Four Exciting Events to Brighten Your Winter

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

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

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

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

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

Party in the Stacks!

Co-chaired by Lois Barr-Button and Lisa Thornell Garigulo, our inaugural Party in the Stacks! was a rollicking good time. This gala event was attended by an overflowing crowd of over 150 partiers, more than half of whom were wearing clever, literary-themed costumes. Guests enjoyed dancing to the music of DJ Jazzy Kat, both on the dance floor and among the books. Good food was the highlight of the night, including a crudities, cheese and fruit table and literary-themed hors d’oeuvres prepared by Christopher Martins Restaurant and passed by committee volunteers.

Bidding on the silent auction items, urged on by MC Brian Smith, started early and lasted all night long with happy winners bringing home unique prizes such as an African Safari. Milford’s poet laureate Mick Theebs coordinated a group-effort poem commemorating the night.

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

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

Want to Get More Involved?

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

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

*Purchase via Amazon Smile and the Friends earn $. See our Friends of the Milford Library page on the Library website.*
Roundup of 2016 Accomplishments and a Look Ahead

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

- Inaugurated Party in the Stacks (see article on Page 1)
- With the City of Milford’s Permanent Art Collection Committee and the Milford Arts Council, we celebrated the hanging and unveiling of We Shall Pass This Way But Once, the newly restored WPA (Works Progress Administration) mural, which now proudly hangs in the Milford Library.
- Enlarged the audiences for both our adult and children’s programs—with 5,800 adults and 16,600 children participating this year.
- Raised much needed funds through book sales in the Library, at the Oyster Festival and our Holiday Sale, along with donations, membership funds and special fundraisers.
- Established two scholarships, which were awarded to a Jonathan Law and a Foran senior, and presented the Friends’ Book Award to five juniors, one from each of the five high schools in Milford. Special thanks to Milford author DeForest Smith for his ongoing generous support of this program.
- Provided funding to ‘adopt’ a cheetah to celebrate the middle and high school students reaching their summer reading goals.
- Continued offering books at community locations with three Little Libraries—at the Y, Gulf Beach and Walnut Beach—and the “Books for Commuters” Library at the Milford Train Station.
- Had special Fridays With Friends informal get-togethers, sometimes with speakers and including two trips to visit two newly renovated buildings at Yale, the Center for British Art and the Beinecke Library.
- Carried on our “Welcome to Milford” program, in collaboration with Milford organizations, creating packets to introduce newcomers to our City.
- Increased the number and involvement of our volunteers, logging well over 4000 hours!
- Received a 2016 Outstanding Friends Group Award from the Friends of Connecticut Libraries.

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

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

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

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

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

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