

May
2023

Bookends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library



Join us for the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library



ANNUAL SPRING FAIR

**Saturday, June 3, 2023
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
RAIN or SHINE!**

Includes...

Silent Auction (begins mid-May - ends June 3 at 2:00 pm)

Books - for all ages!

White Elephant - jewelry- toys - puzzles - music albums & CDs - and lots more!

**Plants & Flowers & related items - by the Mystic Garden Club,
generous partners every year**

FOOD - featuring Mystic Soup Company & more!

Mystic Garland Dancers

Week Long BOOK SALE



**Preview Party Friday ~ June 2, 2023 ~ 5 to 7 pm ~ \$5 admission.
All items 50% OVER marked prices.**

Book Sale continues Saturday 9:30 am – 2:30 pm during the Fair

**Monday June 5 – Saturday June 10, Book Sale continues during regular Library hours
Most items 50% off on Thursday and Friday. Saturday \$5 bag sale, ends at 1 pm**



*Volunteers needed before, during, and after the Fair!
Stop by the Library to sign up or
Email friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org for more info*



Words from our President, Sally Salancy



It's Spring and the Friends of Mystic & Noank Library have been busy!

On Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18, the Friends held our traditional *Indoor Yard Sale*, netting just under \$1,600. Then, on Sunday, March 19, the Friends' Library Cart Drill Team marched in the *Mystic Irish Parade*, winning "Most Unique" for the second time. For the record, our team won "Best Community Group" in 2015, and "Most Gregarious Unit" in 2017. We believe the Library Cart Drill Team's marching in the Irish Parade is a great way to remind a large audience of our wonderful library.

Two weeks later, on Sunday, April 2, Friends and patrons of MNL joined Friends from the other two Groton libraries for our 14th *Edible Book Festival!* Covid had prevented this event from happening for three years in a row, so we were very pleased to have about

ninety people in attendance, many of them experiencing the Festival for the first time. There were two dozen Edible Book entries from individuals and many from students and their families. All were delicious and it was a big success!

Finally, on Monday, April 3, our month-long *Art Sale* opened. We are so glad to return to our pre-Covid activities, especially with some new faces in attendance!

The Friends hold some programs for fun, like marching in the *Irish Parade* and co-sponsoring *Edible Books*, while other programs, like our *Book Sales*, *Silent Auction*, and *June Fair* exist mostly to raise money to support MNL's needs. Would you like to join us in some way? Pick up a Friends' brochure which has more information.

See you at the Library!



Shh...

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

As we pick up in the progression of Librarians at the Mystic & Noank Library, the residents and the economy are recovering from World War II, and changes are being made. In 1947 the Mystic & Noank Library hired their first married woman as Librarian. Mrs. Doris Rollinson was born in Massachusetts and made her way to Connecticut with her husband, Walter, an electrical contractor. His business was on Main Street in Mystic. Doris was listed as a stenographer at Paper Tube Company in the 1930 census and in 1940 she was listed as a bookkeeper at a grocery store. Early on the family lived on Hatch Street with an aunt and later moved to Irving Street.

increased. She had both an aide, Mrs. Goldthwaite, and some pages. It was during her tenure that the Board decided to open the library on both floors. In 1951 books and shelving were moved to the first floor in the former public meeting hall. The kitchen was converted into an office and rest room. The Children's section was set up in the opposite corner near the windows looking out to the UBC.

In 1958 the Board started discussions about expanding the library to include the second floor.

(to be continued...)

During Mrs. Rollinson's time at the library the staff

Open Book

As the first of what we hope will be fun and enlightening interviews with people here at the Mystic & Noank Library, we are starting with Sally Salancy, President of the Friends of MNL.

In 2006, Sally and her husband, Bill, were looking to retire to a place to satisfy both of their requirements: a wonderful library with an active Friends group for Sally and a vibrant museum for Bill. After exploring seacoast towns in Maine and Connecticut, they were both impressed and thrilled with all Mystic had to offer. While touring MNL, Sally heard how terrific Peggy Brissette was, the then-President of the Friends. So she called her. An hour's conversation convinced her she had found the perfect fit!



Although they moved from Norwalk in June 2006, Sally was committed to finishing her job through the end of the year, taking occasional days off to attend the MNL Friends meetings. Having been the President of the Friends of the Norwalk Public Library, she was experienced and ready to move right into this one. She became President in 2009. (Cont. page 8)



Library Cats

on a chair, in the sun, tucked away in a hiding spot, or for playing with their collection of toys.

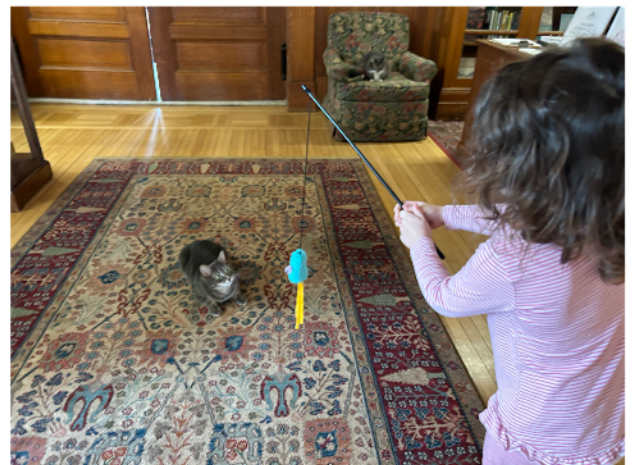
To some of us, cats and the Mystic & Noank Library go together like peanut butter and jelly, or to whatever current pairing you subscribe. There have been several cats who have called the Library their home base over the years and it seems a good time to re-introduce all of them, starting with the most recent additions to the club.

It is such fun to listen to the patrons of all ages who search the upstairs for a sighting and perhaps petting or play session with our two current Library Cats, Matilda and Violet.

The sisters joined the library in March of 2021, having just arrived from their temporary home at the Stonington Animal Control facility. The Library was shut down due to Covid as the sisters settled into their new spacious accommodations. Assumed to be about 2 years old when they arrived, Matilda and Violet are manx cats, so no tail. Violet, with her fluffy fur and white socks and Matilda, more of a typical short-haired tabby cat, have found many spots for napping,

One day, while looking over some books on a cart, I could feel eyes upon me – I looked up and found Matilda, perched on a ledge above the Millstone desk staring down at me. These kitties are climbers! I often wonder what unsuspecting people think when they first arrive upstairs and find a plethora of peculiar items strewn about the floor, only to discover the cats and their many toys! You can find pictures of the sisters on the Library's website, Facebook page, or Instagram where they have a dedicated following!

by Peggy Brissette



It may be that "nobody owns a cat," but scientists now say the popular pet has lived with people for 12,000 years

David Zax, *A Brief History of House Cats*; Smithsonian Magazine, June 30, 2007



Words from our Director, Christine Bradley

The May 1st Keynote Address of the 2023 CT Library Association conference was *Leading Change for the Next Generation of Librarians and their Users*. What does leading change mean in 2023

for the 750 members of the Association, founded in 1875, (even older than the Mystic & Noank Library!) and the almost 200 public libraries in CT?

A look at the conference program tells a lot.

A change for the worse this year was the increase in book banning and censorship, hence the workshops *Writing Responses to Material Challenge* and *The Fearless Guide to Hosting Courageous Conversations*.

It seems that change for the next generation also includes some concerns that are always with us--



Community/School Partnerships, Library Book Sales, Toddler Art, and Middle School Makerspace Ideas. But

that doesn't stop us from embracing the change in our lives, hence *Making Progress on Climate and Equity*,

Adult Programming Through a Social Justice Lens, and *Nama'Stay in my Chair* and many others.

Now that we are (hopefully) beyond Covid, the need to address those buildings to which our users have returned was evident. *It Takes a Village to Raise a Library!* and *Renovating for Future Users* were popular topics as well as *Become a Gigabit Library - New ARPA Funding for High-Speed Fiber Connections!* (M&NL is one of 70 libraries in CT which already has high speed internet through the CT Education Network). Pop Up Libraries

was held in the Mystic Marriott parking lot, featuring M & NL's book bike with our



own Becca Spera.

Technology, public health concerns, wars, economic unrest all create changes to our society. The message to CT librarians at their annual conference was that librarians must provide and demonstrate the leadership needed for next generation of librarians and library users.

*The Pivot to **PROGRAMMING** in the Library World*

by Ery Caswell

You've probably heard the recent adage that libraries "aren't just about books anymore." The Connecticut State Library's annual report data over the years illustrates why.

Statewide, libraries have experienced a dramatic decrease in the circulation of print materials. Meanwhile, the circulation of electronic materials, the number of public access computers, and program attendance have all seen big increases.

These national trends motivate many libraries' emphasis on programming, despite the occasional grumble about too much noise in the library! We've had to adapt to changes in people's information needs and information's ready availability on "the Google."

Compared to the year 2000, MNL has seen a 50% decrease in total circulation of physical (as opposed to digital) materials. In the same time frame, MNL reported an almost 250% increase in the number of program offerings and a pretty astonishing 600% increase in program attendance since 2006 (prior years were unreported).

2021 was the first year MNL reported greater than 10,000 total program attendees since we began keeping track. Even during the pandemic, we were able to reach more people than ever with our program offerings!

As a final comparison, we can look at how MNL's statistics weigh against the average for all Connecticut libraries as calculated on the State Library's annual report.

Despite serving a population roughly 40% smaller than the average library's 21,622, MNL's live program attendance was still 55% higher than the average library.

That tells us two things: we have some pretty passionate and dedicated staff and we are lucky to have a community of supporters, Friends, and library lovers who take the time to check out what's going on each week at the library!





*Linda Kosta,
President
Board of Trustees*

Spring is here and the sun and warmer temperatures are welcome changes in the weather at the Library. Along with the promise of greener grass, summer blooms and the return of outdoor programming, the change also signals the start of the budget season for the Board of Trustees.

Mystic & Noank Library is an Association Library. While we have all of the same expenses as a municipal library, we receive only a portion of our funding from the towns of Groton and Stonington. One third of our funding is derived from the generosity of our patrons. Without the critical support from the Friends of the Library and other patrons and benefactors, the Library would not be able to continue to offer the outstanding selection of programs and services that we have all come to depend upon. Thank you for your continued support.

The Board of Trustees have been working hard this winter to develop and plan some exciting new fundraising events for the summer months ahead. Keep an eye on the Library's event calendar for dates, times, and details. We are looking forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

Planning continues for the development of the Library's grounds for "Library Park." The committee is working diligently to develop a master plan to enhance the Library's programming capabilities as well as enhance the grounds for all of us to enjoy. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Grab a delightful book and go outside to enjoy the sunshine!

Idyll

by Philip Kuepper

**Lapis lay the ocean
an hour after dawn,
its reflection covering us
as we lay asleep a deck.
All was a cream and blue symphony,
the sky, and our skin, cream,
the bay, and the boat's hull, blue,
blue with cream trim.
The soft licks of sunlight on our skin
woke us, like musical notes
being played. We yawned, stood,
stretched, took in shore
and horizon. We were music
being written on the air.
We hummed into the day
preparing coffee in the galley,
we carried to the deck,
and lounged in chairs with.
We sipped the hour, our cups
filled to the brims with time.
Even had we spilled some,
we could afford to waste
a few sips of minutes.
The scene before us?
Ocean, sky, a lone seagull,
like a diacritical mark in flight
over the whole of the composition.
Lounging there, we lost
track of the music, track
of time. It became late too early.
What had become of eternity?**

(Cont. from p.3)

At the Library, Sally runs the Friends meetings, helps with organizing, setting up and taking down all sorts of projects and events, including “All Things Pumpkin” at Halloween, which she and Peggy developed.

A 1965 graduate of Smith College, Sally became a teacher in the Greenwich school system, sharing a house with four other women. One day a cute guy in a Triumph pulled up for a date with one of her roommates. But, lo and behold, she wasn't there. And Sally was! So he asked her if she would like to go for a ride - and they're still riding along together all these years later and still have the TR-4!



As a shout-out to the children's area of our Library, Sally recounted that when she babysat for their grandson, Noah, she used to bring him to storytime, after which there were always projects which he loved to do. When the family moved to NJ, his mother took him to the Princeton library storytime, but they didn't have any projects afterwards. He was very disappointed! (Bravo Mystic & Noank Library!)

by Dana Semeraro

Due to the high cost of print,
please consider receiving the
newsletter via email by
contacting
friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org
Thank you!



Mystic & Noank Library
40 Library Street
Mystic, CT 06355

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