

The Mystic & Noank Library is a public association library directed by a Volunteer Board of Trustees. The area we serve includes Mystic, Noank, Old Mystic, Stonington, and Groton. The Towns of Groton and Stonington provide a financial stipend to the Library, however nearly 70% of our funding comes from private sources like you. **Please consider supporting our Annual Fund Campaign.** Visit the “Donate” page on our website, www.mysticnoanklibrary.org, for more information.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Organized in 1979, the Friends are an important support group for the Library. A patron becomes a Friend with a donation of time or money to the Library. The Friends organize and work on fund raising projects, as well as special programs for both children and adults. They sponsor book discussion programs, as well as annual events such as All Things Pumpkin and The Edible Book Contest. Fund raising activities include the Spring Fair and the Holiday Like-New Book Sale, along with the year-round sale of merchandise such as book bags, tee shirts, note paper and aprons. Proceeds from the Friends fund-raisers have been used to buy computers, an audio-visual projection system for the meeting room, and other physical equipment needed by the Library. The Friends newsletter, *BookEnds*, with news of events and Library happenings, is published four times a year.



In 2016 Mito, our library cat, found a home here at MNL. Rescued from *Focus on Ferals* in Uncasville, Mito is the successor to the Library's beloved Emily who lived here from 1989 to 2006.

LIBRARY SERVICES

- ◆ Materials for adults, teens and children, including books, periodicals, music compact discs, audiobooks and DVDs. All materials are accessible through our on-line catalog. Adult materials are located in the main floor reading room and on the second floor. The Teen Area is on the main floor. Children's materials are arranged by age and reading levels in the Children's Room, also on the main floor. ResearchitCT, a digital library, is available on Library computers and on our website.
- ◆ Computers for both adults and children for public use. We offer free wireless internet access.
- ◆ A wide variety of programs for adults including book clubs, technology classes, concerts and lectures are presented through the year. Story hours, after school programs and summer reading activities are offered for children and young adults..
- ◆ We issue cards to any resident of Groton or Stonington and accept valid cards from other Connecticut public libraries. Books borrowed may be returned to any Connecticut library. Visual and audio visual materials must be returned to their home library.
- ◆ Inter-Library Loan: Books may be requested from most Connecticut Libraries. This Library is part of the SECONN consortium with Groton Public, Bill Memorial and Waterford Public libraries.
- ◆ Circulation: Books, audiobooks, and magazines circulate for three weeks except new books on reserve circulate for 10 days. DVDs circulate for seven days. Renewals of most materials may be made by phone or online. Late charges are \$.10 per day for books and audiobooks. The late charge for DVDs is \$1.00 per day.
- ◆ Special Collections: We have a Local History Collection featuring genealogical sources and old newspapers. A wide variety of original art is on display throughout the building. Other special collections include a Parent Corner, a rotating collection of international films on DVD and downloadable ebooks and audiobooks via Overdrive.
- ◆ Facilities: A meeting room equipped with a laptop and audio visual projection system is available. Free books and magazines are offered in the front hall. We have a typewriter, b/w and color copiers, and a FAX machine for public use.



Mystic & Noank
LIBRARY
— 125th —



40 LIBRARY STREET
MYSTIC, CT 06355

*Enter on Elm Street
ADA Accessible*

HOURS

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
10 am to 9 pm
Thursday & Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday
10 am to 5 pm
mid-June to mid-September
9 am to 1 pm

Telephone 860-536-7721

Fax 860-536-2350

Development Office

860-572-8191

Email: info@mysticnoanklibrary.org

www.mysticnoanklibrary.org

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e-newsletter!



THE STORY OF OUR LIBRARY

In 1891 Captain Elihu Spicer announced that he planned to build a public library for the communities of Mystic and Noank on the corner of West Main and Elm Streets. The building would be two stories with a collection of books on the second floor, and a large public meeting room on the first floor.



The Captain was born in Noank in 1825 and went to sea at the age of nine. He became a cabin boy at age fourteen and was master of the bark *Fanny* at age twenty-two. During subsequent years, he mastered many sailing ships for trade around the world.

In 1861 he entered into partnership with a life-long Mystic friend, Charles H. Mallory, to form the C. H. Mallory & Co. in New York. Their venture proved successful in the trade between New York, Florida, and Galveston, Texas and this success enabled Captain Spicer to engage in his philanthropic activities.

He chose to erect his library across from his summer home on Elm Street and to include features that would reflect his inquiring interest in the many places and things that he had seen on his voyages. Unfortunately, Captain Spicer died on February 15, 1893, just months before the completion of the building. His sister, Mrs. Sarah Dickinson, with the aid of Mr. Mallory, carried out the Captain's wishes.

William B. Bigelow of New York drew up the plans and Mertz's Sons of Port Chester was the contractor. Captain Spicer's own architect, William Higginson, supervised the construction. Ground was broken in the summer of 1892. Building materials include Roman brick, granite from Leete's Island, Connecticut, sandstone from Longmeadow, Massachusetts and Numidian marble from Africa, as well as marble from Vermont and Tennessee. Some floors are tile mosaics from Italy and stained glass fills the window transoms. Sculptured tondi representing Minerva for literature and Apollo for the arts appear on the front facade. The roof is Roman tile.

The interior glows with polished and intricately carved oak. A handsome brick fireplace on the east wall of the second floor features a large oak panel with the inscription *"Elihu Spicer gave this library to the people. Large was his bounty and his soul sincere."* A black wrought iron wreath accents the fireplace wall and this wreath motif is repeated in the carvings on the original bookcases.

The building was dedicated on January 23, 1894 with ceremonies held in the new Meeting Room. Over 400 persons attended to hear local ministers praise the building and its magnificent location, and proclaim the value of good books in the process of learning. Patron usage at the Mystic & Noank Library increased year by year. The many services and the friendly staff created a welcoming atmosphere.

In 1951 the Board of Trustees voted to move the books to the first floor and close off the second floor. However, by 1961 the first floor was overcrowded and they voted to move the children's collection upstairs. The Board hired architect John Dodge of Stonington to handle the design and to oversee the remodeling. His

plan called for a dropped ceiling and a dividing wall to create both a Children's Room and a Meeting Room on the second floor.

By the 1980s major repairs were necessary and overcrowding was very evident. To celebrate the upcoming Centennial year, the Trustees made another major decision and proposed an addition, which would triple the existing space, and a major restoration of the original building. A fund-raising campaign, launched in 1987, received overwhelming community support. In December 1991, the 6,000 square foot addition was dedicated and in May 1992 the restoration was completed. The architect, Charles King, very successfully combined the old and the new.

An extensive renovation was undertaken in 2011. Carpeting in the second floor reading room was removed and the original oak floors were refinished. New shelving for periodicals was added and new energy efficient windows were installed. An area for teens was created on the first floor.

The Library is proud of its growth and development. It is a special place for the communities of Mystic and Noank and the neighboring areas, just as Captain Spicer had envisioned. He entrusted a grand gift to the care of the people and his trust has been accepted and fulfilled.

LIBRARY DIRECTORS

Amanda A. Murphy 1893-1902

Geneva E. Ricker 1902-1927

Ethel Fish 1927-1947

Doris Rollinson 1947-1968

Ella Goldthwaite Bradley 1968-1971

Gwendolyn Elliot 1971-1972

Joanna M. Case 1972-2007

Lois Hiller 2007-2015

Christine M. Johnson 2015-