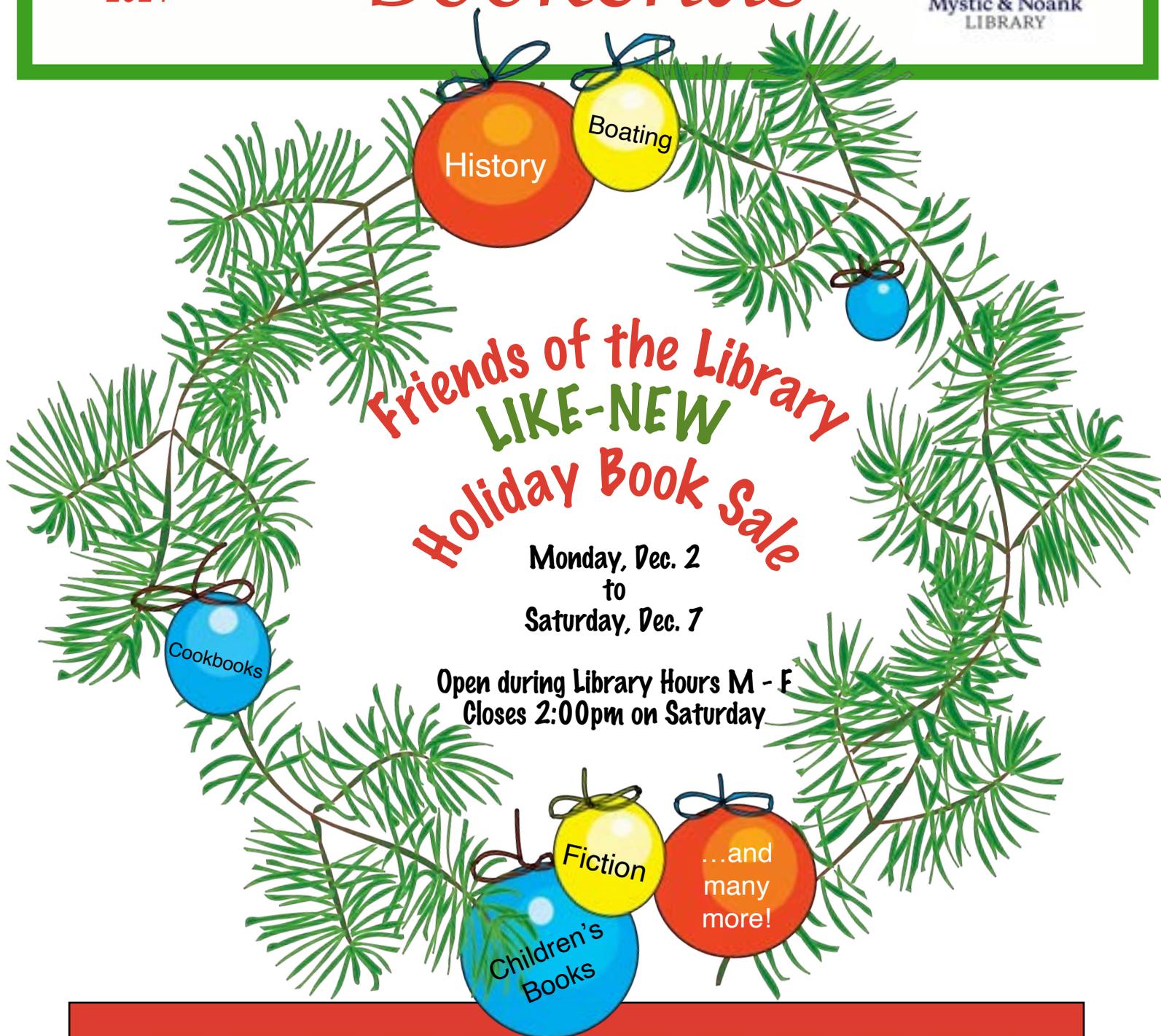


November
2024

Bookends



Friends of the Library
LIKE-NEW
Holiday Book Sale

Monday, Dec. 2
to
Saturday, Dec. 7

Open during Library Hours M - F
Closes 2:00pm on Saturday

Books & Gifts Galore!

Plus, a variety of gently-used items and decorations
Located in the Ames & Activity Rooms

Volunteers needed. Please email:
friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org





Words from the Co-Presidents
Kathy Busse & Patricia Menno-Coveney

**"He's making a LIST, checking it TWICE,
BOOKS, books, books at JUST THE RIGHT price!
Friends' LIKE-NEW BOOK SALE is back!"**

Come to the LIKE-NEW BOOK SALE on Dec. 2 – Dec. 7. A terrific selection of used books in excellent condition all organized for your shopping convenience - all at terrific prices. More books are added each day so check in often. Plus there will be one-of-a-kind items to buy for friends or family – or for yourself!

We invite volunteers to help us set up on Monday, Nov. 25 and Tuesday, Nov. 26 to prepare for this Big Event. In addition, we need volunteers throughout the Sale Week. Please sign up by the Circulation Desk or email: friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org.

We had perfect weather for our annual *All Things Pumpkin*. There was terrific turnout of children and adults who enjoyed the outdoor performance of Magician Ed Pop. With the assistance of children from the audience, Mr. Pop managed to dazzle with slight-of-hand and to elicit giggles at the same time.

After the performance, homemade cookies and cider donated by Clyde's Cider Mill awaited for all in attendance. And each child went home with a miniature "pumpkin". Our thanks to Peggy Brissette for arranging the extra goodies with Mary Drake pouring the cider, Patricia M-C handing out pumpkins, and Peggy's sister-in-law helping with setup and clean up.

With the holiday season here, it's a good time to pause and give thanks. We all enjoy many blessings, among them our amazing Mystic & Noank Library. With books nestled in an incredible architectural setting and a reading room that exudes comfort and calm along with a bright and welcoming children's room, visiting the Library is a fun and relaxing experience.

But all would be for naught without the exceptional library staff, ready and able to assist. Special thanks to

Christine Bradley, our Library Director, and Roberta Donahue, Assistant Library Director and Head of Youth Services. They keep everything running smoothly – acquisitions, programs, technology, advocacy, and so many other details too numerous to list. With that in mind, please join us in giving thanks and supporting the Annual Library Fund.

Come experience the fun and join the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library. Our next meeting will be January 8, 2025 at 1:00pm in the Ames Room.





Shh...

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

I thought, for a change, that instead of recounting the changes in the Library in the 1980s, I would use this space to reminisce about the late 70s and early 80s. It is my hope that it will move some of you to share some of your memories of the Library at that time and we can reminisce together.

What popped into my head last night was the memory of the meeting room that was created in the storage room behind the children's room on the second floor. A friend of mine worked at a furniture store in Norwich and got the Library a great deal on an orange shag rug and some sturdy chairs and a loveseat. The room became a gathering place for meetings, studying, local history research and quietly sitting in the bay window.

You either LOVED or HATED the orange shag rug! I loved it.

I am not sure whether the Friends donated the money or if it was a grant, but we purchased two 16 millimeter projectors and had a weekly Library movie night. We got the black and white films from the CT State Library on Interlibrary loan and were very pleased to provide seamless viewing of these classic films.

The result was a wonderful series of family nights at the Library. People sat on the floor,

brought their own popcorn and really enjoyed the series.

Some of you who are reading this may remember what films we watched and I hope you will share that information with the rest of us. I hope also that you will share other memories of that time.....like the pale green walls in the children's room.....thoughts about Mrs. Lamb and the children's room.....the drop ceiling.

Please email the Friends at the provided address (see below) and I will recount all of the shares in the next newsletter. I want to thank you all for the good memories I have of that time.





Board of Trustees Co-Presidents



Caitlin McEachern Wroblewski,
Co-President

Caitlin is entering her 2nd term as a member of the MNL Board of Trustees. She has chaired the Development Committee for three years, most notably launching and growing our popular annual Author Talk fundraiser. Originally from New Hampshire, Caitlin has lived in Mystic for 6 years—a place she loves and supports in many ways. She lives with her husband, Chris, and puppies, Popeye and Sweet Pea. Caitlin has her Master's Degree in Education and began her career as an elementary school teacher. Caitlin currently enjoys a challenging and exciting role as District Sales Lead for pharmaceutical company UCB, managing sales staff across New England and Long Island. Caitlin's husband, Chris, serves on the MNL Building and Grounds Committee. Together, they also volunteer for Church of the City community meal program in New London. Caitlin enjoys running, reading, boating, travel, volunteering, entertaining and spending time with friends and family.



Mary Tullis Engvall,
Co-President

Mary is entering her 3rd year on the MNL Board of Trustees. She has served on the Development Committee and, as Secretary, she helped re-launch and chair the Governance Committee. Mary's family began vacationing in GLP when she was a baby, and eventually her parents moved here permanently from New Jersey. Her father, Bob Tullis, served as president of the Board of Trustees from 1991-1993. Mary and her husband Bob raised their three sons in Canton, CT and in Noank during the summer months.



They made Noank their main home in 2019 and now spend the winter months in Rancho Mirage, CA. She attended Connecticut College and has her MSc in social responsibility and sustainability from Aston University in the UK. Mary recently retired from Cigna where she served as Senior Director of Corporate Responsibility. She also volunteers for The Nature Conservancy's Women in Climate group. Mary enjoys tennis, pickleball, golf, hiking, reading, boating, outings with friends and as much time as she can possibly get with her three adult sons.



Words from our Director, Christine Bradley

The Annual Appeal 2024

This year's annual appeal began on September 7 and concludes on December 3, which is Giving Tuesday (and also our Holiday Open House). The Annual Appeal is our biggest fundraiser. Our goal this year is \$150,000. The Library's income comes from three sources: municipal funding from Groton and Stonington, an annual



draw from our endowment, and annual fundraising, which includes revenue from events like the Annual Author Event as well as the Annual Appeal.

The Annual Appeal is the way that all of us can participate in supporting the Library.

I'm always surprised at how many people think that our funding comes from state and municipal governments when actually



that combined contribution is less than 30% of our total revenue.

This is why the 2024 Annual Appeal is so important. We depend on it to keep the lights on, the roof repaired, and, yes, to buy books and other library materials.

No one likes to ask for money, certainly not me. But for the Mystic & Noank Library's Annual Appeal, I make an exception.





The Cellar Dwellers

With Halloween in the rearview mirror, perhaps the term “Cellar Dwellers” won’t conjure up anything too spooky or scary. But what are they and what do they do?

The Library is very lucky to have people like you who drop off donations of many kinds. These



donations are taken to the basement where the Cellar Dwellers spring into action to sort, price and get things ready for one of the Friends’ book sales or add to the White Elephant tent at the Friends’ Annual Spring Fair, among other events.

There are currently around 10 Friends who are Cellar Dwellers. They have specific “jobs” to do year-round. Some people like to go in when others are there for a more social time while others go in by themselves as it fits their schedules. Barbara sorts and prices trade paperbacks, spirituality and computer books. Anne-Marie focuses on travel, of course. Penny and Susanne maintain the \$1 bookshelves near the stairs to the second floor. Judy

prices jewelry as well as children’s books, with the help of Rosemary. Sharon does the cookbooks, and Ann does a fabulous job sorting the paperbacks for the June sale. Rosemary and Dave do the art books. Sandie gathers the Like-New books. Sandie and Dave also sort and price most of the White Elephant and Indoor Yard Sale items, in addition to selling some of the better quality and more expensive books on eBay.

Some books end up on the FREE BOOKS shelves under the stairs at the Library or are donated to Groton Human Services or pop up in the Little Free Library at the Mystic Y which is stocked by another volunteer as needed. Those items that are too damaged end up being disposed of in one way or another.

(Cont. page 8)





It's great to be a Friend!

A sample of some of the things the Friends do to support our Library month by month:

November/December – *LIKE-NEW Book Sale and Holiday Gifts*
(this year, Dec. 2 – Dec. 7)

December – *assisting with the Open House*
(this year Dec. 3 5:00pm -7:00pm)

March – *Indoor Yard Sale*
Edible Book Festival
Friends' Library Cart Drill Team at the Mystic Irish Parade

April – *month-long Art Sale*

May - *Silent Auction*

June – *Annual Spring Fair (first Saturday in June) & Week-Long Book Sale*

September – *Free Craft Exchange*

October – *assist with All Things Pumpkin*

And then we start all over again!

- *In addition, Friends help with "meet & greet" when there are music concerts or other events*
- *Cookie bakers are in demand for special Library occasions*
- *And the year-round Cellar Dwellers, sorting books & other items (see article)*

Poems to Ponder

From the Oregon Diaries

**Rosemary and basil
haven't ever gone together.
And the sage knew
this was no thyme to start.**

This House, Democracy

This is the house democracy builds
of a choice of materials.
There are bricks. There is steel.
There is cardboard.
Wood is plentiful.
These are the stuffs of principles.
Principles of cardboard would
not stand up against rain.
Wood, worms would find
ideal accommodations.
Bricks would bicker with mortar.
Steel, strong, sturdy,
yet flexible in all
conditions, suits democracy,
girds it, clads it
with a durability,
meant to weather whatever
is thrown at it,
steely principles, that is,
on which to build
what is meant to last.

*by Philp Kuepper
Resident Poet & Librarian*



Bookends



(Cont. from p.6) The busiest times for the Cellar Dwellers are before the two annual book sales. These require all hands on deck to bring books up from the cellar, set them up in the Ames Room, staff the week-long sales and then disperse unsold books when the sale ends.

More volunteers are always welcome to join this group and find a way to help keep the cellar organized for the next event. If you have an interest in helping, please email friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org and we will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

by Peggy Brissette, Friend
with help from the Cellar Dwellers

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Mystic & Noank Library
40 Library Street
Mystic, CT 06355