Exciting events to brighten your winter

**Sunday, January 28, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Thank you Party and Annual Meeting.** Join us to celebrate our accomplishments of the past year and to hear what we are planning for 2018.

**Friday, February 2, First Friday With Friends.** Nancy Abbey, Assistant Librarian of the Milford Public Library, will give her insightful perspective, discussing recently released books as well as previewing some upcoming releases.

**Saturday, February 10, Barnes and Noble Event.** Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the Friends will be partnering with Barnes and Noble to celebrate local authors. The Friends will earn money with each purchase made when a voucher is provided at the time of the sale. More information and the vouchers will be available prior to the event.

**Wednesday, April 25, 6 pm. High School Awards.** The 2018 high school awards ceremony will be held in the library program room, with Milford Superintendent of Schools Dr. Feser as the featured speaker.

Hope to see you at these special events!

Get Involved!

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

**Library Friends Table:** Greet patrons, accept books

**Public Relations:** Design graphics for events and webpage, write news releases, write newsletter articles, maintain FOML bulletin board and clippings book, work on social media projects

**Welcome to Milford!** Gather contents from organizations and assemble packets

**Book Sales:** Organize, set up, and sell books at our special book sales

**Party in the Stacks:** Party planning and decorations
President’s Report State of the Friends

2017 was another banner year for the Friends of the Milford Library. Thanks to the enthusiasm, creativity and boundless energy of our amazing membership, we gave our library tremendous support and provided multiple meaningful and popular services to our community.

Proceeds from our membership contributions, public donations, second annual Party in the Stacks!, the September Barnes and Noble event, our two special book sales as well as our ongoing book sale allowed us to pay for the fantastic line up of adult and children’s programs offered free to the public by the library each month.

We financed improvements to the program room including the purchase of a podium and sound system that have greatly enhanced the library’s presentations and six new tables that should arrive by the end of the year. Also new this year, thanks to the Friends’ funding, are a season pass to Long Wharf Theater that provides two free tickets to each performance and the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program that encourages the youngest members of our community to develop a love of reading early in life.

The programs which we not only fund, but also manage, continued to grow this year. The Welcome to Milford committee chaired by Pam Pilla distributed over 200 packets of information on the City and area non-profits to new library card subscribers. In April, five book awards and two scholarships were presented to outstanding students by Peggy Bolger and the High School Awards Committee. Our Little Libraries Committee, chaired by Lisa Thornell Gargiulo, distributed hundreds of books to readers all over town. Our very popular Friends Table with its amazing staff of welcoming and helpful committee members chaired by Carm DeVito expanded its hours this year so that we now have coverage from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. nearly every day.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. For the second year in a row, we received an award from the Friends of Connecticut Libraries, this year for our creation of Party in the Stacks!, beautifully imagined and chaired in 2016 by Lois Barr-Button and Lisa Thornell Gargiulo. And in March, Alderman Frank Smith and his wife Diane gave us a remarkable performance of Love Letters to thank the Friends for all they do for Milford and to encourage new members to join us.

We had a lot of fun this year, too. In addition to pulling together to make all of the above happen, we also met regularly with our Fridays with Friends to catch up with each other and enjoy a wonderfully varied season of programming, thanks to committee chair Linda Sheehan. Author Janet Barrett came to speak about her book They Called her Reckless, and Hedda Kopf kept us all mesmerized with her discussion of Virginia Woolf. Square One Theater gave us a preview of their season, Dick Platt told us about Milford in the Revolutionary War, Nancy Abbey suggested enticing 2017 titles for every reading taste and Suzanne Harrison spoke about her book

The importance and positive impact of reading to little children. We took a trip to Yale University’s West Campus for a tour of their conservation labs and in June we enjoyed a Blind Date with a Book.

We can be proud of our 2017 accomplishments and we hope that you will join us on Sunday, January 28 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the annual Thank You Party – not only to get your well-deserved pats on the back, but to hear about the fun that’s in store for 2018!

Successful Holiday Book Sale

The Friends Holiday Book Sale December 8 and 9 in the library’s program room was a big success! There was holiday music, warm cider and of course the books: thousands of hardcover and trade paperbacks, a great selection of children’s books, books signed by the author, a special collection of art books, along with CDs and DVDs. A crush of people was waiting to get in when the sale opened on Friday afternoon, with their book lists for gifts, themselves, as well as teachers adding to their classroom library. The first snowfall in Milford on Saturday did not deter the book lovers looking for a bargain. Many people shopped both days.

Our book sale volunteers are the best! Thank you to the library’s Teen Advisory Group for help the evening before setting up the program room and staging the book boxes. Friends volunteers unpacked books Friday morning and put the finishing touches on the decorations. Foran Key Club students moved the packed boxes of leftover books after school on Monday and reset the program room.

The proceeds from the book sale will be used to fund programs at the library for adults and children. Thank you for supporting the Friends and the library!

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.

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Friends of the Milford Library page on the Library website

Photos: Sharon Kaville and Arlene Painter were among the many guests who dressed in costumes at this year’s Party in the Stacks!