

Mark Your Calendars

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

February 7th, 10:00am, Friday With Friends. For the fourth year in a row, Nancy Abbey, Assistant Director of the Milford Public Library, will give her insightful perspective, discussing recently released books as well as previewing some upcoming releases. Join us for a fun morning and add to your wish list of must-read books.

April 23rd, 2020 High School Book Awards. Join us to honor our student recipients at our Book Awards. Details to follow.

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 the Milford Library

The Friends of the 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 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. 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. There are 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, and 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:

Contributing Authors: Margaret Bolger, Pam Pilla, Louise Uchaczyk, Ashley Volkens, Chris Angeli

Contributing Photographers: Amy Bringardner, Kristen Trombley, Louise Uchaczyk, Ashley Volkens

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

The Friends of the Milford Library

Cordially invites you to our:

Thank You Party and Annual Meeting

Thanks to our wonderful members and community supporters, 2019 was a fun and successful year for the Friends of the Milford Library. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for our achievements and offer a look ahead at our plans for 2020!

Please join us for a wine and cheese reception to be held on the main level of the Milford Library

**Sunday, January 26th
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Please RSVP by January 17th

Email: milfordlib.friends@gmail.com

Phone: 203-783-3291

A Note from Pam

A Year in Review: Continuity and Accomplishments

In mathematics a continuous function is a function that does not have any abrupt changes. This concept is a good analogy to describe the Friends of the Milford Library in 2019. We continued the good work of the organization and built on the foundation laid down in previous years. Our many dedicated volunteers continued their enthusiastic support of the library and have provided meaningful and popular services to our community.

Our fundraising activities:

- Book Sales – Our Book Sales Committee maintained and managed the on-going lobby book sale as well as our Spring Book Sale.
- The Party in the Stacks, Pop Culture – It not only was a successful fundraiser for FOML, but the party also showcases the library to the community.
- There was a substantial increase in community support, as evidenced by the increase in the number of sponsors and auction and raffle donors this year. The raffle proved to be a very popular addition to the evening’s activities!
- Barnes & Noble Book Fair – Volunteers staffed a table at two book fairs in February and September.
- Baubles, Bangles and Bling Bazaar – This was a new and successful fundraising event this year.
- Other funding sources include membership fees and public donations.

Activities funded and/or managed by the Friends:

- Adult and children’s programs which are offered free to the public by the library each month.
- Welcome to Milford Bags and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.
- High School Awards, including five book awards to juniors and two senior scholarships.
- The Little Libraries Committee stocks and maintains the four Little Libraries located around Milford.
- Annually, the Friends purchase museum passes and fund the software for the *Passes To Cultural Attractions* program.
- The Friends Welcome Table in the library lobby - Volunteers greet and assist library patrons.
- Community Partnerships:
 - City Perks – Volunteers assisted the Board of Education Fifth Year Vocational Program by staffing the café during the summer.
 - StoryWalk – FOML not only donated to the Boy Scout Eagle project, we also acted as the fiduciary for donations.

And more:

- Friday with Friends – We were entertained and enjoyed each other’s company with engaging speakers, field trips, and one evening event.
- Board members attended three Friends of the Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) conferences to network and brought back some new ideas.

The Friends of Milford Library had a very successful 2019. I look forward to what we can accomplish in 2020!

Pam

Carm’s Corner

Book Recommendations from our Friend, Carmela

1. Where the Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens
2. Vox, Christina Dalcher
3. My Sister the Serial Killer, Oyinkan Braithwaite
4. Becoming, Michelle Obama
5. Holy Lands, Amanda Sthers
6. If You Want to Make God Laugh, Bianca Marais
7. The Marsh Kings Daughter, Karen Dionne
8. The Island of Sea Women, Lisa See
9. The Lager Queen of Minnesota, J. Ryan Stradel
10. The Nickel Boys, Colson Whitehead
11. Olive Kitteridge, Elizabeth Strout
12. Black Coffee, Daniel Ford

Pictures of the construction taking place in the Children’s Department. Major changes are coming.



Milford Public Library Renovation

Renovations are moving forward on the Children’s Department. Walls are being removed, the story pit is being filled in and one can get a feel for what the size of the renovated Children’s Department will look like. Disruptions and noise have been minimal, and we have been excited to host programs both on our upper level and at the Fowler Building next door. Look through the windows to see the progress being made next time you are at the library.



Party in the Stacks! Volunteer Thank You Party



(Left) The Friends enjoying themselves after a successful Party in the Stacks 2019.

(Below) Andy Beetham passing out cake for the group.

(Below left) Pizza was a highlight at the party.

(Below-right) Pam Pilla cuts the cake.



Advocate for the Milford Public Library

The FY2021 Milford City Budget process will begin soon. Public comments are welcome at the Board of Finance and Board of Aldermen Public Meetings, typically in February and April. Please consider advocating for the library by attending and speaking at one or both public meetings. If you can't make the meetings, an email to your alderperson would let them know their constituents consider the Library important. Find your alderperson at the city website: <https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/board-of-aldermen>

If you are not familiar with the public meeting process, speakers need to be Milford residents, give their name and street address for the meeting minutes, then, get no more than three minutes to talk. Just a few words about what the library means to you personally and that you support the library budget will help and would be greatly appreciated. Personal stories really make an impact, such as a parent sharing the joy their child experienced at story time or the friendships formed, using our computers for job searching, saving dollars as a new retiree by checking out books, learning something new at a program, etc.

Additional information will be sent when the schedule is available. Thank you for your continued support!

Thank You Party and Annual Meeting

Save the Date for our Thank You Party and Annual Meeting. We have had another very successful year and will have lots to celebrate at our annual meeting and thank you party on Sunday, January 26 from 2:00 to 4:00 on the main floor of the library. In addition to voting on the slate of board members, we will be voting on revisions to the bylaws and presenting annual awards. More information on the proposed officers and the bylaws will be sent separately via email. So please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an afternoon for fun.

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have an interest in getting more involved with FOML? We have two openings for chairpersons:

The **Friday with Friends Chairperson** plans our Friday with Friends socials by arranging speakers or local excursions for the group. The chairperson also attends the monthly FOML board meetings.

A new position is being established for a **Volunteer Coordinator Chairperson**. For some fundraisers, our volunteers need volunteer help, for example high school students. This position will coordinate with the high schools and potentially other groups, like the Scouts or Rotaract. The chairperson will also be invited to attend the monthly FOML board meetings.

If you are interested or would like more information, please email milfordlib.friends@gmail.com

Party In the Stacks!

The Friends of the Milford Library hosted their fourth annual fundraiser, Party in the Stacks. The theme of this year's event was Pop Culture: from comics, movies, superheroes and everything in between. Guests came in costume, bid on a record number of silent auction lots, took a chance on raffle baskets, struck a pose at the selfie station, and played a TV trivia game. Brian Smith emceed the night and the music was provided by The DJ Company. Christopher Martin's restaurant provided scrumptious passed appetizers and The Crushed Grape poured a signature "Pretty in Pink" cocktail made with Tito's Handmade Vodka. The event was a success and will help in continuing the Friend's mission of supporting the Milford Library.

Many thanks to event sponsors: Alternate Universe, The Crushed Grape, The Milford Bank, Sterling Printing & Graphics, Party People Inc., ShopRite of Milford, Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Trish Pearson Insurance, Williams Agency Insurance, Stonebridge Restaurant and Gustos Trattoria Restaurant.

And many thanks to our FOML Party Committee Members: Nancy Abbey, Donna Anderson, Joan Aquillino, Anne Bolin, Peggy Bolger, Rose Bradley, Amy Bringardner, Cheryl Cappiali, Mary Lee Clayton, Carm DeVito, Margaret Downey, Evelyn Duffner, Corinne Fucci, Kathy Goldbach, Paula Goncalves, Kimberly Hunnicutt, Deanna Jacobs, Karuna Kasbawala, Neil Kemp, Amanda Kemp, Judy Kennedy, Arlene Painter, Pam Pilla, Judy Salemme, Linda Sheehan, Lisa Thornell, Louise Uchaczyk, Ashley Volkens, Dale Weiner, and Ronda Zalenski.

Interested in being a part of next year's fundraiser? Email partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com



Above: Attendees at Party in the Stacks posing for the camera.
 Below Left: Mayor Ben Blake and friends from Alternate Universe.
 Below Right: Our first Baubles, Bangles and Bling Bazaar December 2019 was a success!



Left: Carm DeVito, Judy Salemme and Peggy Bolger at the ticket sale table.
 Left: Supporters from Milford Bank enjoying the party.