

# 2019 Elizabeth Kane Award Presented to Mary & Ed Erm

Mary Stewart Erm is a born librarian. She learned to read before she began formal schooling by reading comic books, an experience that taught her that the best way to get kids to read is to let them read what they enjoy. Once at school she discovered a club called "Future Librarians of America." Of course, she became the club president. She was a teenager when she got her first job working as a page in a library, and she never left.

Along the way Mary earned her Masters of Library Science from Clarion University. She has done just about every job in the library, from circulation, to managing Youth Services, to adult reference and administration. Mary took a brief break from public librarianship when she worked as the director of the library at the Monroe Campus of Northampton Community College. She was there as they moved from the old campus to new campus and designed the beautiful new library at Monroe NCC.

I am very lucky that Barbara Keiser managed to woo her back to EMPL before retiring. As soon as I met Mary, I knew my new job would work out. Mary is one of the finest librarians I have ever met. She is smart, engaged, super competent, creative, and in love with libraries. Mary is always open to new ideas, and has the experience to turn an idea into a successful program or project.

We are also fortunate that she is married to Ed Erm. Ed started working here when Mary was at Northampton when the prior Head of Maintenance left suddenly. As the former head of maintenance for the bus division of New Jersey Transit, Ed brings an amazing set of skills to his work. He can manage tasks involving carpentry, plumbing, electrical work,

automotive work, and many other tasks that an older building requires. For example, when part of the front door, a three hundred pound glass panel, blew off during the freakish Primary Day wind storm two years ago, Ed was able to wrestle the panel out of the parking lot and reach into his extensive tool bag to get the panel back in place, so that the door continued to work and we were able to close up the library that evening.



*Mary Erm and Friends President Cathleen Conway*

When the Friends of the Library purchased a new bookmobile in Denver, Colorado, of course Mary and Ed were up for a road trip. In three days and two nights they managed to fly to Denver, complete a three-hour training on the operation of the new bookmobile, and then head out on the road for the 2,200-mile trip back home.

I can think of no more deserving couple for the 2019 Elizabeth Kane award than Mary and Ed Erm.

*— Susan Lyons, Library Director*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Fall Y'all,

A couple weekends ago I had the privilege to attend the volunteer luncheon for the Eastern Monroe Public Library. Each year at the luncheon the Friends organization presents the Elizabeth Kane award to an individual who goes above and beyond to help the library. This year's recipients were Mary and Ed Erm. They give tirelessly to the library each day. Last year they traveled to Colorado to inspect and then drive the new Bookmobile back to Stroudsburg. This is just one of the many things they have done for the library.

There are a lot of benefits to volunteering. It can provide you with a sense of purpose, increase self-

confidence, combat depression, counteract the effects of stress, anxiety and anger. Our organization is a success because of all the volunteers we have. Thank you to each and every one who sorts books, sits on the board and helps us out at the book sales. Because of all your dedication we are able to give back to the library and help our local community.

If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. You can contact us through your local library.

Have a great upcoming holiday season and see you all in 2020.

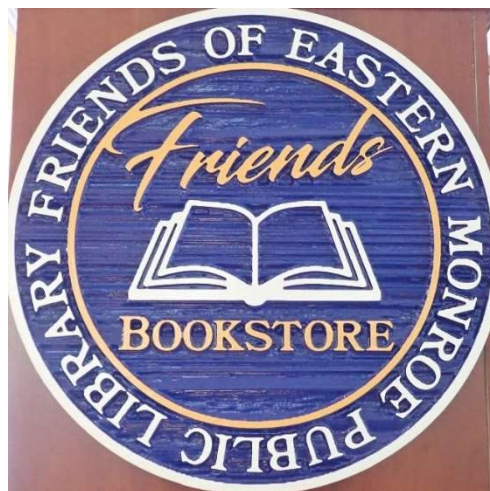
*Cathleen Conway*



**Furry Friend Emily shared some of her favorite books with the children who came to check out our new Bookmobile at the Farmers Market in Courthouse Square.**

## Two ways to support the Friends

*Weis Markets has generously supported the Friends for many years and continues to do so. Volunteers collect, tally and deliver register receipts, and the Friends receive a percentage back in return. Please remember to drop your tapes in the jar at the circulation desk. Thank you - and a special thank you to Weis Markets.*



*The Friends' Bookstores in the Hughes and Smithfield Libraries are a perfect answer for that special little something to round out every shopping list. We have an excellent selection of books, music and movies changing every week and the prices are truly amazing! While you are at it, don't forget to pick up a little something for yourself. 📖*

## From the Director:

# Eight Cool Things to Do at the Library

*By Susan Lyons, EMPL Director*

Most Friends are aware of the many library programs offered by the Youth Services Department. The library offers over 350 programs a year for our younger patrons, including Lapsit and Storytime for the pre-K set, STEM programs for older kids, and a rich summer reading program.

But grownups need not feel left out. Here are eight cool things you can do at your library:

**1. Learn a new language.** Want to learn Chinese? A new introductory course meets on Thursday afternoons, led by librarian Chen-Fang Cheng. Planning a trip to Paris? There's a French conversation group that meets the first Saturday of the month. If English is the language you need to practice, circulation staffer Claire McHale leads an English conversation group that meets Tuesday evenings. Some other language? Mango languages offers online training in over 70 languages and it is free to use with your library card.

**2. Get comfortable with technology.** The library offers regular computer technology classes every Tuesday afternoon at the Hughes Library and twice per month on Wednesdays at the Smithfields Library. From the basics of using a computer and the Internet, to computer programs such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint, to classes on polishing up a resume, we offer something for everyone. There are classes on doing genealogical research online, and using free business and investment databases. Mystified by social media? There's a class for that too.

**3. Attend a free concert.** The library's BookHouse concerts have brought talented performers to the Poconos for many years. Each year we sponsor about 10 concerts, held on a Friday evening in the Edinger Community Room at Hughes Library. The next BookHouse concert is Friday, October 25 at 7:30 pm.

**4. Join a Book Club.** There are thriving book clubs at all branches of the library (2 at Pocono Township!)


You know you love books, so why not get together with fellow book lovers at the library.

**5. Earn a GED or help your neighbors earn their GED.** The Success for Life GED program is now in its third year, offering one-on-one tutoring to adults seeking to earn a high school equivalency diploma. The program is entirely run by volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, or know someone interested in earning a GED, give the library a call and we'll help you take the next step.

**6. See a great movie.** Join us for the Words and Film program the first Sunday of the month. We show both recently released and classic films with a literary theme or connection. Many films are introduced by a speaker offering insights on the film.

**7. Become a citizen.** The library offers free classes to help permanent residents prepare for the U.S. citizenship exam. The class is taught by library staff and volunteer instructors.

**8. Connect with friends at the Library Café.** Looking to meet up with friends at a central location? Stop by our café and enjoy a hot beverage. The parking is free and don't forget to check out the best selection of gently used books in Monroe County.

For more information about any of these programs, give us a call at: 570-421-0800, and press 4 for the reference desk. 

## Welcome New Friends

*Martin J. Diorio, Ph.D.*

*Audrey Jaromski*

*G. Gail Martin*

*Mimi Mikels*

# Recognizing the impact of EMPL

*By Ann Super, Board of Trustees President and Friends Board Member*

*The following are the remarks Ann made at the recent EMPL Volunteer Luncheon:*

Good afternoon and welcome to the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Hard to believe a year has passed. Seems like we were just here. I would like to extend a special thank you to Linda Crooks and her awesome crew who put this great event together. Without your hard work and creativity, this wouldn't happen. Thanks to Jeffrey Gibbons for sharing his music with us today. Jeff is well known for his talent throughout the area and we are lucky to have him with us today. A special thank you to the staff here at Peppe's. They always go above and beyond and we are delighted to be back here again for another wonderful meal and opportunity for fellowship.

Last but not least, a hearty shout out to our dedicated library staff, who under the leadership of Director Sue Lyons, out do themselves time after time.

But, this event is about you, our volunteers, and how much we appreciate everything you do to make our library enterprise a success. Our enterprise spans an extensive part of Monroe County encompassing about 86,000 people. Now I don't know for certain that all those residents have a library card. But I do know that we do provide services to a lot of people. Many people come into one of our branches every day. We are open in 2 of our branches 6 days a week and our main library is open 7 days a week and they are buzzing with activity. Additionally, we provide services at the Correctional Facility (where I hear they are starting a Book Club) and, of course, our branch on wheels.

Last year around this time, I told you that we had a replacement bookmobile in Colorado waiting for Mary and Ed Erm to give it the once over and make sure it was a good fit for us. The bookmobile passed muster and they brought it back to PA. After that we partnered with Pocono Arts Council to sponsor a contest to design a vehicle wrap that reflects our area

and portrays the joy of reading. So now, thanks to the Friends of the Library, you can see the bookmobile out and about visiting day care centers and senior centers doing what we do best – providing literary resources to young and old. The bookmobile has been at the Farmers' Market twice this summer and has attracted a lot of attention. If you haven't seen it yet, it will be at the Farmers' Market in Courthouse Square on October 26. We will continue to bring it to more community events so everyone can share the experience.

Our Café, run by Fitzmaurice Residential Services, is up and running successfully – and they are always looking for innovative ways to improve their services. I invited one of the employees, Korey Varkados, to speak to the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs about his employment experience at the Library. I had heard him speak to two of our Boards and I knew he could communicate how his experience empowers him. Korey personifies passion of our staff and our volunteers and his energy is contagious!

So, what's next? We have already embarked on our next opportunity. We have partnered with Middle Smithfield Township to be part of their project for Echo Lake Park. On August 28, we had the groundbreaking ceremony for the Middle Smithfield Township Community and Cultural Center and the Library of the Smithfields. We are very excited to be part of this project to serve the Smithfields community. There are pictures of the project available so you can have a sneak peak of the new library. For the most part, we will be able to take the furnishings and books located in the RGB space we are leasing and relocate them in the new space. This exciting new opportunity offers us the ability to provide even more programs and services to that area.

When I look around this room, I see volunteers who complement our library in a variety of ways. Along with our dedicated and talented staff, you are what  
*("Impact" continued on next page)*



# Ground Breaking!

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Community and Cultural Center and Library of the Smithfields was held on August 28, 2019 at Echo Lake Park in Middle Smithfield Township (MST). Among those participating in the event were Taylor Munoz, Chief of Staff for Senator Mario Scavello; PA State Rep. Rosemary Brown; MST Supervisors Mike Dwyer, Mark Oney and Annette Atkinson; Susan Lyons, Director Eastern Monroe Public Library with Trustees Ann Rapoch Super, Seamus McGraw and Sharon Laverdure; Monroe County Commissioners John Christy, John Moyer and Charles *Garris*.

Preserving local history, elements from the Mosier Dairy barn will be incorporated into the building. "Grandma's peonies" and other flowers from the Mosier garden have already been transplanted at the park and will be an integral part of the landscaping.



We are excited to be part of this project which embraces so many partnerships. The facility will, when required, serve as a certified Red Cross Shelter. There will be a local museum, Brodhead Watershed Association and Penn State Master Gardener Rain Gardens. Partnered with the Monroe County Beekeepers Association, there will be a pollinator garden and beehives.

We need your support for this project. There will be volunteer opportunities, fundraising events and major fundraising efforts to finance and sustain this project. We appreciate, as always, your steadfast support in our endeavors.

So, we will need you now more than ever – you have been generous in sharing your time, your talent, your passion, and your financial support in the past and we hope to have it in the future.

– Ann Super, EMPL Board of Trustees President

## **Impact (continued from previous page)**

makes the success of EMPL possible. The tasks you perform at the library free staff to serve our patrons in other ways. You bring the energy needed to make us more than a repository of books, and you serve in so many different capacities.

The Friends work the different aspects of the book sale year-round. You have that down to a science and should be a model for similar endeavors. The book clubs, game clubs and writing groups bring people together for socialization and sharing. Tutoring is helping people obtain the advantage of learning to read, learn English and get that coveted high school

degree. Event coordinators build community through a multitude of different events that appeal to a broad number of people. Often every room is filled with a club or group that wouldn't otherwise have space.

Finally, those who serve on any of our three Boards help the library maintain its footing in the present, while also steering the library into the future – helping our library realize our vision to be the community's center for social and cultural engagement and discovery.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you do! 📖

## Friends join the Bookmobile for some Community Outreach

The first Bookmobile was put in service in US in 1905 in Maryland, according to an article in *American Libraries*. The first library on wheels was a wagon pulled by two horses. We have come a long way from those early days but, nonetheless the need still exists.

Our library's history of utilizing bookmobiles is not as long but, once established, was steadfast. The Kiwanis and the County Commissioners purchased our first bookmobile in 1941 and we've had books on wheels ever since!

Last summer, a fire destroyed our bookmobile and interrupted service. Thanks to the financial support



of the Friends, we purchased a new vehicle. Mary and Ed Erm trekked across the country to drive our new bookmobile home. Once wrapped with a design reflecting our area, we again resumed service.



This summer, the bookmobile was at the Farmers' Market in the Stroudsburg Courthouse Square and delighted young and old alike. I volunteered one day and was delighted to hear children dragging parents over to see "my bookmobile that comes to my school."

Thanks to the generosity of Alice and Faye Cyphers, each child who stopped by received a free book. The delight on their faces answered the question "does anyone still read books?" affirmatively.

Patrons are proud of our bookmobile and glad it has been up and running and serving preschool to senior centers. If you haven't seen the bookmobile yet, stop by the Farmers' Market on October 26 for Harvest Fest. The bookmobile will be there, and the Friends will also be there to answer questions or pass out membership information. 📖



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**CHILDRENS SALE**  
**APRIL 25-26, 2020**

**ANNUAL BOOK SALE**  
**MAY 30 – JUNE 2, 2020**



***News from the  
Friends of the  
Eastern Monroe  
Public Library***

**Fall-Winter 2019**

PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A YEAR

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## Korey promotes the Library Café

On September 9, 2019, Korey Varkados spoke to the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs. Korey is one of the passionate crew members of the Fitzmaurice Community Services (FCS)-run Library Café. Korey enthusiastically passed out loyalty cards and information about the Café encouraging attendees to come to the library. His speech was met with a heartwarming response.

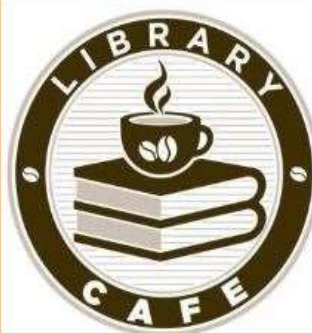
The Café was a long time in coming but its success shows we took the right steps in meeting the needs of the community. Korey asked the group to take the “dis” out of disability and stress the ability. This is something we should all remember, and our Café ensures we are on the right track to follow Korey’s advice.

Without the support and encouragement of the Friends over the years, the Café would never have opened. That would have been one less opportunity for Korey and his fellow crew members. 📖

*Photo: Dick Ludwig*



If you're a member of a community group, school or church, and would like to learn more about having Korey deliver an inspiring story guaranteed to motivate, contact Rosanna at [rmontalvo@fitzmaurice.org](mailto:rmontalvo@fitzmaurice.org), or call (570) 213-4331.



### **It's Pumpkin Spice Time at the Café!**

Fall into fall at the Library Café! The Café is now serving:

**PUMPKIN SPICE  
COFFEE  
CHAI TEA  
PUMPKIN LOAF BREAD**

Come in out of the crisp fall air and enjoy some of these cool weather favorites today!

