

## Mark Your Calendars

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

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

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

## Amazon Smile

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

## Become a Member of the Friends of the Milford Library

The Friends of the Milford Library is a non-profit volunteer organization that sustains the programs and activities of the Milford Public Library that are not supported in the City budget. To learn more about the Friends, visit [www.milfordlibrary.org](http://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](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com). Join the fun! Volunteer today!

Get involved in our activities. Please consider joining our volunteer corps – there are lots of diverse ways to contribute:

Library Friends Table: Greet and assist library patrons. There are newly opened spots in the early evening Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 6-8 pm. Wednesdays and Thursdays 4-6 and Saturday 2-4.

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

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

Party in the Stacks: Party planning and decorations

## Newsletter Staff:

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

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

# Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



*Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library*

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

## The Friends of the Milford Library

Cordially invites you to our:

## Thank You Party and Annual Meeting

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

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

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

**Please RSVP by January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Email: [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com)

Phone: 203-783-3291

# A Note from Pam

## A Year in Review: Continuity and Accomplishments

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

### Our fundraising activities:

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

### Activities funded and/or managed by the Friends:

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

### And more:

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

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

**Pam**

## Carm’s Corner

### Book Recommendations from our Friend, Carmela

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

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



## Milford Public Library Renovation

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





## Party in the Stacks! Volunteer Thank You Party



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

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

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

(Below-right) Pam Pilla cuts the cake.



## Advocate for the Milford Public Library

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

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

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

## Thank You Party and Annual Meeting

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

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

If you are interested or would like more information, please email [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com)



**Party In the Stacks!**

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

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

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

Interested in being a part of next year's fundraiser? Email [partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com](mailto:partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com)



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



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





SUMMER 2020

# OFF THE SHELF

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY  
NEWSLETTER

## A NOTE FROM PAM

When I reflect on the past several months, it's hard to fathom the changes we've had to make in our daily lives. Our vocabulary (flatten the curve), our wardrobe (face masks, PPE), the way we interact (Zoom, social distancing), our shopping (toilet paper, hand sanitizer) are all part of our new normal. Nobody told me there'd be days like these, strange days indeed, (John Lennon, "Nobody Told Me").

There are rays of hope, at least in Connecticut and Milford, including the thoughtful re-opening of the Milford Public Library. Health and safety are the motivation for the limited hours and new rules. Be sure to stay up-to-date on the changes by visiting the MPL website.

The FOML has continued to support the library, even when it was closed. We have funded and will continue to fund Zoom programming for children, teens, and adults. We are funding the summer reading programs, again for children, teens, and adults. And we have purchased museum passes. Our Little Libraries are stocked and our stewards are checking them frequently. It's our pleasure to do our small part to benefit and enrich the Milford community.

For our other programs and initiatives, the FOML board and committee chairs will be consulting with the library staff to see what we can do. The decision has already been made to cancel The Party in the Stacks for 2020. Other fundraising activities, for example our book sales, are up in the air. The FOML membership renewals, that were put on hold in March, will begin again soon. Your membership dues will be our main source of income in 2020. As always, it will be used to support the library programs we continue to fund.

We are looking at new and creative ideas to engage our membership and raise funds. If you have an idea or would like to help, please email me at [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com). There are ways you can help right now including our MPL Window Clings and enrolling in Amazon Smile. We've had a wonderful response to the Window Clings and I thank you! If you'd still like a window cling or want to know more about Amazon Smile, find additional information later in the newsletter.

I sincerely hope all our Friends and families are staying safe and healthy. And I thank you all for your continued support in these trying times.

All the Best,

Pam Pilla  
*President*

### NEW LOGO!

Be on the lookout for our new & improved modern logo as we phase it into our everyday work.



OLD LOGO



NEW LOGO

# QUOTES OF HOPE

During these unsettling times, it can be hard to find the light. The Friends of the Milford Library Board and Committee Chairs have gathered some of their favorite uplifting quotes to remind us of the hope that lies ahead.

*"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think"*

- Winnie the Pooh, A.A. Milne

*"Remember we are apart now, so that when we get back together, no one is missing."*

- Unknown

*"Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise."*

—Les Misérables, Victor Hugo

*"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."*

- Theodore Roosevelt

*"Read for joy"*

- Katherine Center

*"What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is to change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain."*

- Maya Angelou

*"I don't know what lies around the bend, but I'm going to believe that the best does."*

- Anne of Green Gables,  
L.M. Montgomery





# HIGH SCHOOL BOOK AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS



The Friends of the Milford Library's annual High School Book Award and Scholarship recipients have been chosen. Book Awards are given to a member of the junior class at each of the five high schools in Milford. Scholarships are awarded to two high school seniors with plans for furthering their education. All of the award winners have exhibited outstanding personal character, made a positive impact on their school or community, and demonstrated a strong and consistent love of reading. Recipients were recognized and chosen by their teachers.

## **Book Award Recipients:**

The Academy: Rosalia Navarra  
Jonathan Law: Joseph Merly  
Joseph Foran: Isabella Ribera  
Platt Tech: Megan Campbell  
Lauralton Hall: Jiline Cole

## **Scholarship Recipients:**

Anna Jani, Joseph Foran  
Tasbita Ahmed, Jonathan Law

# RENOVATED LITTLE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Milford Library's Gulf Beach Little Library has recently been renovated by its original builders, Pat Simon and his three grandsons.

"We had a great time bonding in my workshop using new and recycled products to make it strong enough to withstand the weather on the beach." Simon says. "Setting the Little Library in place gave us that 'feel good feeling' that we did something positive for the people of Milford."

The Friends of the Milford Library have four Little Libraries. The Firehouse Art Gallery Little Library (81 Naugatuck Avenue, Walnut Beach) Gulf Beach Little Library (Gulf Street) and Milford YMCA Little Library (631 Orange Avenue, located off the parking lot, near the ball fields) are open and stocked. The Milford Train Station Little Library is currently closed until further notice.



Contact us: [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com)  
57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460

# LIBRARY PRIDE

Though the past few months have been filled with uncertainty, The Milford Public Library hasn't skipped a beat - adapting existing programs and services to best serve YOU!

Below are just some of the things they've been up to!

## **CURBSIDE PICKUP**

Allowed patrons to place items on hold and schedule a time to pick them up curbside.

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## **NEW BOOKS!**

Continued ordering new books and movies - including more e-content.

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## **BOOK GROUPS**

Held Popular Fiction, Classic, and Romance book groups virtually!

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## **3D PRINTER**

Utilized the 3D Printer to print N95 masks and surgical mask straps.

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## **SUMMER READING**

Created and launched Children, Young Adult, and Adult Summer Reading programs.

## **DIGITAL ACCESS CARDS**

Offered digital access cards to Milford residents without a library card.

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## **RESOURCE CENTER**

Created a Resource Center to discover new and interesting links to activities and sites you can enjoy at home.

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## **RENOVATIONS**

Continued renovations on the Children's Dept. (Did you catch the FB Live video that takes you behind the scenes?)

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## **POET LAUREATE**

Continued to accept and review applications for Milford's Poet Laureate program.

## **Children's Programs**

- ★ Digital Storytimes
  - ★ Virtual Scavenger hunts
  - ★ Virtual Book Chats
  - ★ "Turtle Dance Music!"
  - ★ "Sciencetellers!"
  - ★ New Spring Storywalk AND MORE!!
- 

## **Young Adult Programs**

- Virtual TAG (Teen Advisory Group) Meet-up!
  - Quaren-TWEEN LEGO Challenge
  - Q&A w/ Milford Health Dept.
  - College Searches in the time of COVID-19 AND MORE!!
- 

## **Adult Programs**

- Magician Matias Leterlier
- Chat with a Space Historian
- Meditating with Amy
- Chat with a Scientist
- The Library Zoom Room: Chats with Library Staff AND MORE!!



# SUPPORT

## \$5 WINDOW CLINGS!



Receive an exclusive 'I ♥ Milford Public Library' window cling by donating \$5 to the Friends of the Milford Library. Visit [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org) for the link to donate.

A very limited number of window clings will also be available at curbside pickup for a \$5 cash donation (exact change only).

## SHOP! AMAZON SMILE



Shop & Support! By signing into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate 0.5% of every eligible purchase to the charity of your choice. Sign in today and choose the *Friends of the Milford Public Library*.



**NEW!** Now Available on the Amazon App!

- 1) Sign up for Amazon Smile on your web browser first.
- 2) Download and open the Amazon app.
- 3) Find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

## BECOME A FRIEND



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



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SPRING 2020

# OFF THE SHELF

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY  
NEWSLETTER

## A NOTE FROM PAM

We are living in uncertain times; but it is wonderful to see the caring support being provided by our Milford community. We are all in this together.

As a reminder, all FOML in-person volunteer, committee activities and programs are on hold. Tasks that can be performed remotely, for example via phone or email, can continue. We'll be notified when the library is scheduled to re-open and when we can resume our activities.

In April, our Friday with Friends and High School Book Awards Ceremony will be cancelled. In the future, we will re-schedule the High School Book Awards to a date to be determined.

Membership renewals are on hold as well and memberships will be automatically extended. Once we resume our activities, new renewal notices will be sent.

This issue contains some helpful hints for you regarding library on-line resources, our Little Libraries, and advocacy efforts.

And finally, below is some advice from the CDC on coping with COVID-19 stress:

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, and get plenty of sleep.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy. Read a book!
- Connect with others via phone or online. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

I sincerely hope all our Friends and families are staying safe and healthy.

All the Best,  
Pam Pilla  
*President*



# ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



The Friends of the Milford Library held their Annual Meeting and Thank You Party at the library Sunday, January 26. Friends, library staff, and local supporters, were greeted at the door by students from Foran High School's Key Club. Guests gathered on the upper floor of the library to enjoy a wine and cheese reception before reflecting on their accomplishments in 2019.

Awards were issued to several deserving volunteers including Judy Kennedy and Cheryl Cappiali for their conception of the Friends' first jewelry sale "Baubles, Bangles and Bling Bazaar" and Paula Goncalves for her dedication on the decorations for this year's Party in the Stacks fundraiser. The Little Libraries committee and the City Perks volunteers were also recognized for their service to the group.

The Community Supporter award went to Greg and Liz Davies of The Crushed Grape (254 Melba St, Milford, CT). Greg and Liz have been long time supporters of the Friends group, donating the bar and helping obtain sponsorships for fundraising events and functions.

# ANNUAL MEETING RECAP (CONT'D)



Officer elections were held shortly after the awards. All positions were unanimously agreed upon by the group and are as follows: Kathy Goldbach Treasurer, Paula Goncalves Assistant Treasurer, Arlene Painter Secretary and Ashley Volkens Vice President of Public Relations. Pam Pilla, President, and Margaret Downey, Vice President of Membership, will continue their terms on the board. The Vice President of Special Events position remains vacant.

Outgoing officers, Karuna Kasbawala and Louise Uchaczyk were both thanked for sharing their time and talents while on the board. A book will be donated to the library in each of their names.



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57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460



# MEET YOUR 2020 BOARD



**Pam Pilla**  
***President***

**How long have you been a friend?** 3 years

**Where you are from?** Grew up on Long Island, but have been a resident of Milford over 35 years

**What is your favorite book?** The genres I tend to gravitate towards are mysteries, non-fiction, and historical fiction.

**Why are you a friend?** I joined the Friends when I retired to meet people and because I found the Friends to be a very welcoming group. I support the library because I love the community aspect of it and see how the services offered benefit the citizens of Milford.



**Ashley Volkens**  
***VP, Public Relations***

**How long have you been a friend?** 2 years

**Where you are from?** Milford, CT

**What is your favorite book?** Any American Girl book!

**Favorite author?** Marc Brown (Arthur Book Series)

**Why are you a friend?** I feel at home at the Milford Library and want to share that feeling with as many people as I can. I believe libraries are necessary - the stronger your library, the stronger your community.



**Margaret Downey**  
***VP, Membership***

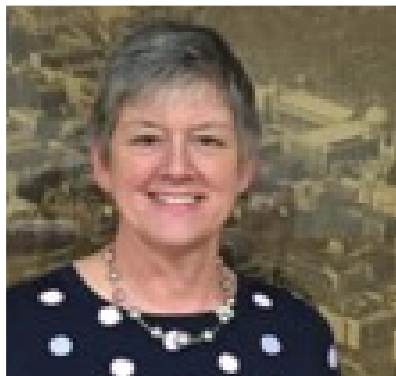
**How long have you been a friend?** 3 years

**Where you are from?** Milford, CT

**What is your favorite book?** All the Harry Potter Books

**Why are you a friend?** I initially became a Friend to help my mom with her library projects and the Party in the Stacks and found that I enjoyed being involved and helping FOML support the library.

# MEET YOUR 2020 BOARD



**Arlene Painter**  
**Secretary**

**How long have you been a friend?** 5 years

**Where are you from?** I grew up in West Haven, lived in Rocky Hill for almost 30 years and moved to Milford in 2013

**Favorite book:** The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton

**Favorite authors:** Fiona Davis, Elin Hilderbrand, Lisa Scottoline, Viola Shipman, Nora Roberts

**Why are you a friend?** I became a Friend because I needed something to do in my retirement, and I have always loved reading and being in libraries!



**Kathy Goldbach**  
**Treasurer**

**How long have you been a friend?** 6+ years

**Where you are from?** Milford, CT

**What is your favorite book?** All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

**Who is your favorite author?** Louise Penny

**Why are you a friend?** I share FOML's mission to support the library staff in providing quality library services and opportunities for Milford's citizens



**Paula Goncalves**  
**Assistant Treasurer**

**How Long have you been a friend?** 3 Years

**Where are you from?** Born and raised in Bridgeport, lived in Storrs for 4 years, Arizona for 1 year and Milford for about 35 yrs now.

**Favorite book:** Childhood Favorites include 'Magnificent Obsession' by Lloyd C. Douglas and 'Tale of Two Cities' by Dickens.

**Why the library?** I wanted to volunteer at the library to show my support. I've always been a reader and I love the peace and quiet of a library. I often think I should have been a librarian.

# VIRTUAL / DIGITAL

Even though the Library is currently closed to the public, the wonderful hardworking library staff are working to quickly move services online, and increase our online resources.

If you should need any library assistance, new cards, or card extensions, library staff will respond to any messages as soon they are able!

**Phone:** 203-783-3290

**Email:** [milford.public.library@biblio.org](mailto:milford.public.library@biblio.org)

**Facebook:** @MilfordPublicLibraryCT

**Website:** [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org)

## EBOOKS, EAUDIOBOOKS, & EMAGAZINES

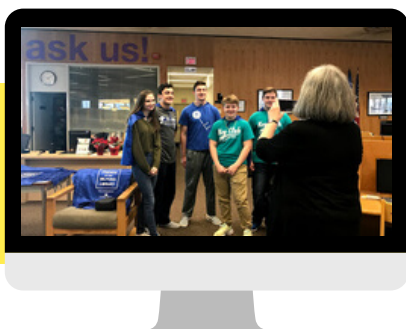
The Library subscribes to two e-content vendors, Overdrive & rbDigital. Both offer eBooks and eAudiobooks. RB Digital also offers emagazines, which do not need to be returned and can be kept on your device until you delete the file. These two services are available to Milford Public Library cardholders.



Download ebooks and digital audio books 24/7 to your PC, smartphone, iPad, eBook reader, and many MP3 players from the convenience of your own home or office space. Choose from a number of best selling titles. Now your library never closes!



RBdigital downloadable audiobooks, ebooks and magazines are available to Milford residents. Users will need a Milford Public Library card and to create an account with RBdigital.



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# FRIDAY W/ NANCY!



*Nancy Abbey & Cheryl Cappali*

Nancy Abbey, Assistant Director of the Milford Public Library, gave her insightful perspective, discussing recently released books as well as previewing some upcoming releases for February's Friday with Friends.

## **The Book of Longings**

*Sue Monk Kidd*

An extraordinary story set in the first century about a woman who finds her voice and her destiny, from the celebrated number one New York Times bestselling author of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Invention of Wings*.

## **My Dark Vanessa**

*Kate Elizabeth Russell*

Perhaps the most anticipated first novel of the year, Russell's riveting, timeline-shifting saga of the relationship between a high-school student and her teacher... is sure to spark conversation (and debate).

## **The Splendid and the Vile**

*Erik Larsen*

*The Splendid and the Vile* takes readers out of today's political dysfunction and back to a time of true leadership, when, in the face of unrelenting horror, Churchill's eloquence, courage, and perseverance bound a country, and a family, together.

## LITTLE LIBRARIES

Although we are not restocking our Little Libraries while the library is closed, feel free to "Leave a Book, Take a Book". The Little Library shelf at the Train Station will remain closed until the station is open again. This is the sixth consecutive year of our Little Libraries.

### **Firehouse Art Gallery**

81 Naugatuck Avenue  
(Walnut Beach)

### **Milford YMCA**

631 Orange Avenue  
Located off the parking lot, near the ball fields.

### **Gulf Beach (Seasonal)**

OPEN DATE: TBD



*Little Library Committee: Linda Sheehan, Judy Salemme, Peggy Bolger, Lois Barr, Marilyn May, Rhea Spiegel*

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# LIBRARY ADVOCATE

## SHARE **YOUR** STORY

GET TALKING. GET CALLING. GET WRITING. GET SHARING.

Our March Friday with Friends, featured Library Director Chris Angeli explaining the importance and impact of being a year round advocate for the library. Your story makes a difference - whether you're a parent sharing the joy their child experienced at story time or the friendships they formed, using library computers for job searching, saving dollars as a new retiree by checking out books, learning something new at a program, or how the library staff helped you. *"I love the Milford Public Library because...."*



## RECOGNITION



Congratulations, Chris Angeli, City Library Director, for being awarded the Milford Chamber of Commerce's "Cultural Contribution Award"



FALL 2020

# OFF THE SHELF

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY  
NEWSLETTER

## A NOTE FROM PAM

**This October, we are celebrating the Friends of the Library Month!**

The 15th annual National Friends of Libraries Week is October 18-24, 2020, but we decided to celebrate all month. During our month long celebration, we hope to raise awareness for our group, strengthen our connections within the community, and advocate for our wonderful library.

When did the Friends of the Library become “a thing”? While finding the history for Friends groups is challenging, I have found a few snippets of information I thought you may find interesting.

- **1913**, the first group to name itself a “Friends group” was founded in France.
- **1922**, the first group in the United States that named itself “Friends of the Library” was founded in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The organization was established to help purchase books for the library.
- Also in **1922**, another Friends group was founded in Syracuse, New York.
- **1959**, there were 400 Friends groups in the US.
- During the **1960s**, Friends began to form statewide groups.
- **1979**, the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) was founded in order to help develop more Friends groups around the country. At this time, there were 2,000 Friends groups and around half a million members of these groups.
- **1979**, The Friends of the Connecticut Libraries was founded. It is a statewide support group with the goal of helping Connecticut Friends groups support their libraries through education, advocacy, training, and resources.
- **1981**, the Friends of the Milford Library formed! Note: I also found a reference to Friends of the Library in Milford in the 1880s.

This newsletter is full of fun “Happy Friends Month” activities and more. We hope that you will join us this month at the library!

All the Best,

Pam Pilla  
*President*



# HAPPY FRIENDS MONTH!

During the month of October, the Friends of the Milford Library are celebrating “Friends of the Library Month”. The month will be full of activations to engage library patrons, support the community, and celebrate the Friends group.



## SIGN YOUR NAME, SHOW YOUR LOVE

The Friends will kick off the month with a “Sign Your Name, Show Your Love” advocacy campaign. Paper hearts will be available at the Library for patrons to sign their name. The hearts will then be displayed on the windows of the library for the public to see.

Hearts will be available to sign for the month of October at the circulation desk and in the children’s department. Visit [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org) for the most up to date information on library hours.

## TYPE YOUR NAME, SHOW YOUR LOVE (VIRTUAL OPTION)

We recognize that not everyone feels comfortable going inside the library at this time and are offering a virtual alternative. Visit [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org) or [click this link](#), to submit your name through a form, and one of our Friends will write your name on a paper heart.

# HAPPY FRIENDS MONTH!

## PARTY IN A BAG



Due to the impact COVID-19 has had on our community and the restrictions in place, we had made the decision to not go forward with our single largest annual fundraising event Party in the Stacks.

This year, instead of Partying in the Stacks, the Friends have recreated the party experience with a take home "Party in a Bag".

Inside our 'Party in a Bag' you will find a taste of the party experience - literary themed cocktail bookmarks, a literary themed playlist created by our Party EMCEE Brian Smith, a 3D printed key chain, and a sweet treat!

Party in a Bags are free and available to library patrons starting Tuesday, October 20th on the upper floor of the library during library hours. Bags are first come first serve.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Purchase a special literary themed treat from our partners in the community. Visit their websites or give them a call for the most up to date hours and availability.



### **Sleepy Hollow Sangria**

Archie Moore's  
15 Factory Ln.  
archiemoores.com  
(203) 876-5088



### **Chicken Soup for the Soul**

Bobette's  
127 Gulf St.  
bobettes.com  
(203) 874-9414



### **Pinkalicious Cupcake**

Good Morning Cupcake  
252 Melba St.  
goodmorningcupcake.net  
(203) 969-5993



### **Catcher in the 'Rye' Reuben**

Scratch Baking  
84 Broad St.  
scratchbakingct.com  
(203) 301-4396

Contact us: [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com)  
57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460

# HAPPY FRIENDS MONTH!

*Bosco's*



## SHOP AT BOSCOV'S!

On October 14th & 15th from 9am-9pm we will be participating in Bosco's Friends Helping Friends shopping event.

All you need to do is mention the **Friends of the Milford Library** in-store at the register or online at checkout and we will receive 5% of your total purchase. Plus, shoppers receive 20% off! (Restrictions apply)

Visit [www.boscovs.com](http://www.boscovs.com) to get your shopping list ready!



## THANK YOU, CRYSTAL!

We would like to thank Crystal Beetham for the wonderful window art that is currently displayed on the library windows.

"I really love the Milford Library and so does my family, I use the Libby app just about everyday. I'm happy to be a part of this celebration and spread some joy through my art."

Visit Crystal's website to learn more about her and her art:

[www.csbart.wordpress.com](http://www.csbart.wordpress.com)



# STUDENT FEATURE

## MEET TASBITA

2020 Friends of the Milford Library Scholarship Winner



"The Library is a center for the community"

Tasbita Amhed winner of the 2020 Friends of the Milford Library Scholarship says.

The library has always been one of Tasbita's favorite places to go. When she was younger, Tasbita, her mom and older brother would walk to the library several times a week from their apartment downtown. "Books shaped me into who I am today" she says. Tasbita still remembers one of the first books that she took out (multiple times) - 'Strawberry Shortcake'.

It was these childhood memories that led Tasbita to inquire about volunteer opportunities at the Library when she entered high school. Tasbita loved how accepting the library was. "The library is a neutral place, where people can be themselves" she says. Tasbita credits the library for her new found independence - teaching her to be a better communicator, meet new people, and step out of her shell. After two short years of volunteering, Tasbita would go on to receive her first part-time job at the library.

Tasbita is especially appreciative of the "always enthusiastic and welcoming library staff" she's met along the way and the library staff's feelings are mutual. "What makes Tasbita stand out is her enthusiasm and kindness." Diana Preece, Reference Librarian for the Milford Library says. "As a longtime member of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), she would break the ice with new volunteers and encourage them to join in activities. Her helpfulness and witty humor are appreciated by the library staff and, I think it's safe to say, all who know her."

Our very best wishes are with Tasbita as she starts her first semester this fall studying engineering at UCONN.

Contact us: [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com)  
57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460

# SUPPORT

## \$5 WINDOW CLINGS!



Receive an exclusive 'I ❤️ Milford Public Library' window cling by donating \$5 to the Friends of the Milford Library. Visit [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org) for the link to donate.

A limited number of window clings will also be available at the circulation desk for a \$5 cash donation (exact change only).

## SHOP! AMAZON SMILE



Shop & Support! By signing into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate 0.5% of every eligible purchase to the charity of your choice. Sign in today and choose the *Friends of the Milford Public Library*.

**NEW!** Now Available on the Amazon App!



- 1) Sign up for Amazon Smile on your web browser first.
- 2) Download and open the Amazon app.
- 3) Find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

## BECOME A FRIEND



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



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