



# BookEnds

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
MYSTIC & NOANK LIBRARY

## From the Director's Desk

*Karen Wall*

Good golly...hard to believe a whole year has gone by since I took the helm at the Mystic & Noank Library. It's been a blur! This year we welcomed nearly 100,000 visitors through our doors for every possible reason, from simple book recommendations to attending concerts to sorting out DNA test results. Our offerings sure do run the gamut. And 2020 promises to be even better. We are working to expand our program offerings, not just inside the Library, but outside as well. That's right. In 2020 you can expect to see Mystic & Noank Library programs being held at a variety of locations so that we can reach those who may not be able to come to us. If you have an idea for a program or service, please do let me know.

In addition, we are gearing up for the installation of our new high-speed fiber optic connection to the Connecticut Education Network. Our Library was awarded a \$54,000 grant from the Connecticut State Library 2019 Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program. It's anticipated the connection and equipment upgrades will be complete by early spring of 2020. We are thrilled to be able to offer this state-of-the-art technology to ALL who come through our doors.

A big thank you to our wonderful, talented staff, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, and invaluable Volunteer Squad. Mystic & Noank Library would not exist without your hard work and dedication. We also acknowledge those in our Library family who have passed on this year. They have left a lasting legacy here, and we are forever grateful. **CONT. Page 2**

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**“That's the thing  
about books. They let  
you travel without  
moving your feet.”  
— Jhumpa Lahiri,  
The Namesake**



Finally, we hear stories all the time about how libraries transform lives. We recently received this lovely note from a former patron who has given us permission to share:

Dear Ms. Roberta,

*I doubt you remember me, but my family used to live in Mystic when I was little. Today I started my senior year of my undergraduate career and had my first shift as a Research and Instruction Librarian Intern. I am also beginning applications for grad school to pursue a MLS/MLIS. I'm sharing this to thank you for being part of a library environment that fostered a love of learning, reading, and engagement. I won't say that I grew up wanting to be a librarian, but I do believe that was initially open and drawn to the job because of my experiences as a young girl in the Mystic Library. Thank you for your role in helping a young girl realize her career path.*

I would love to hear your stories, too! Contact me in person, by email: [kwall@mysticnoanklibrary.org](mailto:kwall@mysticnoanklibrary.org), by phone: 860-536-7721, or by snail mail: MNL, 40 Library St., Mystic, CT 06355.

Cheers, Karen

## **Like-New Book Sale - Winter Programs**

*Sally Salancy, Friends of the Library President*

Lately, I find I'm reading two, or even three, books at a time. As a member of the CLAMS Book Club, I dip into Thoreau's "Walden" almost every day, enjoying the poetic language, a good dose of philosophy, and a glimpse of mid-19th Century American life "off the grid." On other days, I turn to "The Library Book," by Susan Orlean. Its central subject is the Los Angeles Public Library, which burned to the ground on April 28, 1986. While delving into the mystery of how the fire started, the author gives us a history of the American public library and describes both its appeal and its importance.

Orlean believes "a library is as much a portal as it is a place..." What is truly special about public libraries, big or small, is their "publicness...an increasingly rare commodity," the author notes. Can you name another public building open to all, serving everyone from babies on laps to seniors with walkers, and doing it all for free?

Back to the Mystic & Noank Library: The Friends had two friend-raisers this fall, our Third Craft Exchange on September 7 and All Things Pumpkin on October 19. Friend-raisers are fun and often bring new people into the Library. Now, we're heading into the holiday season and maybe some cold weather. Have you already started baking for Thanksgiving and shopping for the holidays? **CONT. P 3**

The Friends had you in mind when they held the first “Like-New Book Sale,” to give people a chance to buy books in like-new condition, and also find some holiday items. The Like-New Sale always starts the Monday after Thanksgiving and finishes at 2:00 the following Saturday. Then, for the rest of December until the fourth Monday in January, the Friends are in hibernation, sorting donated books and tag sale items, but not gathering for a business meeting until the fourth Monday in January, which is January 27.

The first big event on our 2020 calendar is the Mystic Irish Parade, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2020. As we have done since 2014, MNL Friends, staff and Board members, after two or three practices, amaze onlookers with our intricate maneuvers as a library cart drill team! Then, only six days later, on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28, the Friends will hold our Ninth Annual Indoor Yard Sale. Our sale has the advantage of being the first of the season, so be sure to mark it on your calendar. By the way, you can donate yard sale items in good condition any time of year, as you do with books for our book sales. Finally, once spring arrives, we’ll start working toward our 41st Annual Spring Fair, to be held on Saturday, June 6, 2020!

Just so you know, we always welcome people to attend a Friends’ meeting and/or help with one of our programs. See you at the Library!

## **President's Letter**

*by Judy Munro, Trustee President*

*Jamie Densmore, Trustee VP & Sara Lathrop, Trustee Treasurer*

Well fall is settling in and the trees are really starting to show their color. It is time to think about registering for the many programs offered by our Library, booking a tech to ask those pesky questions about your electronic device or just checking out a good book.

Fall is also the time when the complexion of our Board of Trustees change. We welcome two new board members: Sandra Farwell and Linda Kosta, who we are excited to have on board. Sandra and Linda are both long- time residents of the area with great connections to our Library. This is also a time when the baton gets passed for the Board President position. I am honored to be able to serve for the next year.

We owe a great deal to our outgoing President, Bill Turner. This past year has seen changes in the Library and Bill’s leadership has charted us through these challenges. The Board President doesn’t just chair meetings, and Bill has led by example from everything such as hauling yard debris on our Volunteer Cleanup Days to selling t-shirts at the Fair. He has done so much to continue to enhance our connection to the community.

This year, we adopted our strategic plan and one of the goals is to continue to reach into our communities to understand and interpret needs and to involve and engage voices from different neighborhoods and demographics. To that end, one of the board goals is to define our committees and seek community members to help support the Library in a variety of opportunities.

We also want to thank everyone who attended our recent Fall Fundraiser, featuring the Whiffenpoofs, as well as the staff and volunteers who made this such a magical night. A big thank you to Loren Wren, our Development Director, who looked after every detail to make it such a perfect night. As we are all aware, the current economic environment has a great deal of pressure on non-profits to ensure continued support for our programs and services. Please watch for opportunities to support the Library and also to reach out to your representatives in local government to impress upon them how the Library serves the needs of their community.

# Adult Programming

## Ongoing Programs

**Mondays at 4 – Writers Group    Wednesdays at 6:30 – Literacy Conversation Group**  
**Tuesdays at 1 – Knitting Circle    Thursdays at 3 – Cribbage**  
**Fridays at 11 and 3 – Meditation Groups**

### **Mondays - Tech Classes Are Back!**

Hold on to your sledgehammers—there might be hope for you not smashing that computer monitor to smithereens just yet. Stay tuned for regularly occurring technology classes Monday mornings and evenings. You can also book hour-long appointments with our Adult Services Librarian, Erik, for technology, research, and writing assistance on our website.



### **Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m.**

#### **Exploring the CT Wine Trail**

We heard it through the grape vine... You don't have to fly to California for great wines. Former ctwine.com writer and CT Wine Trail advocate Michelle Griffis will be sharing insider tips for exploring Connecticut's award-winning wineries.



### **Monday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Mental Health & Wellness Seminar**

Meet Francine Figueroa, the facilitator of this community seminar about mental health, mindfulness, and healing. With nearly a decade of experience as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Ms. Figueroa has supported the healing of people with anxiety disorder, mood disorders, trauma, addiction, and more. A newcomer to Noank, she is excited to meet community members and extend support. "I have been graced with people in my life who have shared with me their deepest and greatest achievements and challenges," she noted. "Hence, I am inspired to share what I have learned." Join us for a safe and long overdue conversation about mental health and wellness, and take that knowledge with you home, to work, and to the rest of our community.

### **Saturday December 14 from 10 to 2 p.m.**

#### **3D Printed Gift Making**

Haven't you always wanted a thermoplastic aliphatic polyester pair of earrings? Come check out our 3D printers in action to learn about PLA, how the printers work, and what kinds of materials our printers can make. Leave with snowflake pendants or a gingerbread cookie cutter to gift away for the holidays!

# Development Report

Loren Wren

## 2019 Mystic & Noank Library Annual Holiday Appeal

Ongoing support from our community is more important than ever.

The Mystic & Noank Library receives roughly 30% of our annual funding from the State of Connecticut and Towns of Groton and Stonington. In order to keep MNL the bustling and lively community resource that it is, we must rely on philanthropy for the remaining 70%.

Everyday our Library is transforming the lives of our friends and family who call our special community home. Your past support has helped us get where we are today. As we enter the season of thanks and giving, can we once again count on you being part of the 70%?

Your gift to our 2019 holiday appeal will help us continue to enrich the lives of everyone who comes through our doors. As Henry Ward Beecher said, "A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life."

With thanks and our warmest wishes to you and yours for a peaceful holiday season.

Gifts can be made online at [mysticnoanklibrary.org/annualfund.asp](http://mysticnoanklibrary.org/annualfund.asp)

## Our Fall Fundraiser was a Huge Success!

A very special thank you to everyone who supported and attended our Fall Fundraiser on October 24. Over 90 guests enjoyed delicious food and spirits and a wonderful performance by Yale University's The Whiffenpoofs, all in our beautiful and historic Library. Over \$20,000 was raised to help keep our Library a vital community resource for all to enjoy for another 125 years!

Who should perform next year?

If you have ideas please contact Loren Wren at [lwren@mysticnoanklibrary.org](mailto:lwren@mysticnoanklibrary.org) or (860) 572-8191

## During this season of gratitude and giving, please consider a Charitable IRA Rollover Gift to the Mystic & Noank Library

If you are 70 1/2 or older and need to take a required minimum distribution from your IRA, the Charitable IRA Rollover is a great way to make your annual gift to the library (up to \$100,000 per year). Your gift will need to be made directly from your IRA and can count toward your annual required minimum distribution. Your tax-free rollover gift will be excluded from your gross income.

Instruct your IRA custodian to make your Charitable IRA Rollover gift payable to Mystic & Noank Library. MNL's tax ID number is 06-0709292. Please ensure they include your name on the check.

Have your IRA custodian send your gift to:

Mystic & Noank Library

Loren Wren, Director of Development

40 Library Street | Mystic, CT 06355

Thank you for your generous support of the Mystic & Noank Library!

## Thank you to our Sponsors!

### Champion Sponsor

Jimmy Doyle & his daughters Katherine and Alison

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# Book Club Corner

Kate Nelson

Fall is here and the book clubs are back in full swing. There are at least 12 book groups that I am currently supplying with multiple copies. It is always interesting to receive the different clubs' reading lists. I often use them to choose my next book to read. That was the case with a book I recently finished, *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. I assume that if you are reading this newsletter you are already a library lover. Ms. Orlean is truly a library lover and has written a fascinating exploration of the devastating 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Central Library which damaged or destroyed over one million books. She writes about the history of the building and the people that were instrumental in its development and success, the biography of the young man who was the main suspect when the fire was declared an act of arson, and the redevelopment and rebuilding of the structure, as well as the current environment of the library. *The Library Book* is also a tribute to her mother and to libraries. She says "I wanted to write this book to tell people about a place I love that doesn't belong to me but feels like it is mine."

## **Mystic & Noank Afternoon Book Club**

**1st Wednesday at 1:00pm**

Dec. 4 *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Jan. 8 *The Department of Sensitive Crimes* by Alexander McCall Smith

## **Mystic & Noank Evening Book Club**

**1st Wednesday at 7:00pm**

Dec. 4 *Charms For the Easy Life* by Kaye Gibbons

Jan. 8 *A Whole Life: A Novel* by Robert Seethaler

## **Mystic & Noank History Book Club**

**2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm**

Nov. 12 *Ledyard: In Search of the First American Explorer* by Bill Gifford

Dec. 10 *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* by Maria Rosa Menocal

Jan. 14 *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* by Edward E Baptist (read the first half)

## **CLAMS (Classic Literature At Mystic)**

**2nd & 4th Mondays at 7:00pm**

Nov. 11 & 25 *Walden and Civil Disobedience* by Henry David Thoreau

## **Memorial Donations**

**Ken Adams**

**Eleanor Ball**

**Barry Boodman**

**Irma Brandt**

**Helen Buchholtz**

**Harold Buzzi**

**Sandra Kersten Chalk**

**Theo Hamell**

**William E. Lewis**

**John Vick**

**Roy Welch**



# Activities for Kids & Teens

Roberta Donahue

## Lego Fun Days!

**Every Friday and Saturday during November and December, 10 - 5 in the Children's Room!**

Lego Fun Days will be happening every Friday and Saturday during November and December. Come use the Library's GIANT Lego collection. Kids of all ages are welcome to come and have fun building and creating with friends and family in the Library.



**The Musical Petting Zoo presented by Patrick McMahon, Education Director of the Springfield Symphony Music Program**  
**Saturday, November 16, 3:30 - 4:30 in the Ames Room**

Here is your opportunity to try playing the instruments of the orchestra! Educational Director of Springfield Symphony Musical Program, Patrick McMahon will deliver his dynamic presentation introducing all the instruments in the orchestra, followed by the opportunity to try playing them! Generously funded by the Groton Education Foundation.



## Drop-in Craft Day for Kids!

Join us at the library this month three special Drop-In Craft Days! Children of all ages are welcome to stop by the Children's Room and let their creativity run wild! Supplies will be provided. Bring home something special made by you!

*Autumn Leaf Suncatchers!*

Saturday, November 16, 10 - 5

*Duct Tape Bookmarks!*

Saturday, November 30, 10 - 5

*Gingerbread Garlands!*

Saturday, December 14, 10 - 5

*Snowflake Crafts!*

Saturday, December 28, 10 - 5

**Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope, Monday, November 18, 7:00 in the Ames Room**  
The Mystic & Noank Library, Children First Groton and School Readiness Council are pleased to host a screening of the documentary film Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope. This film chronicles the promising beginnings of a national movement to prevent childhood trauma, treat Toxic Stress, and greatly improve the health of future generations. Running Time: 1 hour. Director: James Redford. Limited babysitting available. Contact [rdonahue@mysticnoanklibrary.org](mailto:rdonahue@mysticnoanklibrary.org)

## Trim-A-Tree!

**Saturday, December 7, 3:30 - 4:45**

All ages welcome! Come join our fun tradition and help us decorate our tree. The Lyman Allyn Art Museum will conduct an ornament painting workshop for kids and families. Members of the Stonington High School Chamber Choir will perform "Carol-o-grams"! Light refreshments will be served.

## Meet Santa!

**Tuesday, December 10, 5:30-7:00**

Come meet Santa at The Mystic Noank Library as part of the downtown holiday stroll! Please visit our website for more information.

## 'All Aboard! It's the Polar Express!

**Coming in December**

Our model train will be coming to the Library this December. All ages welcome. **7**

### **Fiddle N' Fun: An Interactive Music Experience with Joel Beauchemin**

**Saturday, December 14, 3:30 in the Ames Room**

A unique music education program, Fiddle N' Fun introduces children (and adult caregivers) to the violin through singing, movement, games, and Fiddlestix. All ages are welcome! Generously funded by the Groton Education Foundation.

### **Holiday Movie Matinee: *The Grinch***

**Saturday, December 21, 3:00 in the Ames Room**

This movie is rated PG and runs for 1 hour and 25 minutes. Generously funded by the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library.

### **Family Movie Matinee: *The Lion King***

**Saturday, December 28, 3:00 in the Ames Room**

This movie is rated PG and runs for 1 hour and 58 minutes. Generously funded by the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library.

### **The Pocket Musician: An Introduction to Harmonica**

**Saturday, January 11, 3:30 in the Ames Room**

Join Bob Hennessy, musician and harmonica specialist, for a presentation and music lesson on the harmonica! The presentation will include a harmonica lesson where Bob teaches the basics of harmonica. Each attendee will receive their own brand-new harmonica to take home! Harmonicas will be provided and given to you thanks to the Connecticut State Library. Generously funded by the Groton Education Foundation.

### **Drum Circle with Mike Leo**

**Saturday, February 1, 3:30 in the Ames Room**

The joy of making music is for everyone! Mike Leo will lead a drumming experience open to all ages and abilities. Drums will be provided. Mike's drum circles are interactive musical experiences for folks of any level of ability, and of any age. Musical games, and rhythmic activities. This program is free, and open to the public. Generously funded by the Groton Education Foundation.



### **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a new Library program that encourages all families and caregivers to read 1,000 books with their young children before they enter kindergarten. Register at the library and take home your first reading log. Each time you read 100 books, bring in your reading log to receive special recognition, collect a prize, and mark your child's progress on our "Wall of Fame"! When you get all the way to 1000, children will receive a prize, a special book to take home, and a book added to the library's collection with a dedication in their honor. Generously funded by a grant from the Groton Education Foundation.

### **Teen Programs**

#### **Wii U Gaming Afternoons!**

**Fridays, thru December 27, 3:30 - 5 in the Activity Room**

Love to play video games at the Library? During the school year, drop by each Friday afternoon to try out our games with your friends. Generously funded by the Rotary Club of Groton.

#### **Young Engineers' Club**

**Meets once monthly in the Ames Room**

The Young Engineers' Club (YEC) is an exciting program hosted by the Mystic & Noank Library that provides an opportunity for tweens/teens, ages 10 and up to become technology creators! Eager students cover new topics monthly and study the basics of computer networks, how the Internet works, and how to serve your own webpage using HTML/CSS and serve it to other students in the class using a NodeJS web server. This exciting initiative for youth aged 10+ is FREE! Class size is limited. Generously funded by the Sidney Gross Memorial Fund.

#### **College Readiness Series: Acing the College Interview: Mock Interview Workshop**

**Thursday, November 14, 6:00 - 7:30 in the Ames Room**

Ben Brown, Associate Director of Admission at Connecticut College, and five Senior Admission Fellows will present a presentation/panel on college interviews. Following the presentation, they will conduct 15-minute mock interviews which will include discussions, questions and feedback with the high school students who attend the event.



*Darkness at Noon*, by Arthur Koestler

A New Translation by Philip Boehm of the Recently Discovered Complete Text

Considered one of the great political novels of the twentieth century, the origin story of Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon* is a fascinating and complicated one, and it has a new twist.

The Hungarian-born Koestler was an active member of the Communist party until he resigned, disillusioned, at the time of Stalin's purges in 1938. He wrote *Darkness at Noon* under the title *The Vicious Circle* in 1939 and 1940 while he was living as a stateless refugee in Paris. The British sculptor Daphne Hardy, Koestler's girlfriend, translated the original German manuscript into English; every day after breakfast, they would pull a curtain across the middle of the room, and Koestler wrote on one side while Hardy translated on the other.

Koestler mailed the English version to London and the German version to neutral Switzerland, escaping from Paris ten days ahead of the invading Nazis.

The version of the novel translated by Daphne Hardy was published in London in 1941 under the title *Darkness at Noon*. Although Koestler later translated the novel back into German, the English version has been treated as the original text.

Koestler, and everyone else, believed that Hardy's translation was the only copy of the book to have survived the war.

In 2015, Matthias Wessel, a German graduate student working on Koestler's German writings, discovered a carbon copy of Koestler's original German manuscript that had disappeared in 1940. He found it in the archive of Emil Oprecht, founder of the Europa publishing house in Zurich. This new discovery has been translated into English by Philip Boehm and published by Scribner.

According to Michael Scammell, who wrote the introduction to the new edition, "The prose is tighter, the dialogue clearer, the tone more ironic, and the intricacies of Marxist-Leninist dialectics more digestible. The effect for the reader is of chancing upon a familiar painting that has had layers of varnish and dust removed to reveal images and colors in a much brighter light."

Both the original Hardy translation and the new Boehm translation are available at the Mystic & Noank Library.

The tournament is in the final stages. This is the 25th consecutive year that the tournament has been held. Ten pairs are playing in two flights of five pairs each. Matches are continuing and the games are friendly and competitive. According to the score sheets submitted there was a small slam of 6 hearts non-vulnerable bid and made. Congratulations to players.

Please remember to schedule your matches as soon as possible and they do not need to be played in any particular order. Additional forms, if needed, are available at the Library or by contacting the bridge coordinator.

Please remember to either hand deliver or mail the signed score sheets to the Library as soon as possible after the match has been completed. Also, please try to have all of your matches completed by the deadline of November 30, 2019.

If you are in need of a substitute player for one of your matches or if you have any questions, you may contact the bridge coordinator, Ken Levy, at 860-572-9006 or [kenplevy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenplevy@sbcglobal.net).

## **Art Silent Auction**

Joanna Case

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Art Silent Auction another success. Thank you to the donors of the art work, to the bidders and to the trusty, talented crew: Jeannette Morse, Karen Marie Krogseng and Peggy Brissette. I couldn't do this annual event without all of you. I am looking forward to the fourth Art Silent Auction next October.

**“Books are a uniquely  
portable magic.”  
— Stephen King,  
On Writing: A Memoir of  
the Craft**



40 Library Street  
Mystic CT 06355  
Phone: 860-536-7721  
Fax: 860-536-2350  
E-mail:  
info@mysticnoanklibrary.org

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We are open  
Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday  
10 to 9  
Thursday ~ Saturday ~ 10 to 5

Library Closings:

Wednesday, November 27 1 pm	Tuesday, December 31 at 1 pm
Thursday, November 28	Wednesday, January 1
Tuesday, December 24	Monday, January 20
Wednesday, December 25	Monday, February 17

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