

August  
2024

# Bookends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library



CRAFT  
EXCHANGE

8th Annual  
Friends' **FREE**



Saturday, September 14  
10:00am 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 or pick up supplies for charities, for school, or for yourself!



Email [friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org](mailto:friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org) with questions.

All Things Pumpkin!

MAGIC with ED POP

A fun-filled family magic show with TREATS  
Saturday, Oct. 5 \* 3:30 - 4:30pm



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

All hands on deck – or all hands at the Library Fair. We, co-presidents, are soooooo grateful to all the volunteers who helped with setting up, manning the tables, and taking down all the stuff the day of the Fair.

Of course, a lot of planning and organizing takes place ahead of the Fair – actually months in advance. Special shout-out to Peggy Brissette who does a lot of the coordinating with the wonderful



Mystic Garden Club and arranging food with Jealous Monk restaurant and working with the Mystic Chamber of Commerce to display our banner in downtown

Mystic as well as

the one in Groton on Poquonnock through Groton Public Utilities.

Then there is the entertainment with music and dance, plus this year the Mystic Calligraphers joined us. They designed individual bookmarks for those who attended. And fudge, it wouldn't be the Library Fair without the delicious, donated fudge from Franklin's General Store. So generous!

Shout-out to Sandie Scott, as well, who coordinates our volunteer "Cellar dwellers". They



catalog all the donated books so they are ready for our amazing Book Sale during and right after the



Fair. In addition, Sandie oversees the popular White Elephant items that are collected and sorted throughout the year in anticipation of the Fair.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the hard-working Friends' friends!

And to those who attended and purchased any items, we thank you too for another very successful Fair. All proceeds benefit the Library and, therefore, you!

Please join us for our next Library Friends' meeting on August 19 at 1:00pm.



## Shh...

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

First a word of joy and thanks. "The Descendants of Robert Burrows" is back on the shelf and available for research. YIPPEE!!!!

The next Head Librarian came in 1972 from Waterford Public Library, where she was acting Children's Librarian. Joanna Case, joined a staff of three: Bette Lamb (Children's Librarian), Fran Spear and Elsie Wilson (circulation clerks in the adult section). At this time the downstairs was for the adult collection and the Children's section shared the second floor with a large room in the back which stored original book cases, local history books and National Geographic from the beginning bound by half year in green tape.

Two decisions were made soon after Joanna came. The first was to allow the staff to wear pants (not a pantsuit) and the second was to replace the old nylon stockings, that bound the magazines, with some elastic from Gingham Gate.

As a couple of part-timers were added to the staff, it was decided to stay open during the lunch and dinner hours. Prior to that the Library closed for an hour so the staff could go home to eat their meals. A regular weekly schedule was set at M-T-W of 1-9, and Th-F & Sa 10-5. This schedule lasted for many years.

Papers of Federation were signed between Groton Public Library and Mystic & Noank Library.

This document noted the intent to work together to provide library service to the Town of Groton residents. Groton would remain the Main Library and Mystic would provide service primarily to the Mystic area, but all residents were allowed to use both libraries. This was a good foundation for the state-wide programs that were established with Target '76 and later with computerized circulation systems.

The Board decided to rethink their numbers and their term of service on the Board. A Statement of Reincorporation was drawn up. This resulted in their tenure being limited to two three-year terms rather than life. It would further increase the Board to seven members adding a Mystic resident from each side of the river.

Dewey joined the Library staff in the late 1970s. Joanna and Bette had walked downtown to view the results of a fire from the evening before and found a very small dirty black and white kitten cowering in a doorway. They brought him back to the Library where he lived happily for awhile. As you know from an earlier Bookends article, Dewey was an escape artist. His nightly escapades led to his moving in with the Durrschmidts on New London Road after not too many years. The staff and patrons missed him, but he stopped in periodically to visit.

(cont. p.8)



## OPEN BOOK

**Loriannelle Figueroa,  
Library Assistant**



When you see Loriannelle, or “Lori,” at the Front Desk, you see a helpful, cheerful Latin-American young woman to whom you might say “hello,” or “Buenos días.” But that is only the beginning of her story.

While teaching K-3 in Puerto Rico, she was encouraged to study library science, as she showed an aptitude for it. Her mother was a teacher and had helped her learn English at home, knowing it would be vital to a future career. By writing words in large chalk letters on the walls, she taught



Loriannelle to learn new words everyday. So when she was later in California with her husband in the military, taking ESL in San Diego, she found herself helping to teach the other students as she was learning English herself. One elderly woman especially struck a chord in her heart. She had passed written tests but kept failing the oral test to get her green card. Lori worked with her, and the day she arrived at Lori’s door with flowers and a huge grin, Lori knew they had both succeeded.

Traveling around the states with her husband, she fell in love with Mystic and told him, “THAT is where I want to live!” She watched the Irish Parade and walked past our wonderful brick building saying she wanted to know more about it when she

returned. She felt the “vibe” of Mystic was peaceful, calm and enticing - “like a romance movie!”

Although it would be eight years before they could move to Mystic from California, Lori inquired and was hired at the Library three years ago. Realizing the lack of programs for teaching children Spanish, she saw the need for a bilingual program. There are now ten people in the class, including parents, which is offered in Spring, Summer and Fall. When she hears them all repeating the words in Spanish, it warms her heart. Like her mother, she is a natural teacher.

Lori may be a romantic, but her love story is also one of affirmative action! She fell in love with her (now) husband at school in Puerto Rico when they got to know each other well as friends. After going off to the military, he finally wrote to say he would now like to start dating her seriously. Her answer was an emphatic, “No! I’ll see you when you show up with a ring and ask for my hand!” And soon, he did! They have been married fifteen years.

Lori loves creativity, music and dance. Don’t expect her to stay still if the music is playing! Come and join her enthusiasm, and learn some Spanish as well!

*by  
Dana Semeraro  
Friend of the Library*



*Words from our Director, Christine Bradley*

Another Night to Remember!

For my last *Bookends* column, I wrote about an Evening of Poetry which we hosted in the Spicer Reading Room in April. Now, coming up in September, we have another magical night to look forward.

On **Saturday, September 7**, the Library is sponsoring our third annual Evening with an Author fundraising event at Snediker Yacht Restoration in Old Mystic.

This event will definitely be a night to remember, as well as an important fundraiser for the Library. Our trustees are out and about, working diligently to secure even more event sponsorships than we had last year.

Our 2024 author is Hampton Sides. His most recent work is *The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook*. We are fortunate that, once again, Rick Koster, *The Day's* entertainment writer, will engage the author in conversation and ask all of the

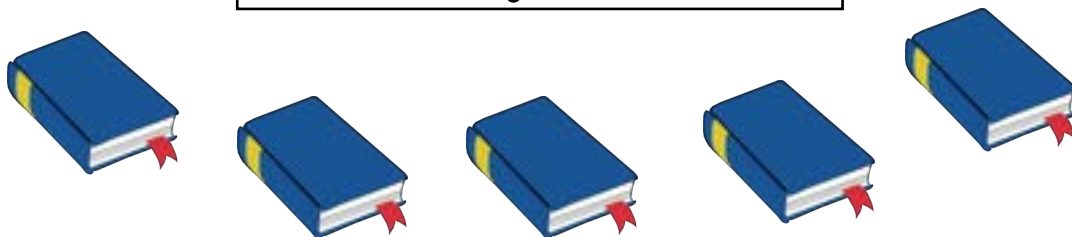
questions that we have on our minds.

I just finished this recent book of Sides, and I can tell you, I am not a sailor (or an explorer, more of a couch potato), but I enjoyed every swashbuckling minute. Sides has made history come alive once again, as he did with *Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for his Assassin*, *Ghost Soldiers: The Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Mission*, and *In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeanette*, among other works from one of our finest narrative nonfiction writers.



Hampton Sides

## Library Services



In my last letter to Bookends I wrote about the importance of book clubs and the service we offer to support them. Now that you know we can offer multiple copies, you might be curious how we get them.

Did you know that with your Mystic & Noank Library card you can check out books from any library in the state? Similarly, if you check out a book from a different library you can return it to us, and we will send it back. This is possible because we have a delivery service (deliverIT CT) that runs every business day.

With this service, we can also request items from other libraries through Interlibrary Loan (ILL). This is all done behind the scenes through email, our statewide catalog findIT, or ILLiad which gives us access to academic libraries. When searching for obscure items we often check WorldCat to see where we might be able to track them down!

When it comes to book clubs, we are careful to suggest books that we can easily find. I am always happy to do a preliminary search and suggest dates for reading. However, many book clubs are enthusiastic about reading NYT bestsellers, or those (pesky) red-hot books that just seem to stay on the hold list for ages.

If a book club is set on a brand new title, we always recommend checking our digital service offerings. The library currently offers Hoopla, Libby, and our newest favorite: The Palace App. Palace is exciting because it houses the shared eBook collection for the state library! Brand new and popular titles are often available to borrow with no wait (and the best part? It's free to the Library).

I would be remiss if I didn't share my love for our small and mighty consortium which consists of the Groton Public Library, Bill Memorial Library, and Waterford Public Library. They are the first we reach out to when you request a book we don't own, or when book clubs need multiple copies. A huge perk, Groton Public Library shelves a great collection of book discussion sets. Interested in seeing what they have? Stop by the circ desk for a full list—it's great if you're looking for good recommendations or last minute book club picks!

*by*  
*Rebecca Spera*  
*Circulation Supervisor*

## Poetry Page!

### Predicament

I awakened to light  
so delicate  
it lay like gold leaf  
on the sheet covering me.  
I lay still for fear  
it would flake if I moved.  
I thought,  
'How to slip out  
from under the cover of light,  
without tearing it?'

### Presentiment

Just now as I was writing  
the word "visible",  
my pen ran out of ink.

by Philp Kuepper  
Resident Poet & Librarian

### Mind Scene

*Low, indolent waves lay  
the grey-silk sea  
beneath a lowering  
sky, brow-burdened,  
heavy with cloud.  
Two men stand  
fishing from a small boat  
amidst the immense  
expanse of water,  
water inching indolently  
the boat in a quarter circle.  
No play engages their lines,  
no dialogue between fish and man.  
Rain spits on the sea,  
like a vagrant on pavement,  
leaves viscous the already  
viscous scene. The sea  
washes away the spits of rain,  
while half-a-dozen cormorants  
stand watching from rocks.  
They stand still as the men in the boat,  
their ink-black silhouettes  
woven on the silk of the sea.  
It is this scene my mind rises to the surface of,  
as I swim out of the depths  
of a moment of profound meditation,  
while sitting in my car parked at the shore*

## Shh...

cont. from p.3

1979 was the rebirth of the Friends of the Library. Gerry Johnson and Ken Bitting were the spearheads of the group which is still helping the Library today. They started with volunteering at the Library and expanded into fundraising with a book sale and a "Spring Fling". They were an important force in increasing the visibility of the Library in the community.

## *A Peek at the Past*

Reviews  
By Barbara Geoghegan

This time I am going to review *Robin's Country*, by Monica Furlong. Yes, this book is about Robin Hood but it is NOT a silly, pointless spoof. It's about how one day, an abused little boy (Dummy) that is running from his master stumbles into the den of Robin Hood and his band of merry men. Because Dummy can't talk, it's virtually impossible for him to tell his side of the story ; and is assumed to be a spy. He has to learn to get along with the slightly cold Marian (who is a tomboy in this story) and shoot a perfect arrow. Dummy learns a lot about himself. I could not put this book down. I read it in one night. You HAVE to read this, it's terrific! Two thumbs up for *Robin's Country*, by Monica Furlong.

(discovered from an old Friends' newsletter of March 1997. Barbara G. was only 11 years-old!)



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