

Friends Book Sale May 11-12th

Join us on Friday, May 11 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 12th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for our Spring Book Sale in the library Program Room. We will have a great selection of nonfiction and fiction hardcover books, trade paperbacks, a limited number of signed books, and children's books. All of the books are best quality and priced reasonably. The timing is perfect to find a gift for Mom or add to a summer reading list for you and your children! The sale coincides with the Milford Garden Club's May Market at the Fowler Field Pavilion on Saturday May 12th.

Mark Your Calendars

Friday, April 6, 10 a.m. A representative of Bigelow Tea will entertain us in the Program Room with the history and benefits of tea. Samples will be provided. An RSVP is a must. Please email the Friends at milfordlib.friends@gmail.com or call the Library Business Office at 203-783-3291.

Wednesday, April 25, 6 p.m. The High School Scholarship and Book Awards will be presented in the Program Room. Everyone is invited to attend.

Friday, May 4, 10 a.m. Matilda "Gerry" Dunbrill of Orange will provide us with the background and synopsis of her 2014 novel *Makhorka: The Green Cigarette* as well as discuss her new novel which is in the process of being published. She will also explain the intricacies of the self-publishing process.

Friday-Saturday, May 11-12 Spring Book Sale in the Program Room of the Milford Public Library. This sale coincides with the Milford Garden Club's May Market which takes place under the Fowler Field Pavilion on Saturday. Hours: Friday 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday, June 1 Day trip to the Beardsley Zoo. Stay tuned for details.

Saturday, June 16, 10:30 a.m. The Friends of the Library sponsored program, *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*, will kick off its second year with a special program by Edward Leonard, a well-known musician and pre-school entertainer.

Book and Scholarship Awards

The High School Book and Scholarship awards will be presented by Friends President Dr. Anne Bolin at a ceremony on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Milford Library Program Room. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Elizabeth Feser will be the featured speaker.

Friends High School Awards Committee members Peggy Bolger, Carrie Bryant, Stacy Kratt, Diana Preece, and Judy Salemme have been working with school personnel in all five of Milford's high schools.

"Seven students are the winners of this year's Friends Book and Scholarship Awards," announced Peggy Bolger, Chair of the High School Awards committee. Winners of the Book Awards, given for the fourth year by the Friends, are members of the junior class at the five high schools in Milford: Henrique Errera, Platt Tech, Monica Pydipati, Jonathan Law, Maricarmen Silva, The Academy, Rachel Wywada, Lauralton Hall and Rewas Muhajir, Joseph A. Foran.

The Friends Scholarship Awards will be awarded to Frankie Terres from Jonathan Law and Chania Chaisson-Fortin from Joseph A. Foran. This is the third year that the Friends have been able to award \$500 scholarships to two deserving seniors, one in each of the City's two public high schools.

The winners were chosen by the staffs of their schools for their demonstrated strong and consistent love of reading, outstanding personal character, and positive impact they have made on their school and community. Please join us in honoring these worthy individuals.

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

Annual Meeting



The friendly volunteer greeters honored at the Friends' Annual Meeting
Left to right, back row: Terri Pitt, Cheryl Cappiali, Laura Acri, Judy Kennedy, Carm Devito (Chair), Rhea Spiegel, Jeff Kieman, Marilyn May, Charlie Cook, and Elizabeth MocarSKI
Front row: Pat Onofreo, Peggy Bolger, Judy Salemme, Arlene Painter, Pam Pilla, Rose Bradley, Florence Munz, Ro Muscatelli and Carol Tavella

On Sunday, January 28 about seventy of us gathered in the library's Program Room for the Annual Meeting and Thank You Party. We recognized the Foran High School Key Club with a Community Partner Award and celebrated our twenty-three Friends Table volunteers, with special recognition of the eight volunteers who have been faithfully and cheerfully greeting library guests since we started the Table nearly four years ago: Peggy Bolger, Carm DeVito, Ellie Kopnick, Flo Munz, Ro Muscatelli, Pat Onofreo, Judy Salemme and Carol Tavella. Arlene Painter, Pam Pilla and

Contributing Authors: Peggy Bolger, Anne Bolin, Karen Fortunati, Pam Pilla, Linda Sheehan, Louise Uchaczyk

Contributing Photographers: Anne Bolin, Kristen Twombly, Louise Uchaczyk



Officers and Advisor of the J. A. Foran Key Club receive the Friends' Community Partner Award.

Back row (L-R) Emily Brennan, Cathy Ganun, Advisor

Front row (L-R) Meghan Kelliher, Heather Shea, Mikayla Perry, Mikayla Duhaime

Louise Uchaczyk were elected to our Board and Karuna Kasbawala was re-elected as Assistant Treasurer. Judy Kennedy will serve as our new Welcome to Milford Committee Chair. We are truly fortunate to have so many talented volunteers working with the FOML.

2017 was an exciting year for both the library and the FOML and 2018 promises even more innovation. Watch for the library's new strategic plan this spring and the beginnings of construction projects, both large and small. It's a great time to be a Friend of the Milford Library.

Meet Friends Board Members Karuna Kasbawala and Arlene Painter

For the past two years, **Karuna Kasbawala** has been assisting Treasurer Kathy Goldbach keep track of the Friends' finances. Kasbawala is well qualified, having worked in the banking industry for years. Currently, she is the Customer Solutions Specialist (formerly titled Assistant Branch Manager) at The Milford Bank.



It was her job that brought Kasbawala into the Friends fold. The Milford Bank has a strong presence in the community, sponsoring numerous events and encouraging employee involvement in the city's many non-profit organizations. Kasbawala leapt at the chance to volunteer with the Friends as she treasures both Milford and its library. Arriving in the United States over twenty years ago, Milford was Kasbawala's first and ultimately only stop. The city's small town charm, gorgeous beaches and historic Green were attractive but it was the sense of community, the family-focused orientation and the feeling that "everybody knows everybody" that compelled Kasbawala and her husband to plant roots here.

Prior to getting involved with the Friends, Kasbawala spent many hours in the library enjoying the collections with her son, who is now a freshman at UConn, and also taking advantage of the quiet space to study for her professional certifications. Now, as an active Friends volunteer, Kasbawala assists with the book sales, the *Party in the Stacks!*, the Barnes and Noble fundraiser as well as faithfully attending all the monthly board meetings.

Kasbawala's passion for the library is very evident. She sees the library as far more than a "source of books." In this age of technology, the library is a safe haven in providing an environment to read and learn. But Kasbawala also understands the library's other vital purposes – a welcoming gathering place and a reliable source of information enhanced by first-rate programming on topics that range from culture to politics to the environment. She understands that it is our library that connects our community. The Friends are certainly lucky to have Kasbawala's professional experience, enthusiasm and vision energizing our mission.

Arlene Painter did not wait long after retiring from a twenty-six year career to join the Friends. After working as a school nurse at elementary schools in Rocky Hill and Newington and then at the Bailey Middle School in West Haven, Painter retired in June of 2015 and, by that November, was volunteering with the Friends. She's been greeting library patrons at the Friends table, and has lent her time and talents to the Friends' book sales and *Party in the Stacks!*



For Painter, the library was a natural as well as obvious choice. A born reader, libraries have always played a big role in her life. That plus the fact that Painter can look out the window of her home and see the library next door made it a very easy decision. But Painter has another passion: The West Haven Veterans Museum & Learning Center. The museum is a family labor of love: Painter's parents were vital supporters in establishing the museum that originally focused on New Haven's 102nd Infantry Regiment. Under their guidance, the museum was relocated to its current home, a 9000 square foot space generously subsidized by Painter's parents. With Painter now at the helm as business manager, the scope of the museum has expanded and focuses on the role of West Haven, Milford and Orange from the Revolutionary War onward. In addition to its educational component and archives, the museum is a natural meeting spot for veteran-focused events. Last month, the museum hosted U.S. Senator Chris Murphy and U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro, among others, to address veterans' health care concerns.

An invaluable community resource, the museum has also caught the eye of Hollywood - specifically the 1926 portrait of fully decorated Sergeant Stubby. (Yes, you read that correctly.) Sergeant Stubby, a mixed breed mutt, became the mascot of the 102nd Infantry Regiment. He met his human brothers while they trained on the Yale athletic fields in 1917 in preparation for World War I. Refusing to part with their canine comrade, the soldiers smuggled Stubby with them into France. Stubby proved himself far more than a comfort dog. He participated in battles, saved lives by alerting the men to the presence of poison gas, allegedly captured a German spy and saved a French girl from being trampled by a runaway horse and carriage. He was wounded twice in battle and was awarded the Purple Heart.

On April 13, *Sergeant Stubby: An American Hero* will be released. This animated movie has major star power with Logan Lerman of Percy Jackson movie fame, British mega-star Helena Bonham Carter and French legend Gerard Depardieu providing the voices. Painter is thrilled that Stubby's story will reach a wider audience and especially loves the animated depiction of the familiar New Haven Green. She's in the process of arranging a community screening. For more information on the movie and to view the trailer, check out: <http://www.stubbymovie.com/#movie>. Painter is also interested in planning a Friends field trip to the museum. For more information on the museum, please click on to: <http://www.whmilmuseum.org>

What makes the Friends group so dynamic is the synergy of our volunteers' talents and interests. We thank Karuna and Arlene for all that they contribute.

Save the Date

Party in the Stacks! will return to the library on Saturday, October 20th. This year's event will be chaired by our newly elected Vice President for Special Events, Pam Pilla. We are excited to announce this year's party theme: "The Legends of Charles Island, a celebration of pirates, shipwrecks, mermaids and other seafaring literature!" Preparations for the event have already begun. Please join us and volunteer to help with a variety of tasks. If you are interested in helping in some way, send an email to partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com and tell us how you would like to help. Mark your calendar NOW with the date for this year's wonderful party. We'll be updating you with additional details in the coming months!

Coming Soon

FOML recently purchased Library Insight to manage our museum pass system. Once the system is live, patrons will be able to reserve most passes up to three months in advance and will have the ability to print out some of the passes from home – which means no more trips to the library to pick up and return the pass, and no late fees! We hope to have the system up and running by April.