

Annual Meeting and Thank You Party

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 27 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 2019, visit, eat, and have some fun. Chris Angeli is 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.

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 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.

Public Relations: Write news releases and newsletter articles, maintain FOML bulletin board.

Welcome to Milford!: Gather contents from organizations and assemble packets.

Book Sales: Organize, set up, and assist at our special book sales.

Party in the Stacks: Party planning and decorations.

Amazon

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.

Newsletter Staff

Contributing Authors: Pam Pilla, Amy Bringardner, Peggy Bolger, Louise Uchaczyk

Contributing Photographers: Anne Bolin, Amy Bringardner, Louise Uchaczyk

Design: Janice Pellegrino

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

The Friends of Milford Library
cordially invites you to our:

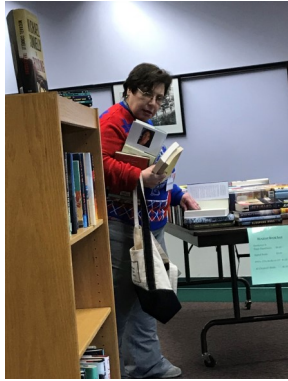
Annual Thank You Party

Thanks to our wonderful members and community supporters, 2018 was a fun and successful year for the Friends of Milford Library. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for last year's achievements and offer a look ahead at our plans for 2019!

Please join us for a wine and cheese reception
in the Milford Library's Program Room

Sunday, January 27th
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Please RSVP by January 18th
Email: milfordlib.friends@gmail.com
Phone: 203-783-3291



Holiday Book Sale

The Friends Holiday book sale on December 7th and 8th in the library's program room was a success! Holiday music, lively volunteers, and of course the great selection of hardcover and trade paperbacks, plus collections of children's books, DVDs and CDs brought in buyers looking for gifts or to add to their libraries. Friday morning we had a group waiting to get in, and on Saturday there were families and return shoppers.



Kudos to our Foran High School Key Club volunteers, and students from Milford Library's Teen Activity Group. The Foran High School Girls Swim Team made everything possible on Thursday afternoon when they moved the boxes of books into the program room and worked alongside the Friends volunteers who unpacked books Friday morning and helped with last minute details. After the sale on Saturday, student volunteers worked with Friends members in packing leftover books and resetting the room.



The proceeds from the book sale will be used to fund adult and children's programs throughout the year at the library. Thank you for supporting the library! We hope to see you at our Spring Book Sale in May 2019.



Events to Brighten the Winter

Sunday, January 27, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Thank You Party and Annual Meeting. Join us to celebrate our accomplishments of the past year and to hear what we are planning for 2019.

Friday, February 1, First Friday With Friends. 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.

Saturday, February 9, Barnes & Noble Event. Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Friends will be holding our winter Barnes & Noble Bookfair. The Friends will earn money with each purchase made in the store when a voucher is provided at the time of the sale. At 2PM Barnes & Noble will also hold their winter Kids Book Hangout and children's librarian Ashley Hemming will be there to help facilitate the event with Barnes & Noble staff. More information and vouchers will be available prior to the event. If you are interested in volunteering for the bookfair, please email us at milfordlib.friends@gmail.com

Friday, March 1, First Friday With Friends. Save the date, more information to come.

Friday, April 5, First Friday With Friends. Save the date, more information to come.

Thursday, April 25, 6:00. The High School Book Awards will be presented to a member of the junior classes of Foran, Law, Luralton Hall, Platt Tech, and The Academy. Dr. Anna Cutaia, Superintendent of the Milford school system, will be the guest speaker.

Elections

At the annual meeting we need to vote for two positions in our slate of officers: President and Vice President Membership. We are nominating Pam Pilla as our new President of the Friends. Pam has held the position of Vice President Special Events for the Friends which included this year's Party in the Stacks. Anne Bolin, who served as President for the past four years, has served the maximum number of terms allowed by our bylaws. Anne's vision and dedication has grown the Friends organization to its current position and her legacy of dedication to the library will continue to inspire us.

We are also nominating Margaret Downey as our Vice President Membership. Margaret has been a member of the Friends for 2 years and has the technical skills to perform the duties of the position. Amy Bringardner has held this position for the past four years which is the maximum number of consecutive terms allowed by our bylaws. As a longtime member of the Friends, Amy is a wealth of knowledge, and fortunately she will stay active in the Friends by continuing as our Book Sales Chair.

We are truly fortunate to have such talented people willing to give so much time, effort, and energy to the Friends.

Friends Visit to the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center

On Friday, November 2, the Friends celebrated Veterans Day with a tour of the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center. The museum is located in a 9,000 square foot building at 30 Hood Terrace, West Haven, across from the West Haven train station. The museum's mission is to honor the men and women who served our state and country during times of conflict and natural disasters, and to collect and preserve artifacts that can help explain to future generations how our fighting men and women lived and survived while serving our nation. Five knowledgeable docents walked us through the collections which included weapons, uniforms, field gear and equipment used to support our troops from the American Revolution to the present. There is no admission fee for the museum, but as a 501(C)(3) educational not-for-profit organization, donations are accepted. The museum is handicapped accessible and there is ample parking in the front or rear of the building for those who would like to plan a future visit.



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.

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 27 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 2019, visit, eat, and have some fun. Chris is 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.

Mark Your Calendars

December 7th: Holiday Book Sale in the Program Room 1:00-5:00 p.m.

December 8th: Holiday Book Sale in the Program Room 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

December 14th: Gathering of Friday Friends Social and Sharing Time 10:00 a.m.

January 27th: Friends Annual Meeting and Thank You Party in the Program Room 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

Save the Date for the Holiday Book Sale

The Friends of the Milford Library are planning their Holiday Book Sale. The sale will be Friday, December 7th from 1-5pm and Saturday, December 8th 10am to 3pm in the library's program room. First quality, nearly new fiction and nonfiction books for adults and children will be available along with a selection of CDs and DVDs.

Adult hardcover and trade paperback books will be \$2, all children's books will be \$1 along with CDs and DVDs. We will also have a collection of author-signed books for \$5. A few book sets will be priced separately.

The sale is always fun and you never know what you'll find. Stop by to buy books for gifts or a bundle for yourself!

First Friday With Friends, December 14

Come and join the Friends on Friday December 14th at 10:00 am in the Program Room at the library. This will be a casual opportunity to socialize with our fellow members while having coffee, tea and snacks. Come chat. Linda Sheehan, Chair of Friday with Friends, will review the programs from this past year and take suggestions for programs for next year from you. Share with others what you are reading and receive some tips on what to add to your reading list.

Library Insight

The Milford Public Library has introduced a new system, *Library Insight*, for reserving and checking out museum passes. In response to patron demand, users may now make reservations for most passes up to 90 days in advance. Additionally, some of the passes have the option to print at home, eliminating the need for pick up and return at the library. The passes will no longer be available through the catalog, but accessed through a reservation system on the "Passes to Cultural Attractions" page of the library website, milfordlibrary.org.

There is a wide variety of discount or free admission passes offered, including the Beardsley Zoo, Yale Peabody Museum, New Britain Museum of American Art, Maritime Aquarium, Long Wharf Theater and more! To reserve a pass, you must be an adult with a valid library card registered in the Milford Public Library circulation system. Visit milfordlibrary.org, call or stop by the library to get started. The museum pass and reservation system have been donated as gifts to the community by the Friends of the Milford Library.

Pirates and Mermaids and the Old Man and the “C” Party Hardy at the Library!



Most Literary: The Old Man and the “C”



Emcee Brian Smith

On Saturday, October 20th, the Milford Public Library was transformed with sailboats, a submarine, underwater adventure décor for the 3rd annual *Party in the Stacks: Legends of Charles Island*. Many thanks to the sponsors for supporting the event: The Milford Bank, The Crushed Grape, ShopRite of Milford, Sterling Printing & Graphics, and The Williams Agency.

Party guests visited Charles Island on the library landing where photos were taken and many adventurous guests registered for the costume contest in hopes of winning one of the prizes generously donated by the Stress Factory Comedy Club in Bridgeport. The contest categories this year were: “Most Literary,” “Most Creative,” “Funniest,” and “Judges Choice.” Joining Library Director Chris Angeli in judging the event were Liz Davies of The Crushed Grape, Allen McGehee of The Milford Bank, and Dr. Anna Cutaia, Superintendent of Milford Public Schools.

Brian Smith emceed the evening and there was dancing to the music of The DJ Company. Many guests earned a treasure from the treasure chest by participating in the Literary Photo Quest game. The game was developed by Anne Bolin and Kathy Goldbach and artistically designed by Ronda Zalenski. Guests followed the clues to photograph themselves with Moby Dick’s tail, Virginia Woolf (To The Lighthouse), Captain Hook, Ernest Hemingway (Old Man and the Sea), a yellow submarine (20,000 Leagues Under the Sea), and with a skeleton on Treasure Island.

The food was a highlight of the evening with guests enjoying the anti-pasti table and nautical-inspired hors d’oeuvres prepared by Christopher Martins Restaurant and passed around by volunteers. Beer, wine and a rum punch was donated and served by The Crushed Grape.

Bidding took place on almost 60 silent auction items. Winners went home with restaurant gift certificates, theater tickets, a honeymoon to Africa, a Red Sox autographed baseball, and more. There were unique experiences including a ride on a Milford firetruck, a day with the Mayor and a tour of the Connecticut State Capitol.



Special thanks to Ronda Zalenski for her artistic vision, Brittney Garth for the awesome Charles Island graphic used on our flyers, the Foran High School Key Club for their muscle during set up and clean up and helping at the door during the party. Additional thanks go to Pam Pilla (Chair), Nancy Abbey, Donna Anderson, Anne Bolin, Rose Bradley, Amy Bringardner, Cheryl Cappiali, Mary Lee Clayton, Judy Condit, Carm DeVito, Evelyn Duffner, Kathy Goldbach, Deanna Jacobs, Karuna Kasbawala, Judy Kennedy, Arlene Painter, Linda Sheehan, Sandy and Bob Steady, Mary Beth Stockman, Deirdre Thomas, Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo, Kristen Trombley, Louise Uchaczyk, Danielle Valenzano, Ashley Volkens, Linda Wandelea, and Dale Weiner.



Most Creative: The Owl & the Pussycat

Many members of the Friends of Milford Library as well as library staff members played a huge role in making the Party a success. Scores of Friends met on Friday mornings to create the colorful jellyfish that hung from the ceiling, cut out waves for Moby Dick’s tail and silhouettes for under the sea, painted and glued coral, and much, much more.

Many Friends donated or lent décor items or staffed the party itself to guide and aid guests.



Judge’s Choice: Treasure Map

Annual Meeting and Thank You Party

The Friends of the Milford Library held their Annual Meeting and Thank You Party, Sunday afternoon, January 27 in the Program Room of the library. It was recognition of both the past and the future activities of the group. The room was filled with approximately fifty members of the Friends of Milford Library as they socialized during the meet and greet time prior to the annual business meeting.

Outgoing President Anne Bolin presented an award to Linda Sheehan, Committee Chair of the First Friday with Friends program. Linda has been a long-time member of FOML and has always gone over and above in her service to the organization. Anne also presented an award to Deanna Jacobs for her many volunteer hours with Party in the Stacks! over the last 3 years and for hosting the FOML on a tour of Beardsley Zoo.

Outgoing VP of Membership Amy Bringardner announced the Community Award presented to Rich Meyers of Sterling Printing & Graphics. Rich and his company have helped FOML with the printing of our Welcome to Milford! and 1,000 Books before Kindergarten bags, along with the library mugs and tote bags. Sterling Printing was also a Party in the Stacks! sponsor.

New officers voted in were President Pam Pilla and Vice-President of Membership Margaret Downey. Many thanks for the outgoing leaders and incoming leaders, as well as the many hardworking members of the Friends group were emphasized by a bold lettered THANK YOU on a large chocolate cake waiting on a side table with the coffee.

Ashley Volkens was introduced as the chair of the October 2019 Party in the Stacks. The theme of the event is “Party in the Stacks Goes Pop Culture.” She will also assume the vacancy of Vice President of Special Events.

Typical of the group, fun was included in the agenda....a quick quiz of twelve novels’ leading characters’ partners and book titles, led by Library Director Chris Angeli.

It’s a great time to become a member of the Friends of Milford Library. Simply go to the Milford Public Library site and sign up or stop by the library.

Mark Your Calendars

Friday April 5th: Terry Pitt, a Certified Master Gardener and Fairyologist as well as a member of the Friends, will enchant us with her presentation of “Spirits in our Gardens: Mother Earth, Fairies and Us”. In the Program Room. 10:00 a.m.

Thursday April 25th: The High School Book Awards will be presented in the Program Room. Everyone is invited to attend. 6:00 p.m.

Friday May 3rd: The Northeast Fisheries will provide us with a tour and presentation at their location, Northeast Fisheries, 212 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT. The Milford laboratory is a world leader in aquaculture science, established at the request of Connecticut’s oyster industry to help expand sustainable oyster harvests. 10:00 a.m.

Friday May 10th: Spring book sale in the Program Room. 1:00-5:00 p.m. Selection of nearly-new fiction, nonfiction, and children’s books, a collection of DVDs and CDs, as well as signed books. This is a great time to look for hardcover and paperback birthday, graduation, and summer reading books.

Saturday May 11th: Spring book sale in the Program Room. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The sale on Saturday coincides with the Milford Garden Club’s May Market under the Fowle pavilion from 8:30-11:00 a.m. Come in to the book sale after you’ve picked up a plant or talked to a Master Gardener!

Friday June 7th: New England Air Museum, 36 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, CT, will provide a docent led tour of this fascinating museum. There will be a charge of \$15.00 per person for groups of ten or more. Explore New England’s rich and dynamic history in aviation through these unique exhibits located throughout the Museum’s three hangars. 10:00 a.m.

Saturday June 22nd: Book “Lost Roses” by Martha Hall Kelly. Special Event with the Bellamy-Ferriday House Bethlehem, CT 12:00-5:00 p.m. Limited availability. Purchase tickets by Monday June 10. Call 860.247.8996 x 23. Proceeds benefit Connecticut Landmarks and the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden.

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

A Note From Pam

I was elected President at our Friends Annual Meeting and Thank You party in January. I am very excited for the coming year and will have big shoes to fill as Anne Bolin helped to implement many great programs during her tenure. My goals include continuing the wonderful programs that the Friends support. I’d also like to give more members an opportunity to get involved and I will be sending a survey to the membership in the next month or two via Survey Monkey to get your input.

For those who were unable to attend the party in January, here are some of our successes and interesting statistics from 2018...by the numbers:

- **160,000** people visited the library
- **29** Table volunteers, **36** hours per week, greeting and assisting patrons
- **491** Programs attended by over **15,000** children and adults
- **5** High School Books awards and **2** High School scholarships
- **200** Welcome to Milford Bags
- **6500** books read towards 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- **4** Little Libraries
- Free or discounted passes to **20** museums
- **583** Library Insight museum pass reservations
- **2** Book Sale events plus in-house book sale tables
- **10** Friday with Friends events including **3** trips
- **2** Barnes & Noble book fair fundraisers
- **3rd** Annual Party in the Stacks!



Pam Pilla, President and Margaret Downey, Vice-President of Membership

Let’s see what we can accomplish in 2019!

Pam Pilla
FOML President

Little Libraries: The Gulf Beach Little Library will open for the season the week of April 15. The other Little Libraries will continue to be open year-round. They include the Milford Train Station (snack-bar, waiting area), Walnut Beach (outside Firehouse Art Gallery), and the YMCA (near the soccer fields). These free libraries, available to the public, contain both adult and children’s books. This is the fifth consecutive year of the Little Libraries!

Newsletter Member Spotlight — Anne Bolin



In January, Anne Bolin stepped down from an exceptionally successful four-year run as President of the FOML. It's fitting to reflect on how this New Jersey native revitalized the organization and breathed a new energy and excitement into the group and the Library's programs and events.

Both an educator and museum professional, Anne earned her PhD in art history from Emory University. After moving to Connecticut, Anne joined the Art and Design Department at Sacred Heart University as an adjunct professor and taught there for fifteen years. More recently, she became a docent at the Yale Center for British Art and she also gives seven different Art and Architecture tours in New York City through Norwalk Community College.

While engaged in these roles and responsibilities, as an avid fan of the library Anne made the acquaintance of Library Executive Director Chris Angeli. When Chris put out a call to the FOML membership asking if anyone would like to serve on the Friends board, Anne responded and became President in late 2014.

Under Anne's leadership, the Friends' Book Award/Scholarship was launched, honoring a high school junior from each of Milford's five high schools and a senior from both Jonathan Law and Foran who have demonstrated a love of reading, outstanding personal character and strong impact on their school and community.

And what conveys a stronger sense of community trust and commitment to reading than our Little Libraries? Anne shepherded this initiative during her tenure and now there are four Little Libraries: at the Milford Y, the Railroad Station, Walnut Beach, and Gulf Beach.

Those highlights are just the tip of Anne's iceberg. Under Anne's watch, the "Welcome to Milford" program was established to offer newcomers a convenient collection of community information. The monthly "First Fridays With Friends" and the Welcome Table that provides the personal and warm greeting to patrons also began during Anne's tenure.

Of course, the Library's programming would not exist if not for the critical funding that the FOML provides and Anne shone at leading successful fundraising efforts. The annual Party in the Stacks not only raises the amounts in the coffers, but also has now become a beloved Milford event. The December and May book sales, along with the ongoing sale in the foyer, provide a steady source of funding along with the membership dues. As you probably expected, membership numbers rose under Anne's reign.

While Anne will deflect the praise and point to the FOML's "amazing volunteers," there is no doubt that it was because of Anne's commitment, dedication and her ability to engage that her leadership has left a lasting mark on Milford and the tens of thousands of library patrons who benefitted from the enhanced programming. Thank you, Anne, for all you've done!

April 7-13 is National Library Week

Join us the week of April 7 -13 in celebrating the many ways libraries help build strong communities by providing critical resources, programs and expertise. The Milford Public Library hosts over 700 programs each year, many funded by the Friends of the Library, which draw in excess of 20,000 people. The library offers books, movies, music, e-content, museum passes, newspapers, research databases, 3D printing, a tech lab, and so much more! In celebration, Milford City Hall will be lit up gold this week, and Mayor Blake will kick off the celebration by reading a proclamation on April 5, recognizing this week as "Milford Public Library Week".



New Book and Music Collection — Read Local!

In response to the growing field of self-publishing, the Milford Public Library is pleased to announce the introduction of a new book and music collection, *Read Local*. This collection will feature books and music CDs, created and self-published by local authors and musicians. The Library invites submissions. Please see the library website, milfordlibrary.org, for guidelines and submission forms.

Party in the Stacks

It's time to brush off your superhero capes because this year **Party in the Stacks is going POP Culture!** Our annual fall fundraising event will return on Saturday, October 19th and will be celebrating superheroes, comics, movies, and everything in between. The event will be chaired by our newly elected Vice President of Special Events, Ashley Volkens. Ashley states "This year's theme allows us to showcase the wide array of offerings our library has to offer and will hopefully draw new faces to the event, our library, and to the Friends."

Interested in being a part of the action? From decorations and on-site setup to silent auction items and spreading the word, we warmly welcome your expertise. If you are interested in lending a hand, send an email to partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com and tell us how you would like to help.

Literacy Events

Random House: Spend a day at Random House's offices in NYC, with current authors, lunch, a book club event, cocktail hour and go home with a bag of books and goodies. This occurs three times a year-spring, summer, fall. <http://www.randomhousebooks.com/events/>

Hachette Books also offers an Open House every October in NYC for those interested. RJ Julia has a bus trip to the event.

Please send any recommendations for books or literacy events to milfordlib.friends@gmail.com for addition to the newsletter. The deadline for the July 1 edition is May 31st. Events falling from July to September will be considered.

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 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, Newly opened spots in the early evening: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 6-8 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 4-6 and Saturday 2-4.

Public Relations: Write news releases, write newsletter articles, maintain 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: Pam Pilla, Amy Bringardner, Peggy Bolger, Corinne Fucci, Terry Pitt, Judy Salemme, Linda Sheehan, Ashley Volkens, Louise Uchaczyk

Contributing Photographers: Amy Bringardner, Ashley Volkens, Louise Uchaczyk

Design: Janice Pellegrino

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

A Note From Pam

As a student I disliked “history”. At the time, our studies focused primarily on dates and time-lines. Now I realize history is the story of our past and it is the stories that I find fascinating. One such story details the formation of our Friends group. I recently found a notebook from the 1980s in the Friends archive. It contains the handwritten minutes from the Friends of Milford Library as the group was being organized following city budget difficulties.

1981 was a year of significant budget cuts in Milford. Library cutbacks included the loss of four staff positions, a cut of 37.5% in the book budget and the closure of the Woodmont, Devon and Wildermere branches. (The Woodmont branch was subsequently opened as a volunteer staffed and supported library). The Friends steering committee felt strongly about the need for library services in Milford. They thought the Friends could help by organizing, being informed and speaking out on behalf of the library.

Over the next year, the group did organize. They elected officers, incorporated as a non-profit and started membership drives. The minimum fee for joining the Friends was two dollars. They held monthly meetings in the program room which included a business meeting, a speaker, and then refreshments. Members were asked to advocate for the library at budget meetings. And they started fundraising. The first book sale was held on September 26, 1981. Members were asked to donate their old books, copies of National Geographic, and stereo records for the sale. By the end of 1981, the Friends were in a position to begin purchasing books for the library.

In June of 1982, a flood in downtown Milford devastated the Children’s Library. Thirty percent of the collection (approximately 7,000 volumes) was lost, furniture was destroyed and some walls required replacement. The Friends of Milford Library stepped up to help. They established a special fund known as “Children’s Library Emergency Flood Fund” or CLEFF and began fundraising with additional book sales and sales of T-shirts. The Publicity Committee began a regular column in the *Milford Citizen* newspaper. In the column, they asked for donations from the community to support CLEFF. Also in 1982, the Friends began supporting library programming.

1983 proved to be a pivotal year. Repair work began on the Children’s Library with the grand re-opening in September of that year. The first Friends newsletter was mailed. And the advocacy efforts of the Friends of Milford Library were making an impact. Money for books was provided for in the city budget and the Friends would provide other wishlist items for the Milford Public Library.

I found it interesting to learn about the origins of this “modern” Friends group. I say “modern” because there are references to Friends of the Library dating back to the 1880s. It is also worth noting that the historical concerns and goals are not unlike what we face today.

If anyone has additional anecdotes that they would like to share, please send me a note at milfordlib.friends@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you. Have a happy and healthy summer.

Enjoy all our fabulous city has to offer.

Pam

High School Book Awards Ceremony

The Friends of the Milford Library honored five local high school juniors on Thursday, April 25, at the fifth annual High School Book Awards ceremony. The award is presented to a student who has exhibited outstanding personal character, made a positive impact in the school or community, and demonstrated a strong and consistent love of reading. Each award winner received a personally inscribed copy of *Only in Milford* by DeForest Smith. In addition, the Friends donate a book of the student's choosing to their school library with a bookplate commemorating the student's achievement. This year's winners are Andreina Barajas, Platt Tech; Sandra Chalghin, Jonathan Law; Jonathan Huebner, Joseph A. Foran; Grace Jordan, The Academy; and Carly Weber, Luralton Hall.

Pam Pilla, President of the Friends of the Milford Library, addressed the audience before presenting the awards to the students. Dr. Anna Cutaia, Superintendent of Milford Public schools, was the keynote speaker. Mayor Benjamin Blake was the final speaker of the evening.



The Friends of the Milford Library has also awarded scholarships to two Milford high school seniors, Rewas Muhajir at Joseph Foran High School and Bryan Reed at Jonathan Law. The scholarships were presented during the Senior awards ceremonies held at each high school.

Many thanks to the committee members for their work and dedication to the students of Milford: Peggy Bolger, Carrie Bryant, Stacy Kratt, Diana Preece, Judy Salemme and Anne-Marie Sutton.

Pam Pilla, Dr. Anna Cutaia, Grace Jordan, Sandra Chaighin, Andreina Barajas, Jonathan Huebner, Carly Weber, Mayor Benjamin Blake

Little Library Update

The Friends Little Libraries project, already in its fifth consecutive year, are free libraries in the community available to the public. They contain both adult and children's books for people to take or swap. The Little Library at Gulf Beach opened for the summer during the week of April 15th. It is our only seasonal Little Library; others are year-round and are located at the Milford Train Station (snack - bar, waiting area), Walnut beach (outside Firehouse Art Gallery), and the YMCA (near soccer fields).

Committee members serve as stewards of our Little Libraries and visit once or twice a week to check on, organize and stock the libraries. Many thanks to Jack Button for a recent repair to our Walnut Beach library.

Our stewards - Train station: Judy Kennedy, Cookie Reshenk, Marilyn May; Gulf Beach: Peggy Bolger, Sandra Field; YMCA: Ellen Brodell, Bettina Thiel, Linda Sheehan; Walnut Beach: Rhea Spiegel, Judy Salemme, Lois Barr, Terry Pitts

Party in the Stacks Update

The planning for *Party in the Stacks: Goes POP Culture is well underway! Save the Date: Saturday, October 19th, 7:00 -10:00 PM* and plan to join our biggest fundraising event of the year.

Meet our newest members of the Friends that flew in from Gotham City, Krypton, and the Amazon! As you may know, this year's theme for our fourth annual Party in the Stacks fundraiser is Pop Culture - celebrating superheroes, comics, movies, and everything in between.

This year we will be having both a **silent auction & raffle** and our committee is busy assembling an exciting array of items. We are asking for your assistance in adding to the offerings. Last year our members generously provided many unique and wonderful items for the auction and they truly helped us reach our fund-raising goals. We are back again to ask for your support.

The committee is seeking unique, one-of-a-kind experiences (for both adults and children), big ticket items such as trips and home stays, as well as products, services, talents, and gift cards.

Interested in assembling your own basket to donate? Some ideas: Game Night Basket, Chocolate Lovers Basket, Pet Lovers Basket, 80s Pop Basket, Breakfast in Bed, Bakers Basket, Garden Club Basket... the possibilities are endless! Please let us know the theme of the basket you'd like to create, so we can avoid duplicates.

If you have friends, relatives, service providers, clients, suppliers or employers willing to donate to the auction, the Committee would appreciate their help and generosity. As The Friends of the Milford Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, gifts and donations may qualify as charitable deductions for federal income tax purposes.

We are sending out our bat signal for Friends who want to get involved in the Party planning. From decorations, sponsors, raffle baskets, and more, we would love to put your superpowers to use. Email Ashley Volkens, Vice President of Special Events: partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com to learn more.

If you have a donation in mind or plan on creating a basket, let us know so that we can make sure that we do not have duplicates and we do not have multiple people reaching out to the same places. **Email us at: partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com with your ideas!**

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.

Library’s 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

The Milford Public Library recently marked its second anniversary of the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program. The 1,000 Books challenge is for parents and caretakers to read books to their children. It provides a simple, innovative yet fun approach to establishing strong early literacy skills. And it helps young children to gain the confidence necessary to become strong readers from their first education providers.

"Everything counts," says children's librarian Suzanne Harrison Thomas. "Board book and picture books - you can even read the same book multiple times."

"You'll hear many 'rare' words in a picture book 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."

Starter kits, including a reusable bag, a reading journal and a book, are given to each participant. Each journal has room to record 100 books; as each milestone is passed, parents and children can return to the library for another reading log. The Milford program is registered with the 1,000 Books Foundation, which provides additional materials and support, such as a book list (<https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org>).

One book a night would total 365 books a year, so a child could hear or read 1,000 books in less than three years.

The starter kits are sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Public Library.

Carm’s Corner Suggestions

Hum If You Don’t Know the Words by Bianca Marais

This is a remarkable story of two people who form a unique bond during a particularly turbulent time in 1970s South Africa. Privileged 9 year old Robin loses her parents in the student uprising riots. Unable to care for her because of her job, her Aunt Edith hires Beauty, a woman searching for her daughter involved in the student riots. Beauty introduces Robin to a world she never knew existed and opened her eyes to the current political and social changes. Through time, patience and a lot of love, Robin and Beauty form a most unusual and unexpected bond. I absolutely, positively, without a doubt love this book.

The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row by Anthony Ray Hinton

Anthony Ray Hinton served 30 years on Alabama’s death row for a crime he didn’t commit. This quick reading memoir chronicles Mr. Hinton’s early life, the events leading to his incarceration, the long process of overturning that conviction and life post release. The most amazing thing about Mr. Hinton is, despite his lost years, he never lost his dignity, his ability to love and his ability to forgive. This is a wonderful story of a most amazing man.

Friday With Friends Visit the Northeast Fisheries Science Lab

Our Friday with Friends group visited the Northeast Fisheries Science Lab on Friday, May 3rd. Mark Dixon, a biological science technician, led us on a fascinating tour to learn about their microalga culture collection, shellfish hatchery, and tank farm. Current projects include developing probiotics for use in oyster hatcheries, studying aquaculture gear as habitat for marine life, nutrient bio-extraction studies and responses of shellfish to ocean acidification. Opened in the 1930s, the Milford lab continues to be a world leader in aquaculture science. If you were unable to join the Friends on our tour and are interested in learning more, there is an open house on Saturday, October 19, 2019. The general public is welcome from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



Mark Dixon addressing the group

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday August 17, 2019 Stop by the Friends Table at the Oyster Festival

Friday September 6, 2019: Friday with Friends—stay tuned for program updates

Saturday September 7, 2019: Join the Friends at the Barnes and Noble fundraiser at the Barnes & Noble, 1375 Boston Post Road in Milford! Stop by the Friends table, chat with our volunteers and pick up a voucher. How it works: Purchase items at the store, including the café, all day on the 7th and bring a voucher or simply mention the Friends of Milford Library during checkout and the Friends will earn a percentage of your purchase.

Tuesday October 1, 2019: Weeknight With Friends: Local foodies will want to connect with author Colin M. Caplan. His book, *Pizza in New Haven*, describes New Haven as one of the earliest and most influential pizza making cities in the country and how the hardworking families built a culinary industry around their passion for pizza. Caplan is a New Haven native who also owns and operates *Taste of New Haven* and *Elm City Party Bike*.

Friends May Book Sale — Wow!

It seems like Mother's Day weekend is the kickoff to spring events in Milford. The Friends of the Library book sale is one of the places to be and this year was no exception. We had a line of customers waiting to get in Friday morning. The children's books are a big draw. The one dollar price and excellent quality bring parents, grandparents, and teachers in to find gifts and stock their classrooms.

The wow factor was the selection of quality hardcover and trade paperback books, DVD and CD sets and, new this year, a selection of Young Adult books.

We rely on the help of our members and students from Jonathan Law and Foran to move boxes of books and set up the program room before and after the sale. Without you the sale would not be the success that it is. Proceeds from the sale go to the funding of library programs for children and adults.

Mark your calendar for our holiday book sale December 6 and 7.



Amy Bringardner, Cheryl Cappiali, Bob and Sandy Steady, Charlie Cook



A Suggestion From a Book Sale Patron:

Free Home Library Catalog Apps for iPhone and Android

Have a ton of books you can't keep track of? Do you carry a paper list with your book inventory of "already have", "already read" or wish list books? One of the great things about the Friends' book sale is talking with book lovers buying more books. Two customers shared their recommendation for home library cataloging apps for their mobile phones. Both **Libib** and **LibraryThing** apps, described below, are free (up to certain limits) and available for both Android and iOS (iPhone). With either of these apps, you start by creating an account with a password. With your account you can then enter books/items by scanning the barcode ISBN (with your camera), searching or through manual entry. You can manage your books with different collections like 'Wish list', 'Currently Reading', 'To Read', 'Favorites' etc. And you can manage multiple collections, including movies, video games, and music, etc.

However, there are some differences as noted from the app websites:

Libib

- Libib is a website and app that catalogs books, movies, music, and video games.
- Free version allows you to catalog up to 5000 books.
- Easily export your library to print or download as a CSV file.

LibraryThing

- LibraryThing is a social cataloging web application and app for storing and sharing book catalogs and various types of book data.
- Free version allows you to catalog up to 200 books.
- New feature allows you to track books you've lent out to friends.

There are other library apps available that include cataloging features like Goodreads and there are apps specific to Android or iPhone (iOS) not mentioned here. Give one of these apps a try or search for another that may meet your specific needs. And have fun organizing your home libraries!

Mark Your Calendars

October 1st 6:30 pm – Weeknight with Friends – Features Colin M. Caplan and his book *Pizza in New Haven*
October 19th 7:00 – 10:00 pm: Party in the Stacks!
November 8th 10 am: Friday with Friends - Features author Kathy Leonard Czepiel and her book *A Violet Season*
December 14th 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 26th 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 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. 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

Contributing Authors: Karen Fortunati, Pam Pilla, Louise Uchaczyk, Ashley Volkens , Chris Angeli
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 1st

- 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

Fall 2019

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.

FOML Newsletter

Fall 2019



*(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 Salemmme, 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 Salemmme, 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 4th 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. Be sure to check out the preview of our Silent Auction and Raffle prizes online also at www.biddingowl.com/FriendsofMilfordLibr. For questions, please email 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.