



Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter

Winter 2017

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

Four Exciting Events to Brighten Your Winter

We have three wonderful events and a trip planned to sweep away your winter “blahs”. Make plans to join us today!

Sunday January 22, 2-4 pm It's a Party! Join us for the Friends of Milford Library **Thank You Party and Annual Meeting**. We'll be celebrating all that we achieved during this year and talking about what's new for 2017. Awards will be given to some of our extraordinary volunteers and our 2017-2018 officers will be elected. Good food and refreshments, including **wine**, will round out the program. Don't miss it!! Please RSVP by emailing milfordlib.friends@gmail.com or calling 203-783-3291.

Friday February 3, 10:00 am Nancy Abbey, Assistant Director of the Library, will talk to us about how the library selects books for its collection and give us a preview of some interesting new titles, both fiction and non-fiction, to watch for in the coming months. We are inviting the members of Women Redefining Retirement and the Milford Historical Society to join us for this special program and to learn more about the Friends. Please join us in welcoming them to the library.

Sunday - February 12, 2:00 pm Alderman and actor Frank Smith and his wife Diane will perform **Love Letters**. This Pulitzer Prize finalist play is both touching and funny. It's the story of a 50-year old correspondence between two childhood friends whose relationship weathers time and distance. If you've never seen *Love Letters*, or even if you've seen it before, you'll enjoy this charming reading by Frank and Diane. Bring your neighbors and your friends to this special pre-Valentine's Day event at the library.

Friday - March 24, 10 am The Friends will travel to Yale's West Campus (the former Bayer facility in Orange) for a special tour of the works on paper conservation lab with senior conservator Theresa Fairbanks-Harris. Theresa is a wonderful speaker and this is a rare opportunity to see how museum works are cared for behind the scenes – don't miss it!

Party in the Stacks!

Co-chaired by Lois Barr-Button and Lisa Thornell Gargiulo, our inaugural Party in the Stacks! was a rollicking good time. This gala event was attended by an overflowing crowd of over 150 partiers, more than half of whom were wearing clever, literary-themed costumes.



Guests enjoyed dancing to the music of DJ Jazzy Kat, both on the dance floor and among the books. Good

food was the highlight of the night, including a crudities, cheese and fruit table and literary-themed hors d'oeuvres prepared by Christopher Martins Restaurant and passed by committee volunteers.

Bidding on the silent auction items, urged on by MC Brian Smith, started early and lasted all night long with happy winners bringing home unique prizes such as an African

Safari. Milford's poet laureate Mick Theebs coordinated a group-effort poem commemorating the night.

Many thanks to our sponsors, The Crushed Grape and ShopRite of Milford and especially to our outstanding volunteers who pulled off another great event at the library.

Stay tuned for news of our 2017 Party in the Stacks!



Want to Get More Involved?

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

- ♦ Volunteer two hours a week at our Friends Table
- ♦ Bake refreshments to enhance our programs
- ♦ Clip and keep track of Friends' press coverage
- ♦ Lend your research or technical expertise to our oral history video project

- ♦ Plan trips
- ♦ Organize special events

And so much more. For more information, send an email to milfordlib.friends@gmail.com or attend one of our Fridays with Friends.

*Purchase via Amazon Smile and the Friends earn \$. See our Friends of the Milford Library page on the Library website.

Roundup of 2016 Accomplishments and a Look Ahead

“What a great year we have had,” reported President Anne Bolin in presenting a summary of activities and achievements for 2016. “We’ve created some new programs while improving and expanding upon our successful ones from the past.”

- ◆ Inaugurated Party in the Stacks (see article on Page 1)
- ◆ With the City of Milford’s Permanent Art Collection Committee and the Milford Arts Council, we celebrated the hanging and unveiling of *We Shall Pass This Way But Once*, the newly restored WPA (Works Progress Administration) mural, which now proudly hangs in the Milford Library.
- ◆ Enlarged the audiences for both our adult and children’s programs—with 5800 adults and 16,600 children participating this year.
- ◆ Raised much needed funds through book sales in the Library, at the Oyster Festival and our Holiday Sale, along with donations, membership funds and special fundraisers.
- ◆ Established two scholarships, which were awarded to a Jonathan Law and a Foran senior, and presented the Friends’ Book Award to five juniors, one from each of the five high schools in Milford. Special thanks to Milford author DeForest Smith for his ongoing generous support of this program.
- ◆ Provided funding to ‘adopt’ a cheetah to celebrate the middle and high school students reaching their summer reading goals.



- ◆ Continued offering books at community locations with three Little Libraries—at the Y, Gulf Beach and Walnut Beach—and the “Books for Commuters” Library at the Milford Train Station.
- ◆ Had special Fridays With Friends informal get-togethers, sometimes with speakers and including two trips—to visit two newly renovated buildings at Yale, the Center for British Art and the Beinecke Library.
- ◆ Carried on our “Welcome to Milford” program, in collaboration with Milford organizations, creating packets to introduce newcomers to our City.
- ◆ Increased the number and involvement of our volunteers, logging well over 4000 hours!
- ◆ Received a 2016 Outstanding Friends Group Award from the Friends of Connecticut Libraries.



“2016 was a great year for the Friends and we are really excited about our plans for 2017. In January, we will launch a special year-long membership campaign with the motto:

The Friends of the Milford Library, because a great city deserves a great library.

“We will be inviting members from other Milford organizations to join us for our Fridays With Friends to get to know more about us and share what they do,” concluded President Bolin. “We welcome all who would like to join us in making the Friends achieve its potential.”

Gift-Quality Books, Holiday Music, Cider and Goodies at Holiday Book Sale

Everybody had fun at our Holiday Book Sale, held for two days this year, Thursday evening, December 8 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Friday morning, December 9 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Interested buyers spent time browsing through the books while listening to music and enjoying cider and goodies. Kudos to:

- ◆ Chair Amy Bringardner and all the wonderful folks who donated hundreds of beautiful books for us to sell
- ◆ The loyal Friends volunteers who prepared the books, set up the displays, greeted the buyers and manned the tables
- ◆ Brittney Garth who designed our poster and banner
- ◆ Student volunteers from Jonathan Law and Foran who worked before and during the sale
- ◆ Choirs from the Milford Seniors’ Group and Foran High School who each sang during the sale on Thursday, adding to the holiday spirit
- ◆ Friends’ volunteers who supplied the baked goodies
- ◆ And of course so many buyers who eagerly perused the offerings.



Little Library at Gulf Beach Opens for Season

Pat Simon has been busy making repairs to The Little Library at Gulf Beach, replacing the rusty hinges and getting it ready to open for the season. This Little Library is a story of active neighbors. Pat, who originally built it, taught and coached in the Milford school system until his retirement a few years ago. He was assisted in building the original Library and making the repairs by his young grandsons, Julian and Tristan. Neighbor Cathy Collins Liontas, a former Milford art teacher who paints full-time and teaches workshops part-time at her studio Art for Everyone, provided artistic talent for the original sea creature design and is restoring the weathered paint on the Gulf Beach Little Library.

Little Libraries Chair Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo noted that all the Little Libraries are now open — joining the one at Gulf Beach are the bright yellow Little Library at the Milford Y on Orange Avenue and the Little Library located in front of the Firehouse Gallery both built by Jack But-ton, who has also been busy making needed repairs, and the Com-muter Library at the Railroad Station.

The Milford Little Libraries are a project of the Friends of the Mil-ford Library. They are based on the “take a book, return a book” theory. They are gathering places where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Li-brary is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. Each of the Little Libraries has volunteer stewards, responsible for overseeing and checking on the stock of books. Stewards include Lois Barr, Peggy Bolger, Anne Bolin, Cheryl Cappiali, Marilyn May, Judy Salemme, Jane Sharma, Linda Sheehan, and Committee Chair Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo.

Volunteers Needed

We need your help. Love to bake? We need volunteers who will make cookies and other baked goods for our meetings. Good at greeting and talking with people? We have two openings at the Friends’ table in the Library lobby, Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m and Saturdays 12–2 p.m. If you are inter-ested, contact us by emailing milfordlib.friends@gmail.com or calling 203-783-3291.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, **August 19**, Book Sale at Oyster Fest, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, **September 15**: Friday with Friends, speaker Hedda Kopf, retired Professor of Women's Studies at Quinnipiac University, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, **October 21**: Party in the Stacks! 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



Julian, left, and Tristan Sevillano helped their grandfather Pat Simon make repairs to the Little Library at Gulf Beach, now open for the season. The Little Libraries, a program of the Friends of the Milford Library, bring books to places where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories.

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

Library Launches 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

It sounds daunting at first: to have each Milford child enter kindergarten having heard or read 1,000 books. Parents, who will be doing most of the reading, may picture stacks and stacks of books piled all over the house and even more time crammed into their busy schedules.

But the school-readiness effort isn’t very daunting at all, children’s librarian Suzanne Harrison Thom-as says. “Everything counts,” she said. “Board books and picture books— you can even read the same book multiple times.”

“Parents are already reading to their children, so they shouldn’t second-guess themselves or stress out over it,” Thomas said. “You are getting your child ready for kindergarten.”

The local 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten effort kicked off on Saturday, June 17, with a performance by Al DeCant, the “Singing Principal,” sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Library.

Starter kits, including a reading journal and a book, were given to each participant, courtesy of the Friends of the Milford Library. Each journal has room to record 100 books; as each milestone is passed, the parent and child can return to the library for another reading log.

One book a night would total 365 books, so a child could hear or read 1,000 books in less than three years. Most children start kindergarten at age 5. “It’s not just reading to put them to bed,” the chil-dren’s librarian said. “You’ll hear many ‘rare’ words in a picture book,” Thomas said, “about outer space, construction and topics like that. A picture book doesn’t mean it’s a baby book. These words expand vocabulary and start conversations.”



*Children's librarian
Suzanne Harrison Thomas*

The children’s librarian said that she and Dr. Anne Bolin, the Friends’ president, have wanted a project that would attract younger members to the Friends group and to help even more families become aware of what the library has to offer.

The Milford program is registered with [1000booksbeforekin-dergarten.org](http://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org) which provides some materials and support, Thomas said. There is also a book list and other resources on the web site.

During a recent visit, Jennifer Culver said she reads to her young son and daughter every night before bed and sometimes during the day too. “It starts to focus them and helps them bond with you better, by hearing your voice,” the young mom said. “They are always listening to you.”

Milford Students Win Friends’ Book and Scholarship Awards

“Seven students are the winners of this year’s Friends Book and Scholarship Awards,” said Margaret Bolger, Chair of the Friends of the Milford Library’s High School Awards Committee. Winners of the Book Awards, given for the third year by the Friends, are each members of the junior class at the five high schools in Milford. These students are recognized for their demonstrated strong and consistent love of reading, outstanding personal characters and the positive impact they have made on their school and community: Chania Chaisson-Fortin, *Foran*; Hannah Williams, *Laural-ton*; Dominick Buccitti, *Law*; Sean Rescsanski, *Platt*; Eric Silva, *The Academy*.

“We are also pleased to announce the winners of the Friends Scholarship Awards,” noted Chair Bolger. “This is the second year that the Friends have been able to award \$500 scholarships to two deserving seniors, one in each of the City’s two high schools: Francesca Faura, *Foran* and Kavitha Mohanarajan, *Law*.”

The Book and Scholarship awards were presented by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Elizabeth Feser and Friends President Dr. Anne Bolin at a ceremony at the Milford Library. Friends’ High School Awards Committee members Peggy Bolger, Anne Bolin, Carrie Bryant, Stacy Kratt, Diana Preece, Judy Salemme and Holly Tighe worked with school personnel in all five of Milford’s high schools in the selection of students to receive these awards.

Free Passes For Great Events

The library is so much more than books. In fact, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Milford Library, patrons can see a play, tour an historic house, view some of the world’s most iconic art by some of the best painters of all time, even spend an afternoon with exotic creatures from the sea and jungle.

There are passes providing free admission to nine area attractions -- some admitting up to six people, and 10 more that provide discounts. Among those are the Shoreline Trolley Museum in East Haven, giving library patrons the opportunity to ride streetcars from the 19th and 20 centuries. The New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks has on display everything from an early fixed-wing bi-plane to the latest gliders and jets. Visitors can climb into the cockpit of a World War II era fighter plane, many of which were manufactured in Connecticut. But the most popular pass, by far, is for the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, says Ronda Zalenski, the library technician in charge of the passes.

Due to the popularity of the passes, and since reservations aren’t taken ahead of time, the library will hold a pass for an hour if someone calls in to check availability. “To encourage the return of the passes on time, there’s a \$5 a day late fee. We want as many people as possible to be able to take advantage of this great service,” Zalenski said.



Among the newest passes are those for the Florence Griswold Art Museum in Old Lyme and the EverWonder Children’s Museum in Newtown. Coming back in the fall for a full season is the Long Wharf Theater pass program, which provides two tickets absolutely free for certain performances. “The acclaimed New Haven theater ‘blacks out’ some dates when demand is high and provides tickets on a standby basis for some other performances,” Zalenski said. “But the face value of the tickets has been as high as \$85 each. We had really good feedback for the short time we offered the Long Wharf passes last season and we’re looking forward to offering them again,” Zalenski said.

Party in the Stacks! Wins State Award

The Party in the Stacks! Committee of the Friends of the Milford Library has been awarded the Friends of Connecticut Libraries Focused Project Award for last year’s successful event.



The Party in the Stacks! Committee: Back row: Carrie Bryant, Amy Bringardner, Marion Morra, Co-Chair Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo, Jack Button, Co-Chair Lois Barr; in front: Andy Gargiulo, Sylvia Hazard. Not pictured: Cheryl Cappiali, Judy Reach Condit, Linda Sheehan and Anne Bolin.

“We, the staff and Milford community,” said Library Director Chris Angeli, “are so fortunate to have such hard working, creative individuals working tirelessly in support of the Library. It is worth noting that our Friends group is the only one in the State to be chosen for this prestigious Award.”

Noted Friends President Anne Bolin, “We are proud of the work that the Friends of the Milford Library is performing to help raise dollars for programs and to fulfill other needs of the Library. The Committee, honored at the Friends of CT Libraries Annual meeting on June 10, is hard at work planning the second Party in the Stack! to be held on Saturday, October 21. We will start selling tickets right after Labor Day.”

“Welcome to Milford” Program Continues to Flourish

Our librarians offer “Welcome to Milford” bags to new Milford residents when they apply for a library card. The Friends sponsor the bags, which are filled with materials about the Library and Milford non-profits, along with information about the cultural institutions for which the Library offers free passes. Materials from the cultural institutions are a new addition to the bags this year and 12 new organizations have chosen to join the program. Several members of the committee met regularly to fill the Welcome to Milford bags. Many thanks to Chair Pam Pilla and committee members Lois Barr, Cheryl Cappiali, Marilyn May, Bettina Thiel, and Anne Bolin for stuffing our bags. As of June 1, 39 of the original 50 bags prepared in March have been distributed to new patrons!

Amazon Smile

Do you order from Amazon? If so, 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.

Contact Us: Email: milfordlib.friends@gmail.com



57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

Friends' President Bolin Wins *Orange Times* Volunteer of Year Award

For the past four years, The *Orange Times* has honored volunteers who give of themselves to make their community better. For the first time this year, volunteers from Milford were eligible to be nominated. The honor is based on the merits and scope of the volunteer's efforts as well as a consideration for the length of time they dedicated to volunteering. Anne Bolin, President of the Friends of the Milford Library, is one of the two 2016 award winners from Milford. Nominated by Milford Library director Christine Angeli, she was chosen as a finalist by a committee and voted as a winner by the *Orange Times* newspaper readers.



Christine Angeli, Director of the Milford Library (far right) joins the Friends' newly elected officers: (l to r) Amy Bringardner, Vice President Membership; Karuna Kasbawala, Asst. Treasurer; Kathy Goldbach, Treasurer; Anne Bolin, President.

New Committee Chairs

Carm Devito has recently become the new chairperson of our Friends Table Committee and Pam Pilla will be chairing Welcome to Milford! Many thanks to both of them and our other chairs: Peggy Bolger, High School Awards; Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo, Little Libraries, and Linda Sheehan, Friday with Friends, for their dedication and hard work.

Friends' Behind-the Scenes Tour of the Yale Paper Conservation Laboratory

A trip to Yale's West Campus (the former Bayer facility in Orange) afforded a group of Friends of the Milford Library the rare opportunity to visit and tour the university's works on paper conservation laboratory. Led by Theresa Fairbanks-Harris, Senior Paper Conservator in the Conservation Laboratories at the Yale Art Museums, this special behind-the-scenes tour, not usually open to the public, allowed the Friends to view special works and see how museum cares for them.

Save the Date

Party in the Stacks! will return to the library on Saturday, October 21. Anne Bolin and Lois Barr have already begun the preparations for this year's event which will have an Enchanted Forest theme. Mark your calendars and watch for details in the coming months.

To learn more about the Friends of the Milford Library, visit www.milfordlibrary.org and click on the link for Friends of the Milford Library where it's possible to fill out a volunteer form online. Also check out Milford Library on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MilfordPublicLibraryCT/>

Officers Elected and Extraordinary Volunteers Recognized at Friends' Annual Meeting

On January 23, the Friends gathered for their annual meeting and reception to celebrate the achievements of 2016, to elect officers and to recognize volunteers. More than 60 attended, including community partners who had supported the Friends during this past banner year.

Officers unanimously elected for two-year terms starting in March 2017: Anne Bolin – re-elected as President, Amy Bringardner re-elected as Vice-President Membership and Kathy Goldbach as Treasurer.

Milford Library Director, Christine Angeli and Children's Librarian Suzanne Harrison-Thomas thanked the Friends' membership for its continued support including the gift of a new speaker's podium and especially for enhancing library services and ongoing programs and activities for the community.

The Friends' new tagline: "Because a great city deserves a great library" was a fitting introduction to the Appreciation Awards given to members who were exceptional 2016 volunteers. Those honored, receiving awards from President Bolin:

Lois Barr-Button, Jack Button, Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo and Andy Gargiulo for co-chairing the Library's first ever Party in the Stacks!, an innovative, literary-inspired special event and fund-raiser that attracted over 150 guests. This exciting evening garnered tremendous positive publicity for the Library and raised significant funds for programming. The success of the event was a direct result of the creativity, months of planning and hard work of the co-chairs.

Peggy Bolger for her many and varied activities on behalf of the Friends, including a weekly shift as a greeter at the Library's Friends' Table, serving as a Little Library steward and chairing the High School Awards Committee. Peggy also takes on innumerable behind-the-scenes projects doing whatever is needed both well and cheerfully.

Bob and Sandy Steady, and Patricia Beers were recognized for their work behind the scenes, sorting and adding donated books to the Friends ongoing lobby book sale. They keep track of the books that sell in the children's section, trade paperbacks, and hardcovers as well as group seasonal books and beach reads in the summer. You may not see them when you come into the library but when you find the perfect book on the Friends sale table keep in mind they were thinking of you.

Janice Pellegrino for her years of service on the Friends' Board, first as Assistant Treasurer and then Treasurer. Her dedicated financial stewardship has been extraordinary and, as a professional librarian, she was a valuable member of every planning discussion held by the Board.

Rave Reviews for *Love Letters* Performance



Some 100 people filled the Library program room for the hour-and-a-half performance of *Love Letters*, featuring Milford Alderman Frank Smith and his wife, actor Diane Smith. A standing ovation followed the play, along with a brief question and answer period led by the Friends of the Milford Library, who sponsored the program.

Friends of the Library to Sponsor New Preschool Program

This June, the library will kick off the new program, *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*. The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Parents are encouraged to read a book (any book) to their newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes, you can repeat books) before each child starts kindergarten. Does it sound hard? Not really, if you think about it. One book a night comes to 365 books in a year; 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, it's a very attainable goal.

The FOML will be sponsoring the kickoff event as well as the ongoing reading rewards. On Saturday June 17 from 10:30 to noon, Al DeCant, the Singing Principal, will give the program a festive start and participating families will receive their reading journals and starter books.

Suzanne Harrison-Thomas, our Children's Librarian, recently shared her thoughts on why this program is so important for our community:

"If you want your child to grow up to be a reader, the single most important thing you can do is read out loud to them. The more you read and talk to your children, the more words they hear, know and understand which is key to reading success. And most importantly, it's fun! Enjoy the one-on-one time that sharing a story provides. Read the story. Or just talk about the pictures together. Read the same book over and over. Read a new one every day. It's all fine! Don't stress! We hope the *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* program will be a fun way to introduce families to new books and serve as a memory of all the great stories you share with them as they grow up."

Visit the Little Libraries ...

The Little Library at Gulf Beach will reopen April 8 after being closed for the winter. Thanks to Jack Button and Lois Barr-Button, the Little Library at the Y has been repaired. A special shoutout to the Friends' volunteer library stewards - Lois Barr, Amy Bringardner, Peggy Bolger, Anne Bolin, Cheryl Cappiali, Alberta Jagoe, Cookie Reshenk, Judy Salemme, Jane Sharma, Linda Sheehan, and Committee Chair Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo -- all four Little Libraries, including Walnut Beach and the Books for Commuters' Library at the Milford train station are being checked and restocked.

Amazon Smile

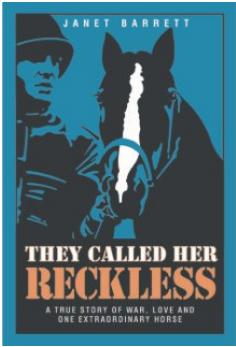
Do you order from Amazon? If so, you can donate to the Friends at no charge to you by ordering through Amazon Smile and selecting Friends of the Milford Public Library as your non-profit of choice. Amazon will donate a percentage of each purchase to the Friends.



Assistant Director Nancy Abbey speaks from the new Oklahoma Sound Prestige podium, purchased by the Friends, which greatly expands the Library's ability to host programs in different areas of the library and to accommodate discussion and panel type presentations. It includes two wired microphones, two wireless microphones, built-in speakers, a recessed fluorescent lamp, shelves, an optional battery supply and wheeling casters.

Join Us at the Friday With Friends Program, April 21st at 10:00 A.M. For A Fascinating Program About Reckless, A Real Warhorse!

You will hear Reckless' story as told by Janet Barrett, author of the first full biography of this amazing warhorse. Enriched by the memories of more than 60 Marines who knew her in Korea and thereafter, "They Called Her Reckless" tells of an incredible human-horse connection, and the power it unleashed. U.S. Marine Fifth Regiment's Recoilless Rifle Platoon acquired a small Korean pony to haul ammunition up the steep hills to the front lines. This real-life warhorse, the courageous and indomitable Reckless, stood with her buddies for two years during the Korean War, saving lives, raising spirits, and winning the love and respect of all who knew her. In the last bloody fight, surpassing all expectations, Reckless hauled ammunition for three days and nights wherever it was needed. For wounds sustained, she was awarded two Purple Hearts.



Copies of the book, signed by the author, will be for sale at this event (cash, check and most credit cards accepted).

We are sad to report that John Livi, long-time FOML member and Friends Table volunteer, died on March 4. John's warm smile and always gracious manner will be deeply missed by us all.



Mark Your Calendars for these Events and Programs ...

High School Scholarship and Book Awards chair Peggy Bolger notes that the ceremony to present awards to five juniors (one each from the five high schools in Milford) and to two seniors will be held on **Thursday, April 27**, with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Feser as the main speaker. Committee members include Anne Bolin, Carrie Bryant, Stacy Kratt, Diana Preece, Judy Salemme, and Holly Tighe. Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate our students' accomplishments.

Additional Fridays with Friends programs:

May 12: Suzanne Harrison-Thomas, Milford Children's Librarian, will discuss the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program and also share her favorite books for various age groups, giving valuable tips on reading with the children in your lives.

June 23: Blind Date with a Book—It was such a hit last year we are repeating it.

**Save Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9 for our
Holiday Book Sale**

Put a big circle around these dates on your calendars ... Friday, December 8 (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday, December 9 (10 a.m.- 3 p.m.) for the Holiday Book Sale in the Library's Program Room.

You will be able to spend time browsing the wonderful supply of nearly new books for sale, and buy what you need for holiday presents and for yourself to read on those cold winter nights. If you'd like to sign up to work on the sale, email milfordlib.friends@gmail.com.

Save the Date for our Thank You Party

We have had a very successful year and will have lots to celebrate at our annual meeting and thank you party on Sunday, January 28 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Program Room. In addition to voting on the slate of board members, we will review our year, see what's in store for 2018, visit, eat, and have some fun (Anne and Chris are already working on a new literary trivia game to try to stump our extraordinarily clever members). So please mark your calendars and plan to join us!



Friday with Friends

Linda Sheehan, Chair of Friday with Friends (holding the book purchased for the Library by the Friends in honor of Square One Theatre Company) with actors Frank Smith and Alice McMahon. The actors presented the audience with an intimate theatrical performance, discussed the new season and answered questions from the audience.

Linda was also responsible for the successful September Friday with Friends that featured Hedda Kopf, who spoke about her favorite subject, Virginia Woolf, literary genius, feminist, modernist and inspiration to countless readers.

Amazon Smile

Do you order from Amazon? If so, 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.

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

**Noted Milford Historian Richard Platt
to Speak at Friday with Friends
Friday, November 3, 10:00 a.m.**



Richard Platt

Come join us for the November 3 Friday with Friends featuring Richard Platt, retired Town Historian, who served in this post from 1998 -2012. His topic: Milford during the American Revolution. A Milford native, Platt comes from a family of farmers with apple orchards, who made cider vinegar. If you look at the stones on the Memorial Bridge, you will find most of Platt's ancestors. Platt, who graduated from Milford public schools and Yale, received his Master's from Wesleyan and spent 35 years teaching history and, later, computers, at East Haven High School. He served on the Board of Education from 1961 to 1971, was president of the Milford Historical Society in the early 70s, chaired the Milford Bicentennial Observance Commission and has been active with the Milford Preservation Trust. An expert in family genealogy, Platt has served as president of the Platt Family Association since 1982 and is active in the Botsford Family Historical Association. The meeting will be held in the Program Room at the Library.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 3, 10 a.m. Richard Platt, speaking on American Revolution, Program Room, Friday with Friends

December 8, 1-5 p.m. December 9, 10-3 p.m. Holiday Book Sale, Program Room

January 28, 2:00 p.m. Friends Annual Meeting and Thank You Party, Program Room

Carefree Crowd Parties in the Stacks!

An enchanted forest filled with sprites and lights and greenery greeted the overflow crowd attending the Friends of the Milford Library's second gala event on Saturday, October 21.

Chair and President Anne Bolin and Library Director Christine Angeli welcomed the revelers, many of whom were in literary costumes. Legendary DJ and Milford's own Brian Smith guided the festivities in the Library where for this one night only, rules were suspended as guests enjoyed dancing on both the dance floor and among the books to the music of The DJ Company and enjoyed wine, beer, cider, and the event's signature drink, *Lime and Punishment*.



Most Original: Annette Bacchiocchi, Unicorn

The food was a highlight of the night, with guests enjoying an anti-pasti table and literary-themed hors d'oeuvres prepared by Christopher Martins Restaurant and passed by committee volunteers. Many of the partygoers played the treasure hunt, specially designed for the *Party in the Stacks!* by renowned author and *New York Times* puzzler Eric Berlin. Some played the entire game. Others chose to find a few of the objects that were hidden throughout the Library.

Bidding on the silent auction items, urged on by emcee Smith, started early and lasted all night long. Auction chair Lois Barr-Button noted, "We had more than 40 lots this year. Happy winners brought home unique prizes such as unusual running shoes as well as an awesome six-day South African Safari Trip."

Guests were treated to a 'red carpet' as they entered the Library with photos taken on the landing, especially of those in costume. This year's costume categories were "Most Original," "Funniest," "Most In Character," and in keeping with the evening's theme, "Most Authentic Denizen of the Enchanted Forest." Joining Library Director Angeli in the judging efforts were Liz



Funniest: Amy Fazekas as the Queen of Hearts, Catey and Rick Condit as Alice and the White Rabbit and Lauren Dubinsky as the Mad Hatter

Davies, The Crushed Grape; Lorenzo Gaudio, The Milford Bank; and James De-Stefano, ShopRite of Milford.

Many thanks to our sponsors, The Milford Bank, The Crushed Grape and ShopRite of Milford along with the over 80 donors to our Silent Auction. Thanks also to Slainte, Milford Inc. and the Irish Heritage Society of Milford.

Many members of the Friends of the Library as well as library staff have played a huge role in making the event a success, including mural artist: Marc-Anthony Massaro, Branford Art Studio; window designer Ronda Zalen-ski; graphic designer Danielle Valenzano, The Milford Historical Society and Foran High School Key Club.

Friends Volunteers: Peggy Bolger, Jack Button, Barbara Cairney, Judy and Rick Condit, Carm DeVito, Karen Fortunati, Judy Kennedy, Judy Salemme, Linda Sheehan, Kristen Trombley, Louise Uchaczyk, Virginia Vanini

Silent Auction Committee: Lois Barr-Button, Chair; Nancy Abbey, Mina Becker, Amy Bringardner, Carrie Bryant, Cheryl Cappiali, Mina Decker, Pam Pilla,

Friends Board Members: Anne Bolin, Amy Bringardner, Kathy Goldbach, Karuna Kasbawala, Marion Morra, and Arlene Painter

Thank you and see you next year!



Milford Library staff and Friends of the Library



Most in Character: Max, accompanied by Marin Blake

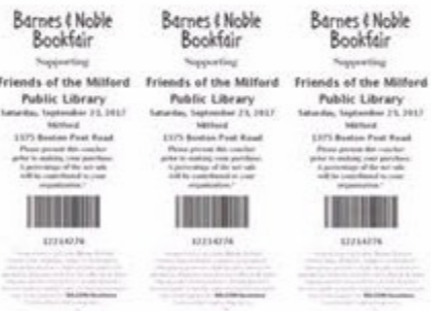


Most Authentic Denizen of the Enchanted Forest: Jackie Vigilante

Plan to Attend the Friends' Barnes and Noble Event on September 23

Join us at Barnes and Noble on September 23 where we will be celebrating B-Fest while earning money for the Friends. When using the voucher (pictured here and available in the library) to make a purchase, a percentage of the sale will be contributed to the Friends. Vouchers will also be honored for online purchases September 23-27.

The event celebrates young adult literature with a series of events. Fans can meet with authors, hear readings, get their books signed and grab an excerpt of a new and upcoming release. There'll be plenty of games, trivia and even writing workshops for any aspiring authors.



Plan to shop when Friends' is featured at Barnes & Noble's B-fest.

Are You a Fan of Puzzles or Mysteries?

You have a treat in store at the *Party in the Stacks! 2017*. Renowned puzzle maker Eric Berlin is creating a special puzzle event for the *Party*. He will be hiding several objects throughout the Library for party goers to find and use to solve a number of puzzles.

"As soon as I heard the theme, the Enchanted Forest," said Berlin, "I knew what I wanted to do: Create a scenario where people will go on a series of quests – some easy, some a little harder.

"I've created group events for other organizations before," continued Berlin, "but nothing like this one. People can solve the puzzles as a team. Or one person can do it alone. If you wish, you can play only the easy quests. Or you can do the entire set of puzzles. It will be fun for everybody. And I'll be there to help if people are having difficulty... I may even give a hint or two."

Watch the Enchanted Forest Grow in the Library's Side Windows

Keep your eyes peeled on the side windows of the Library. Thanks to the creative artistry of Library Technical Assistant Ronda Zalenski, and the craftsmanship of Friends' volunteers, the Party in the Stacks! Enchanted Forest keeps expanding with new and different trees.

The Intrigue of a Mystery Book

In addition to the nighttime sleuthing with Eric Berlin's puzzles, guests at the *Party in the Stacks!* can take part in another fun activity -- taking a chance on a mystery book. For five dollars, you will be able to purchase a gorgeous coffee table book. The catch: the only information about the book is an intriguing blurb on the wrapping that hints at the subject matter. As a further incentive, each wrapped book will have a gift card or coupon tucked inside. This intrigue awaits you on October 21.

Take a chance! Friends' Amy Bringardner and Linda Sheehan have wrapped coffee table books. Buy one ... you will also find a gift card or coupon inside!



Newsletter Writers: Karen Fortunati, Frank Juliano, Marion Morra; Graphic Design: Janice Pellegrino

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

Special *Party in the Stacks 2017* Edition

Facts about *Party in the Stacks! 2017—The Enchanted Forest*

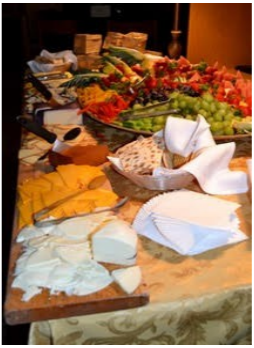
- Date:** Saturday, October 21, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
- Place:** Milford Public Library, 57 New Haven Avenue
- Tickets:** \$35 for members of the Friends, \$40 for non-members. After October 1, all tickets will be \$50. Attendees must be 21 or older.
- Sponsors:** The Crushed Grape, The Milford Bank and ShopRite of Milford
- Buy Tickets** At the Library Circulation Desk or on the Library's website (Friends' page)
- More info** email partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com, call 203-785.3291 or check the library's website: milfordlibrary.org

"This year's gala event," said Friends' president Anne Bolin, "will feature a whimsical woodland scene. For this night only, you can step into a world of fantasy and delight at the Library. Last year, more than 150 people enjoyed this event.

"The festivities will be emceed by longtime radio personality Brian Smith and will feature a custom-designed puzzle treasure hunt by Eric Berlin, author of the Winston Breen mystery series and New York Times crossword contributor. We will have music and dancing, wonderful hors d'oeuvres, a photo booth and silent auction. Wear a costume inspired by the enchanted forest theme or dress as your favorite book character and vie to win the Costume Contest. Costumes are encouraged, but are optional. Plan to join us. You don't want to miss out on all the excitement."



Milford's star Brian Smith will be the MC for the party.



Christopher Martins' restaurant will again be providing the food for the Party.



Dancing in the Stacks at last year's Party!

Take a Sneak Peak...Be the First to Plan and Make a Bid on the Auction Items for the *Party in the Stacks! 2017 - The Enchanted Forest*

“We are listing below a selection of items that will be available for bidding,” said Lois Barr, chair of the Silent Auction Committee. There are two ways that you will be able to bid on silent auction items:

- ◆ You can bid online. Online bidding will open in late September. You can access the list through this link: <http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/milford-public-library/pages/party-in-the-stacks-silent-auction>
 - ◆ Or you can bid in person the night of the *Party in the Stacks! 2017—The Enchanted Forest*
- And there will be many more wonderful silent auction items to come.”

South African Safari Adventure for Two (or Four)

Go on a fabulous six-day, six-night South African safari. Includes: Six nights room accommodations in either the Heritage Safari Lodge, Tented Safari Camp, or the Safari Game Lodge AND three meals per day AND two game rides per day on the Zulu Nyala Game Reserve in open Land Rovers with an experienced ranger who will also assist you in planning your activities during your stay. Winners will have the option to purchase a second trip for two at the winning bid price. Not included: Airfare, transfers, phone calls, laundry, drinks, extra activities and tours. Trip must be used within two years of date of purchase. Three current Friends members have recently gone on this trip and shared rave reviews! Learn more at: www.zulunyagroup.com/ Provided by *Zulu Nyala Group*

Wine Tasting in the Privacy of Your Own Home

Invite your best friends (up to 20 people) to enjoy a wine tasting in your own home. You can try five different wines. Find a date that’s good for both you and *The Crushed Grape*. Donated by *The Crushed Grape*.

Breakfast and Ride on a Fire Truck

What every child (or adult) wants for a present! Have breakfast at the Milford Fire Station of your choice and take a ride with the firemen. Six people; children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Provided by *Milford Fire Department*

Mayor for the Day

Last year’s day with the Mayor was a real favorite. While this year’s event is still in the planning , you will want to think about your bid...watch for more details. Provided by *Mayor Ben Blake*

Bring Beauty Into Your Home with a Handmade Quilt

You will love this colorful, handmade red, white, and blue nautical print quilt, 49” x 52”, 100% cotton, machine quilted. Donated by *Mary Beth Stockman, Member, Friends of Milford Library*

Enjoy a Basket of Handpicked Wines

Carefully chosen from a small family-owned farm winery located in beautiful historic Woodbury, Connecticut Donated by *Walker Road Vineyard*

Dine in Style at a Favorite Milford Restaurant

Invest in gift cards for restaurants of your choice. Donated by:

<i>Archie Moore's Bar & Restaurant</i>	<i>Flames Mediterranean & American Grille</i>	<i>Rainbow Gardens</i>
<i>Bridge House Restaurant</i>	<i>Gusto Trattoria</i>	<i>SBC Restaurant</i>
<i>Colony Grill</i>	<i>Joey C's Roadhouse</i>	<i>Seven Seas Restaurant</i>
<i>Fonda la Paloma</i>	<i>Michael Anthony's Tuscan Grill</i>	<i>Stonebridge Restaurant</i>

Relish a Night at a Connecticut Theater of your Choice

Immerse yourself in the theater...two tickets to “Kansas” (12/15), Palace Theater, Waterbury; two tickets to “Tuesdays with Morrie” (11/5), Ridgefield Playhouse, two tickets to Square One Theater, and two tickets to Long Wharf Theater. Donated by *Palace Theater, Ridgefield Playhouse, Square One, Long Wharf Theater*

For Vintage Book Lovers

Choose from several selections of historical and children’s books. Provided by *Friends of the Milford Library*

Love Your Pet?

Bid on a Dog Gift Basket and a Cat Gift Basket from Pond Point Animal Hospital. For 40 years, this special Milford facility has provided wellness care and emergency veterinary services for dogs and cats of all shapes and sizes. Donated by *Pond Point Animal Hospital*

Choose Your Own Basket of Books

You can pick out the authors that you crave most with this Barnes & Noble gift card and carry them home in your new Barnes & Noble tote. Donated by *Mary Lee Clayton, Member, Friends of the Milford Library*

Be-Nice-To-Yourself Beauty Basket

Luxuriate with a Swedish Massage, enjoy three spa manicures, get an elegant haircut and styling. Donated by *Tranquility Mind and Body Wellness Spa, Sun Nails, Andre Phillips Salon*

Unique Yoga Experience in the Milford Outdoors

Combine a yoga adventure, led by an expert WalkAboutYoga instructor, with an outdoor yoga hike. Donated by *Traci Weber*

Enchanted Forest Themed Basket

A basketful of Enchanted Forest themed books and gifts can be yours, selected by the knowledgeable staff at Barnes and Noble. Donated by *Barnes and Noble*.

Art and History Lovers, Young and Old

Visit Connecticut’s Museums—guest passes, behind the scene tours, memberships to Connecticut museums including Florence Griswold Museum, Peabody Museum, New England Air Museum, New Britain Museum of American Art, The Wadsworth Atheneum, Discovery Museum. Donated by *Individual Museums*

Indulge Yourself with an Overnight Stay

Treat yourself or a guest to an overnight stay at Marriot’s newly renovated Springhill Suites in Milford Donated by *Springhill Suites, Milford*

Unique Jewelry Package

A beautiful Pandora bracelet with unique charms, a stunning wooden jewelry box handcrafted by artisan Blake Humphreys, an SV Decker gift card and a gift card from Gilded Lily Gallery—a great gift for someone special. Donated by *Valentine’s Diamond Center Jewelers, Blake Humphreys, SV Decker, Gilded Lily Gallery*

Treat Yourself or Your Friends to Gift Cards

You can choose from several sources, such as Subway, Stop & Shop, Sweet Cupcations. Donated by *Individual Businesses*

Happy Trails

Join Steve Johnson, Milford’s Open Space and Natural Resource Manager, for a two-hour tour nature walk, enjoying the natural beauty of Milford and learning about conversation efforts. Provided by *Steve Johnson*

Run Like You’ve Never Run Before

Hoka One One are those crazy looking shoes, with the amazing soles with extra cushioning that make you light and surefooted. Donated by *Jack Pilla*.

Like Arts and Crafts?

You will adore this basket with assorted craft supplies that will keep you happily busy for days on end. Donated by *Deanna Jacobs, Member, Friends of the Milford Library*

Take Yourself and a Guest on a Tour on the Elm City Party Bike

You and a guest will have a ball as you try the newest vehicle of its kind in New England. Pedal on the bike, a traveling bar that seats ten people. Enjoy a drink while taking a tour. Donated by *Elm City Party Bike*