



Bookends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library



FRIENDS' ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE

Get an early start to the Yard Sale Season,
featuring treasures for all ages:

Kitchen items, glassware, children's items, antiques, music CDs, DVDs,
and jigsaw puzzles galore!

We welcome donations in good condition.

(Please, no clothing or furniture!)

Friday, March 22, 10 am – 5 pm

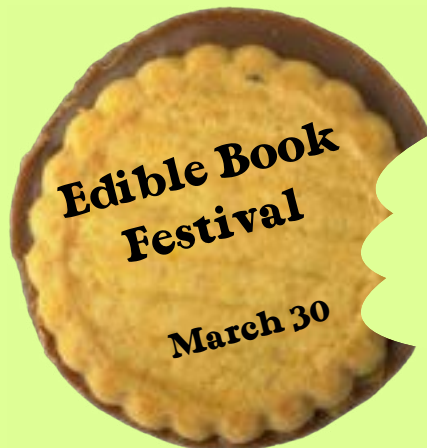
Saturday, March 23, 10 am – 2 pm

Questions? Please email Friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org

Once again, the Friends of the Library will be marching in the

Mystic Irish Parade

on Sunday, March 24. Friends, staff, board members and our patrons will
push our library carts in synchronized formations to the delight of the
parade viewers. We hope to see you there!



What is an Edible Book?

An edible book is food that can look like a book, be a
pun on a book title, refer to a book character, or have
anything to do with a book, as long as it's EDIBLE!

Everyone is invited to create an edible entry. You can
enter as a book group, a family, or on your own. Entry
forms will be available soon at your library and should
be submitted no later than March 24.

Sponsors:

Friends of the Bill Memorial Library

Friends of the Mystic Noank Library

Circle of Friends Groton Public Library

Join us for the Edible Book Festival on
SATURDAY, March 30, Groton Public Library ~
1:30pm.

Words from our Co-Presidents

Hello to all our M&NL Friends and Library patrons! Kathy Busse, Co-President with Patricia Menno-Coveney, here. We offer our congratulations to all those who made possible a successful *Like-New Book Sale* back in November. A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers for setting up for the sale and for providing coverage during the week-long book sales. Another big THANK



YOU to all who supported this annual event with donations and / or purchases.

We have great plans for more FUN

fundraising projects in 2024 - the *April Art Sale* (we welcome art donations) and *May Silent Auction and Book Sale* and the ever popular *Library Fair* in June.

Behind the scenes, there are dedicated volunteers, Friends who sort through the many, many

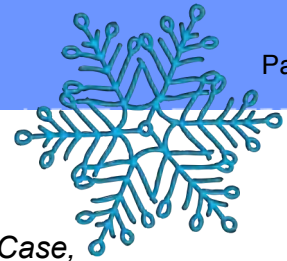


donated books to catalog them for the Library sales and those with expertise who can spot a rare donated

book to sell on Ebay with proceeds to benefit the library.

The Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library are proud to serve in a variety of capacities to support the Library that we all cherish. It is wonderful to see the Mystic community come together in a special way through our Library. We welcome new members at any time.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Newsletter is always available online on the Library website (look under "About Us/ Bookends Newsletter") and starting with our next Bookends, we will mail a print version to ONLY those who request it, either by emailing us or signing up at the Circulation Desk. Print versions will be available for pickup at the Library as well.



Shh...



*by Joanna Case,
Friend of the Library and
Former M&NL Director*

(Continuing series about Library Directors...)

Mrs. Nell Goldthwaite was elected to the Board in 1954 as Secretary/Treasurer. Her first act of business was to request the Board purchase two easy chairs for the patrons who were tired from walking up the hill. In 1955 Mrs. Goldthwaite suggested that the librarian be paid at least as much as the custodian. The results were that the Librarian made \$100/month and the cleaning lady got \$5/day.

She became the Library manager and worked with Mrs. Rollinson in supervising the library activities. As manager she oversaw the moving of the library to the second floor and the setting up of the Children's Library.



In 1961 Mrs. Goldthwaite retired from the Board and became the Library's first Children's Librarian.

She continued in that position until 1968. Upon the retirement of Mrs Rollinson, Mrs Goldthwaite became the Head Librarian.

During her tenure the Board began approaching the two towns for annual contributions to the operating fund. The Board also set up several cooperative projects with Groton Public Library for the purchase of materials and the sharing of ideas.

In 1971, after 17 years of service to the Library, Mrs. Nell Goldthwaite left the Library to enjoy a very long retirement.



Library Cats

Part 4

Peggy Brissette,
Friend of the Library

As mentioned previously, Emily's fame is well documented. A short movie "Puss in Books" came out in 1996, featuring the Library Cat Association and several cats in various libraries around the country, including Emily.

Two people from Ontario stopped by the Library one year to meet Emily; they were on their way to Florida, stopping to see all of the library cats they could on their way south. Emily developed a fabulous fan club after being mentioned in many articles including the New York Times. People sent her letters, some from overseas, and one woman in Michigan even crocheted a blanket, which Emily enjoyed for many years. There were paintings of Emily and many cat related items that could be spotted around the Library. Her picture was on note cards, tee shirts, and a Christmas ornament. People stopped in the Library and sought her out, children especially, and she was a celebrity locally and farther afield. There was a donation jar to keep her in food and treats, which was always well-filled.

Emily received many toys and treats, though treats became restricted. She was fed between 4-4:30pm, promptly, due to her habit of finding a staff member and glaring at them

until they got her food. She used to drink from running faucets until a fountain type water bowl was obtained. She loved to ride the elevator and would wait patiently for someone to open the door and press the button for the other floor. She would find a surface for surveying her kingdom and her fans until she decided she needed some quiet and found a spot in the local history area, often on a cloth doll that she favored.

Emily never left the Library, except for a hurricane where she stayed at Joanna's house and, early on, visits to the vet. The vet came to the Library in her later years, which was much less stressful. Emily died peacefully on May 2, 2006, from renal failure and is buried under an engraved marker near the steps to the parking lot. She was much loved and much missed. A scrapbook filled with pictures and articles is kept up in the local history area for visitors to enjoy.



LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

Similar to the online game "Connections", can you figure out the connection or theme among each group of four titles? The Mystic & Noank Library Catalog could help you.

Leeva at last
Palace of books
The light she feels inside
The brilliant Ms. Bangle

Little legends
Strange fruit
In the upper country
A darker wilderness

The Hemingway patrols
From shore to ocean floor
Down a dark river
Lily leads the way

Beneath the skin
Market day
Sunny and Oswald
Nimbus

(answers found on p. 7)

Learning A New Language

*Again, the sea
has reminded Mystic
the sea rules.
The tide at its height
has feasted. Streets
near the river are become rivers,
vehicles, boats.
People, fish?
The sea again has redefined
the terrain. A thunder of rain
had poured all night, the sky's
heart beating hard
down on us. Had we not
been responding as the sky had wished?
Had we been overreaching ourselves
into sea territory?
One never knows with the elements.
The sun suspended in it blue sky
deceives. Clouds whipped
delicate as egg whites
encourages us imagine
a lemon souffle dessert
to end the meal of the day with.
Then falls the storm.
This, too, is
life at the beach, life
by the sea. We are land animals
who must, now and then,
pretend being
members of the aquatic species.
I am learning to speak duck,
just in case.*



Philip Kuepper
Resident Poet & Librarian

A Bittersweet Retrospective

by Ery Caswell,
Adult Services & Programming
Librarian

Sometimes there is not a graceful way to break news other than to break it.

After four years and hundreds of programs, I will be leaving the Mystic & Noank Library. I've been offered a position at UConn Library as a Student Success & Engagement Librarian and my last day at our beautiful Library will be February 23rd (at least, officially).

I started this job in September 2019 and had about six months of "normal" library service before the world turned upside-down in March 2020. Even still, masked, socially distanced, and over Zoom, we found so many ways to connect and share stories, interests, and learning - together!

We drew, painted, paper quilled holiday cards, crafted homemade soaps, mixed herbal tea, and turned sea glass into jewelry.

We sat down with local authors and learned how to write and share our stories about all the stuff of a life: the good, the bad, and the ugly.

We discovered new ways to use technology (and also discovered new bizarre problems it can make).

And we stayed engaged with the world around

us: the War in Ukraine, pandemic history, connections between apartheid South Africa and the United States, giving gardens, fair housing advocacy, and so much more.

It's been wonderful building communities of learning and curiosity with you!

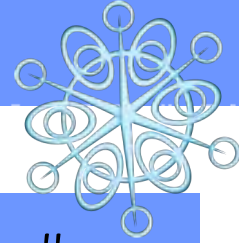
I'll still be around to lead our Genesis poetry group. It meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Come drop a line there! It doesn't have to rhyme.

Thank you to my talented colleagues, our supportive board and Friends of the Library, and the many patrons whose participation and donations of time, money, and energy make the Mystic & Noank Library the treasured community resource that it is.

Stay in touch!





Words from our Director, Christine Bradley



2023 was a good year for libraries.

All of MNL's measures were up from 2022—visitors (83,631), program attendance (13,032), book checkouts (38,500), and book downloads (16,788).

The American Library Association reported that 54% of Gen Z and Millennials (aged 13-40) visited a physical library within a twelve-month period, and 52% of Gen Z and Millennials borrowed from library digital collections.

So, what were they reading?

The CT Library Association learned that the most borrowed book in CT's libraries was *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, which was also made into an Apple TV series. Other top borrowed books were *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boyland, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Spare* by Prince Harry, and *The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham. For digital borrowers, Colleen Hoover's books are at the top of the list, with *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin. For children's books, the *Dog Man* series by Dav Pilkey, Jeff

Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, and Mo Willems' *Elephant and Piggy* books were the most popular.

So, what are you reading?

If you have a chance, lmk. The winter of reading is upon us, and we can't have too many suggestions. My book club just devoted its January meeting to each of our five all-time favorites. (Very interesting, running the gamut from *To Kill a Mockingbird* to *The Iliad*). I'm happy to share that list, so if you're interested, lmk before spring!



(Answers to **Connections**:

Libraries, Black History, Boats, Cats)



Bookends

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The stream lies cold, clear.
Appears a young deer, and sips
at its reflection.



The bell's sound let go
each ringing like a note lost;
the lovers parting.

The trees stood amid
a blue mist; apparitions
masking their presence.

HAIKU, CAN YOU?

A flame flew across
my line of sight; cardinals
late for a conclave.

Old people stand, scythes,
bent praying before tombstones;
harvesting spirits.



Dawn light shone finely
on the webbings silken threads;
a dream hung woven.

A star of snow-ice
having melted in my hand;
Heaven, vanishing.



by Philip Kuepper

IMPORTANT NEWS
regarding Bookends inside.
Be sure to read it!
friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org
Thank you!



Mystic & Noank Library
40 Library Street
Mystic, CT 06355

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