

August
2025

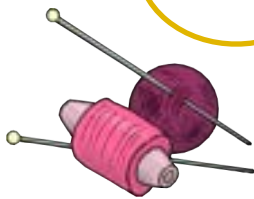
Bookends



9TH ANNUAL FRIENDS'

CRAFT EXCHANGE

*Saturday, September 13
10am to Noon*



1. Drop off unwanted crafting supplies or half-finished projects of all kinds to the Library the week prior to the event.
2. (Please, no fabric this year 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.

ALL THINGS PUMPKIN!

WITH MAGICIAN ED POP

A fun event for children

Treats provided by the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

3:30pm - 4:30pm



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

Ah, summer! Think lemonade, beaches, cookouts and visiting the Library with all its great summer library programs for children and adults.

The *Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library* suspends its monthly meeting during the month of July to enjoy the summer season, but returns August 18. Our meetings on the third Monday of the month (with a few exceptions), start at 1:00pm with snacks at 12:30pm and are open to anyone who cares about libraries and is eager to support our hometown Library. They also provide an opportunity to meet some exceptional people as well!

Back in June we enjoyed a very successful Spring Fair. We thank all involved with planning, setting up, manning tables, and cleaning up. The day was ideal for outdoor food and fun with musical and dancing entertainment. Those who attended were pleased with our White Elephant items and the ever-popular Mystic Garden Club plants and flowers. And books, lots and lots of books! Our Book Sale lasted a whole week! Proceeds directly benefit the Library.

Special thanks to **Franklin's General Store**,

Mystic Soup Company, Mystic Garden Club and Rio Salado/Jealous Monk.

Now, turning to the future, it's time to think about what the *Friends* are planning for the Fall at Mystic & Noank Library. This September the *Friends* will host the "Craft Exchange" and in October "All Things Pumpkin." The "Craft Exchange" is an opportunity to donate craft supplies that you no longer want AND/OR pick up new craft supplies. It's all FREE. "All Things Pumpkin" with Magician Ed Pop is a special children's event. The *Friends* look forward to supporting it with treats for the children!

Join us at our next meeting to learn how the *Friends* works together to help maintain our wonderful Library. You may have just the ideas and talents we need for the upcoming events!! See you there!





Shh...

Continuation from last newsletter...

Edward and Ramona Comrie, neighbors to the north of the Library, stepped forward and offered to donate their front yard for the expansion. Everything changed with that act of generosity. The design picked up in popularity and raising funds became easier.

Paula Marcus offered her services as contract monitor and Ledyard General was selected as the contractor of choice. Ground was broken on September 16, 1990 with great public celebration.

For the next two years as construction and restoration proceeded, the aforementioned committees were extremely busy and successful in fundraising, building monitoring, interior decisions and gaining community involvement. A State construction grant added needed financial support.



The Library, with the new addition, re-opened to the public at the Dedication/Ribbon cutting ceremony on May 17, 1992. It was a grand

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



affair with bagpipers, Girl Scouts, dignitaries and Emily the Cat, as part of the welcoming committee.

I have not attempted to list all the individuals that were so influential in making this project a success, because there were hundreds and they are listed in the Dedication brochure. Major participants were Nancy McLaughlin, Frank Davis, Roy Welch, Paula Marcus, and Rick Arms, who started the process. Many, many thanks to all of them and to everyone who made it all possible.





*Christine Bradley,
Library Director*

Wally Lamb is speaking at the Library's fundraiser at Snediker's Yacht Restoration on **September 27**.

As you all know by now, his latest book, *The River is Waiting*, was chosen for Oprah's Book Club, as were his earlier novels, *She's Come Undone*, and *I Know this Much is True*.

As happy as we were for Wally to get the call from Oprah for a third time (and he told us that she actually makes the calls herself!), we were afraid that the honor would make it more difficult to get him to speak at our fundraiser.

And indeed, it was. His publicist blew us off several times. I had almost given up, but our friends at Bank Square Books allowed me to cut the line at the bookstore to speak with him directly. When I told him we wanted him to speak at our Library fundraiser, he looked me in the eye and asked, "When is it?" and then gave me his personal email.

When we agreed on a date (thanks again to David Snediker, who generously offered his boatyard as the location for the fundraiser), Wally assured me that, because his talk is a fundraiser for the Library, he would not go through his publicist and he would do it gratis.

I can't say I was surprised. He is that kind of a guy. I didn't go to NFA with him, nor was I a student of his, but I had my own reasons for knowing that this is the guy. Many years ago, I



photo by Wes Washington

attended a CT Library Association conference where he was speaking. He brought with him, to be on a panel, women who were prisoners at York Correctional Institute in Niantic. He brought them to tell their stories. I still remember seeing these women, dressed to the nines, telling their stories. Wally taught a writing workshop at York every week for 20 years. Out of that came their book, *Couldn't Keep it to Myself: Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters*. Who does that?



The Library Development Committee

Renowned author Wally Lamb's new book is titled *The River is Waiting*. But those of us living here on the banks of the Mystic River won't have to wait to dive into this book. Mr. Lamb has kindly agreed to be our featured guest at the Mystic & Noank Library's Annual Author Talk fundraising event, scheduled for Saturday, September 27th, 5:00-7:00 pm at Snediker Yacht Restoration in Old Mystic.

Wally Lamb is the author of six NY Times bestselling novels, and this newest novel is his third to be selected by Oprah Winfrey for her Book Club, which she said shows what she thinks of "this truly masterful and beloved writer." Considering all that acclaim, you would think it would be impossible that our beloved Library would be able to secure Mr. Lamb for our annual author talk fundraiser, right? But, we have a lot going for us. For starters, Wally Lamb is a Connecticut treasure having been born and raised in Norwich, attended UCONN, taught English at Norwich Free Academy and later directed the creative writing department at UCONN. Our wonderful Executive Director, Christine Bradley, was able to extend our invitation in person to Wally when he appeared at Bank Square Books for a book signing. Chris said Wally didn't even hesitate to accept our offer and support the MNL as our featured author for 2025.

We are so thrilled to have him at our Author Talk this year!

As you probably know, the MNL is a non-profit association library. Each year our Board and Staff are tasked with producing more than 65% of our annual operating expenses. Fundraising efforts like our annual Author Talk are truly essential in helping us continue to provide our well-loved programs and services and to maintain our magnificent, historic structure that adds a sense of place to our very special community.

We hope you'll join us on this special evening where Wally will discuss *The River Is Waiting*—a powerful story of a young father seeking redemption after unimaginable loss. The evening begins with a reception from 5:00–6:00 pm, featuring drinks and hors d'oeuvres, followed by the author talk from 6:00–7:00 pm.

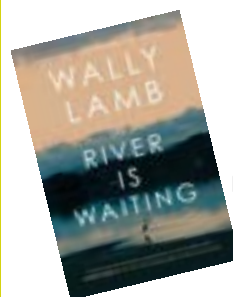
Tickets for this exclusive occasion are priced at \$125 per person and include the reception. Just use this link to get your tickets:

<https://mysticnoanklibrary.networkforgood.com/events/89171-an-evening-with-wally-lamb>

Due to limited space, we anticipate a sold-out gathering for this highly anticipated and exceptional event. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mary Tullis Engvall and Caitlin McEachern Wroblewski
Co-Presidents,
Mystic & Noank Library Board of Trustees



Mystic & Noank Library Annual Author Talk

presenting

WALLY LAMB

Newest Book - *The River is Waiting*

Saturday, September 27

5 - 6pm ~ Reception

6 - 7pm ~ Author Talk

Tickets available -

<https://mysticnoanklibrary.networkforgood.com/events/89171-an-evening-with-wally-lamb>



Göran Buckhorn
Circulation Desk Assistant

OPEN BOOK



Our most recent addition to the friendly Circulation Desk staff, Göran (pronounced “your-an,” accent on the first syllable) Buckhorn was born and educated in Sweden. It was thanks to a love match made in Wales that ultimately brought him to the U.S.

Upon finishing his studies in literature and cultural science at the University of Lund in the south of Sweden, Göran was hired at a publishing house where, among other things, he was asked to edit a project with two of his professors from the university. After completing the project in two years, he realized he missed working on his Masters degree. Fortuitously, he received a scholarship to the University of Wales to continue his studies. Despite the small, back-water town of Lampeter, where it was located, there was a lovely young American woman studying there also. Within three years, he and Ellen were married!

Following their wedding in Sweden in May 2000, they enjoyed a honeymoon in Lisbon, Portugal, before Göran had to spend 10 weeks completing paperwork before he could rejoin his wife in Mystic, Connecticut.

Ellen worked at Random House in New York City and then at Mystic Seaport Museum before ending up in communications at Trinity College in Hartford. Göran creatively found a position at the Mystic Seaport Museum Bookstore and finally edited the Seaport’s magazine. Then the pandemic hit; life changed for everyone.

Back in Sweden, Göran had been an avid rower. A friend approached him to edit a rowing anthology, *The Greatest Rowing Stories Ever Told*. (You can now find it at the M&NL.) Göran continues to put out a blog on rowing, and our very own Philip Kuepper contributes a poem each week.



Of all the choirs
existing in the world,
I would be assigned
to direct the Choir of Dawn.
Imagine having to corral
a herd of birds:
wren, robin,
finch, dove,
a cardinal (no less),
a catbird, a jay,
and a veritable chorus of sparrows.
One would assume,
from so varied a list,
a choir, cacophonous.
But to my surprise
the threads of their voices
wove into a song that rose
beyond dissonance
into melodious splendor,
though at one point I did
have to rap the podium
with my baton,
when the wren and the jay
decided between them
to take flight in a duet.
'This is a choir, gentlemen.'
I had to remind them,
which brought them, grumbling,
back down to earth.

by Philip Kuepper
Librarian & Resident Poet

(cont. from p.6)

Göran and Ellen have two children, Ingrid (24) and Anders (20). Since they grew up participating and volunteering in the Children's Room, it was natural for Roberta to contact Göran when a position opened up at the Library last fall. He was delighted to join our staff, and he is now working part-time at both the Library and the Mystic YMCA.

Göran's mother recently turned 100, so he periodically visits her in Sweden. And like the faithful, devoted son he is, he also calls her several times each day!

What a gift to our Library!

*by Dana Semeraro
Friend of the Library*





Newsletter Survey

Please consider answering a few questions that will help guide our format and content decisions to best share the latest stories about our Library.

Please circle all the articles you enjoy:

- Homepage / Upcoming Events
- Friends Presidents' Page
- Director's Update
- History of the Library
- Development / Board of Trustees

- Poetry

- Open Book: Staff Profiles

- How do you receive Bookends: email, print, QR code or online at MNL website? Other?

- Other articles or features you would like to see:

Please bring survey to the Library or email your answers to: friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org or submit online:

<https://forms.gle/q7RwMBut8nc9sazA8>

Continue scrolling for
photos!



Mystic & Noank Library
40 Library Street
Mystic, CT 06355

Library Fair
2025

