

August
2026

Bookends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library



CRAFT

Friends
of the
Library

EXCHANGE

Saturday, September 12
10am to Noon

1. Drop off unwanted crafting supplies or half-finished projects of all kinds to the Library the week before the event
2. (Please, no fabric due to space constraints)
3. On Saturday, come to browse and take supplies for **FREE**
4. You do not need to donate to take anything
5. Please remember to bring your own bags
6. **This is a great opportunity to donate craft supplies that you no longer want and/or pick up supplies for charities, for school, or for yourself!**

Email friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org with questions.

If you have pictures of projects you have made from supplies from previous years, we would love to see them! Email:

friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org

with questions or to send pictures.



All Things Pumpkin

with

Magician Ed Pop

*A fun event for children with treats
after the show, sponsored by
the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

3:30pm to 5:00pm



Friends of the Library Co-Presidents Kathy Busse & Patricia Menno-Coveney



HAPPY 250th to all!

Another amazing Spring Fair. Blessed with great weather, we had a terrific turnout of book lovers, puzzle enthusiasts, white elephant aficionados, plant buffs and music fans. And, of course, everyone had a chance to enjoy hot dogs, soup, and fudge!



We want to express our deep appreciation to Peggy



Brissette for heading up this excellent event once again. The event takes place in June but she is plotting and planning way in advance to assure a successful outcome. Our thanks too to Sandie and Dave Scott who handle the used book sales on Fair Day and during the following Book Sale

week. They sort and arrange, with their dedicated crew, all the donated books months in advance. To all the Spring Fair volunteers, we give a big shoutout for your dedication to supporting the Friends by setting up the day before, manning the tables on Fair Day, and taking down everything at the end of the day.

In addition, we are so lucky to partner with the **Mystic Garden Club**. Annual and perennial, shade and sun, all

types of plants were on display that day. Because of their efforts, they raised over \$7000 during the Spring Fair and they donated it all to the Friends.

Other items that community-minded businesses faithfully provide for our Fair are: **Franklin's General Store's** delicious fudge; **Rio Salada's** tasty hot dogs and salad; and **Mystic Soup Company's** unique soups.

We enjoyed a variety of music and dance acts, including the trio of musicians Brett Terry, Barb Harvey, and Zahnii Artis, plus the Mystic Ukulele Strummers and the Mystic Garlands Dancers. They all helped to make this day extra special.



We are very grateful to all of the above.

Our next meeting of the Friends of the Library is August 17 at 1:00pm. We would love to have you join us.





Library Director Christine Bradley

How lucky am I. Six years at the Mystic & Noank Library!

I am so sad to think of leaving this Library and leaving Mystic, but it is time.

At the end of the year I will be moving to Duxbury, MA to an ADU next to my older daughter's home. It will be nice to be close to my girls, but I will miss Mystic and the life of the Library here.



I embarked on a library life 56 years ago in Boston. I travelled to Olympia, WA to the Timberland Regional Library System, then to



CT to the State Library, Kingswood-Oxford School, the West Hartford Public Library, the CT Library Consortium, and Norwalk Public Library.

The assignments were different, but library life remains remarkably the same.

Roberta and I have talked about this many times. It's not just the books, or the computers or the architecture or the programs. It is who we are, what we care about, what we know to be important.

I am grateful for all the joy that has been my life at the Mystic & Noank Library!





The Library Development Committee



From engaging children's programs to gardening workshops and writers' groups, the Mystic & Noank Library continues to offer something for every age and interest. This summer's calendar is filled with offerings, making the Library a vibrant place to learn, connect, and have fun.

*One event you won't want to miss is the **5th Annual Author Talk** on **Saturday, September 19**, featuring bestselling author Don Winslow in conversation with journalist and author Rick Koster at Snediker Yacht Restoration in Old Mystic.*

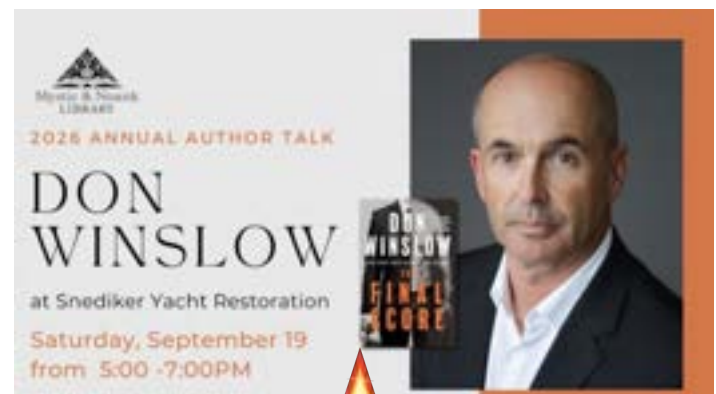
Named "America's Greatest Living Crime Writer" by The Providence Journal, Winslow will discuss his acclaimed writing career and his latest book, "The Final Score."

The evening begins with a reception featuring beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and books available for purchase from Bank Square Books, followed by the author conversation. The event will also honor the Library's 2026

Volunteers of the Year, Friends of the Library Co-Presidents Kathy Busse and Patricia Menno-Coveney, for their outstanding service to the Library and community.

Tickets are \$125 per person, and proceeds directly support the Mystic & Noank Library's programs, collections, and community services. Seating is limited, and the event is expected to sell out. For tickets and additional information, visit the Library's website. We hope to see you there!

*Mary Engvall & Caitlin McEachern
Co-Presidents
Board of Trustees*





Well-Deserved!

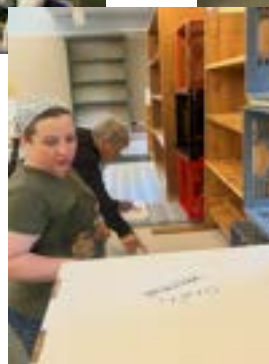


Peggy Brissette was awarded the Friends of the Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) Individual Achievement Award for middle-sized libraries during their Annual Meeting in June. We are so happy that she has been recognized by FOCL for her amazing contributions as a Friend of the Mystic & Noank Library. Peggy's involvement with our Library goes back decades, as she has worked in many different capacities to support the Library.



Just a few of her achievements are: chairing the Spring Fair for years, various officer positions with the Board of the Friends, Edible Book Festival facilitator, and Leader of the Mystic Irish Parade Library Drill Team. She has performed many other acts of service too numerous to mention that have benefitted the Library and our community. We are very thankful for Peggy's dedication to our Library and to the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library.

Congratulations, Peggy!



Peggy in perpetual motion with other Friends of the Library.



The Hour of Four This Tuesday Afternoon

O!, what a fine blow-up
it is outdoors,
wind throwing the trees
to and fro,
and rain against the windows,
whole hand fulls
of rain shattering in tears
against the glass;
and with the light gray as twilight.



O!, what song of a storm,
I, in away from it, cozy, and dry.
Why, it's an afternoon
for spectres in raincoats to be out in,
roaming about in the half-light,
being secretive,
just escaping detection.

Just now the rain is doubling
the force of its fall, a rain
for fish in raincoats to be aswim in.
Should I go fishing from my window?
No.
I will let the fish swim.
I will let the spectres roam.

O, look! Just then!
A spectre has leapt
on the back of a fish!
And the fish
has galloped off with it!



by Philip Kuepper
Librarian & Resident Poet

Enlightenment

The only sound audible
in the quiet
was the tongue of a flame
speaking.



Cooking Lesson

A seer sears with insight.
And I take away with me
the profound observation
that the whole of the Universe,
as it is, so far, known,
is like an onion.
At its core floats
nothing but space
consisting of nothing but space.
I ponder this truth,
and conclude,
to use the onion,
only when absolutely necessary,
and substitute garlic
whenever I can.





Patricia Menno-Coveney
Co-President, Friends of MNL



OPEN BOOK



Do large families have more fun? It would seem so, talking to Patricia ("Tricia") Menno-Coveney, co-President of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library. Annual family reunions of 50+ relatives include her 9 siblings (6 boys, 4 girls in all), her four children (2 and 2) and her 10 grandchildren and nieces and nephews with their children. Softball games, swimming and picnicking with all ages - what could be more fun?!

Tricia and her co-President of the Friends, Kathy Busse (profile next time!), will be honored this year at the Annual Author Talk on September 19 for their dedication to the Library. It seemed an appropriate time to get to know them a little better.

While attending Ursuline Academy, a girls school in the town next to Needham, MA, where she was born, she became interested in theatre. Senior year, they partnered with a boys' school to perform "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." That was when she met another senior, Steve Menno, destined to be HER "good man" for the rest of her life!

While Steve went off to RPI in Troy, NY,

Tricia tried Manhattanville College Freshman year and Boston College Sophomore year, neither satisfying her quest for theatre. After a year at home, where she once hitchhiked (yes, we did that back then in the '70's!) to and from RPI, she settled on the University of New Hampshire, graduating with a BA in Theatre, class of '75.

True love brought them together as a family to Mystic, where Steve, an engineer, was a Project Manager at Electric Boat. With young children, visiting the MNL was a regular activity, particularly at storytimes. Tricia, too, discovered the joy of libraries and decided to become a school librarian. She completed her MS in Library Science and a Teacher Certification in the evenings while Steve took over at home. All hands on board! She became a part-time Librarian for many years at both St. Michael and West Broad Street schools in Stonington and then full-time in Norwich Public Schools. Upon retirement, it was inevitable that Peggy Brissette, her long-time friend, would lure Tricia into volunteering with the Friends of MNL - which she did enthusiastically!

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(Cont. from p.7)

We have now had the good fortune to have Tricia as an active member of the Friends as well as the co-President for 3 years, where she is efficient, skillful, helpful, and congenial - as well as always easy-going and fun to work with. Perhaps those are the side benefits of being part of a big, happy family - both at home and at the Library! - which benefits all of us. Thank you, Tricia!

by Dana Semeraro
Friends of the Library



Don't forget to get your tickets for the:

2026 ANNUAL AUTHOR TALK
Saturday, September 19
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Snediker Yacht Restoration,
Mystic, CT

"America's Greatest Living Crime Writer"
Don Winslow

More info:

<https://mysticnoanklibrary.networkforgood.com/events/98378-an-evening-with-don-winslow-2026-annual-author-talk-fundraiser>



Mystic & Noank Library
40 Library Street
Mystic, CT 06355