

May
2024

Bookends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library



Annual Spring Fair

Saturday, June 1
9:00am to 2:00pm
"NEW TIME"



**HUGE BOOK SALE, White Elephant Treasures (special children's section), FOOD, Live Music, & Mystic Garden Club plants & flowers. PLUS Mystic Calligraphers will make custom bookmarks for attendees! LOTS MORE...
Rain or Shine!**

Book Sale



PREVIEW PARTY - Thursday, May 30 (Note: NEW DAY)
5:00-7:00pm
\$5.00 Admission & all purchases are 50% OVER the
marked prices for this evening only.

Book Sale continues...

During Library Fair and Monday, June 3 to Saturday, June 8, during regular Library hours but closing at 1:00pm on Saturday. Most items are half price on Friday, and Saturday will be the \$5 fill-a-bag sale! Bags provided.

Silent Auction

Silent Auction

Silent Auction

Begins May 20

Check out the possibilities and make your bid!

Bidding will close at 2 p.m. on Fair Day, June 1, 2024

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

before, during, and after the Fair plus during the days of the Book Sale.
Stop by the Library to sign up or Email friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org for more info

Library Fair
June 1

Library Fair
June 1

Words from our Co-Presidents

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Happy Springtime from the *Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library!* So much is popping up at the Library here in April and May and on into the summer.

Once again the Friends, along with staff, patrons, and Trustees, proudly represented the Library during the Mystic Irish Parade. With precision choreographed moves, partnered with library carts, they provided awe and amusement!

And the Edible Book Festival tasted as good as it looked! It took place at the end of March in collaboration with Groton & Bill Libraries. It was a chance to celebrate books to nourish the stomach and not just the mind!



We hope you had time to take in our Art Show in the Ames Room in April. Several *Friends* did a great job of preparing and displaying the artworks.

We really enjoyed the *Evening of Poetry*

in the Spicer Room on April 29. *Friends* were present to meet and greet the poets and their fans.

Mark your calendars for the Library Fair and Book Sale coming the first Saturday of June. Lots of “treasures” to discover.

We welcome any who want to VOLUNTEER that day and/or during the days of the Book Sale - a few hours here or there! Email friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org.

Did you know that you can pick up wildflower seeds at the front desk for the kiddies to plant outside? Be sure to watch for all the upcoming children’s programs this summer!

Friends of the Library joined the crew outside on the grounds for Clean Up Day on May 4... so many opportunities to contribute time and enjoy activities at the Library. Come join us as we work together to support our very valuable community learning and gathering center.

We welcome new members for the *Friends* all the time. And just like the Library, it’s free to join! See you at the Library!!

Shh... or, rather, Oh, NO!

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

Our next Librarian was Gwen Elliott, who was hired upon Mrs. Nell Bradley's retirement in 1971. Mrs. Elliott informed the Board that she and her Naval Officer husband were waiting to adopt a child and that she would leave when that became possible. To everyone's surprise the child came into their lives earlier than expected. It was with both joy and regret that Mrs. Elliott resigned in early 1972.

Rather than proceed to the next Librarian I want to talk about the Local History section. The books are in locked cases because of their value to researchers. One set, "The Descendants of Robert Burrows", is the go-to source for almost all the early Groton settlers. You can imagine my dismay when I found that the set has disappeared from the shelves.

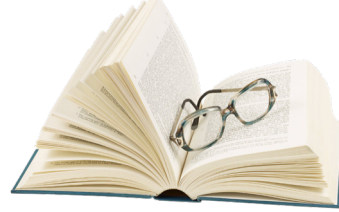
It is a resource that you can find online, but using the actual book with its extensive index makes discovering the information much easier. I don't understand how someone would feel that their research was more important than everyone else's. It is my hope that the books will be returned in the book chute so that the rest of us will again have access to this valuable resource.

I have requested that the Library look at the usage policy and consider making using this collection more controlled. I have also requested an inventory of the collection be conducted so other "borrowed" volumes may be identified. It saddens me that the Library's trust was violated in this way.

On another note, Judy Hicks and I have just completed a draft of a book we are calling "A Gift to Mystic".....a history of Capt. Elihu Spicer and the Library. It is our plan to get it published and to donate the books to the Library to sell as a fundraiser. We will keep you posted on our progress.



Open Book



Judy Munro, Trustee

Judy Munro has a unique perspective of the Mystic & Noank Library. Having been a past President of the Board as well as Secretary, Judy Munro is a current trustee. In addition, she is the Chair of the Library Park Committee, an exciting, multi-dimensional project she is well qualified to oversee.

As Project Development Manager for the Regional Transit Agency in Portland, Oregon, she oversaw an enormous, multi-million-dollar project which entailed relocating hundreds of staff, maintenance facilities, and bus and rail dispatch and control.

Previous to that she was the Facilities Manager of the Oregon Zoo. We are so grateful to have her professional expertise to guide us now at our Library.



Judy came from Oregon in 2014 to be closer to her two daughters and two grandchildren. She retired in 2013 and continued as a consultant the year she relocated.

While President, she and the Library staff navigated Covid as well as took on the comprehensive challenge of examining, updating and rewriting Library policies, including HR, Contracting, as well as Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. New committees were formed with

clearer definitions, personnel requirements and specific goals. Organized, strong, gentle and gracious, Judy has the talents, enthusiasm and



love to benefit all aspects of our Library.

She shared two fun facts: She actually witnessed the birth of a baby

Asian elephant at the Oregon Zoo and she used to be a competitive curler, "but only because of a lack of women in Oregon!" An amazing woman, who enriches us.

by Dana Semeraro
Friend of the Library

Edible Books



Impatience Piloting a Jet

Is it that
a poet is
born on the extreme
edge of being?
I live here and now
as though I am being
born into the next phase
of my being.
I live fast-forwarded.



At the Think Tank

Just now, 6:26 A.M.,
at some distance beyond my
open window,
two wrens are engaged
in an excited exchange,
a debate perhaps
over where to breakfast?



by Philp Kuepper
Resident Poet & Librarian

Words from our Director, Christine Bradley

A Night to Remember

April is Poetry Month, and Mystic & Noank Library did it proud this year. We are blessed among public libraries for so many reasons, chief among them being that we have a resident poet, Philip Kuepper. Many of you have read Philip's poems in this publication, but Monday night, April 29 was a unique occasion to hear Philip speak his words.

Philip bookended our Evening of Poetry with two of his favorites, *The Minefield of the Imagination* and *A Flowering Spring*. (Somewhere in the middle I took the liberty of reading my favorite of Philip's poems, *Putting on the Garment of Water and Light*.)

What an Evening it was. It was a sellout needing extra chairs, a tribute to our Mystic reading community. We heard from young Lyd and Roberta Curry, and Bruce Jones of the Groton Town Council reading *The Cremation of Sam McGee* that he recalled from his recent trip to Alaska. Gail Turgeon blew me away with her three short poems *Mixology*, *German Stock*, and *Good Grief*. Accomplished poet Colin Goedecke shared his original work, and Rich Freitas read his own *Divorced Kid's Christmas*. (I can still envision that Miller Lite Christmas Tree!) Lisa Ann Curtis read Amanda Gorman's inauguration poem. Finally, Kevin Booker wowed us all (as he always does) with a tribute to poetry and a succession of poetry bursts from ancient times to Langston Hughes to Tupac, and ending with *A Dream Deferred*.

Oh, What a Night!

Library Cats Part 5



Going back in time to the first cats that called the Mystic & Noank Library home - or at least a temporary home - leads to the 1970's as far as I can determine. The information is harder to come by, but the cats were definitely a part of the Library.

Continued on Page 8

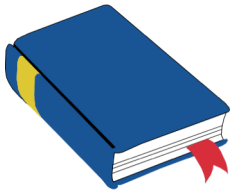
Library Cats and other reasons to go to the Library Word Search

E J H I B R P C C G G Y L I M E B B S U
 J B S A Q X C I F D E W E Y M O S R M K
 R M O V A O L R T E L O I V T E E V A G
 E G L O C L I C J D O T J I R T S Q R O
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 Z S P N P T C N X R J L Z P F L V U C L
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 I X U I W Y N R R N R Z J R T L M L T P
 V M L E G U L I B C F B K Q G Q D R K W
 J D B P C M Y F D M F A B K P F S V H W
 A H Y I K X H R R A K G X G L J F Z Z T
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catalog
 circulation
 computers
 ebooks
 emily
 matilda
 mito
 reading

cats
 research
 dewey
 service
 library
 violet
 programs
 johndoe

puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com



Welcome to the Club



One of the many things the Library offers is a remedy for loneliness.

Now, maybe you don't visit our Library often, maybe this sounds counterintuitive to you. Aren't libraries quiet? Don't the librarians tell you to "shhhh!" and give you dirty looks when you return a book late? The short answer is "no"—the long answer is that libraries have really come a long way since the days of old...and particularly since reopening after what felt like an eternal hiatus during COVID quarantines.

We noticed something that never went away: book clubs. I don't know about you, but I found a community in virtual book spaces during the *dark times*. As a young professional in 2020 I was just finding my footing. Lucky for me, I met my wife and she introduced me to some really cool booksellers who welcomed me into their Sci-Fi Fantasy group (even though I hadn't read the book). We nearly crashed and burned during the age of Zoom—we were exhausted from

virtual meetings all day long, followed by book talk in our separate bedrooms.

In 2021 we moved back to in-person meetings...with two core members and a whole lot of hope. Since then our group has evolved and it's stronger than ever. ALL of this to say, when I came on board at Mystic & Noank Library as the Circulation Supervisor, I was excited to take on the responsibility of gathering books for the many book clubs in our area.

Over the course of the past two years (WOW I've been here two years?) I've really made it a goal to get ahead of the game and have titles ready, stay in touch with the fearless book club leaders, and let people know that this is a service we offer!

Do you have a book club that could use support? We would be happy to assist you. Do you wish there was a book club you could attend, but don't know where to start? Let us know! We'd love to hear from you.

by Rebecca Spera
Circulation Supervisor

Cont. from p.6

The first was a stray found wandering downtown who made it into the Library in the 1970's. Melvil Dewey (named after the person who developed the Dewey decimal system), or Dewey for short, was fond of getting into and out of the Library via the book drop chute, back when books could be returned directly into the Library building. He often ventured out to visit neighbors and, after around two years, moved into the neighbor's house permanently, though he often returned to the Library for a visit.

The second cat was a sick stray found in a window well by a fire escape. Named John Doe, this kitty was also an indoor/outdoor cat. After much care and attention, he returned to good health and went on his way.

These cats opened the doors to the more familiar cats that many of us knew/know and love and, hopefully, the Mystic & Noank Library will continue the tradition of cats in libraries.

by
Peggy Brissette
Friend of the Library



Due to the high cost of print,
please consider receiving the
newsletter via email by
contacting
friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org
Thank you!



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