

May
2026

Bookends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library



Friends of the
Mystic & Noank Library

SPRING FAIR

Saturday, June 6
9:00am — 2:00pm



Food,
Fudge,
Fun!



Silent Auction
Starts May 26

Ends on Fair
Day at 2:00pm



Toys, Puzzles,
Household Goods,
Jewelry, Lots
More!

Mystic
Garden Club

Variety of
Flowers &
Plants



Entertainment

Music
&
Dance



Big

BIG



BIG

Used Book
Sale

*** Preview Party ***

Thursday, June 4

5:00 to 7:00pm

\$5.00 admission

(All purchases are 50%
OVER the marked prices
for this evening only)

BOOK SALE CONTINUES

Starting Monday of the
following week through
Saturday during regular
Library hours, except
closing 12:00pm on
Saturday, June 13



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

Did you know you are a Friend? Yes, of course, you are friends with many people. But you are also a Friend – with a capital “F” – as a member of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library! Do you donate to the Library financially? Do you volunteer with cleaning up the grounds of the Library? If the answer is “yes”, then you are automatically a Friend of the Library!

Unlike some other “Friends of the Library” groups, the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library has an open policy when it comes to members. We don’t require formal membership, we don’t require attending meetings, and we don’t require dues.

We just expect that you love supporting libraries as much as we do. Yes, there is a core group of Library Friends who meet regularly. This group plans fundraisers and activities to bolster the limited funds of the Library. We encourage you to join us at one of our meetings, the third Monday of the month at 1:00pm, to learn more. You don’t have to commit to the monthly meetings but you will be introduced to some dedicated Friends who enjoy participating in various fun events – in particular the annual **SPRING FAIR**.

The **SPRING FAIR** is a one-day event that welcomes Friends to sign up for a couple of hours that day – June 6 – to man a table,

whether White Elephant, or Puzzles, or Book Sales, among others. The **SPRING FAIR** takes place on the Library grounds and inside the Library. Other jobs include setting up for the event, helping during the event, and cleaning up after the event. (There are also opportunities to help with the week-long Book Sale the week after the **SPRING FAIR**!)

As a Friend, we hope you will consider joining us for the **SPRING FAIR** on June 6 or at other activities during the year. If interested, please email “friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org”. Signup sheets to volunteer for the **SPRING FAIR** are available near the Circulation Desk as well.





Library Director
Christine Bradley

The CT Library Association, which was founded in 1891, just a couple of years before the Mystic & Noank Library, held its 2026 annual conference April 27 through April 29 at the Mystic Marriott.

The CT Library Association is Connecticut's professional organization of librarians, library staff, friends, and trustees working together to improve library service to Connecticut, to advance the interests of librarians, library staff, and librarianship, and to increase public awareness of libraries and library services.

Each year at the annual conference, CLA honors librarians who have distinguished themselves in their professional life. This year, Katherine Trejo-Thorp nominated Roberta Donahue to receive the prestigious **Supporter of Support Staff Award**, which honors a library administrator or manager who promotes the role of library assistants and support staff.

Anyone who knows Roberta at all knows that she does not seek the limelight. Roberta doesn't do the excellent work she does, and has done for forty years, so that she can get an award. Roberta is not only a leader in the field of Public Library Services for Youth; she is also an

outstanding Administrator. Roberta's job description says that she strategizes, plans, and oversees all Library operations (including the chicks and guinea pigs!). She does it all: information technology, the Library's website and social media presence, personnel, volunteers, outreach to area schools and local organizations that serve youth. Roberta develops the budget and sees to it that operations' expenditures stay within that budget. She works with the contractors on whom we rely to maintain our building and grounds.

Yes, Roberta is the **Supporter of the Support Staff**, but she supports us all, every day, including Saturday and Sunday!





The Library Development Committee



Spring has sprung... so it must be time for the Mystic & Noank Library's big event! Last year, the Board of Trustees hosted our inaugural Spring Soiree fundraiser. This festive gala brings together current and new supporters of our beloved Library to enjoy a fun evening and help the Library at the same time.

All proceeds go directly to support our annual operating costs, special programs and projects. Last year's Soiree ended up being the "Talk of the Town" for weeks, and those who missed it told us they would definitely join us at the next one.

As you know, the Mystic & Noank Library is a non-profit library, and each

year our board and staff are tasked with producing 2/3rds of our annual operating expenses through fundraising efforts. You could call it a labor of love, and the Board of Trustees takes to heart the responsibility to keeping our Library financially secure to ensure the Library thrives for its patrons and for the community.

Whether as a sponsor or attendee of the Soiree, we can all take pride in helping to maintain programs and services along with preserving our magnificent, historic building.

So, make sure you have this date – May 28 - circled on your calendar and [buy your tickets now](#) before we sell out. Then just find your "springiest" outfit and join us for a fun night in support of the MNL.

Thank you for your continued support!

*Mary and Caitlin
Co-Presidents
Board of Trustees*



MNL Friends Outreach to StoneRidge Senior Living Community



In November of 2004, my parents moved into the recently opened buildings at StoneRidge. There was a lovely library near the entrance, and a welcoming Library Committee was set up shortly thereafter. A 20-year relationship commenced between StoneRidge and the Mystic & Noank Library, with a rotating collection of books brought over 4 times a year for the readers at StoneRidge.



shelves at the StoneRidge Library is great fun because I collaborate with a resident who has become a wonderful friend. She takes time to examine each tome, and we discuss why it was selected (cover, size, and content all matter!). This often leads us to continue our conversation at lunch in the dining room.

The number of people who eagerly await the new arrivals often start pacing as we finish up, and then the check-outs begin. In 3 months, there are over 200 check-outs of the collection and so many happy readers who appreciate this service.

This process involves a lot of thought as there are all sorts of readers in a community with such varied tastes and interests. Picking out 80 -100 books takes time: to select a variety of large and regular print, mysteries, action, romance, biographies, non-fiction in several categories, while also considering the level of blood and guts, language, and, ahem, degree of romance depicted, is quite a balancing act.

The StoneRidge Library itself has an amazing collection of books that has been added to and maintained by the Library Committee, and there are many donations of brand new books when readers can't wait for a Library copy to be available.



Sometimes readers give me suggestions about what they would like, such as an author, a particular series, or a topic, which makes things easier. It also requires a system so the same books are not brought over again for 3 years. Collecting the last rotation of books and checking them back in, checking the new rotation out, and carrying milk crates of carefully packed books back and forth is a great form of physical exercise!

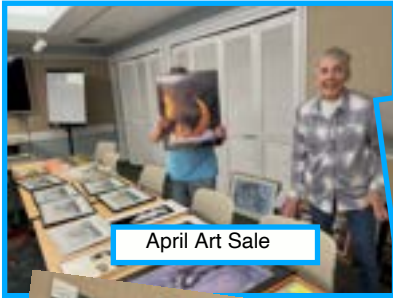
The MNL Rotating Collection is a bonus for the readers as well as for me, as it provides a link to my many friends who live at StoneRidge, gives me great physical exercise, and provides the satisfaction of sharing books from the Mystic & Noank Library with those who might not be able to get to our Library.

(cont. page 8)

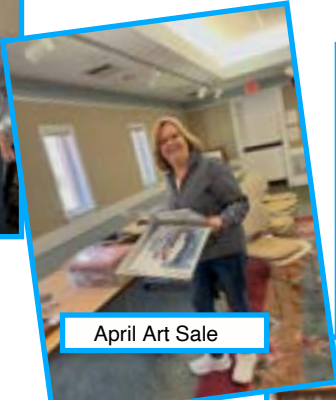
Placing the new rotation on the reserved



Friends' Spring Activities



April Art Sale



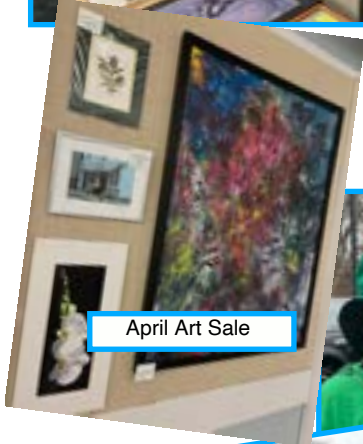
April Art Sale



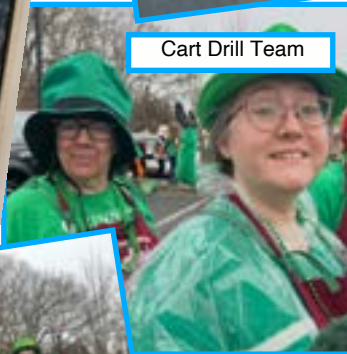
Indoor Yard Sale



Edible Books



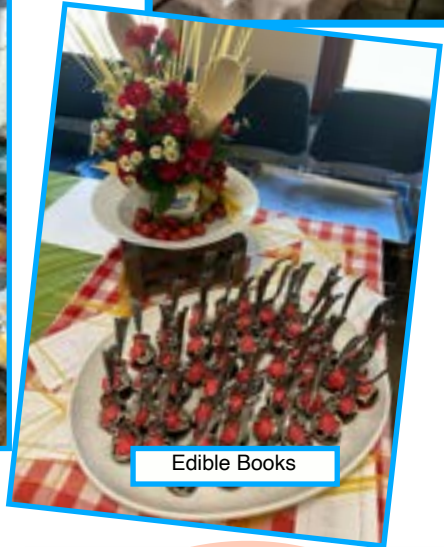
April Art Sale



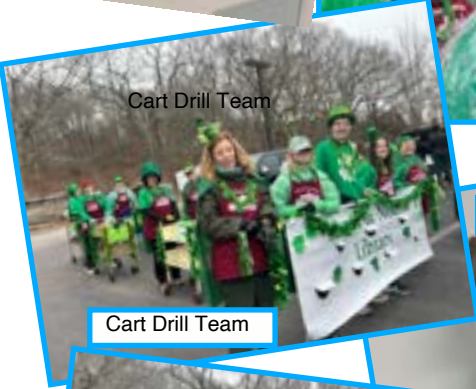
Cart Drill Team



Indoor Yard Sale



Edible Books



Cart Drill Team

Indoor Yard Sale



Indoor Yard Sale



Cart Drill Team

Don't forget!
Join us at the
SPRING FAIR
Saturday, June 6
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



This Mystic Ship

by
Philip Kuepper
Librarian & Resident Poet

Our library is a ship,
anchored on a hill,
its cargo, books,
from the whole of the known,
and the unknown universe.
We have space for space
exploration, and space
for exploring the earth we stand on.
We have room for conjecture concerning
politics, philosophies, religions.
We acknowledge the reality of fiction,
and we have mysteries
endlessly solving themselves.
We figure the square root of wonder
with the poetry we house.
If you seek self-help
we've experts sitting on our shelves,
you can consult free of charge.
(We traffic in self-knowledge.) Our take on
economics will free you from money worries.
We hang every possible "ism" there is
under the sun of art.
And what better way to meet
new acquaintance than in biography.
We make it possible for you
to travel the earth
from the Arctics to Zaire.
And before you depart, read up on
history writ large, from cave people to astronauts.
Lastly, we've music to charm your ears,
and move you to bliss, all this,
among the cargo in the hold of this ship
of a library at anchor on a hill in Mystic.





(cont. from p.5)

The library at StoneRidge moved to a larger location in 2008, when construction was completed. And now, the library is slated to move again as the final wing is ready to be constructed along with other facility changes. This will require a pause in the rotating collection for the first time (we were able to continue our rotating schedule even during COVID!).

When the shelves are cleaned and the paint dries in the new location, the MNL Rotating Book Collection will be back in business!

Peggy Brissette
Friend of the Library



Spring Soiree
Thursday, May 28
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
<https://www.mysticnoanklibrary.org/upcoming-events>

SPRING FAIR
Saturday, June 6
9:00 am to 2:00 pm



Non Profit Organization
 Presorted standard
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No.65



Mystic & Noank Library
 40 Library Street
 Mystic, CT 06355