

May  
2025

# Bookends



## FOOD & FUN

HOT DOGS, SOUP, FUDGE!

Live Music!

And lots  
more!



## Mystic Garden Club

Big selection of  
plants &  
flowers



**ANNUAL  
SPRING  
FAIR**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7  
9:00am to 2:00pm**

White Elephant  
Treasures  
Galore!

Special Children's Section  
Toys, Toys, Toys



**JEWELRY**

## **Silent Auction**

Begins  
May 26!

\*\*\*\*\*

Bidding closes  
at 2:00pm  
on Fair Day, June 7



## **HUGE BOOK SALE**

### Preview Party

Thursday, June 5 ~ 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 9 to Saturday, June 14, during  
regular Library hours but closing at  
Noon on Saturday.

Most items are half price on Friday,  
and Saturday will be the \$5 fill-a-bag  
sale! Bags provided.



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

Happy Springtime to all Library Lovers! We've had quite a lively jaunt since last October. Busy, busy times for all the *Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library*! We helped with "*All Things Pumpkin*" for Halloween with cookies and small pumpkins for the kiddies. Then, we moved on to the Yuletide with our *Like New Book Sale* for holiday gifts and beyond. So many volunteers helped to make a great success. We welcomed the many music lovers to the Library's Concert Series throughout the year. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!

Next came the *Indoor Yard Sale* in March along with the fun *Edible Books* and the



annual *Friends of the Library Book Cart Team* during the Mystic Irish Parade. The *Art Sale* followed in

the Ames Room during the month of April.

Because the *Friends* worked so hard on all these events, we contributed \$10,000 in matching funds to *Library Giving Day* in

late April.

Phew! So many wonderful volunteers giving their time and efforts and having fun all the while!



Why not join us for the **Annual Spring Fair on June 7 and the Week-Long Book Sale** that continues to June 14.

Our next *Friends'* meeting is June 23. Please join us!

## FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**Sign up sheet** available at the copier machine near the circulation desk for hours before, during & after the Fair.

**PLUS,**

help needed during the week-long  
**BOOK SALE.**

If you would prefer to signup electronically, email: [friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org](mailto:friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org) to request certain shifts. We will confirm your choices



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*Shh...*

(Continuing series about Library Directors...)

When Richard Arms became Board President in 1984, he challenged the Library Board to start a major campaign to raise money to increase the size of the Library building. Shelves of books were crowded and programming space was limited. The Board accepted his challenge and began an effort that would take over 8 years to complete.

It became a community effort with neighborhood informational gatherings, newspaper coverage and surveys to determine what the Board should consider including in their expanded facility. The main issues



proved to be moving the children's room onto the first floor; no more climbing to the second floor for books and programming. The second priority identified was to provide a meeting

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



room for public as well as Library use.

Committees were formed to address specific issues. Fundraising was put into "full speed ahead". Board members approached the towns of Groton and Stonington for support in this effort. Both towns responded to the request; now it was time to come up with a definite plan.

A building committee was formed and an architect hired. Charles King of Avon, CT was hired because of his extensive history of restoring old buildings with a reputation of adding an addition that melded so well that people often questioned the different dates of construction. The initial plan called for an underground addition off the East wall of the building. This was the only space available for increasing the building's footprint.

*(to be continued..)*

The Friends of the Library welcomes  
**DONATIONS OF BOOKS &  
WHITE ELEPHANT items**  
(in good condition)

for our annual June Fair fundraiser,  
on June 7.

Please bring your donations anytime to the  
Library & leave on the bench near circulation.





## **From Festival to Fair**

This year's Annual Spring Fair will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 9 am - 2 pm.

Newcomers to the area might wonder how many years this event has been held. According to an article in the April 1979 *Friends'* newsletter, the first Spring Festival was held on Saturday, June 2, 1979 from 11 am - 4 pm. It was organized by the *Friends* to be a part of the larger Mystic Spring Festival, coordinated through the Chamber of



Commerce, held May 26 - June 3, to celebrate the 325th anniversary of Mystic.

The Festival was intended to focus public attention on the Library and its services, facilities

and needs, both indoors and on the grounds. Some parts of the Festival will be familiar to current Fair goers - the Book Sale and the Plant Table supplied by the Mystic Garden Club are still main attractions of the Fair. There was also a Bake Sale (which ended with COVID), and games of skill as well as an hourly film program for the children, a Silent Auction, crafts demonstrations and music, as well as punch and cookies, made for a fine day as reported in the next issue of the newsletter (October 1979) which states "The buyers were enthusiastic, the weather was beautiful and the workers were generous with their time and talents." The profits from the first "Spring Fling" as it was then named, "totalled over \$500, which was used for special projects for the Library."

(cont, on p.8)

## **The Universe, One Verse**

We are the universe.

We are one verse.

We are never not  
expanding, contracting, expanding.

We are a womb  
always in the throes  
of giving birth,  
our father, the elements.

Each of us is a word  
in the universe,  
the one verse,  
each of our lives  
a living, breathing line  
in the one verse  
of the ever-unfinished poem,  
each of us a necessary word  
in a necessary line,  
because we are,  
because we cannot not be.

Each of us is the word  
we were born to be.  
Let it become  
a word of praise.

by Philip Kuepper  
Librarian & Resident Poet

MYSTIC & NOANK  
LIBRARY

*Spring*  
**SOIREE**

5:30-7:30PM  
HALEY MANSION  
AT THE INN AT MYSTIC

**MAY**  
**30**

LIVE JAZZ  
WINE PULL

LIVE JAZZ BY MAMA TRAIN | WINE PULL  
SILENT AUCTION | HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES  
PADDLE RAISE TO SUPPORT THE MNL



Purchase  
Tickets





## The Library Development Committee

Spring has sprung, and we are very hopeful that you will join us for a festive evening in support of our cherished Mystic & Noank Library. Our newest fundraising event is called the **Spring Soiree**, and it will be held on **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm at Haley Mansion** at the Inn at Mystic. Enjoy a full floral theme, delicious and bountiful hors d'oeuvres and the live jazz sounds of Mama Train. This evening will be a great time for a great cause.

Grab a libation at the cash bar and then browse and bid on dozens of incredible silent auction items. Participate in our exciting Wine Pull where every ticket is a winner of a lovely bottle of wine, but some will be big winners going home with very special prized vintages. And, we'll have a Paddle Raise where you can support some of the Mystic & Noank Library

programs and projects that are most meaningful to you. Most importantly—we will all have a wonderful time together enjoying the company of fellow members of our special community and welcoming in “the season” together.

Tickets are \$125 for the evening. Just go to the Mystic & Noank Library website and click on the Spring Soiree button on the home page to purchase your tickets today before they sell out.

Thank you in advance for all you do for our beloved Library!

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

## Spring Soiree!



Food



Fun Time

Fine Wine



*Christine Bradley,  
Library Director*

What's going on with federal funding for libraries in CT?

In **1964**, President Johnson signed into law the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

LSCA operated from **1964 to 1996** (Yours truly was the CT State Library's LSCA coordinator in 1979, when the State Library received a little over \$1 million from LSCA.) LSCA was replaced by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

The Museum and Library Services Act of **1996** transferred library programs from the Department of Education to IMLS.

The Museum and Library Services Act of **2003** updated the Act and increased the basic grant to a state library.

In **December 2010**, President Obama signed The Reauthorization of Museum and Library Services Act of **2010**.

On March 14, **2025**, President Trump issued an Executive Order intended to dismantle seven federal agencies, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

**On April 4, 2025**, the Connecticut State Library received Notice of Termination of Federal IMLS

Grant. Under this grant, the State Library was awarded \$2,164,184 to support the statewide library services, programs, and infrastructure that enable information and education access to the people of Connecticut. More than 56 percent of that funding has yet to be sent to Connecticut.

Since 1997, Connecticut's libraries and museums have received more than \$90,000,000 through IMLS.

The CT State Library has not yet made a decision about their federal budget, but these are recent LSTA-supported projects that have benefited MNL:

- **Professional Development Webinars**
- **E-Rate Programs for libraries to improve broadband access**
- **Statewide Delivery system (1.5 million library items to 215 public and academic libraries in FY24)**
- **Statewide library catalog for patrons to access items from across CT with a single search**
- **Statewide eBook Platform of 50,000 books for CT residents**





**Connie Readett**  
**Library Assistant**



## OPEN BOOK



How delightful to sit down with Connie, whom I have only known in passing, to find out what an interesting life story she has.

Connie and our Roberta Donahue, Assistant Library Director, raised their boys together, entrenched in the worlds of Legos and other such childhood wonders. So when there was a staffing opening after Covid hit, Roberta called Connie to see if she would like to help as a substitute. That eventually led to a part-time-permanent position of Library Assistant. She will soon become the Young Services Associate this summer when she retires from her career as Physical Therapist.

OK, slight rewind: Connie grew up in Huntington, Long Island and studied to become a Physical Therapist at Stony Brook University. While she was working at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in NYC, she met the Pediatric Oncologist, David Readett, whose patients she helped treat. The synergy connected! He is

English, so after they were married, they moved to the UK, where they lived all around the country, including Wales, for twelve years, as he treated patients wherever the need called him. Their son Tom was born and lived there until he was three years old, when they all returned to the States.

Fortunately for us, they returned to settle in Mystic, as it was a convenient location to help care for Connie's mother on Long Island as well as be in touch with relatives between there and Boston. Her husband is now retired from Pfizer, and Connie has been practicing PT in the LEARN schools. Their son is the cellist and founder of the Mystic Chamber Music Series, and has performed here at the Library. A literary, musical and scientific family - that about covers all bases!

Look for Connie around the Library more this summer - and say hello!

*by Dana Semeraro*  
*Friend of the Library*





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*(cont. from p.4)*

The Spring Fair has gone through some changes over the years; some important additions such as the White Elephant area, Franklin's fudge, the Food Booth make the Fair even better. And the monies raised have gone up substantially.

I believe only 2020 had no Spring Fair, but this year will be #45! It is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the *Friends*, who use the money raised to support our wonderful Library, but it is also a part of the tapestry of Mystic, our amazing local community.

*by Peggy Brissette*

The Friends of the Library welcomes  
**DONATIONS OF JEWELRY**  
that you no longer want for our annual  
fundraiser, the June Fair on June 7.  
Please bring your donation to the  
library and help us  
continue our  
important work.

