WINTER 2023

OFF THE SHELF

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS HOLIDAY BOOK SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Friends Holiday Book Sale brought many visitors to the library in December. There were at least a dozen people waiting outside to get in when the doors opened at 10am. Despite the less than stellar weather that day, there was a steady stream of parents, children, grandparents, teachers, and book lovers raving about the quality of what was available for sale. Many books were sold to happy customers looking to stock their shelves or find gifts for the holidays while supporting a good cause.

A special thanks to the library staff for their support with a big sign at the circulation desk and volunteers from the library's Teen Activity Group that helped move boxes of books onto the tables. Also many thanks to the Friends volunteers who unpacked books on all of the tables during setup and the fabulous volunteers who worked all day during the sale. And finally thanks to the end-of-sale teen volunteers who packed leftover books along with Friends volunteers and moved all of the book boxes back. It really was a team effort! Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make the sale an epic success!

VISIT STOP & SHOP IN MARCH ☘

Great news! Each month, the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program gives back to our communities by selecting a nonprofit local to each store to benefit from the purchase of every Community Bag. For the month of March 2023, Friends of the Milford Public Library is the selected nonprofit! We are honored to be part of the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program! Starting March 1st, 2023 and for the entire month of March, when you purchase a $2.50 reusable Community Bag at the **Stop & Shop located at 855 Bridgeport Avenue in Milford**, $1 is donated to the Friends of the Milford Library.

HELP TO ADVOCATE FOR THE LIBRARY!

The City of Milford Budget process for 2023-2024 has begun and the publication of the Mayor's Proposed Budget is a starting point for the next steps. The Board of Finance will make recommendations and the Board of Alderman ultimately approves the city budget.

Please let our city leaders know what the library means to you and that you support the current proposed library budget without any cuts.

Please contact your alderman via email, phone, or letter. Just a few words about what the library means to you personally and that you support the library budget will help and would be greatly appreciated. Personal stories also make an impact, such as a parent sharing the joy their child experienced at story time or the friendships they formed, using library computers for job searching, saving dollars as a new retiree by checking out books, how you use the e-content (e-books, audio books, etc.), learning something new at a program, how the library staff helped you, etc.

Find your alderperson at the link below. Click on their name for contact information:

https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/board-of-aldermen

scan me

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

https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/registrars-of-voters/pages/voting-locations-and-who-are-my-representatives

The Mayor's Proposed Budget for 2023-2024 can be found here:

https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/city-budget

Public comments are welcome at the upcoming Board of Aldermen Public Meeting, typically held in April. Additional information will be sent to members when the schedule is available. Thank you in advance for stepping up and using your voice to advocate for the Milford Public Library!

Let's Welcome Suzanne Harrison-Thomas!

The Milford Public Library has named Suzanne Harrison-Thomas as its new assistant director. There is no doubt that Suzanne has been well-groomed for the job. During the past 24 years, she has been a fixture at the library. "I started working here as a page while I was an undergraduate," she says, smiling. "I later worked in reference and then, after I got my master's, I applied for the position of children's librarian. I held that title for about 21 years."

When Nancy Abby retired as assistant director last year, Suzanne recognized the opportunity and threw her hat in the ring. "I knew I had the training and the skills to take on a new career challenge," she says. "As assistant director, I am able to broaden my focus and still provide a community-oriented service."

Suzanne will impact library services and programs and oversee the ordering of adult nonfiction publications. "I always appreciate patrons reaching out to me with suggestions and feedback," she says. At present, she is looking into providing arts and entertainment programs that include musical performances, storytelling and author talks.

Although the new role has new responsibilities, Suzanne will continue to relish in the tasks that make her an endeared employee. "I love working at the library because it is a people job and I get to interact with a wide range of patrons – from children to families to individual adults," she says. "In the new position, I will get to work with a new age group and investigate new genres while expanding my skill set.

"Working at the library is a nice balance for me," she continues."It's literacy, culture, community involvement and public service… this encompasses everything I really love."

Suzanne, who was raised in Milford, is a longtime fan of the Milford Library. "I've always been a reader," she says. "I've been coming here since I was a child as well as my three kids. Now, two of my children are in college and one is in high school." Library Director Christine Angeli says she is "thrilled" to have Suzanne take the assistant director job.

"Suzanne has led our Children's Department for the last 20 years, and, under her leadership, the Children's Department has undergone a major renovation, increased the number and breadth of programs offered, and built strong partnerships with our schools and local child care agencies," Christine says.

She adds that Suzanne has been a constant presence in the lives of generations of Milford families, nurturing a love of reading, learning and community service in countless children.
"We look forward to having her in her new role as she helps plan and develop new library services for all residents," Christine said.

In turn, Suzanne is very much looking forward to working side-by-side with Christine. "Chris has wonderful ideas and is working towards providing even greater services to our members," says Suzanne. "We are collaborating on a very actionable strategic plan to provide our community with a library that meets their needs."

THANK YOU MILFORD BANK FOUNDATION

The Milford Bank Foundation offers grants to local non-profit organizations and the Friends of the Milford Library is honored to have been selected as a 2022 grant recipient. The Milford Bank has supported the Friends for many years, including sponsoring the Party in the Stacks, the Employee Giving Campaign, and with grants. Many thanks!

Upcoming Annual Membership Meeting

The FOML Annual Membership Meeting to be held on **Sunday, March 19th at 2pm** in the library.

During the meeting, FOML officer elections will be held. Positions up for election include: President, Vice President Membership, and Treasurer.

Per FOML bylaws, the nominating committee sets the schedule for accepting nominations from members. Anyone wishing to submit a nomination or self-nominate for a position must send your intention to milfordlib.friends@gmail.com before March 1st. No one may be nominated without their consent and nominations will not be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

The committee will meet with and vet the prospective nominees for a position through March 10th.

We hope you will join us on March 19th for a fun get together. As we get closer to the event, keep an eye out for an email with additional details and an invitation! The FOML webpage contains additional information about the Friends, including our newsletter archive. Visit Friends of the Milford Library for more information.

NEW ONLINE PROGRAM CALENDAR

In February, changes were made to the program listings on the library website. The library has started a subscription to an online program registration software, LibCal. There will no longer be a list of each program on the website, but instead it has a link to an online program listing and calendar. The Young Adult and Children's Department have been trialing it and adult programs have recently been added. Paper calendars can still be printed, and are available at all library service desks.

Use the filters to select the calendar you are interested in: Adult Calendar, Children's Calendar, Young Adult Calendar or All Calendars. Filter events by Online or In-Person.

Find information on programs, book clubs, story times, genealogy and more! Try it out here, Library Online Calendar link: https://milford-pl.libcal.com/calendar or scan the QR code.

February Event Highlights:
Thursday, February 16th at 1:00 PM: Online Author Talk with Grace M. Cho
Tuesday, February 21 at 2:00pm: Movie Matinee "The Woman King"
And so many more! Scan the QR code to see all of the FUN events at the library this month!

SCAN ME

SUPPORT

BOOK SALE

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MERCHANDISE

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

- Coffee Mug: $10.00
- Canvas Book Bag: $10.00
  - Only a few left!
  - Get yours before they're gone!
- Here is a sneak peak of our new Friends of the Milford Library bags coming soon!

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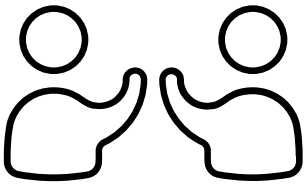

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Thank you to our newsletter contributors:
Amy Bringardner, Carol King, Pam Pilla and Diana Lockwood-Bordaña

SPRING 2023

OFF THE SHELF

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEETING WITH GUEST SPEAKER DR. DIANA

During the Friends of the Milford Library's annual meeting in March, guest speaker Dr. Diana, a Milford-based STEAM educator, consultant, and author, shared her latest book, *The STEAM TEAM and the Incredible Dream: The Atmosphere Adventure.*

"STEAM education stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Milford elementary schools hired STEAM teachers in their buildings two years ago," Dr. Diana explained. "This type of education encourages hands-on learning, collaboration, and teaching kids the importance of trial-and-error. Many schools are starting STEAM and STEM programs," she shared.

Dr. Diana writes science and STEAM Curriculum for Discover Education, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and helped FIRST Robotics with their #morethan campaign to encourage females and students of color to participate in robotics.

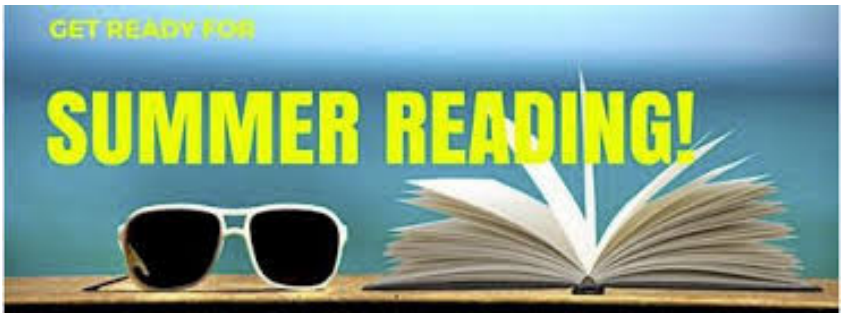
The Friends of the Library learned more about STEAM education and the importance of encouraging kids to have the right mindset. Specifically, a STEAM Mindset, which Dr. Diana explained is about being curious, asking questions, experimenting and failing forward.

"I learned so much about STEAM and read Dr. Diana's books with my grandchildren who are big fans of her! We are so lucky to have her as part of our Milford community!" shared Nadine Civitella, FOML Member and Co-VP of Public Relations.

STOP & SHOP MARCH FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!

A special thank you to our local Stop & Shop for their Community Bag Program that gave back to the Friends of the Milford Library. During the month of March, for every purchase of a Community Bag, FOML received a portion of the proceeds. We were honored to have been selected as the beneficiary of the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program and FOML will receive over $200 dollars! Thank you Stop & Shop at 855 Bridgeport Avenue in Milford!

SAVE THE DATE SUMMER BOOK SALE



Save the date for the Friends of the Library Summer Reading Book Sale! The sale will be Saturday, June 17 from 10am to 3pm outside the lower entrance of the library. Like-new children's books and adult trade paperbacks will be $2. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Library's Program Room.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Thank you library staff for all you do! In honor of National Library Week, FOML gave a gift bag to each library staff member. Thank you Paula Goncalves for putting the gift bags together!

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES & A NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Milford Library was held on Sunday, March 19th at the library. Over 40 members attended the Annual Meeting which included a wine and cheese spread.

Acting President Pam Pilla opened the meeting and welcomed members and reviewed FOML's 2022 accomplishments. Pam is looking forward to 2023, with our new FOML Board member, Nadine Civitella who joined as Co-VP of Public Relations. Welcome, Nadine! We are so lucky to have you!

The meeting included the election of officers. Those reelected were Treasurer, Kathy Goldbach and Vice President Membership, Pam Pilla. Volunteers Melissa Carroll and Neil Kemp were recognized and thanked for their contributions to the Friends.

Chris Angeli gave a library update. She expressed her delight in being able to see everyone and thanked the members of FOML for continuing to provide financial and volunteer support. She shared the successful installation of the new projector in the Program room to optimize the use of hybrid programs. There are plans to build a patio area outside the Children's Department. The library happily reported an increase in new patrons. She thanked her staff for their dedication and expressed thanks to the Library Board and to the FOML Board members who continued to meet and pivot services and programs.

SUPPORT

BOOK SALE

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

MERCHANDISE

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

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

Our new Friends of the Milford Library bags are here! Available at the Library's Front Desk

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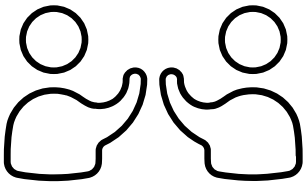

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FALL 2023

OFF THE SHELF

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Where Mystery & Romance Meet

FRIENDS OF THE MILFORD LIBRARY

TINYURL.COM/FOMLPITS

TICKETS ON SALE FOR PARTY IN THE STACKS!

Where Mystery & Romance Meet

Party in the Stacks - Where Mystery and Romance Meet is our annual themed fundraiser to be held this Fall!

Please join us as we celebrate in the library after-hours on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 7pm - 10pm for a mystery and romance themed evening with friends, food and fun.

Enjoy delicious themed appetizers from Christopher Martin's, specialty drinks and adult beverages from The Crushed Grape. This adults-only event features, music, dancing, raffle and silent auction prizes, and a costume contest!

Milford's own Brian Smith will return as emcee. Costumes are optional but encouraged. The romantic mystery genre includes a wide variety of books, movies and authors. Classics include 'The Great Gatsby', 'Phantom of the Opera', and 'Murder on the Orient Express'. Come as your favorite sleuth, villain, victim, or mysterious romantic interest!

Tickets are available now, online at tinyurl.com/FOMLPITS and in the library. The library accepts cash or checks made payable to FOML. Get your tickets early. Tickets are $50 per person through Sept. 30th and the cost goes up to $60 on Oct. 1st.

Silent auction and raffle prizes are coming in! We expect a plethora of offerings and experiences. Including, a silent auction item tickler: .A South African Safari Adventure for 2! Grab your khakis and let's go!

The trip includes a six night stay at Zulu Nyala Heritage Safari Lodge/Tented Camp and three meals per day. Also included are two game viewing activities per day on the Zulu Nyala Game Reserve. An experienced ranger will assist in planning activities during your stay.

Get your tickets now and save the date! You won't want to miss it!

SCAN QR CODE FOR PARTY IN THE STACKS INFO.

MILFORD TRAIN STATION GRAND REOPENING

Our Newest Little Library Reopens & Helps Commuters

With the reopening of the Milford train station, the Friends will once again be supporting the little library bookshelf at the station with the help of our Little Library stewards, Joan Chrisler and Pat Cervone.

FOML literature will also be available on the bookshelves. Stop in to see the Little Library shelf back up and running! It sure is good to be back!

Summer Book Sale a Great Success

On the morning of the summer book sale, there were people outside waiting for the start of the sale, well before 10am. We could not believe our eyes! We weren't sure who was more excited during the sale - the kids *or* their parents!

Adults stocked up on their summer beach reads, while teachers picked up books for their classroom. It's always a fun day to see as kids leave with bags full of books for summer reading!

We sold so many books this year. The Friends Summer Reading book sale was a success thanks to volunteers and all of the library staff. A special thank you to Amy Bringardner, Kathy Goldbach, Sylvia Hazard, and Shelly Buynak! We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do to help with the summer book sale fundraiser!

High School Awards 2023

High School Awards 2023

The Friends of the Milford Library are proud to announce the winners of our High School Book Award and Scholarship recipients. 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. Winners are selected by their teachers.

Scholarships are awarded to High School seniors with plans of furthering their education. This year's scholarships were awarded to:

Maria Korman from Joseph A. Foran High School
Emily Nobles of Jonathan Law High School.

The Book Award is presented annually to a member of the Junior Class at each of the High Schools in Milford. Each student chooses a book for their school which is donated by the Friends with a bookplate commemorating the student's achievement.

Additionally, each winner received a personally inscribed copy of *Only In Milford* generously donated by the author, DeForest Smith.

This year's winners and their book selections are:

Platt Tech: Geishlyanne Carrasquillo chose *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo
Lauralton Hall: Mia Hamilton chose *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers* by Lisa Damour
Foran: Kiera Simmons chose *Beautiful Mess* by Claire Christian
Jonathan Law: Giuliana Agria chose *The Wicker King* by K. Ancrum
The Academy: Carly Tomasko chose *King of Battle & Blood* by Scarlett Sinclair

In addition, a special Avid Reader Award was presented to Kayla Varian of The Academy and her selected book is *Tell Me I'm Worthless* by Alison Rumfitt.

A special thanks to Peggy Bolger Chair, High School Awards Committee, Friends of the Milford Library, and committee members: Susan Linsley, Judy Salemme, Anne-Marie Sutton, and Young Adult Librarian Danielle Valenzano for all their hard work. We couldn't do it without you!

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MERCHANDISE

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

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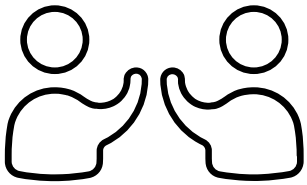

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SPECIAL EDITION NOVEMBER 2023

OFF THE SHELF

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PARTY IN THE STACKS A SUCCESS!

Party in the Stacks - Where Mystery and Romance Meet was held on Saturday, October 21 at the Milford Public Library. It was an evening filled with friends, food and fun! The library was transformed with mystery and romance themed decor created by many of our volunteers. Extraordinary lighting effects were provided by Bill Carpenter of Milford-TV.com

Guests enjoyed delicious themed appetizers and desserts from Christopher Martins, along with a selection of beer, wine and a specialty cocktail provided by The Crushed Grape. Many danced the night away to the music provided by The DJ Company and Milford's own Brian Smith as emcee.

The popular costume contest was held with winners receiving a gift card to Archie Moore's Restaurant. Winning costumes included: the Sherlock Holmes couple, The Great Gatsby couple, the Clue characters group and a self portrait of an artist. Other entertainment included a Trivia Scavenger Hunt which led players to the different decor scenes. Two winners were each presented with a gift card to the Bangkok Room.

Thanks go to our many volunteers who planned, solicited donations, decorated, helped with set up, clean up, and on party night! The fundraiser would not have been a success without you!

Thank you to our sponsors: **The Milford Bank, TrinityPoint Wealth, Fit Training,** and **Mattie's Service Center**! And many thanks to all the donors who provided silent auction and raffle prizes.

PARTY IN THE STACKS!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL CARPENTER FOR
ATHENAPRODUCTIONS.NET
AND PAM PILLA

SAVE THE DATE-HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

Saturday, December 2, 2023
10am - 3pm

The Friends of the Milford Library are excited to bring the magic of books to your holiday season with our special **Holiday Book Sale**. Whether you're looking for the perfect gifts, cozy reads for chilly nights, or just want to expand your collection, we have something for everyone. Join us Saturday, December 2 from 10am to 3pm in the Library program room and let the joy of reading warm your heart this holiday season! **All books are just $2.**

VISIT STOP & SHOP IN NOVEMBER

Great news!

Stop & Shop has selected the Friends for their Community Bag program again for the month of November!

Each month, the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program gives back to our communities by selecting a local nonprofit to benefit from the purchase of every Community Bag. These shopping bags are a good quality, large and heavy duty!

We are honored to be part of the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program! Starting November 1st, 2023 and for the entire month of November, when you purchase a $2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop located at **855 Bridgeport Avenue in Milford**, $1 is donated to the Friends of the Milford Library.

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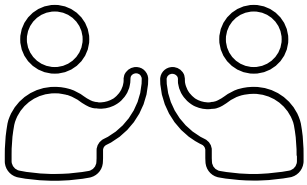

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FOML

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