

## Annual Meeting and Thank You Party

The Friends of the Milford Library held their Annual Meeting and Thank You Party, Sunday afternoon, January 27 in the Program Room of the library. It was recognition of both the past and the future activities of the group. The room was filled with approximately fifty members of the Friends of Milford Library as they socialized during the meet and greet time prior to the annual business meeting.

Outgoing President Anne Bolin presented an award to Linda Sheehan, Committee Chair of the First Friday with Friends program. Linda has been a long-time member of FOML and has always gone over and above in her service to the organization. Anne also presented an award to Deanna Jacobs for her many volunteer hours with Party in the Stacks! over the last 3 years and for hosting the FOML on a tour of Beardsley Zoo.

Outgoing VP of Membership Amy Bringardner announced the Community Award presented to Rich Meyers of Sterling Printing & Graphics. Rich and his company have helped FOML with the printing of our Welcome to Milford! and 1,000 Books before Kindergarten bags, along with the library mugs and tote bags. Sterling Printing was also a Party in the Stacks! sponsor.

New officers voted in were President Pam Pilla and Vice-President of Membership Margaret Downey. Many thanks for the outgoing leaders and incoming leaders, as well as the many hardworking members of the Friends group were emphasized by a bold lettered THANK YOU on a large chocolate cake waiting on a side table with the coffee.

Ashley Volkens was introduced as the chair of the October 2019 Party in the Stacks. The theme of the event is "Party in the Stacks Goes Pop Culture." She will also assume the vacancy of Vice President of Special Events.

Typical of the group, fun was included in the agenda....a quick quiz of twelve novels' leading characters' partners and book titles, led by Library Director Chris Angeli.

It's a great time to become a member of the Friends of Milford Library. Simply go to the Milford Public Library site and sign up or stop by the library.

## Mark Your Calendars

**Friday April 5th:** Terry Pitt, a Certified Master Gardener and Fairyologist as well as a member of the Friends, will enchant us with her presentation of "Spirits in our Gardens: Mother Earth, Fairies and Us". In the Program Room. 10:00 a.m.

**Thursday April 25th:** The High School Book Awards will be presented in the Program Room. Everyone is invited to attend. 6:00 p.m.

**Friday May 3rd:** The Northeast Fisheries will provide us with a tour and presentation at their location, Northeast Fisheries, 212 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT. The Milford laboratory is a world leader in aquaculture science, established at the request of Connecticut's oyster industry to help expand sustainable oyster harvests. 10:00 a.m.

**Friday May 10th:** Spring book sale in the Program Room. 1:00-5:00 p.m. Selection of nearly-new fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, a collection of DVDs and CDs, as well as signed books. This is a great time to look for hardcover and paperback birthday, graduation, and summer reading books.

**Saturday May 11th:** Spring book sale in the Program Room. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The sale on Saturday coincides with the Milford Garden Club's May Market under the Fowler pavilion from 8:30-11:00 a.m. Come in to the book sale after you've picked up a plant or talked to a Master Gardener!

**Friday June 7th:** New England Air Museum, 36 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, CT, will provide a docent led tour of this fascinating museum. There will be a charge of \$15.00 per person for groups of ten or more. Explore New England's rich and dynamic history in aviation through these unique exhibits located throughout the Museum's three hangars. 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday June 22nd:** Book "Lost Roses" by Martha Hall Kelly. Special Event with the Bellamy-Ferriday House Bethlehem, CT 12:00-5:00 p.m. Limited availability. Purchase tickets by Monday June 10. Call 860.247.8996 x 23. Proceeds benefit Connecticut Landmarks and the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden.

# Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



*Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library*

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

## A Note From Pam

I was elected President at our Friends Annual Meeting and Thank You party in January. I am very excited for the coming year and will have big shoes to fill as Anne Bolin helped to implement many great programs during her tenure. My goals include continuing the wonderful programs that the Friends support. I'd also like to give more members an opportunity to get involved and I will be sending a survey to the membership in the next month or two via Survey Monkey to get your input.

For those who were unable to attend the party in January, here are some of our successes and interesting statistics from 2018...by the numbers:

- **160,000** people visited the library
- **29** Table volunteers, **36** hours per week, greeting and assisting patrons
- **491** Programs attended by over **15,000** children and adults
- **5** High School Books awards and **2** High School scholarships
- **200** Welcome to Milford Bags
- **6500** books read towards 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- **4** Little Libraries
- Free or discounted passes to **20** museums
- **583** Library Insight museum pass reservations
- **2** Book Sale events plus in-house book sale tables
- **10** Friday with Friends events including **3** trips
- **2** Barnes & Noble book fair fundraisers
- **3<sup>rd</sup>** Annual Party in the Stacks!

Let's see what we can accomplish in 2019!

Pam Pilla  
FOML President

**Little Libraries:** The Gulf Beach Little Library will open for the season the week of April 15. The other Little Libraries will continue to be open year-round. They include the Milford Train Station (snack-bar, waiting area), Walnut Beach (outside Firehouse Art Gallery), and the YMCA (near the soccer fields). These free libraries, available to the public, contain both adult and children's books. This is the fifth consecutive year of the Little Libraries!



*Pam Pilla, President and Margaret Downey, Vice-President of Membership*

## Newsletter Member Spotlight – Anne Bolin



In January, Anne Bolin stepped down from an exceptionally successful four-year run as President of the FOML. It's fitting to reflect on how this New Jersey native revitalized the organization and breathed a new energy and excitement into the group and the Library's programs and events.

Both an educator and museum professional, Anne earned her PhD in art history from Emory University. After moving to Connecticut, Anne joined the Art and Design Department at Sacred Heart University as an adjunct professor and taught there for fifteen years. More recently, she became a docent at the Yale Center for British Art and she also gives seven different Art and Architecture tours in New York City through Norwalk Community College.

While engaged in these roles and responsibilities, as an avid fan of the library Anne made the acquaintance of Library Executive Director Chris Angeli. When Chris put out a call to the FOML membership asking if anyone would like to serve on the Friends board, Anne responded and became President in late 2014.

Under Anne's leadership, the Friends' Book Award/Scholarship was launched, honoring a high school junior from each of Milford's five high schools and a senior from both Jonathan Law and Foran who have demonstrated a love of reading, outstanding personal character and strong impact on their school and community.

And what conveys a stronger sense of community trust and commitment to reading than our Little Libraries? Anne shepherded this initiative during her tenure and now there are four Little Libraries: at the Milford Y, the Railroad Station, Walnut Beach, and Gulf Beach.

Those highlights are just the tip of Anne's iceberg. Under Anne's watch, the "Welcome to Milford" program was established to offer newcomers a convenient collection of community information. The monthly "First Fridays With Friends" and the Welcome Table that provides the personal and warm greeting to patrons also began during Anne's tenure.

Of course, the Library's programming would not exist if not for the critical funding that the FOML provides and Anne shone at leading successful fundraising efforts. The annual Party in the Stacks not only raises the amounts in the coffers, but also has now become a beloved Milford event. The December and May book sales, along with the ongoing sale in the foyer, provide a steady source of funding along with the membership dues. As you probably expected, membership numbers rose under Anne's reign.

While Anne will deflect the praise and point to the FOML's "amazing volunteers," there is no doubt that it was because of Anne's commitment, dedication and her ability to engage that her leadership has left a lasting mark on Milford and the tens of thousands of library patrons who benefitted from the enhanced programming. Thank you, Anne, for all you've done!

## April 7-13 is National Library Week

Join us the week of April 7 -13 in celebrating the many ways libraries help build strong communities by providing critical resources, programs and expertise. The Milford Public Library hosts over 700 programs each year, many funded by the Friends of the Library, which draw in excess of 20,000 people. The library offers books, movies, music, e-content, museum passes, newspapers, research databases, 3D printing, a tech lab, and so much more! In celebration, Milford City Hall will be lit up gold this week, and Mayor Blake will kick off the celebration by reading a proclamation on April 5, recognizing this week as "Milford Public Library Week".



## New Book and Music Collection – Read Local!

In response to the growing field of self-publishing, the Milford Public Library is pleased to announce the introduction of a new book and music collection, *Read Local*. This collection will feature books and music CDs, created and self-published by local authors and musicians. The Library invites submissions. Please see the library website, [milfordlibrary.org](http://milfordlibrary.org), for guidelines and submission forms.

## Party in the Stacks

It's time to brush off your superhero capes because this year **Party in the Stacks is going POP Culture!** Our annual fall fundraising event will return on Saturday, October 19th and will be celebrating superheroes, comics, movies, and everything in between. The event will be chaired by our newly elected Vice President of Special Events, Ashley Volkens. Ashley states "This year's theme allows us to showcase the wide array of offerings our library has to offer and will hopefully draw new faces to the event, our library, and to the Friends."

Interested in being a part of the action? From decorations and on-site setup to silent auction items and spreading the word, we warmly welcome your expertise. If you are interested in lending a hand, send an email to [partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com](mailto:partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com) and tell us how you would like to help.

## Literacy Events

**Random House:** Spend a day at Random House's offices in NYC, with current authors, lunch, a book club event, cocktail hour and go home with a bag of books and goodies. This occurs three times a year-spring, summer, fall. <http://www.randomhousebooks.com/events/>

**Hachette Books** also offers an Open House every October in NYC for those interested. RJ Julia has a bus trip to the event.

Please send any recommendations for books or literacy events to [milfordlib.friends@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlib.friends@gmail.com) for addition to the newsletter. The deadline for the July 1 edition is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Events falling from July to September will be considered.