



57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

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

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



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

New Committee Chairs

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

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

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

Save the Date

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

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

Officers Elected and Extraordinary Volunteers Recognized at Friends' Annual Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rave Reviews for *Love Letters* Performance

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

Friends of the Library to Sponsor New Preschool Program

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

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

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

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

Visit the Little Libraries ...

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

Amazon Smile

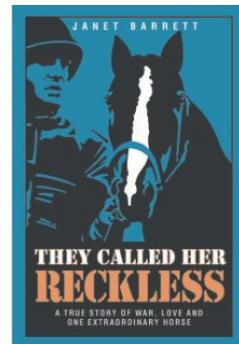
Do you order from Amazon? If so, you can donate to the Friends at no charge to you by ordering through Amazon Smile and selecting Friends of the Milford Public Library as your non-profit of choice. Amazon will donate a percentage of each purchase to the Friends.



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

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

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



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

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



Mark Your Calendars for these Events and Programs ...

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

Additional Fridays with Friends programs:

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

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