



Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter

Spring 2016

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

Seven Milford Students Win 2016 Friends' Award

Margaret Bolger, chair of The Friends of Milford Library Awards Committee, announced the names of seven Milford students who are the recipients of the 2016 Friends Awards.

The first winners of the Friends Scholarship Awards are high school seniors Fiona Noyes and Kelly Scianna, who attend Joseph Foran and Jonathan Law respectively. They will each receive \$500 scholarships.

The 2016 Friends of the Library Book Awards will be given to the following members of the junior class at each of the five high schools in Milford:

Julia Polizzo, The Academy

Annika Benedetti, Joseph Foran

Veronica Piscitelli, Luralton Hall

Kavitha Mohanarajan, Jonathan Law

Lupita Barios, Platt Tech

Book award winners will each be presented with *Only in Milford* by DeForest Smith. In addition, each winner will select a book, to be given to his/her school library. A bookplate will identify the award and winner.

Noted Bolger, "The criteria for the scholarships and the book awards were established by the Friends' Award Committee working with representatives from the high schools. Winners were selected for their outstanding personal characters, the positive impact they have made on their school and community and their



*Milford author DeForest Smith will present a copy of his book *Only in Milford* to each of the juniors at the five Milford High Schools who won the Friends of the Milford Library 2016 Book Awards.*

demonstrated strong, and consistent, love of reading. All winners were chosen by the faculty at each school."

The award ceremony will be held in the program room of the Milford Public Library on **Thursday, April 28, at 6:00 PM.** Dr. Elizabeth Feser, Superintendent of Schools, DeForest Smith and Mayor Benjamin Blake will attend. Families and friends of the winners and members of the Friends of the Milford Library are invited to attend.

Join Us for Fridays with Friends Activities

Friday, **4/29** 10-11:30 a.m. Bake something inspired by your favorite book and bring it to share. Need a source? Try this website suggested by FOML member Deanna Jacobs: www.mysteryloverskitchen.com. Please let us know in advance what you'll be bringing by sending an email to mifordlib.friends@gmail.com.

Friday, **6/17** 10 a.m.-noon. We will be visiting the Yale Center for British Art for a special tour of the Prints and Drawings Collection with Senior Curatorial Assistant (and FOML member) Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo as well as a tour of the exhibition *The Poet of Them All, William Shakespeare and Miniature Designer Bindings* given by Center docent (and FOML president) Anne Bolin. Details will be sent in May via a separate membership email.

Have a program idea for a Friday with Friends? Let us know!

Get Involved! We could use your help!

Chair the **Welcome to Milford Committee** of the Friends of the Milford Library. We already have a committee of involved volunteers. The chair schedules the meetings at which volunteers fill the colorful bags that we give to any new Library member who is new to Milford, makes plans to keep the supplies of materials to fill the bags up to date and plans visits to local nonprofits for materials. You can be as creative and busy as you would like. If you are interested, email Anne Bolin at mifordlib.friends@gmail.com.

Other available volunteer positions: Two-hour afternoon slots at our Friends Table; Plan a trip for our members.

Contact Us:

Email: mifordlib.friends@gmail.com

On Facebook: facebook.com/FriendsofMilfordLibrary

Friends of the Milford Library page on the Library website

*Purchase via Amazon Smile and the Friends earn \$. See our webpage.

Three Friends' Volunteers Honored at Thank You Party

Friends President Anne Bolin presented Outstanding Achievement Awards for exemplary volunteer services at the Friend's Thank You Party: (left to right) Volunteers Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo and Amy Bringardner, Milford Public Library Director Christine Angeli, Friends President Anne Bolin and Volunteer Carmela



DeVito. Amy Bringardner, who for several years has initiated and coordinated the ongoing Book Sale program, also spear-headed the

Friends Oyster Festival and the Lamplight Stroll sales in the past year. Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo inaugurated and coordinated the organization's Little Libraries Program, creating three new Little Libraries at Walnut Beach, Gulf Beach and the YMCA. Carmela DeVito faithfully greets people at the Friends table three days a week. A special award was presented to Jorge Santiago, Senior Vice President of the Milford Bank, in recognition of his role as advisor to the Board and for providing essential support to the Friends of the Milford Library Oyster Festival sale.

Friends Book Sale at the Oyster Festival

Join us on Saturday, August 20 at the Friends' book sale during the Oyster Festival. Thousands of hardcover fiction and nonfiction titles, trade paperbacks, and children's books will be for sale under tents in the parking lot of The Milford Bank in downtown Milford from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

All of the books are best quality and reasonably priced. There will be a separate table for specialty books and signed editions.

If you are interested in volunteering for a couple of hours at the book sale, please email Amy Bringardner at milfordlib.friends@gmail.com. We will need help all day beginning with set-up early morning.

Many Thanks!

In March we said farewell to Downton Abbey in style thanks to **Barbara Cairney, Nancy Abbey** and **Carol Sahutsky** who organized a beautiful tea stocked with treats made by **Jan Berube, Peggy Bolger, Sylvia Hazard, Jenn Rajaniemi, and Linda Sheehan**.

For our February Friday with Friends, **Nancy Abbey** treated us to a preview of new titles and gave us an insider's look at how the library chooses books for its collection.

Our events were once again professionally documented by our photographer/member **Beth Hanson**, a master at making us all look good!

We have a wonderful new FOML membership brochure thanks to **Marion Morra, Amy Bringardner** and **Janice Pellegrino**.

Three Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

The Friends held their annual meeting at the library on Sunday, March 13 and elected the following officers for two-year terms: **Marion Morra**, Vice President Public Relations; **Kathy Goldbach**, Secretary and **Karuna Kasbawala**, Assistant Treasurer. FOML President Anne Bolin thanked all three officers for the remarkable jobs they have done and now will continue to do for the Friends. Chris Angeli, Director of the Library, then presented flowering plants to all six of the FOML Board Members and thanked them for their support of the Library and its programs.

Be Part of ONE CITY, ONE STORY... see the WPA Movie

The Friends of Milford Library have joined the Milford Library, Milford Public Schools, Milford Arts Council, Connecticut Humanities Council, and Barnes & Noble, in the City's second One City, One Story. This initiative encourages residents from preschool to seniors, to read books sharing a common theme, encouraging dialogue and fostering a greater sense of community... one page at a time. This year's adult title is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. For middle schoolers, the committee has selected *Jim Thorpe : Original All-American* by Joseph Bruchac, and for the youngest members of our community, *Wilma Unlimited* by Kathleen Krull.

Programs are being held in various locations during April and May, starting with a rowing challenge April 2 and ending with a celebratory walk in the Memorial Day Parade. See complete list on www.milfordlibrary.org.

Since the events of *The Boys in the Boat* take place during the Great Depression, many of the adult programs will be centered on that time in our history. Some of you may know that the Arts Council is running the "Adopt a Mural" campaign, to raise funds to restore a WPA mural, previously located in Grammar School on West River Street, which when completed will hang in the Milford Library.

The film *Enough to Live on: The Arts of the WPA* will be shown at the Milford Arts Council on **Tuesday, May 17 at 7 pm**. "Enough to Live On: The Art of the WPA" celebrates the 80th anniversary of this epic undertaking and the Federal Arts Projects that using art, theatre, writing and music, reignited the soul of an America caught in the grip of the Great Depression. This beautiful film showcases WPA murals; the filmmakers Michael Maglaras, Director, and Terri Templeton, Executive Producer, will be on hand to introduce the film and answer questions after the screening.

This event is free and open to the public.



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Buy Your Tickets for the Friends' Party Before the Price Goes Up

The ticket price for Friends of the Milford Library's "Party in the Stacks!" changes on October 1.

"Individual ticket prices for the Saturday, October 22 Party are presently \$35 for members of the Friends and \$40 for non-members," noted Committee Chairs Lois Barr Button and Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo. "After October 1, all individual tickets will be \$50. Also, we encourage you to invite friends, family, and colleagues to sit at a reserved table for eight, priced at \$400."

Tickets are available for sale on the Friends website



(www.ci.milford.ct.us/milford-public-library/pages/friends-of-the-milford-library) and at the Library Circulation Desk. A limited number of tables are still available for the event. Attendees must be 21 and over.

Guests who attend the "Party in the Stacks!" will also enjoy imaginative, book-inspired hors d'oeuvres prepared by Christopher Martins restaurant, including:

- ♦ Alice in Wonderland Mushrooms
- ♦ Green Eggs & Ham
- ♦ Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
- ♦ Dracula tomato and eggplant stacks with 'spiked' garlic
- ♦ Chicken Little
- ♦ Forrest Gump Shrimp

The fun-filled event, which will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., will feature many literary-themed surprises, as well as DJ music and dancing, photo booth, and an exciting silent auction. By wearing garb inspired by a book or by dressing as their favorite book characters, participants will vie to win the "Best Dressed Literary Costume" contest. Costumes are encouraged, but are optional.

Sponsors include The Crushed Grape and ShopRite of Milford. For more information, call 203-783-3291.

Come to the Unveiling of Milford's WPA Mural

The City of Milford's Permanent Art Collection Committee, the Milford Arts Council and the Milford Public Library invite you to join in celebrating the unveiling of *We Shall Pass This Way But Once* the newly restored WPA (Works Progress Administration) mural on Thursday, October 6, 2016 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Library. Light refreshments will follow the unveiling ceremony.

For forty years, this mural greeted students as they entered Milford's Central Grammar School on West River Street, then the town's largest educational institution. Designed by Louis Agostini (1902-1977) and painted by Frank Rutkoski (1905-2000), both Connecticut artists, the oil-on-canvas mural was commissioned in 1937 and installed on April 2, 1940. When the school was being demolished in 1986, Bill Meddick, Executive Director of Milford Arts Center, and Frank Vespi, Board of Education Arts Coordinator, rescued a large portion of it.

Conservators at the Williamstown Conservation Center in Williamstown, Massachusetts restored this mural over the past five months, including the consolidation of loose and flaking paint, thorough cleaning, filling of losses of original paint and attachment of the artwork to a new linen support.



Thomas Branchick, Director of the Williamstown Conservation Center, works on the restoration of Milford's WPA mural, *We Shall Pass This Way But Once*, which will be unveiled on Thursday, October 6 at the Milford Public Library.

The Library will run special programs in conjunction with the Unveiling Celebration:

Saturday, October 1, 2:00 p.m. Enough to Live on: The Arts of the WPA film celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Federal Arts Projects; produced by Connecticut filmmakers Michael Maglaras and Terri Templeton.

Monday, October 3, 7:00 p.m., Hamish Lutris, Associate Professor, Housatonic Community College, The WPA and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was the popular New Deal natural resources development and protection program that operated from 1933 to 1942.

Books Galore Sold During Oyster Festival

The Friends' white tents in the Milford Bank parking lot were jammed with buyers from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the Milford Oyster Festival. We thank all our generous book donors who give us the attractive inventory that makes our sale so popular. Many thanks, too, to all our wonderful volunteers, both members of the Friends and students from both Foran and Law. We have an awesome team!

This sale is an enormous, year-round undertaking that is enthusiastically and skillfully spearheaded by Friends Board member Amy Bringardner. Without her leader-

ship, the sale and all the money and goodwill it generates for the Library would not happen.

The high school volunteers from Foran and Law, who cheerfully carried the loads of books and worked to replace those sold during the day, were ably recruited by Cookie Reshenk and Janice Pellegrino.

Finally, a big thanks to Milford Bank who supplies our space, lends us tents and chairs, and gives us bags and goodies to distribute to our customers. We are especially indebted to Jorge Santiago, Celeste Lohrenz, and Friends' Assistant Treasurer Karuna Kasbawala (who also works for Milford Bank).



Save Thursday, December 8 for our Holiday Book Sale

Put a big circle around this date on your calendar ...

Thursday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
That's the date that we will be holding our Holiday Book Sale at the Milford Public Library.

You will be able to spend time browsing the wonderful supply of nearly new books for sale, listen to the holiday music provided by choral groups from Foran High School, and enjoy the refreshments, including cookies and cider. If you'd like to sign up to work on the sale, email milfordlib.friends@gmail.com.

Please consider joining our volunteer corps – there are lots of diverse ways to contribute:

- * Bake refreshments
- * Plan trips
- * FOML press coverage
- * Organize special events
- * Oral history video project
- * And so much more

Contact Us:

Email: milfordlib.friends@gmail.com

On FB: [facebook.com/FriendsofMilfordLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMilfordLibrary)

Friends of the Milford Library page on the Library website

Friends of the Milford Library Plan Trip to Yale's Newly Renovated Bienen Library

Friday, October 14 will feature a special Friends of the Milford Library tour of the newly renovated Bienen Library at Yale. This 1963 architectural gem, one of the largest buildings in the world devoted entirely to rare books and manuscripts, will reopen in early September following a 16-month renovation.

Designed by Gordon Bunshaft of the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, the Bienen is famous for its white, gray-veined marble "window" panes which serve as beautiful, light filtering panels that allow rare materials to be displayed without damage. If you've never seen this remarkable building, now's the time to see the renovated building with its restored original luster, upgraded library's climate-control system and expanded classroom space.

The Friends will be treated to a one-hour tour by Moira Fitzgerald, Head of the Bienen's Access Services. The tour starts at 11:00 a.m. and is free to Friends members, \$15 for non-members (includes a membership). If you wish to join the tour, email milfordlib.friends@gmail.com or call 203-783-3291.