

Become a Member of the Friends of Milford Library

The Friends of Milford Library is a non-profit volunteer organization that sustains the programs and activities of the Milford Public Library that are not supported in the City budget.

To learn more about the Friends, visit www.milfordlibrary.org and click on the link for Friends of the Milford Library. You can fill out a volunteer application online.

Contact us: 203-783-3291 milfordlib.friends@gmail.com

Join the fun! Volunteer today!

Get involved in our activities

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

Library Friends Table: Greet and assist library patrons, Newly opened spots in the early evening: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 6-8 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 4-6 and Saturday 2-4.

Public Relations: Write news releases, write newsletter articles, maintain FOML bulletin board.

Book Sales: Organize, set up, and assist at our special book sales.

Party in the Stacks: Party planning and decorations.

Newsletter Staff

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Friends of the Milford Library Newsletter



Because a Great City Deserves a Great Library

57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, Connecticut

A Note From Pam

As a student I disliked “history”. At the time, our studies focused primarily on dates and time-lines. Now I realize history is the story of our past and it is the stories that I find fascinating. One such story details the formation of our Friends group. I recently found a notebook from the 1980s in the Friends archive. It contains the handwritten minutes from the Friends of Milford Library as the group was being organized following city budget difficulties.

1981 was a year of significant budget cuts in Milford. Library cutbacks included the loss of four staff positions, a cut of 37.5% in the book budget and the closure of the Woodmont, Devon and Wildermere branches. (The Woodmont branch was subsequently opened as a volunteer staffed and supported library). The Friends steering committee felt strongly about the need for library services in Milford. They thought the Friends could help by organizing, being informed and speaking out on behalf of the library.

Over the next year, the group did organize. They elected officers, incorporated as a non-profit and started membership drives. The minimum fee for joining the Friends was two dollars. They held monthly meetings in the program room which included a business meeting, a speaker, and then refreshments. Members were asked to advocate for the library at budget meetings. And they started fundraising. The first book sale was held on September 26, 1981. Members were asked to donate their old books, copies of National Geographic, and stereo records for the sale. By the end of 1981, the Friends were in a position to begin purchasing books for the library.

In June of 1982, a flood in downtown Milford devastated the Children’s Library. Thirty percent of the collection (approximately 7,000 volumes) was lost, furniture was destroyed and some walls required replacement. The Friends of Milford Library stepped up to help. They established a special fund known as “Children’s Library Emergency Flood Fund” or CLEFF and began fundraising with additional book sales and sales of T-shirts. The Publicity Committee began a regular column in the *Milford Citizen* newspaper. In the column, they asked for donations from the community to support CLEFF. Also in 1982, the Friends began supporting library programming.

1983 proved to be a pivotal year. Repair work began on the Children’s Library with the grand re-opening in September of that year. The first Friends newsletter was mailed. And the advocacy efforts of the Friends of Milford Library were making an impact. Money for books was provided for in the city budget and the Friends would provide other wishlist items for the Milford Public Library.

I found it interesting to learn about the origins of this “modern” Friends group. I say “modern” because there are references to Friends of the Library dating back to the 1880s. It is also worth noting that the historical concerns and goals are not unlike what we face today.

If anyone has additional anecdotes that they would like to share, please send me a note at milfordlib.friends@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you. Have a happy and healthy summer.

Enjoy all our fabulous city has to offer.

Pam

High School Book Awards Ceremony

The Friends of the Milford Library honored five local high school juniors on Thursday, April 25, at the fifth annual High School Book Awards ceremony. The award is presented to a student who has exhibited outstanding personal character, made a positive impact in the school or community, and demonstrated a strong and consistent love of reading. Each award winner received a personally inscribed copy of *Only in Milford* by DeForest Smith. In addition, the Friends donate a book of the student's choosing to their school library with a bookplate commemorating the student's achievement. This year's winners are Andreina Barajas, Platt Tech; Sandra Chalghin, Jonathan Law; Jonathan Huebner, Joseph A. Foran; Grace Jordan, The Academy; and Carly Weber, Luralton Hall.

Pam Pilla, President of the Friends of the Milford Library, addressed the audience before presenting the awards to the students. Dr. Anna Cutaia, Superintendent of Milford Public schools, was the keynote speaker. Mayor Benjamin Blake was the final speaker of the evening.



The Friends of the Milford Library has also awarded scholarships to two Milford high school seniors, Rewas Muhajir at Joseph Foran High School and Bryan Reed at Jonathan Law. The scholarships were presented during the Senior awards ceremonies held at each high school.

Many thanks to the committee members for their work and dedication to the students of Milford: Peggy Bolger, Carrie Bryant, Stacy Kratt, Diana Preece, Judy Salemme and Anne-Marie Sutton.

Pam Pilla, Dr. Anna Cutaia, Grace Jordan, Sandra Chalghin, Andreina Barajas, Jonathan Huebner, Carly Weber, Mayor Benjamin Blake

Little Library Update

The Friends Little Libraries project, already in its fifth consecutive year, are free libraries in the community available to the public. They contain both adult and children's books for people to take or swap. The Little Library at Gulf Beach opened for the summer during the week of April 15th. It is our only seasonal Little Library; others are year-round and are located at the Milford Train Station (snack - bar, waiting area), Walnut beach (outside Firehouse Art Gallery), and the YMCA (near soccer fields).

Committee members serve as stewards of our Little Libraries and visit once or twice a week to check on, organize and stock the libraries. Many thanks to Jack Button for a recent repair to our Walnut Beach library.

Our stewards - Train station: Judy Kennedy, Cookie Reshenk, Marilyn May; Gulf Beach: Peggy Bolger, Sandra Field; YMCA: Ellen Brodell, Bettina Thiel, Linda Sheehan; Walnut Beach: Rhea Spiegel, Judy Salemme, Lois Barr, Terry Pitts

Party in the Stacks Update

The planning for *Party in the Stacks: Goes POP Culture* is well underway! *Save the Date: Saturday, October 19th, 7:00 -10:00 PM* and plan to join our biggest fundraising event of the year.

Meet our newest members of the Friends that flew in from Gotham City, Krypton, and the Amazon! As you may know, this year's theme for our fourth annual Party in the Stacks fundraiser is Pop Culture - celebrating superheroes, comics, movies, and everything in between.

This year we will be having both a **silent auction & raffle** and our committee is busy assembling an exciting array of items. We are asking for your assistance in adding to the offerings. Last year our members generously provided many unique and wonderful items for the auction and they truly helped us reach our fund-raising goals. We are back again to ask for your support.

The committee is seeking unique, one-of-a-kind experiences (for both adults and children), big ticket items such as trips and home stays, as well as products, services, talents, and gift cards.

Interested in assembling your own basket to donate? Some ideas: Game Night Basket, Chocolate Lovers Basket, Pet Lovers Basket, 80s Pop Basket, Breakfast in Bed, Bakers Basket, Garden Club Basket... the possibilities are endless! Please let us know the theme of the basket you'd like to create, so we can avoid duplicates.

If you have friends, relatives, service providers, clients, suppliers or employers willing to donate to the auction, the Committee would appreciate their help and generosity. As The Friends of the Milford Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, gifts and donations may qualify as charitable deductions for federal income tax purposes.

We are sending out our bat signal for Friends who want to get involved in the Party planning. From decorations, sponsors, raffle baskets, and more, we would love to put your superpowers to use. Email Ashley Volkens, Vice President of Special Events: partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com to learn more.

If you have a donation in mind or plan on creating a basket, let us know so that we can make sure that we do not have duplicates and we do not have multiple people reaching out to the same places. **Email us at: partyinstacks.milfordlib@gmail.com with your ideas!**

Amazon Smile

If you order from Amazon, 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.

Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

The Milford Public Library recently marked its second anniversary of the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program. The 1,000 Books challenge is for parents and caretakers to read books to their children. It provides a simple, innovative yet fun approach to establishing strong early literacy skills. And it helps young children to gain the confidence necessary to become strong readers from their first education providers.

"Everything counts," says children's librarian Suzanne Harrison Thomas. "Board book and picture books - you can even read the same book multiple times."

"You'll hear many 'rare' words in a picture book about outer space, construction, and topics like that. A picture book doesn't mean it's a baby book. These words expand vocabulary and start conversations."

Starter kits, including a reusable bag, a reading journal and a book, are given to each participant. Each journal has room to record 100 books; as each milestone is passed, parents and children can return to the library for another reading log. The Milford program is registered with the 1,000 Books Foundation, which provides additional materials and support, such as a book list (<https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org>).

One book a night would total 365 books a year, so a child could hear or read 1,000 books in less than three years.

The starter kits are sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Public Library.

Carm's Corner Suggestions

Hum If You Don't Know the Words by Bianca Marais

This is a remarkable story of two people who form a unique bond during a particularly turbulent time in 1970s South Africa. Privileged 9 year old Robin loses her parents in the student uprising riots. Unable to care for her because of her job, her Aunt Edith hires Beauty, a woman searching for her daughter involved in the student riots. Beauty introduces Robin to a world she never knew existed and opened her eyes to the current political and social changes. Through time, patience and a lot of love, Robin and Beauty form a most unusual and unexpected bond. I absolutely, positively, without a doubt love this book.

The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row by Anthony Ray Hinton

Anthony Ray Hinton served 30 years on Alabama's death row for a crime he didn't commit. This quick reading memoir chronicles Mr. Hinton's early life, the events leading to his incarceration, the long process of overturning that conviction and life post release. The most amazing thing about Mr. Hinton is, despite his lost years, he never lost his dignity, his ability to love and his ability to forgive. This is a wonderful story of a most amazing man.

Friday With Friends Visit the Northeast Fisheries Science Lab

Our Friday with Friends group visited the Northeast Fisheries Science Lab on Friday, May 3rd. Mark Dixon, a biological science technician, led us on a fascinating tour to learn about their microalga culture collection, shellfish hatchery, and tank farm. Current projects include developing probiotics for use in oyster hatcheries, studying aquaculture gear as habitat for marine life, nutrient bio-extraction studies and responses of shellfish to ocean acidification. Opened in the 1930s, the Milford lab continues to be a world leader in aquaculture science. If you were unable to join the Friends on our tour and are interested in learning more, there is an open house on Saturday, October 19, 2019. The general public is welcome from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



Mark Dixon addressing the group



Mark Your Calendars

Saturday August 17, 2019 Stop by the Friends Table at the Oyster Festival

Friday September 6, 2019: Friday with Friends—stay tuned for program updates

Saturday September 7, 2019: Join the Friends at the Barnes and Noble fundraiser at the Barnes & Noble, 1375 Boston Post Road in Milford! Stop by the Friends table, chat with our volunteers and pick up a voucher. How it works: Purchase items at the store, including the café, all day on the 7th and bring a voucher or simply mention the Friends of Milford Library during checkout and the Friends will earn a percentage of your purchase.

Tuesday October 1, 2019: Weeknight With Friends: Local foodies will want to connect with author Colin M. Caplan. His book, *Pizza in New Haven*, describes New Haven as one of the earliest and most influential pizza making cities in the country and how the hardworking families built a culinary industry around their passion for pizza. Caplan is a New Haven native who also owns and operates *Taste of New Haven* and *Elm City Party Bike*.

Friends May Book Sale – Wow!

It seems like Mother's Day weekend is the kickoff to spring events in Milford. The Friends of the Library book sale is one of the places to be and this year was no exception. We had a line of customers waiting to get in Friday morning. The children's books are a big draw. The one dollar price and excellent quality bring parents, grandparents, and teachers in to find gifts and stock their classrooms.

The wow factor was the selection of quality hardcover and trade paperback books, DVD and CD sets and, new this year, a selection of Young Adult books.

We rely on the help of our members and students from Jonathan Law and Foran to move boxes of books and set up the program room before and after the sale. Without you the sale would not be the success that it is. Proceeds from the sale go to the funding of library programs for children and adults.

Mark your calendar for our holiday book sale December 6 and 7.



Amy Bringardner, Cheryl Cappiali, Bob and Sandy Steady, Charlie Cook



A Suggestion From a Book Sale Patron:

Free Home Library Catalog Apps for iPhone and Android

Have a ton of books you can't keep track of? Do you carry a paper list with your book inventory of "already have", "already read" or wish list books? One of the great things about the Friends' book sale is talking with book lovers buying more books. Two customers shared their recommendation for home library cataloging apps for their mobile phones. Both **Libib** and **LibraryThing** apps, described below, are free (up to certain limits) and available for both Android and iOS (iPhone). With either of these apps, you start by creating an account with a password. With your account you can then enter books/items by scanning the barcode ISBN (with your camera), searching or through manual entry. You can manage your books with different collections like 'Wish list', 'Currently Reading', 'To Read', 'Favorites' etc. And you can manage multiple collections, including movies, video games, and music, etc.

However, there are some differences as noted from the app websites:

Libib

- Libib is a website and app that catalogs books, movies, music, and video games.
- Free version allows you to catalog up to 5000 books.
- Easily export your library to print or download as a CSV file.

LibraryThing

- LibraryThing is a social cataloging web application and app for storing and sharing book catalogs and various types of book data.
- Free version allows you to catalog up to 200 books.
- New feature allows you to track books you've lent out to friends.

There are other library apps available that include cataloging features like Goodreads and there are apps specific to Android or iPhone (iOS) not mentioned here. Give one of these apps a try or search for another that may meet your specific needs. And have fun organizing your home libraries!