

Little Libraries

All of the Little Libraries sponsored by The Friends of Milford Library are now open.

The simple concept is come and get a book and bring another to replace it. Each of the Little Libraries has volunteer stewards who are responsible for overseeing and checking on the stock of books. The four Little Libraries are located around Milford: the Yellow Little Library is at the Milford Y on Orange Avenue, the Commuter Library located at the Railroad Station, another at the front of the Firehouse gallery in Devon at the intersection of Naugatuck Avenue and Monroe Street, and the final one at Gulf Beach.

The Little Libraries at the Y and the Firehouse Gallery were built and are maintained by Jack Button. The Gulf Beach Little Library opened for the season on April 17th. This library was built in 2015 by Pat Simon and his grandsons, Julian and Tristan Sevillano and painted by local artist, Cathy Collins Liontas. They have made repairs and touched up the paint each year. This year the hinges were replaced and the door realigned by Simon and his grandsons, including the youngest, Adrian.



Julian, Tristan and Adrian Sevillano repairing the Little Library at Gulf Beach.

Walnut Beach Farmers Market

Look for the Friends at the Walnut Beach Farmers Market beginning Thursday, June 21st after 4:00 p.m. We will be there with an array of books for sale as well as information on *Party in the Stacks* and membership in the Friends organization.

Mark Your Calendars

July 6th, 10 a.m. Joan Wolf will present on how to get your book published. She has published 50 novels including romance, mysteries, and historical. She has lived in Milford 45 years and has two children. She wrote her first twelve books in long hand at the Milford Public Library. She loves horse back riding and has ridden at Spring Meadow Farms for over 40 years. She also ran St. Mary Parish's food pantry for 12 years and has been a parishioner there for 45 years as well.

August 3rd: Tour of the Milford Historical Society on High Street for a private tour of the Eels-Stow House, the Clark Stockade, and the Bryan-Downs House. The Eels-Stow House, c.1700, is believed to be the oldest house in Milford. The Clark-Stockade House, c.1780, was the first house to be built outside the stockade that surrounded Milford. The Bryan-Downs House, c.1785, now houses the Claude C. Coffin Indian Collection and a special exhibit, Threads of Milford History: Quilts from 1830-1990. There is also a country store which sells a large variety of items. Those Friends who are planning to attend the Historical properties in Milford and Party in the Stacks might want to shop for the popular felt eye patches, bandanas with pirate prints, and inexpensive (adjustable) pirate-themed rings! Visitors will also be able to enjoy the herb gardens planted around the houses. More information about attending the tour will be emailed soon to members. Only those who make reservations will be admitted.

September 7th: Hedda Kopf, retired Quinnipiac professor will lead the Friends in a discussion of Virginia Woolf's *To The Lighthouse*.

September 22nd: Barnes and Noble book fair. Stay tuned for details.

October 20th, 7-10 p.m.: *Party In the Stacks*

November: Watch for a special tie in with the West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center plus *Stubby the Movie*.

Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is an early literacy partnership between the Children's Department and the Friends of Milford Library. The public library wants to support all of our families to ensure that their children start kindergarten ready to learn how to read. Reading aloud to your child is one of the most important things you can do to start your child on their way to becoming a life-long reader. The goal is to read 1,000 books together before your child begins kindergarten. If you read just one book each night, you will have read 365 books in one year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years! So far, our participating families have read over 14,000 books!

The 1,000 Books program can take anywhere from a few months to a few years to complete. Each starter pack contains a family's first reading log and a free book to start everyone on their journey. Once the log is full, families can stop by the library to borrow more great books and pick up a new log for their next hundred books. We celebrate every child's 100 book milestones on the library Facebook page. It may sound daunting, but most families are already reading more than enough to reach 1,000 books by the time their child starts kindergarten. And all of those "repeat readings" count! So your child reads *Goodnight Moon* 10 times before bed- that fills 10 spots on your reading log.

Our 2nd Annual 1,000 Books Kickoff was held Saturday, June 16th. This year our special guest was musician Edward Leonard. Edward is well known for his "silly-sing-a-long" which gets children and their adults moving and jumping to familiar songs. Edward always travels with his guitar, drums and a bag full of musical surprises. Members of our Friends organization were there distributing 1,000 Books starter packs to new participants.

First Friday with Friends

On May 4th Mathilde 'Gerry' Dumbrill, a self-published author living in Orange, spoke to the Friends about her first novel "Makhorka: The Green Cigarette," based on real events. It is the epic story of Danya and Mikolai, two young lovers torn apart by the turmoil of turn-of-the-century Russia. Gerry's most recently published book is called 'My Bare Ladies' and is a memoir chronicling her career first as a fashion reporter in New York and later and current career designing and sewing clothing for women, such as Claire Booth Luce. She regaled the Friends with stories of her 'bare ladies'.



Friday with Friends Chair Linda Sheehan and Mathilde 'Gerry' Dumbrill.

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

Contributing Photographers: Anne Bolin, Kristen Twombly, Beth Hanson, Louise Uchaczyk

Meet Friends Table Chairperson Carmela DeVito and Board Member Amy Bringardner



Life often grants us the gifts we need at the time we need them and for **Carmela DeVito**, joining the Friends group was exactly that. After living in Brooklyn for her entire life, Carmela moved to Milford five years ago. At the time, she was deeply grieving the loss of her husband and while tackling these difficult adjustments, a good friend suggested that Carmela join the Friends. Doing so was more than a game changer for her – the “library saved her life.” By providing friendships, a greater connection to the community and a new focus, the Friends group eased Carmela through this difficult life transition.

A life-long lover of books and people, Carmela describes her role as a four-day-a-week Friends greeter at the library as a “perfect fit.” In

addition, her open manner and easy camaraderie encourages some patrons to confide in her. Carmela welcomes these interactions, no doubt based on her experience as a social worker. Her most recent position prior to retirement was serving an adult HIV/Aids population and that cause remains very dear to her. In addition to that interest, Carmela ranks her current loves as follows: 1. The Yankees; 2. Barry Manilow; and 3. Author Chris Bohjalian. One of her most favorite reads is his *Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands*.

A journalism major in college, Carmela also writes *Carm's Corner*. *Carm's Corner* contains both book recommendations and book reviews and can be found at the Friends' greeters' table on the ground floor. She's gotten rave reviews on her recommendations and started her feature at the request of Friends' President, Anne Bolin. Carmela's passion for reading prompted her to start a monthly book club at Carriage Green. With most of her readers in their nineties, Carmela enjoys tailoring the book selections for this engaged group.

Like Carmela, **Amy Bringardner** is not a Milford native. Born and raised in northeastern Ohio, Amy moved to Boston to attend college and remained there several years for work. When questioned what brought her to Milford twenty years ago, she replied simply, “Love.” Settled in a home in the Gulf Beach neighborhood, Amy cherishes the location for its convenience and its quirks. The perks are abundant – walking distance to the beach, the train station, downtown with its shops and restaurants and of course, the library. One of the quirks is the several times daily house shakes – courtesy of the close proximity to the train tracks – that are mild and merely require the periodic straightening of pictures on the wall. The second is the echo of sirens from the fire department located around the corner on New Haven Avenue. But to Amy, the sirens are familiar, reminding her of her childhood home that was located not far from a fire station.

Becoming an integral part of the Friends family seemed to be inevitable for Amy. With a professional background in print production and project management, she worked at Fidelity Investments in Boston and GE Corporate Headquarters in Fairfield. She then moved from marketing to publishing when she assumed the position of Director of Manufacturing at the Weekly Reader Corporation. That job was tremendously satisfying as she witnessed firsthand the excitement and enjoyment of students of the weekly educational newspaper. Amy



began her volunteer work at the library as a “shelf reader” which required her to read the shelves, that is, go through every book in a stack and ensure that they were in order. While reading through countless call numbers might get tedious, Amy found that call numbers sometimes make intriguing shelf-fellows: two she took special delight in were the biographies on Aretha Franklin and Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter situated side by side. Amy's volunteer work led her to a part time position at the library in the Technical Services Department where she repairs books in the library's collection. And this job seemed to lend itself to one of Amy's most important Friends' roles of managing the Holiday and Spring Book Sale events as well as the daily book sales in the library's lobby.

The library receives hundreds of donated books and evaluating and organizing these used items is a time consuming yet crucial task. The proceeds from the sales, along with other Friends' fundraisers, fully fund all of the library's programming including the “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” initiative. In addition to assisting with this vital work, Amy is also the Vice President of Membership on the Friends Board. Her responsibilities include new member welcome, membership renewal, and providing information about membership benefits.

Friends would not be Friends without the talent, skill and energy of both Carmela and Amy! Thank you for all you do!

Book and Scholarship Awards



Left: Top row: Rachel Wywoda, Lauralton Hall; Frankie Terres, Jonathan Law; Monica Pydipati, Jonathan Law; Scott Zito, principal of Platt Tech; Jeffrey Burt, outgoing Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mayor Ben Blake
Front Row: Chania Chaisson-Fortin, Joseph A. Foran; Rewas Muhajir, Joseph A. Foran; Henrique Errera, Platt Tech.

The Friends of Milford Library presented the winners of this year's Friends Book and Scholarship Awards on April 25th in the Program Room at the library. Winners of the Book Awards are members of the junior class at the five high schools in Milford.

The Friends Scholarship Awards were awarded to Frankie Terres (Jonathan Law) and Chania Chaisson-Fortin (Joseph A. Foran), one in each of the City's two public high schools.



Frosty Smith presented the award winners with a copy of *Only In Milford*.



Right: Carmen Silva, The Academy, and friends at the Award Ceremony

Party in the Stacks

The 3rd annual *Party in the Stacks* will be held on Saturday, October 20th at the library from 7 – 10 PM. This year's theme, *The Legends of Charles Island*, a celebration of pirates, shipwrecks, mermaids and other seafaring literature, is inspired by the colorful history and legends of Charles Island. 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.

Coming Soon: Tote bags and mugs will be available for sale in the library with the Library's new logo on them. Look for them near the circulation desk.