Little Library at Gulf Beach Opens for Season

Pat Simon has been busy making repairs to The Little Library at Gulf Beach, replacing the rusty hinges and getting it ready to open for the season. This Little Library is a story of active neighbors. Pat, who originally built it, taught and coached in the Milford school system until his retirement a few years ago. He was assisted in building the original Library and making the repairs by his young grandsons, Julian and Tristan. Neighbor Cathy Collins Liantas, a former Milford art teacher who paints full-time and teaches workshops part-time at her studio Art for Everyone, provided artistic talent for the original sea creature design and is restoring the weathered paint on the Gulf Beach Little Library.

Little Libraries Chair Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo noted that all the Little Libraries are now open — joining the one at Gulf Beach are the bright yellow Little Library at the Milford Y on Orange Avenue and the Little Library located in front of the Firehouse Gallery both built by Jack Button, who has also been busy making needed repairs, and the Commuter Library at the Railroad Station.

The Milford Little Libraries are a project of the Friends of the Milford Library. They are based on the “take a book, return a book” theory. They are gathering places where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. Each of the Little Libraries has volunteer stewards, responsible for overseeing and checking on the stock of books. Stewards include Lois Barr, Peggy Bolger, Anne Bolin, Cheryl Cappiali, Marilyn May, Judy Salemm, Jane Sharma, Linda Sheehan, and Committee Chair Lisa Thornell-Gargiulo.

Volunteers Needed

We need your help. Love to bake? We need volunteers who will make cookies and other baked goods for our meetings. Good at greeting and talking with people? We have two openings at the Friends’ table in the Library lobby, Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m and Saturdays 12–2 p.m. If you are interested, contact us by emailing milfordlib.friends@gmail.com or calling 203-783-3591.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, August 19: Book Sale at Oyster Fest, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, September 15: Friday with Friends, speaker Hedda Kopf, retired Professor of Women’s Studies at Quinnipiac University, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 21: Party in the Stacks! 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Milford Students Win Friends’ Book and Scholarship Awards

“Seven students are the winners of this year’s Friends Book and Scholarship Awards,” said Margaret Bolger, Chair of the Friends of the Milford Library’s High School Awards Committee. Winners of the Book Awards, given for the third year by the Friends, are each members of the junior class at the five high schools in Milford. These students are recognized for their demonstrated strong and consistent love of reading, outstanding personal characters and the positive impact they have made on their school and community: Chania Chaisson-Fortin, Foran; Hannah Williams, Lauralton; Dominick Buccitti, Law; Sean Rescanski, Platt; Eric Silva, The Academy.

“We are also pleased to announce the winners of the Friends Scholarship Awards,” noted Chair Bolger. “This is the second year that the Friends have been able to award $500 scholarships to two deserving seniors, one in each of the City’s two high schools: Francesca Faura, Foran and Kavitha Mohanarajan, Law.”

The Book and Scholarship awards were presented by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Elizabeth Feser and Friends President Dr. Anne Bolin at a ceremony at the Milford Library. Friends’ High School Awards Committee members Peggy Bolger, Anne Bolin, Carrie Bryant, Stacy Kratt, Diana Freece, Judy Salemme and Holly Tighe worked with school personnel in all five of Milford’s high schools in the selection of students to receive these awards.

Free Passes For Great Events

The library is so much more than books. In fact, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Milford Library, patrons can see a play, tour an historic house, view some of the world’s most iconic art by some of the best painters of all time, even spend an afternoon with exotic creatures from the sea and jungle.

There are passes providing free admission to nine area attractions -- some admitting up to six people, and 10 more that provide discounts. Among those are the Shoreline Trolley Museum in East Haven, giving library patrons the opportunity to ride streetcars from the 19th and 20 centuries. The New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks has on display everything from an early fixed-wing bi-plane to the latest gliders and jets. Visitors can climb into the cockpit of a World War II era fighter plane, many of which were manufactured in Connecticut. But the most popular pass, by far, is for the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, says Ronda Zalenski, the library technician in charge of the passes.

Due to the popularity of the passes, and since reservations aren’t taken ahead of time, the library will hold a pass for an hour if someone calls in to check availability. “To encourage the return of the passes on time, there’s a $5 a day late fee. We want as many people as possible to be able to take advantage of this great service,” Zalenski said.

Among the newest passes are those for the Florence Griswold Art Museum in Old Lyme and the EverWonder Children’s Museum in Newtown. Coming back in the fall for a full season is the Long Wharf Theater pass program, which provides two tickets absolutely free for certain performances. “The acclaimed New Haven theater ‘blacks out’ some dates when demand is high and provides tickets on a standby basis for some other performances,” Zalenski said. “But the face value of the tickets has been as high as $85 each. We had really good feedback for the short time we offered the Long Wharf passes last season and we’re looking forward to offering them again,” Zalenski said.

Party in the Stacks! Wins State Award

The Party in the Stacks! Committee of the Friends of the Milford Library has been awarded the Friends of Connecticut Libraries Focused Project Award for last year’s successful event.

“We, the staff and Milford community,” said Library Director Chris Angeli, “are so fortunate to have such hard working, creative individuals working tirelessly in support of the Library. It is worth noting that our Friends group is the only one in the State to be chosen for this prestigious Award.”

Noted Friends President Anne Bolin, “We are proud of the work that the Friends of the Milford Library is performing to help raise dollars for programs and to fulfill other needs of the Library. The Committee, honored at the Friends of CT Libraries Annual meeting on June 10, is hard at work planning the second Party in the Stack! to be held on Saturday, October 21. We will start selling tickets right after Labor Day.”

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.

Contact Us: Email: milfordlib.friends@gmail.com