

SPRING 2024

# OFF THE SHELF

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY  
NEWSLETTER

## THANK YOU PARTY AND ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The Friends of the Milford Library held their Thank you Party and Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, March 24 in the library's Program Room. Approximately forty members attended the meeting. Acting President Pam Pilla kicked off the meeting with a 2023 Year in Review.

Officer elections were held and the newly elected positions are as follows: Vice President Fundraising, Melissa Carroll, Secretary, Paula Goncalves, Assistant Treasurer, Charles Pape. The Vice President Public Relations position remain vacant.

The High School Awards Committee, led by Peggy Bolger, was thanked for their dedication and commitment. This year marks the tenth year that FOML will be presenting High School Book Awards. In addition to Peggy Bolger, the current committee members include Judy Salemmme, Ann Marie Sutton, Patty Rourke, Connie Gaynor, and Danielle Valenzano, the Young Adult Librarian.

The Friends thanked Library Director, Chris Angeli, who is retiring on April 5, for her continuous support of the Friends throughout her tenure. Best wishes and congratulations were extended to Chris as she begins her "next chapter"!



Chris Angeli, Pam Pilla



FOML Officers: Charles Pape, Kathy Goldbach, Pam Pilla, Paula Goncalves, Melissa Carroll (in front)



# MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING



Photos from Melissa Carroll and Margaret Downey

# THANK YOU TO THE MILFORD BANK FOUNDATION



The Friends of the Milford Library was chosen to receive a grant from the TMB Foundation which will help us continue our mission of supporting the Milford Public Library.



# 2023 FOML YEAR IN REVIEW

FOML has a lot to be grateful for and to celebrate. In 2023, FOML continued its support of the library and the Milford community in many ways. Library staff was able to increase both the quantity and, more importantly, the quality of programs offered to the public. The public responded with a substantial increase in the number of attendees.

We funded:

- Library programming for children, teens, and adults - including in-person, the Online Speaker Series, and free and discounted museum passes
- 485 programs (6% increase)
- 12,680 attendees (33% increase)
- Museum passes with 318 passes borrowed (19% increase)
- Summer reading programs
- Movie licenses

In addition FOML provided:

- Book Awards to five high school juniors
- Scholarships to two high school seniors
- "Welcome to Milford" packets to new library patrons
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten bags for pre-schoolers
- Three (3) Little Libraries and the re-opening of the Milford train station book shelf
- Friends Welcome Table volunteers
- Donor Recognition monitor frame was donated by the Friends.

The Book Sales had a good year. New bookshelves were purchased for the lobby sale. Both the Summer Reading book sale, held in June, and the Holiday Book Sale, held in December, were very successful.

In August, FOML had a table at the Oyster Fest. The Party in the Stacks with a "Where Mystery and Romance Meet" theme was held in October.

Members are FOML's biggest asset. Volunteers logged over 3000 hours in 2023! We are extremely grateful for the continued support shown by our members and the Milford Public Library appreciates all that we do.





# SPEAK UP TO SUPPORT THE MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

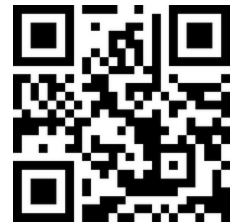
The City of Milford Budget process for 2024-2025 is in progress. The steps for the budget start with the publication of the Mayor's Proposed Budget. The Board of Finance then publishes their recommendations and the Board of Alderman ultimately approves the city budget. A Board of Aldermen Public Meeting is held in April.

Please let our city leaders know what the library means to you and that you support the current proposed library budget without any cuts. This year the library requested a substantial increase to the e-content budget. And a new line item has been added to cover some programming expenses.

Please contact your aldermen via email, phone, or letter. 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 also make an impact, such as a parent sharing the joy their child experienced at story time or the friendships they formed, using library computers for job searching, saving dollars as a new retiree by checking out books, how you use the e-content (e-books, audio books, etc.), learning something new at a program, how the library staff helped you, etc.

Find your aldermen at the link or with the QR code. Click on the alderman's name for their contact information.

[www.ci.milford.ct.us/board-of-aldermen](http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/board-of-aldermen)



If you are unsure of your district, a map can be found at the link below. Scroll down to "What municipal district do you live in?"

[www.ci.milford.ct.us/registrars-of-voters/pages/voting-locations-and-who-are-my-representatives](http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/registrars-of-voters/pages/voting-locations-and-who-are-my-representatives)



The Proposed Budget for 2024-2025 can be found here:

[www.ci.milford.ct.us/city-budget](http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/city-budget)



Public comments are welcome at the upcoming Board of Aldermen Budget Hearing to be scheduled in mid-April. Look for the announcement of the meeting on the Board of Alderman webpage.

# SAVE THE DATE

**April 7 - April 13** - National Library Week

**Tuesday, April 9** - National Library Workers Day. Visit the library and say “thank you” to the library’s wonderful staff.

**Monday, April 15** - Gulf Street Little Library to open for the season. Visit our other Little Libraries at the the Firehouse Art Gallery (81 Naugatuck Avenue, Walnut Beach) Milford YMCA (631 Orange Avenue, located off the parking lot, near the ball fields) and at the Milford Train Station.

**Thursday, April 25** - *Trivia on Steroids with Eric Berlin*, an FOML fundraiser at SBC Restaurant (more information comming soon)

**Saturday, June 15** - Summer Reading Book Sale

**Sunday, June 23** - The Next Mrs. Parrish Book Release Brunch with author Liv Constantine. For more information and to register for the event, use the QR code to the right or go to: [milford-pl.libcal.com/event/12079787](https://milford-pl.libcal.com/event/12079787)



## BOOK REVIEW BY CARMELA DEVITO

### The Patron Saint of Second Chances by Christine Simon

Signor Giovannino Speranza, plumber and unofficial mayor of Prometto, Italy, has a big problem. Unless he comes up with the money to fix the town’s water pipes, the water supply will be cut off without regard for the town’s 212 residents. Fearing a mass exodus, Signor Speranza knows he needs to come up with a plan. When he sees a young girl gushing over a picture of Italian movie star and heartthrob, Dante Rinaldi, an idea begins to germinate in his mind. As it begins to take shape, the idea escalates with well-meaning assistance from family members and residents.

When Signor Speranza casually mentions that Dante Rinaldi is considering buying a home in Prometto, the fun really starts. Rumors begin to fly that Dante is really coming to town to make a movie. Signor Speranza adds fuel to the rumors by suggesting that he is going to be in the movie. That fib takes on a life of its own. The entire town wants to be involved and, rather than admitting what he’s done, Signor Speranza just goes along with all the residents’ requests. His assistant, Smilzo, works on a script with a ridiculous plot line that focuses mostly on Dante’s habit of wearing tank tops. The only person who initially suspects Signor of not being truthful is the parish priest. To reveal more would give away too much of the plot and possibly ruin your enjoyment of this charming, funny novel. There is so much to love in this book, especially the creative ways a man takes to save the town he loves.

# SUPPORT

## BOOK SALE



Looking for a used book or DVD to buy? Stop by the Milford Public Library and peruse the selection of gently used books and DVDs available for sale on display in the downstairs lobby, **The sale is available whenever the library is open!** All adult and young adult books and DVDs sell for just \$1 each. Children's books are located on a cart in the Children's Library and are just 50 cents each.

## MERCHANDISE



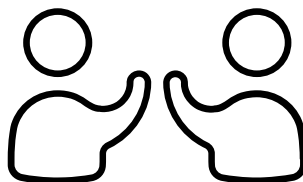
Looking for a gift for a library lover? FOML is selling book bags and mugs! All merchandise can be purchased at the library circulation desk, with cash or check only. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Milford Library or FOML.

- Coffee Mug: \$10.00
- Canvas Book Bag: \$15.00



## WHAT WE DO

- We Fund Library Programs
  - Programs for children, young adults, & adults
  - Online Author Talk Series
  - Summer Reading Programs
  - Free & discounted museum passes
- We Support the Milford Community
  - Library Friends Table
  - Welcome to Milford Packets
  - Four Little Libraries
- We Fundraise
  - Book & DVD sales
  - FOML merchandise sales
  - Special Events like Party in the Stacks
- We Advocate for the Library
  - Ambassadors for the library
  - Emails & letters to elected officials



## BECOME A FRIEND



The Friends of the Milford Library is a non-profit, 501(c)3 volunteer organization. The focus of the group is to encourage relations between the Milford Library and the community, to focus attention on library services, and to support fund raising activities. To join the fun and learn more visit: [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org) or contact us at [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com).



FOML

**Thank you to our newsletter contributors:**

**Melissa Carroll, Margaret Downey, Carm DeVito, Kathy Goldbach, Pam Pilla**