Join us for an online conversation with Ericka Sanchez, author of *¡Buen Provecho!*: Traditional Mexican Flavors from My Cocina to Yours.

From the author of *Agua Fresca* & *Paletas* comes another collection of over 100 Mexican recipes with a unique spin, delivering the authentic flavors everyone craves, but swapping in easy-to-find, healthful ingredients your family will love. From breakfasts and salsas to meatless meals and special recipes for Día de Los Muertos and other special occasions, *Buen Provecho* is the perfect cookbook for anyone looking to expand their cultural culinary palate.

Ericka Sanchez is a recipe developer, food stylist, and the creator of the award-winning culinary website *nibblesandfeasts.com*. Ericka's cooking style is inspired by her life as a bicultural Latina living in California and her cherished memories in the kitchen with her grandmother and mother in Mexico, where she lived until she was eight years old.

## Tuesday, October 26

### SDARJ Book & Film Discussion Group | *Forgotten*

Time: 6 p.m., Online and In-person

This book club is a partnership with the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice. Moderated by an SDARJ member, this group is celebrating its 5th year and discusses classic and contemporary works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and cinematic art. All are welcome. This month's discussion is about *Forgotten*, *The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes*, *At Home and At War* by Linda Hervieux.

## Wednesday, October 27

### Financial Fitness

Time: 5 p.m., In-person

In this Money School workshop, learn the six steps to legacy planning for the generations:

- Plan for incapacity
- Get organized
- Think about the people you love and the causes you care about
- Work with financial professionals to put your wishes in writing
- Start creating your family legacy
- Monitor and update your plan

Presented by Cameron Fitzgerald, a partner of Black Diamond Financial Solutions, Inc. and an instructor with the Money School, a program of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council.

## Thursday, October 28

### LPL Book Club | *The Little Paris Bookshop*

Time: 4 p.m., In-person

This book club meets monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM. All are welcome and no registration is required. This month's discussion is about *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George. Copies of the books are available to borrow at the Circulation Desk.

## Thursday, October 28

### History Book Festival Presents Christine Heyrman | *Doomed Romance*

Time: 5 p.m., Online

In collaboration with the History Book Festival, join us for a talk with Christine Heyrman, author of *Doomed Romance: Broken Hearts, Lost Souls, and Sexual Tumult in Nineteenth-Century America*, an offering of the 2021 virtual History Book Festival. Laurie S. Fulton will be in conversation with Heyrman during the event.

In 1825, Martha Parker, a gifted, ambitious young woman from New England who aspired to become an educator and a foreign missionary, accepted a marriage proposal from schoolmaster Thomas Tenney. But several weeks later, she rejected Tenney in favor of rival suitor Elnathan Gridley, a clergyman headed for the mission field. Tenney's male friends retaliated by sending an anonymous letter to the head of the foreign missions board impugning Parker's character, and Tenney himself threatened to reveal more about their relationship,

ruining her future prospects as a missionary. The scandal provoked a resistance within evangelical ranks over womanhood, manhood, and, surprisingly, homosexuality, that ultimately threatened to destroy the foreign missions enterprise.

Christine Leigh Heyrman is the Robert W. and Shirley P. Grimbale Professor of American History at the University of Delaware. Her other books include *Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt*, which won the Bancroft Prize, and *American Apostles: When Evangelicals Entered the World of Islam*, which won the Francis Parkman Prize.

Laurie S. Fulton served as U.S. Ambassador to Denmark from July 2009 to February 2013 and is co-chair of the Ambassadors Circle of the National Democratic Institute, a nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide.

## Friday, October 29

### Medicare Basics In Retirement

Time: 10 a.m., In-person

Join us for an educational seminar by Joseph Cisco, President of CAISE Benefits, to help you understand your options when enrolling with Medicare and/or retiring. We will answer all of your questions regarding signing up for Medicare upon turning 65, retiring, or going on disability:

Medicare 101 – What do all of those letters mean – A? B? C? D? What's the difference between Plans F, G, and N? Understand the major difference (and importance) between being Observed and Admitted in the hospital. Find out how COBRA and Retiree Benefits can affect your Medicare.

This workshop is presented by The Money School, a program of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council (DCRAC).

## Saturday, October 30

### Mary Shelley's "Transformation"

Time: 7 p.m., In-person

The Lewes Public Library Shakespeare presents a reading of Mary Shelley's "Transformation" by Dr. James Keegan. Shelley's short story *Transformation* was first published in *The Keepsake* in 1831. Guido, the narrator, tells the story of his encounter with a strange, misshapen creature when he was a young man living in Genoa, Italy, around the turn of the fifteenth century. He makes a deal with the creature to exchange bodies, but the creature does not reappear at the appointed time to take his own body back. This macabre, sinister, and supernatural tale is a masterpiece of Gothic writing.

Dr. James Keegan, Actor's Equity Association member and the veteran of more than 60 professional productions on the Blackfriars Playhouse Stage at the American Shakespeare Center, is a professor of English at the University of Delaware.





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