

# Mark Your Calendars

October 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 pm – Weeknight with Friends – Features Colin M. Caplan and his book *Pizza in New Haven*

October 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 10:00 pm: Party in the Stacks!

November 8<sup>th</sup> 10 am: Friday with Friends - Features author Kathy Leonard Czepiel and her book *A Violet Season*

December 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am: Join us for a holiday gathering of Friday Friends. Join us for a casual opportunity to socialize with our fellow members.

January 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00 pm: Friends Annual Meeting and Thank You Party.

# Amazon Smile

If you order from Amazon, you can donate to the Friends at no charge to you by ordering through Amazon Smile and selecting Friends of the Milford Public Library as your non-profit of choice. Amazon will donate a percentage of each purchase to the Friends.

# Become a Member of the Friends of Milford Library

The Friends of Milford Library is a non-profit volunteer organization that sustains the programs and activities of the Milford Public Library that are not supported in the City budget. To learn more about the Friends, visit [www.milfordlibrary.org](http://www.milfordlibrary.org) and click on the link for Friends of the Milford Library. You can fill out a volunteer application online. Contact us: 203-783-3291 / [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com). Join the fun! Volunteer today!

Get involved in our activities. Please consider joining our volunteer corps – there are lots of diverse ways to contribute:

- Library Friends Table: Greet and assist library patrons. Newly opened spots in the early evening Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 6-8 pm. Wednesdays and Thursdays 4-6 and Saturday 2-4.
- Public Relations: Write news releases, write newsletter articles, maintain the FOML bulletin board
- Book Sales: Organize, set up, and assist at our special book sales
- Party in the Stacks: Party planning and decorations

# Newsletter Staff

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Contributing Photographers: Pam Pilla, Louise Uchaczyk, Ashley Volkens

# Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



*Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library*

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

# Milford Public Library Renovation

In November of 2017, the Library was the recipient of a construction grant from the CT State Library to make some much needed updates to our building. With matching funds from the City, and much support from our municipal leaders and other City departments, we are poised to get started! The renovations will include an expansion of our Children’s Department to make it more ADA accessible, added space for different age levels with appropriate technology centers, and a more comfortable layout so that families can stay, mingle and meet others - so necessary to building the community relationships we cherish. The second phase of the project will add two small, public meeting spaces on our adult floor, and require the relocation of the Local History Room.

The project is scheduled to begin on October 1, and last approximately 6 months. During construction, the Children’s Department will be relocated to our adult Program Room, easily accessible from the lower level entrance. Also, during this time the Library will decrease the number of programs, speakers and concerts offered; however we will remain open for all other services. Please check our monthly calendar for updated program schedules.

We are excited for this adventure to start and can’t wait to share our improved space with you once completed. In the meantime, we hope to see you in the library and will keep you posted on renovation updates. If you have any questions, please contact Library Director Chris Angeli (203-783-3399) or Children’s Librarian Suzanne Harrison-Thomas (203-783-3290).

***Thank you in advance for your patience!***

# As of October 1<sup>st</sup>

- The Children’s Library will re-open in the Program Room.
- The lower level bookdrop will be closed. Materials can be returned in the building, or using the outside, upper level book return on New Haven Avenue. We are investigating options for a more accessible lower level book return and will keep you updated when/if that becomes available. Due to our limited space, we will be enforcing our book donation procedures and ask that you familiarize yourself with the policy before bringing materials to the library.

## A Note from Pam

Like many of you, I have a Kindle and enjoy reading on my Paperwhite. Being able to control the font, text size, and contrast makes reading very comfortable. If I don't have my Kindle with me, I can pick up my book where I left off by using the Kindle app on my iPhone. The two devices sync seamlessly.

Consequently, I was happy when Fred Danowski, Information Systems Librarian, agreed to talk with us at a recent Friday with Friends. Fred gave a very informative talk that detailed the many features available on the library website. The only requirement to access many of the features is a library card. Below is a brief synopsis of the topics Fred covered.

### 24 / 7 Resources and Databases

The library offers access to numerous databases and resources. Database examples include Reference USA which includes a national phonebook. There are job postings, US Census data and newspapers. You can research genealogy via Ancestry (access available within the library) and much more.

### EBooks, eAudioBooks, and eMagazines

The library subscribes to two e-content vendors, Overdrive and rbDigital. Both offer eBooks and eAudiobooks. rbDigital also offers eMagazines which do not need to be returned and can be kept on your device until you delete the file. These two services are available to Milford Public Library cardholders. Overdrive offers the Libby app for your device and rbDigital also has a downloadable app. The library webpage has links to access the collections, instructions and download information.

### Library Catalog

Log in with your library card and access your library account. You'll be able to see items currently checked out with expirations dates, renew checked out items without going to the library, place items on hold, search the catalog and more.

### Passes To Cultural Attractions

Reserve admission passes to a wide variety of local museums. These passes allow free or discounted admission depending on the museum's policy. Many of the passes can be reserved, printed, and returned from the comfort of your home. We are proud to say that the museum passes and the reservation system have been purchased by the Friends as gifts to the community.

### Wowbrary

Discover what's new at the library with weekly email alerts showing you the newest books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books that the library has purchased. Sign up at <http://wowbrary.org>.

Give the online features a try and if you are technologically challenged, the library staff is available to help. Stop by the reference desk or call 203-783-3292 to **"Book a Librarian"**!

The Milford Library and the Friends have a busy fall season ahead with the recently announced start of the Children's Library renovation, our Party in the Stacks, and the holidays. Take a moment to appreciate autumn with its beautiful colors and reflect on how much has been accomplished so far this year. I hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season with family and friends!

All the Best,  
Pam

FOML Newsletter

## Visit to Ireland's Great Hunger Museum

On Friday, September 6 the Friends of Milford Library took a road trip to Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University. The Museum investigates the Famine and its impact through art. It interprets the Famine visually, allowing artists — both those contemporaneous with the Great Hunger and those working today — to explore the impact of the loss of life, the leeching of the land, and the erosions of language and culture. Through its display of outstanding historical and contemporary images, layers of history are peeled back, to uncover aspects of the Famine indecipherable by other means. Docent Joseph McDouagh led us through the exhibits with entertaining as well as informative commentary. All who attended had a wonderful visit and we would encourage others to visit and support the museum.



*Docent Joseph McDouagh addressing the group.*



*Friday with Friends at the Ireland's Great Hunger Museum.*

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*(Left) Stay tuned for Ashley Volkens starring in *The Party in the Stacks* edition of *Minute with the Mayor*. Thank you, Mayor Ben Blake and Justin Rosen.*

*(Below) Friends volunteering at the Barnes & Noble fundraiser book fair in September. Volunteers include Arlene Painter, Ashley Volkens, Pam Pilla, Dale Weiner, Judy Salemme, Carm DeVito, Linda Sheehan, and Mary Lee Clayton.*



## City Perks with a little help from our Friends!

City Perks is an expanded beverage and snack service provided by the Board of Education's Fifth Year Vocational Experience Program (FYVEP). Revenue earned by the program is donated back to the community. While the students were off for the summer the Friends stepped in to help. "It was a wonderful collaboration between the Library, the Friends and the FYVEP! My sincerest thanks to the volunteers who staffed the café during July and August. We couldn't have done it without the dedication of Barbara Cairney, Charlie Cook, Corinne Fucci, Kathy Goldbach and Sheilah Slettery", said Pam Pilla. The students have now returned to City Perks with the start of the school year. Be sure to visit the café Monday through Thursday from 10am to 1pm.



*(Left) Friends members, Judy Salemme, Judy Kennedy, Peggy Bolger, Linda Sheehan and Pam Pilla at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of StoryWalk at Eisenhower Park. The Friends supported StoryWalk with a donation and by acting as a fiduciary for the project. Congratulations to Eagle Scout candidate, Marco Buschauer, from Troop 1 in Milford for a job well done!*

*(Right) Neil Kemp and Ronda Zalenski volunteering at the Friends Table at the Milford Oyster Festival. The Friends highlighted the Party in the Stacks but also shared information about the great services and value that the Friends and the Milford Library bring to our community.*





## Newsletter Member Spotlight – Ashley Volkens



The buzz is building as the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Party in the Stacks approaches. The theme alone is newsworthy - Pop Culture – and it promises to attract both new and returning supporters to a celebration of the music, art, literature, fashion, film, television and radio that enriches our lives. Like past Parties, the theme will be front and center in décor, hors devours, signature drinks, interactive games and this year, a branded superhero cape (Thank you, The Milford Bank!) It's a grand evening but also a critical one:

all of the proceeds fund children and adult programs, museum passes, and expenses not covered by the Milford city budget. To put it simply – it's a great party with an important purpose.

So it takes someone with a special skill set to lead the event and the Friends has found that person in our new Vice President of Special Events, Ashley Volkens. Raised in Milford, Ashley attended Platt Technical High School and earned an English degree at Rivier University. What brought her back to Milford and specifically the library? A deep love for her hometown and a special connection to the library.

Ashley's professional experience and dedication to literacy make her uniquely qualified. For four years, Ashley served as the General Manager, a position she created, at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre. This non-profit regional theatre, a cultural resource over approximately 45 years, relies on a combination of public and private funding. During this time, Ashley also volunteered for the School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport as a "Reading Pal."

When an employment opportunity with Save the Children presented itself, Ashley took it. Save the Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children around the world. As a Community Engagement and Fundraising Expert Ashley works to achieve the non-profit's mission of keeping children healthy, educated and safe.

We're lucky that a lifelong love of "anything books" drew Ashley back to the Milford Library. Experience in marketing, event planning, fundraising, and community outreach make this Milford native perfectly equipped to handle one of our biggest fundraisers. The Friends have their own superhero in our VP of Special Events! Thank you, Ashley, for all you do!

## Party In the Stacks!

Just tuning in? It's not too late to buy your tickets to our fourth annual fundraiser Party in the Stacks! This year's 21+ event will take place at the library on the evening of Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 7- 10 pm. Our theme is **Pop Culture: Celebrating Superheroes, Comics, Movies and everything in between**. This year's game portion of the evening will be calling you to brush up on your favorite movies and tv shows spanning across the decades. Other interactive and instagrammable moments around the library will include giant party games provided by Party People Inc. and a Harry Potter sorting hat experience where aspiring witches and wizards will be sorted into their rightful house.

All guests in attendance will receive a Friends of the Milford Library branded superhero cape sponsored by our loyal supporter The Milford Bank and a Comic Book filled goody bag provided by Alternate Universe. The Crushed Grape is returning as a sponsor for our bar, serving beer, wine, and a signature cocktail and Christopher Martin will provide pop culture worthy appetizers and desserts.

Individual tickets are \$35 for members of the Friends and \$40 for non-members. Starting October 1st, all individual tickets will be \$50. Tickets may be purchased at the Milford Library Circulation Desk, via the Library's website, or on [www.biddingowl.com/FriendsofMilfordLibr](http://www.biddingowl.com/FriendsofMilfordLibr). Be sure to check out the preview of our Silent Auction and Raffle prizes online also at [www.biddingowl.com/FriendsofMilfordLibr](http://www.biddingowl.com/FriendsofMilfordLibr). For questions, please email [partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com](mailto:partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com) or call 203 783-3291.



(Above) Evelyn Duffner, Joan Aquillino, & Dale Weiner work on Party in the Stacks decorations.



(Right) Ashley models a Party in the Stacks cape, sponsored by The Milford Bank.