



Library System Report

EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA • PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Regional Library and Heritage Center • Cape Charles Memorial Library • Chincoteague Island Library • Northampton Free Library

November 2024



Upcoming December Highlights @ Regional Library & Northampton Free

- **7th: Visit from Santa Claus! - ESRL**
- **11th: Holiday Scan-a-thon Photo Drive - ESRL**
- **12th: Author Talk w/ Dr. Art Fournier - ESRL**
- **12th: Lego Contest - NFL**
- **13th: ESRL&HC and NFL CLOSED**
- **17th: Dennis Custis Lecture, "Henry Wise & Friends, Part 2" - ESRL**
- **19th: Holiday Ornament Adult Craft - NFL**
- **19th Lego Contest - ESRL**
- **24th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **25th: LIBRARIES CLOSED**
- **26th: Teen Creative Writing - ESRL**
- **31st: LIBRARIES CLOSE @ NOON**
- **Tech Help: Every Tuesday - NFL**
- **Teen Gaming Night: Every Tuesday - ESRL**
- **Storytime Anytime: Every Monday & Wednesday - Northampton Free**

For more information: espl.org; (757) 787-3400

Director's Update



Christopher Pote,
System Director

Coming soon to a library near you... Movie Night! With the recent purchase of licensing to publicly show movies, ESRL&HC can now show motion pictures from most of the major studios. We will soon be having regularly scheduled movie nights. Held in the Dennis Custis Lecture Hall, ESRL's free movie nights will be fun for all ages, popcorn included. Want to host a movie-themed birthday party? Watch a childhood favorite on the big screen? Enjoy a comedy in a room filled with laughter? All can be done right here at your local library. Have requests? espl@espl.org.



EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History

Heritage Center staff displayed a selection of books from the Eastern Shore Room collection during the month of November in observance of Native American and Indigenous Heritage month. This selection included *Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland* by Helen Rountree, whose expertise focuses on the Powhatan and Indigenous groups of the Tidewater and the Eastern Shore, as well as the pamphlet *The Accomac and Accohannock Indians from early relations* by C.A. Weslager. Many of Weslager's articles detail archaeological research and history of native tribes Delmarva Peninsula, which are available in our archives, and his published titles focus mainly on the native groups of Delmarva. Also included was Francis Bibbins Latimer's *Journey of a Multiracial Family*, a text that discusses the history of the Gingascount Indian Reservation in Eastville and details the genealogy of the Francis family's Gingaskin Indian, African American, and white ancestry. In the selection *Plain Paths and Dividing Lines*, published in 2023, native and early colonial interactions are explored through the use of the Chesapeake Bay and its waterways. A research guide for Native American history to include Eastern Shore Room titles, archival items, and items in the digital collections will be added to the website.

Heritage Center staff was given permission to take digital photos of the personal notebook of Emma Laura Boggs Mason (1870-1944), which contains genealogical notes and sources for her family surnames such as Savage, Boggs, Nock, Underhill, and Fosque. Of particular interest are several "reminiscences," one of which is an account of her grandfather, Captain Underhill and others, running the blockade during the Civil War. This is perhaps an earlier version of the same story that Mason told in a presentation to a church group which Myra Lorene Boggs references in "Lets Trace our Family Tree." In another account, Mason recalls an incident with a whale at Pungoteague Creek in 1884. In the back of the notebook are verses of poetry and a letter written to Emma Laura from a Fosque cousin, discussing genealogical research and a bit of family gossip. The notebook was brought in by the great-granddaughter of Emma Laura Boggs Mason, visiting from Kentucky and interested in archival material relating to the Boggs and Fosque families.

Genealogical and family history research is a popular hobby for some, and for others it is a frustrating and rewarding ongoing project. The Heritage Center is familiar with all types of researchers at all stages in the journey. In early November, a researcher was referred to the Heritage Center by the clerk of court's office in Accomack to get some assistance with her connection with the last known owners of the property that Allentown cemetery is located on. Her grandmother and mother are buried at the cemetery, and the property has long been known as a "family property," but there was never one specific owner and no deed. The original property had been divided by a state road which separated the cemetery from the now vacant lot. She had a copy of a will dating from 1903, in which James Allen, bequeaths the property to his wife Mary, or in the event of her death, their two daughters Margaret and Missouri. However, all she knew was the name on her grandmother's tombstone, Annie E. Boggs, who died in 1973. She had no obituary for Annie, nothing she had found in any of the obituaries of her family that she had was able to show the relationship. In fact, her mother's obituary named her parents as Annie E. Kellam and John Kellam, and what was even more confusing—her mother also married a John Kellam. So where did the Boggs come from?

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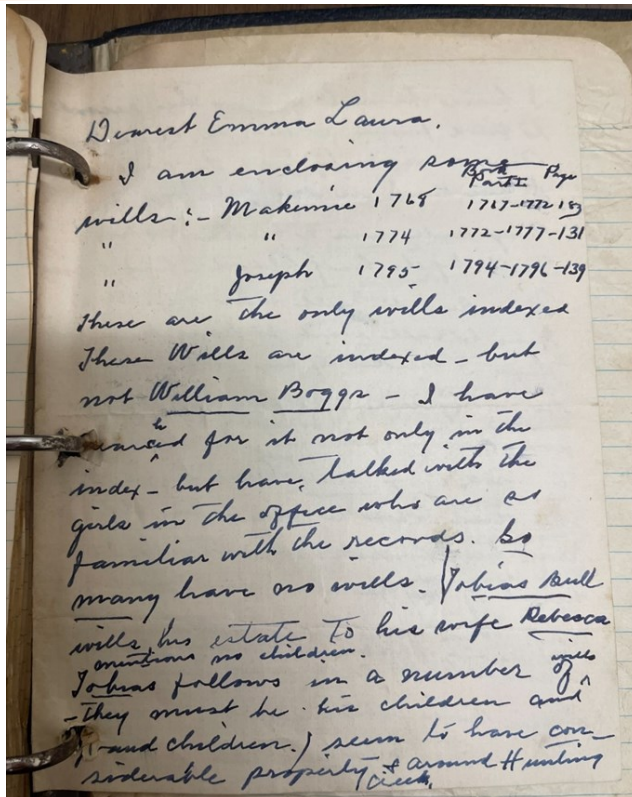


EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Heritage Center

esplheritage.org

Jazmine Collins, Reference Manager & Local History



It is often moving to see the profound emotional impact that surprises even a familiar researcher, such as woman from Kentucky, who brings in her great grandmother's personal notebook but is brought to tears by seeing her mother's name included one of the family charts from the Lewis genealogical files. It was even more rewarding to see such a practical application of genealogical research and reinforce the value of knowing your family history, and in November, I was particularly thankful to see how much the Heritage Center impacts our community and visitors.

As for next month, December 17th, Dennis Custis will be returning to give us the second part of his lecture "Henry Wise and Friends." On December 11th, the Heritage Center will host a Holiday Photo Scan-A-Thon. Patrons are invited to bring a family portrait at the holidays, a holiday meal spread, or a photo of a holiday activity or tradition, as well as a flash drive. Heritage Center staff will scan the photos to create a digital copy for patrons and create a digital collection that helps detail aspects of Eastern Shore culture.



Adopt-a-Book and Help the Library's Collection Grow!

As the end of the year approaches, our thoughts begin to turn toward giving. Gifts may be shared with those near and dear to our hearts, but also with our local community. To help celebrate the gift of reading, the Eastern Shore Public Library (ESPL) offers the **Adopt-a-Book Program**, which is a perfect way to share one's love of books with their Shore neighbors.

Participants in the Adopt-A-Book program select an upcoming bestseller, or a specific author, title, or subject area, and ESPL then purchases that item. The adopter's tax-deductible donation can be acknowledged with a bookplate inscription that can include the donor's name, or the name of the person for whom the book was purchased to honor or memorialize. Additionally, a letter of acknowledgement can be sent to the recipient of their choice.

An added perk of adoption is that the donor can be the first to read their adopted book – even if there is a waiting list for it! Adopters can jump to the top of the list for their favorite author's newest release and know that their donation will benefit all who enjoy the book in the future.

In 2015, when ESPL began keeping records for the Adopt-a-Book program, which was then known as the Be First program, Estelle Murphy was already the leading and most consistent participant of the program and steadily supported the library through purchases of popular new releases of bestselling authors. Estelle's generosity has not waived since that time and, at last count, has purchased over 450 titles for the library!

"When I first started purchasing books for the library through the "Be First" program, it was for selfish reasons. Because of working full time, I did not always have time to finish the books that I liked to read before they were due back at the library. The "Be First" program enabled me to have extra time to read the books and also to help the library by returning the books when I finished reading them to be added to their collection", Estelle explains. "It has given me a way to support the library through my love of reading and also to provide a memorial to our son, Larry, who left us much too soon."

There's a good chance that local readers who have borrowed a novel from the Northampton Free Library have noticed a bookplate indicating that the book was given through Estelle's memorial contributions. Her donations to the ESPL have occurred book by book over the years and have significantly enhanced the library's fiction collection.

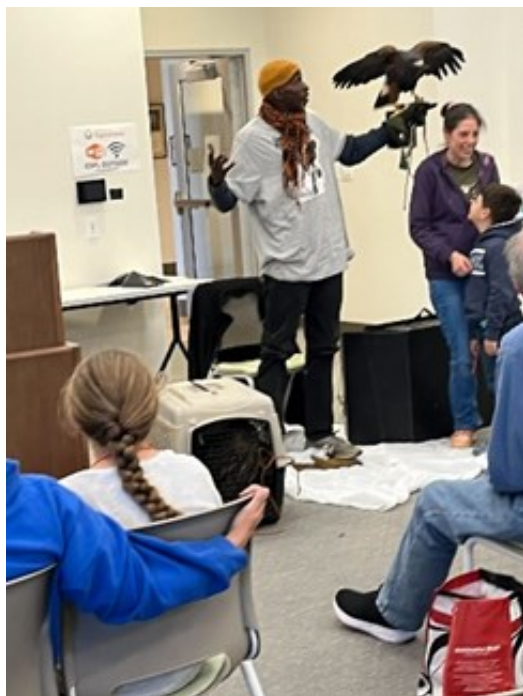
The Adopt-a-Book program is available during the holidays and also year-round, and is an excellent way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. Some readers choose to celebrate the everyday instead, and adopt a book just because they love to read. No matter the reason, consider helping the library's collection grow, and making a difference by supporting ESVA literacy! To participate, please visit <https://espl.org/adopt-a-book-program/>





Programs & Outreach Report

Tiffany Flores, Programs and Outreach Librarian



This month the Regional Library invited Rodney Stott, Master Falconer, from Rodney's Raptors to visit the library on November 9th. This was a phenomenal family program with 35 attendees. Mr. Stott was an incredible educator who used empathy and understanding to educate children and adults about his birds and how to train them. He even allowed patrons to take pictures with his birds as long as they did so safely. He was one of the library's best educators invited into the building. In addition to Rodney's success, Maria Burns and Tiffany Flores hosted a Dinosaur Tea Party with pizza, drinks, activities, and games. This program was well attended with 22 attendees of a variety of ages.



Every patron who was asked greatly enjoyed the food and activities provided. Kids even got to take home prize bags with dinosaur-themed goodies in them. To continue with

the dinosaur theme, this month's STEM Night was about fossils! Nine patrons participated in the program and received dinosaur goody bags.

Teen Gaming Tuesdays have been steadily building up. In total, there were twelve teens including some brain new faces. Additionally, more teens are actively hanging out in the space. To make the room more welcoming, Tiffany purchased activity books, coloring pencils and markers, and teen-appropriate fidget toys. These things have already been actively used.

This month's Author Talk featured local Author Nan Carlton who has published two children's books. The attendees gained insight and advice about publishing books. Additionally, Tiffany's monthly Stitch-a-long only had one attendee, but it worked out well as that person was able to get one-on-one lessons on how to crochet based on her current project. Like many attendees before her, she asked if it could be a weekly engagement. Tiffany is considering turning it into a weekly club where attendees can attend, share advice, and learn from each other.



As part of an initiative to make the space more inviting and welcoming, one of Tiffany's projects was to kid-proof the kids' programming room and make it habitable for parents and kids ages 0-11 so they can have a safe place to play, color, and be kids. With some minor hiccups, this has gone well. Kids and parents with little ones have slowly been trickling in to play with toys. Tiffany noticed that this room has begun to get most its use when parents come after school and directly after a program that's been held in that room.

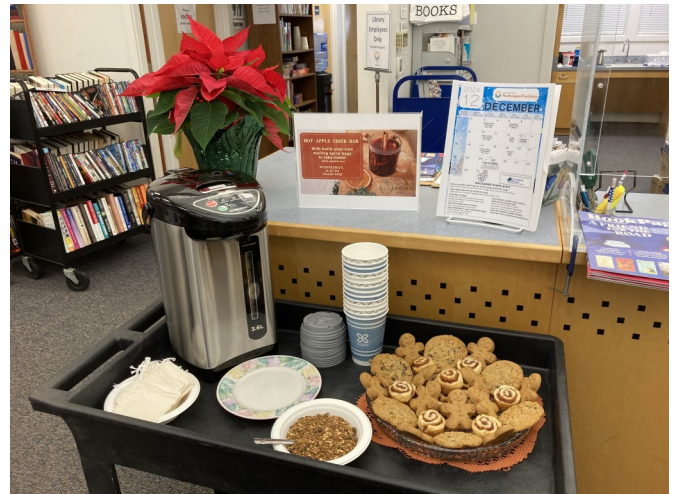


Northampton Free Library

Connor Buyn, Branch Manager



Northampton Free Library had a very successful month of public programming in November even with several holiday closings to work around. For the entire month, library staff have been hiding grow-your-own dinosaur eggs throughout the children's section daily in celebration of Dino-vember. This turned out to be very popular with our younger patrons, with several making special trips to the library just to hunt for eggs. On Thursday, November 7th, the library hosted a children's STEM program in keeping with the paleontological theme – kids were invited to learn how to make their own fossils using plaster of Paris and were able to dig through a fossil box to find real fossils to take home. Library staff also read out a dino-story on November 21st for this month's special evening story time. November's adult craft on the 14th was seasonal and cozy, with attendees learning how to make decorative pumpkins out of wine corks. Finally, Northampton Free Library hosted its second annual hot apple cider bar all day long on Wednesday the 27th. Besides free spiced cider and cookies, patrons were able to put together their own bag of cider mulling spices to take home and produce their own batch.



The library has another full schedule of programs lined up for December, with next month's evening story time and snack taking place on Thursday, December 5th at 4:30 PM. On the following Thursday, December 12th, Northampton Free Library will host another children's STEM activity starting at 6:00 PM. Kids are invited to compete in a LEGO competition to see who can build the best winter wonderland. Snacks and prizes will be provided. December's adult craft will take place on Thursday the 19th starting at 6:00 PM – attendees will be able to make and decorate their own holiday ornaments. Spaces are limited for this program and signup in advance is required. Ask at the front desk or keep an eye on the Northampton Free Library Facebook page for more information. Tech Help will also continue to be offered all day long every Tuesday through the month of December.

Northampton Free Library will be closed on Friday, December 13th for staff training as well as on Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The library will also close early at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, December 31st for New Year's Eve. Happy Holidays!



Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



During November, Cape Charles Memorial Library had two passive programs for visitors to participate in. The first program was, "Your Vote, Your Future". The display was simple but allowed younger visitors to learn about the voting process. Those who participated were asked



to vote for their favorite "candy-date" and chocolate was the overall favorite! Our second passive program was a "Thankful Tree" in which visitors were encouraged to write on a paper leaf what they are thankful for. By the end of the month, our little tree was full of love and gratitude!

CCML received a notification of approval for a DEQ FY25 non-competitive Litter Prevention and Recycling Program.

For the past several years, the CCML Board has hosted a Town Wide Read, which encourages the residents of Cape Charles (and beyond!) to participate in a giant book club. The title for this year will be, *Hidden Figures* by



Margot Lee Shetterly. *Hidden Figures* is about the lives of

three [African-American women](#) who worked as [computers](#) to solve problems for [engineers](#) and others at NASA. CCML hopes to also have a book discussion and a showing of the film. Stay tuned for upcoming programs and dates.

Over the course of the month, staff hosted three story times, three read-a-louds, and two Dungeons & Dragons meets. Staff also hosted a new favorite program, STEM Club which is held twice each month. This month, STEM Club participants attended Spy School. Library Assistant and STEM Club creator, Olivia Palmer, describes the program:

"As new agent recruits arrived, they were presented with a classified file, containing the challenge they were to complete to graduate the academy, and the tools needed to complete the challenge. Included in this packet were keys for three different types of ciphers, an activity sheet using each of these ciphers to practice, a "top-secret" notebook, an invisible ink pen with a UV light, and a take-home activity book from the FBI. Agents were tasked with decoding each cipher using the given keys. First was the Ceaser shift cipher and the corresponding cipher wheel. The cipher wheel allows agents to input the given shift value and decode the cipher from there. This teaches critical thinking and applies some understanding of numeric values. Next was the pigpen cipher, which is a symbol-based cipher that also tests critical thinking. Finally, agents were given some addition and subtraction problems to solve which resulted in numbers that were translated to text with the A1-Z26 cipher. After completing all or some of the ciphers, agents were allowed to test their dexterity in our yarn "laser" maze, after which they faced one last puzzle. Using their invisible ink UV lights, they uncovered the Ms. Sharon held their graduate badges, which they collected at the end of the program."



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Cape Charles Memorial Library

Sharon Silvey, Library Manager



Festive Fridays are just around the corner, and we are working hard on decorating the building and getting crafts ready. This year CCML will be participating on December 6 and December 13. Each Friday evening, families are invited to visit the library and put together some great holiday crafts. The special guest on December 6 will be the PBS Literacy Van and on December 13 we will have a special guest musician. The Friends of CCML will also be attending, selling yummy baked goods and the official Town ornament of Cape Charles Memorial Library (all proceeds directly benefit CCML).



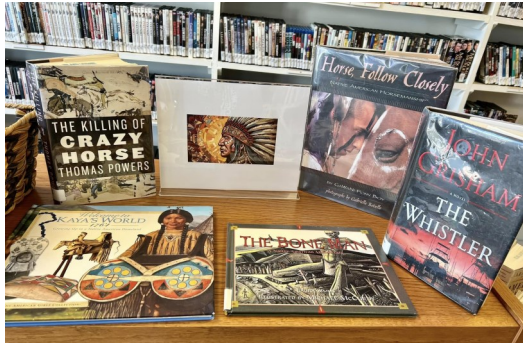


Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Lots happening at our library in November! The library was all decked out for fall, Thanksgiving, Native American month, and Veterans' Day.



Adult Programs: In addition to our two monthly book clubs, we hosted an Eastern Shore Rural Health program in which Diana Ralph, R.N., discussed the importance of immunizations, vaccines, and preventive care. Liz Walraven from the Eastern Shore Community College was at the library to provide information, answer questions, and assist with the application process for the College. She will visit again in December.

Maintenance & Improvement: The board hired a contractor to build a wall between the stairs and talk box which improved the look of the room and added some much needed storage. He also, with help of board members and volunteers, removed the carpeting in the front room and replaced it with luxury vinyl plank flooring. The library security was updated with cameras installed in each room of the library. The cameras are viewed from a wall display across from the circulation desk to enable staff and volunteers to see into each room.



Raffle Winners: The winners of our annual fundraiser came into the library to pick up their baskets. Our next basket raffle will begin Valentine's Day Weekend with our participation in the Downtown Merchants' Death By Chocolate event.



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Chincoteague Island Library

Linda Ryan, for the Board of Directors



Tales 4 Tots Storytime: During the month of November, our story time themes were mail carriers and their trucks, Paw Patrol, and turkeys/Thanksgiving. George Tripp from the Chincoteague Post Office paid us a visit to show the children the mail truck. He handed out special USPS coloring books and stickers. Volunteers led the children in songs and read stories. We averaged 19 children each week. On November 21, following our Tales 4 Tots story time, we received a visit from 19 children from the Chincoteague Elementary School Pre-school class. Each child received a take-home turkey craft and treat.



Mrs. Ashley Powers' CES Preschool Class



Upcoming Programs: On November 29, the Downtown Merchants' Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa Visit will take place at the library. Tales 4 Tots will resume on Thursday, January 9 with a Pajama Party and special guest reader, Tiffany Flores. On January 16, a representative from the United States Coast Guard will be coming by to read and then show the children one of the boats and safety equipment.