

September 14, 2021

# Library System Report

Cara Burton, System Director

## Director's Update:

Each fall and spring, the Shore's barrier islands rain with whimbrels. These long billed, long legged shorebirds ride the jet stream between Canada to Brazil twice a year in their migration. The Shore acts as their pit-stop when they drop from the jet stream. I imagine them spiraling down like oak seeds whirring to the ground. The annual cycles in libraries used to be like that, with our rest stops being the end of August and after Christmas. No more.

I observed this about twenty years ago when computers became a routine service in libraries. The library calendar no longer cycled on school and vacation reading routines. All services became



Readers can sit on the backporch overlooking the Bay at Muddy Toes Public Library on Tangier.

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## Mariner: Birth of an Author

Yet another facet of the Kirk C. Mariner Collection are the papers of the donor himself. Much of this is research, sources, proofs and details pertaining to the publication of his various books, including that definitive history of religion and churches on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, "Revival's Children."

"Revival's Children" was not Mariner's first book. That was "Nothing Ever Happened in Arcadia" a self-published typescript with hand drawn maps released eleven years before. But it was the first to be professionally printed, by Peninsula Press of Salisbury, MD.

A review of the book by Richard R. Beeman of the University of Pennsylvania in the Journal of Southern History in 1981 admits that "one must applaud the industry—clearly the result of a labor of love—which caused the author to catalogue such a useful collection of denomination-

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daily demands. Plus, the world became more demanding. Instantaneous responses were expected. Multiple universes of communication were adopted. Climate change spurred an immediacy to solving problems. And then the pandemic hit.

Rather than imagining a jet stream, it feels more like a “slipstream.” According to Nathan Parker on “Ask a Flight Instructor” ([askacifi.com](http://askacifi.com)), a slipstream “usually refers to the alteration in the airflow behind the propeller, which would be characterized by a change in direction, increase in velocity, and induced rotation.” I also love how he says this causes the airplane to “yaw left.” Yes, I feel like I am yawing each day.

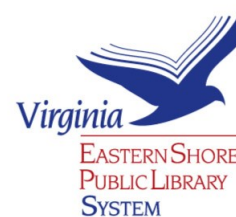
When I was in the Governor’s School for the Gifted in the late seventies, I took a class on Chaos Theory. It really was beyond my understanding, but the concept fascinated me and I cannot help but think that it applies today. In fact, to my dismay, when I Google “chaos theory pandemic,” a slew of scholarly articles pop up; none of which I understand, of course, but that is really the point. Rather than spiraling down to rest, we are propelled in a chaotic fashion in this spiraling time flow that we feel we can neither control nor jump out of.

Then comes the beauty of our library organization and the planning process.

Now more than ever, Library Boards and volunteers are more critical in the function of the library. Staff push services along, but the boards and volunteers channel the vision, provide targets with planning, and create structure with agendas and policies. If anything, the gathering of the board once a month and with committee meetings in between is a centering that provides focus, needed stability and cohesiveness. For this, I am very grateful.

At the end of August, I returned to Tangier to bring their public library volunteers some books and consult on the progress of the library reorganization. There I found a longing for the simpler days of the library, where there are not so many books that they need cataloging and a computer to find them; where the library is a gathering place to sit on the porch and share the love of reading. How can we bring this feeling back to the library?

My respite is to get out of the office, my cramped, stale office, into the community. If anything that the pandemic has taught us is the human need to connect in person. That is what will make us, the library system, thrive when we have library spaces and programs that foster connection. Let’s spread our wings and fly!



# Heritage Hub

## Local History Services

Stacia Childers, LH Specialist

Mariner, from page 1

al records.” Though Beeman took issue with Mariner’s perceived favoritism for Methodist history, the book found a more sympathetic audience, naturally, from C. C. Goen of the Wesley Theological Seminary. “Mariner is not a professional historian who earns his living by historical craft; but he is a competent craftsman nevertheless, an amateur in the original sense of lover of his art.”

It had taken several tries to get the book published, as evidenced by the file of rejection letters contained in Mariner’s papers. Perhaps they made the corresponding file of purchases that much sweeter, a possibility acknowledged in the letter from veteran historian of the Shore Nora Miller Turman which accompanied a check for the purchase of a copy—Mariner’s first sale.

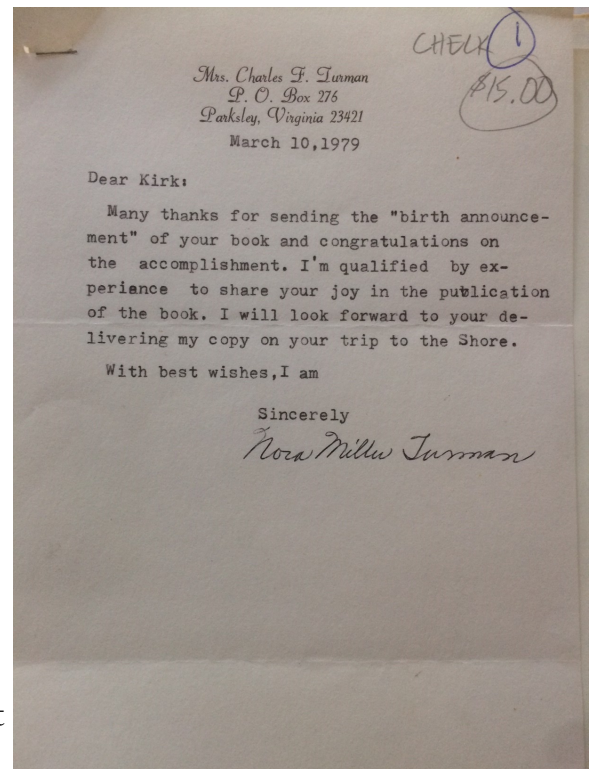
“Many thanks for sending the ‘announcement’ of your book and congratulations on the accomplishment. I’m qualified by experience to share your joy in the publication of the book,” she wrote.

Today, “Revival’s Children” is a classic of Eastern Shore of Virginia history, until this year long out of print and much sought after with copies—when they can be found—selling for over \$100.

The love in Mariner’s book that was so apparent to both reviewers was surely not just affection for the church or his art, but also a deep love of the Eastern Shore. And that deep connection to this place

Revival’s Children is being reprinted this fall by Miona Publications of Onancock and Secant Publishing of Salisbury. The book will be perfect bound and listed for \$27.00. It includes a Foreword by Brooks Miles Barnes. For more information or to reserve your copy please see [revivalschildren.com](http://revivalschildren.com).

is felt by so many of our patrons whether they live here or not. Fostering local history labors of love of all types—books, articles, story and photo collections, podcasts, oral histories, or simply a personal search for answers—is the key role of the Heritage Center. We strive to make Eastern Shore history accessible to everyone, including a community of historians and family historians who are “amateur[s] in the original sense.”



## Youth Services

Tiffany Flores, Youth Services Librarian

August primarily focused on finally pulling together all the elements for the Read Every Day (RED) Project. Due to all her work in July, Tiffany knew for sure the books would be delivered on August 4th. Fortunately Northampton County Sheriff David Doughty and she had worked together to ensure his team would be there to handle the delivery and, from there they could make plans packing up the backpacks that would then go to the schools. Plans were made to handle all the packing and as much of the distribution as possible within the week of August 9th through the 13th. At that time, Vincent Thomas with Eastern Shore Regional Jail and the re-entry inmates took over packing the backpacks with record speed! *See photos page 10.*

Within two days, the inmates were able to fill 900 backpacks with books. On the backend, Tiffany Flores began reaching out to the schools on Monday, working hard to try and distribute everything by Friday. Due to the sheer volume of the books, they would be receiving and new school year prep, a majority of schools would be picking up Monday. At that point, Cara Burton, Hannah Swimley, and Tiffany Flores made a detailed plan and what would need to happen Monday and how to do it so that everything would go well while Tiffany Flores was out of the office. By the end of the following week, the schools had received their 900 bags of books along with extra books totaling about 10,928 books. The additional materials have been distributed to local organizations with the rest currently sitting in the library to be used in future endeavors.

This August brought the end of Tiffany Flores', first year of Summer Reading Program. For her first year, it was difficult to plan due to the ever-changing landscape of a world still very much in the covid-19 pandemic. The summer was a challenge but one that went well regardless of the hiccups. Summer kick-off was a success overall. The challenge had 24 readers engaging with it all summer long and the events mostly went well. Even Summer Food Programming had anywhere from 9-20 children per serving day. And, while it may not have been the greatest summer, it was a good first year for Tiffany Flores. She hopes, in the future, to be able to do more programming and see greater numbers.



Cascading Carlos returned for outdoor fun at Accomac.





# Chincoteague Island Library

Karen Sharp, Library Manager



As summer is winding down, with schools starting up, and most visitors' vacations ending, Chincoteague Island Library is starting to relax. Thankfully, CIL is still busy with adding new patrons, serving our existing patrons and exploring new ways to help our community.

Speaking of busy, CIL has been wrapping up summer with some awesome programs that took place in August. At the Island Theatre on August 2nd, CIL, the Chincoteague Island Arts Organization and the Virginia Commission for the Arts jointly scheduled the Barefoot Puppets who presented "Galapagos George". Based on a true story of "Lonesome George", this show told the tale of a truly-one-of-a-kind tortoise from the Galapagos Islands.

On August 5th, the Young Explorers (3rd-5th Graders) attended the MARS Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport Presentation. Through the presenters, Zachary Campbell and Carter Birch, they learned all about the Spaceport and built a puff rocket. They created straw rockets to model the physics of a rocket launch and learned about force, pressure, and the anatomy of a rocket while modeling Newton's Third Law of Motion: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. In addition to taking home their rockets, the Explorers received swag boxes, posters and a reading list to learn more.

Sherman, the mascot for the Delmarva Shorebirds, visited CIL on August 12th. He stopped by for a visit, read a book and posed for pictures. Sherman's friend, Madison, helped to read the story of "Sherman At The Bat". Sherman and Madison toured CIL and were presented with our library totes as a thank you.

"Lubbock's Learners", CIL's Summer Reading Challenge Pro-

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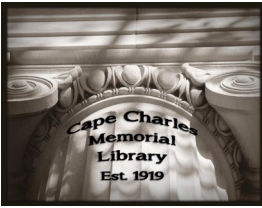
gram, had their wrap-up party for students who returned their reading logs. This took place on August 19th, in which there were 35 attendees, including parents. All students who returned their reading logs received a tote bag filled with school supplies and were entered in a drawing for prizes, with the grand prize of a Kindle. Due to COVID concerns, there were "take home" refreshments and facial masks were highly recommended.

On August 23rd through the 27th, CIL hosted "Stuff the Trolley" School Supply Drive to support the students and teachers of Chincoteague Elementary and Combined Schools with school supplies for the upcoming school year. CIL would like to thank the sponsors: Island Clergy, Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, G58 Media, Town of Chincoteague Pony Express, Chincoteague Elementary School, Chincoteague Combined School and Chincoteague Island Library.

Starting September 1st through the 30th, CIL is excited to participate in September Library Card Sign-Up Month! Library Card Sign-Up Month has been held since 1987. Along with the American Library Association, libraries unite together to try to ensure every child/adult signs up for their own library card. In observance of this, CIL is having two contests. One for adults, which is a Reading Bingo provided by ALA. As one plays and achieves "bingo", they fill out a slip to enter to win an CIL Tote Bag. For the children, their name and contact information will be entered in a drawing when their parent/legal guardian brings them in to sign up for their very own library card. The prize will be a backpack.

CIL will be offering a free Genealogy Workshop. There are three sessions starting on Mondays: September 13, 20, and 27 from 3-5PM at the Chincoteague Island Library. On September 13th, Cara Burton, System Director of the Eastern Shore Public Library, will highlight the features of the ESPL genealogy support systems, including Ancestry.com and Family Search. Ruth Mascari and Ruth Spann will host the next two sessions and will be offering helpful tips on researching your genealogy and using Ancestry.com. Please email Ruth Spann at [rewcspann@aol.com](mailto:rewcspann@aol.com) to register as preregistration is required and seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to wear a mask, per library policy.

The Chincoteague Island Library Board will be meeting next Thursday, September 9th at 5:30PM. CIL's annual newsletter is at the printer. It should be ready for mailing in a few weeks.



# Cape Charles Memorial Library

Ann Rutledge Library Manager



Our Summer Reading Program ended on August 13. We had 60 children enrolled in the program this year. Although different, we have a very good summer with lots of people returning to the library and many visitors from out of town.

The Cape Charles Memorial Library gets support from many places and the Friends of the Library are an integral part of the Library. Without the Friends of the Library

we would not have our wonderful AWE children's computers, our laptop tables, display units, funding for additional library programs as well as many other items. During the past year the Friends have had to be creative in programming by presenting a Zoom & Learn series. They have another series that will begin on September 25. This series covers four different topics. The first will be Linda Lang-Yoga and Your Health. In October Julie Warner, RN, MSN will present Caring for a Love One with Dementia. November will be Dickie Leatherbury: "Hops on the Shore", and in December Dr. Lloyd J. Kellam: "Atrial Fibrillation." The Friends of the Library have also had two very successful book sales at the Library, featuring cookbooks.

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## Governor's Time Capsule: ESPL ensures ESVA represented

Remember the ESPL Time Capsule project this past spring? We submitted the Arcadia Middle School time capsule booklet and it was accepted! For more information about the Governor's Time Capsule:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/timecapsule/>



Flores and Burton with Arcadia Middle School staff and students celebrating the time capsule booklet in June.

# Technical Services

Charle Ricci, TS Manager

In conjunction with our regular library catalog, ShoreCat, the ESPL offers a mobile app: Librista, which is available for Apple® and Android™ devices and is free to download from the App Store or from Google Play. Librista makes it easy to search the catalog, read summaries, reserve items, access your account, and more.

Librista's home screen features the operating hours and a map showing the location of the nearest ESPL library. The latest library news and messages are available as well. Also on the home screen are two continuously updated lists: Just added to your library (What's New!) and Trending now at your library (What's Popular!). These lists are extremely popular with local Librista users. In fact, over the last month the Just Added list was viewed 1,800 times and the Trending Now list over 1,000 times!

Librista can also be used to search the ESPL library catalog for books, DVDs, and audiobooks. Additionally, the library's Libby eBook catalog can also be found under the Overdrive tab of the search menu. All search results can be narrowed down by title, author, subject, material type, and age group.



Items listed in the search results can be expanded with a simple click to see available copies, a summary, and reviews. Librista makes it easy to reserve the item or add it to a Bookbag to save it for later.

Logging into Librista with your library card number and PIN will allow access to your library account to see items that you have checked out. You can also renew items, monitor the items you have on reserve, and check to see if you have items that are ready for pickup. Plus, you can edit your library account's contact information, contact preferences, and password from within Librista.

Librista truly is a wonderful tool to keep track of your library account, see what's new in the library collection, and discover what you'd like to read next. To download, please visit <https://librista.com/index.html> for a direct link to either Apple's App Store or Android's Google Play.





# Northampton Free Library

## Coming Soon! A new Branch Manager



Many exciting things were happening this month at the Northampton Free Library! Besides the brand new branch manager, Hannah Swimley, fully settling into her role, grounds maintenance is being done and a brand new display starting to take shape

During the month of August, a major event took place at the library: the Meet and Greet for both the new branch manager, Hannah, and for the Childrens' Librarian, Tiffany Flores. The event went very well, with a large turnout and loads of conversation all around. It was a great opportunity for networking, as well as for catching up with old friends and colleagues.

The new display that is starting to come together is a display that should, if everything works out, help to promote literacy in young children, specifically in girls (although reading has no gender). This display will also tie in history, as the items are historically accurate and have books to go along with the items. The

hope of this display is to encourage children to learn about history through reading in a way that is educational, fun and impactful.

Speaking of books, the main branch and Northampton Free Library are now starting a book exchange for large print books, where 25 Large Prints are sent down from the main branch to NFL and will stay in circulation down here for three months. Charle and Hannah are trying out a new way of doing this exchange in Atrium, and so far it seems to be working well!



Book displays play an important role in encouraging reading and diversifying readers' reading choices.

### Welcome aboard!

Connor Buryn, Library Specialist I

Susannah Shaifer, Library Specialist I

Megan Tiede, Library Assistant

# READ EVERY DAY (RED) GRANT PROJECT





# Grant Update

Cara Burton, ESPL System Director , September 2021

- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – This ARPA money is distributed to the Library of Virginia. ESPL should receive \$28,709 based on the state aid formula. Application submitted with budget for: RFID installation (due to construction delay) - \$10,000; security system - \$1,950; Video monitoring - \$9,186; HC website - \$6,000, phase 2; tech consultant - \$1,573. Budget modification since August 2021.
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) – Application submitted. Should hear in October 2021. ESPL is partnering with the Nabb Center at Salisbury University. ESPL would get a subaward, if Nabb is awarded this competitive grant. We might receive an archivist 20 hours/week for a year and other benefits on work that will support their DelMarVa African American History database project. The burden of grant application, recordkeeping and fiduciary responsibility falls on SU.
- Virginia Humanities (VH) – Continue to work with US250 consultant, paid for with VH grant. Kasey Grier is applying for the SHARP grant for the purpose of a Heritage Center planning consultant.
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – Emergency Connectivity Fund. Application submitted that will support technology for area nonprofits, namely wifi hotspots, ipads, and ChromeBooks. Should hear mid-September.
- Pending:
- NEH Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections – August award date; as of September 9th, have not heard. Have emailed NEH project contact for status. Will support compact archival shelving. ESPL Foundation applied.
- VRSA (ESPL'S insurance company) Risk Management Grant - \$500 matching grant. Applied for file cabinets with non-tipping features. Awarded. In process of ordering equipment. This is a matching grant.
- Awarded:
- USDA Rural Development Communities Assistance Grant – two grants were awarded for a variety of technology and equipment. Paperwork and purchasing taking place now. We do not receive the USDA money until all equipment has arrived and all matching funds expended.
- NFL grant: All equipment received and paid for. USDA money received via ACH, so all grant and matching funds from ESPLF and NFL Friends received.
- Accomac grant (children's shelving and Digitization Lab): Shelving on order. Burton needs to order Dig. Lab equipment. Foundation has \$50K match in hand from ESVACF.
- ESVA Community Foundation (\$50,000) – This will be the match for the Accomac USDA RD grant and will support children's shelving and the Digitization Lab. Awarded to the ESPL Foundation.
- CARES – Final \$5,935 receipts were sent to Library of Virginia to get reimbursed for the remaining funds. Accomack remaining funds received: \$2,346.
- FEMA – Received ACH of \$5,338.91 from FEMA via VEMS (Va. Dept. Emergency Management Systems). \$649 to go to CIL as their share filed for reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses. We can apply for more FEMA funds, but the question is whether Burton has the time.