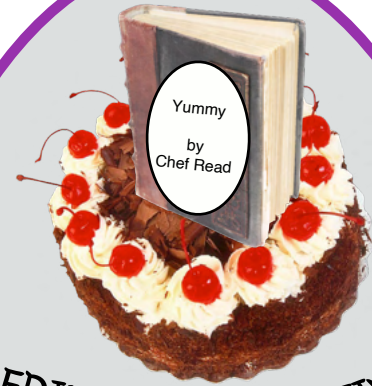


February
2025

Bookends



- Get Ready for
- * Marching
 - * Eating
 - * Bargain-Hunting!



EDIBLE BOOK FESTIVAL

Cook a "book" and share at the
Edible Book Festival
at Groton Library on Saturday,
March 29 at 1:30pm

Please register at your library
by March 24
(see entry form page 6)
Sponsored by
Friends of Mystic & Noank Library
&
Groton Public Library
Circle of Friends



Mystic Irish Parade

Cheer on our very own Friends'
Synchronized Library Cart Team
as they twirl & zigzag along the
parade route, proudly
representing
Mystic & Noank Library!
Sunday, March 23 at 1:00pm

FRIENDS' ANNUAL

INDOOR
YARD
SALE

TOYS

HOUSHOLD ITEMS

ANTIQUES

GAMES

JIGSAW PUZZLES

MUSIC CDs

**LOTS
LOTS
MORE!**

We welcome donations in good condition
(no furniture or clothes, please)

Friday, March 28 10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday, March 29 10:00am - 12:00pm



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

Every year the week after Thanksgiving the Friends offer donated books for sale in excellent



condition so you can get a great deal! If you missed it this past time, The Friends had a

wonderful LIKE-NEW Book Sale with many happy customers getting a headstart on holiday presents for family and friends - and for themselves! We are grateful for the support we receive from the community to help us with this week-long sale.

Do you like jewelry? We like JEWELRY, too! If you have costume jewelry you no longer wear, please consider donating it to The Friends. It will be priced and sold at the Yard Sale, June Fair or LIKE-NEW Book Sale. People love buying the jewelry and all proceeds go back to the library. Jewelry can be dropped off by

the circulation desk or by contacting the Friends (see email info below)

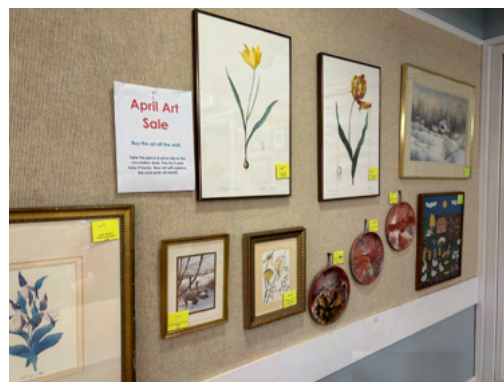


In addition to the events taking place in March, don't miss out on the

Friends' Art Sale in April.

Many delightful pieces of donated art will be displayed in the Ames Room during the month of April. Come by and admire the paintings and pottery and other unique pieces. And, if you like any of them, you can purchase them! The price is right!

Join us for our next Friends' meeting on Monday, March 17 at 1:00pm at the Library!



Shh...

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

(Continuing series about Library Directors...)

The 1980s brought major changes to the daily operation of the Library. The Library began to use computers. Mystic was very fortunate to be asked to join the Groton-Waterford Circulation System, mainly due to Mystic & Noank Library's relationship with Groton Public Library. This provided the expertise Mystic & Noank Library needed in order to make the leap to a computerized circulation system.

This alliance opened a whole new world for the staff and the patrons. Once the local collection had been barcoded and entered into the joint circulation system, all the books from all three libraries became readily available. It was no longer necessary to call and see if one of the other libraries owned the title, and whether or not it was on the shelf. The information was there on the terminal and the request could be filled immediately. Delivery was completed with the Connecticut System established earlier as part of Target 76, a statewide initiative.

The Board felt that the staff should learn to use computers for their own work and also to help the patrons. An Apple IIe was donated to the Library by the Mystic Lions Club for use by the

administrative support staff. Computers became the means for record keeping, organization and location of materials.

Franklin Davis, a Board member and owner of Franklin's General Store in Olde Mistick Village, was instrumental in introducing PCs into the Library; and the method of recording the statistics of managing the Library, the budget, reports and communication

advanced. The Library had joined the twentieth century via this new technology.

The 1980s was also a time for new resident cats at the Library. John Doe, a gray cat, appeared in the cellar well under the fire escape. He was quite ill so the staff got him veterinary care.

After he recovered he stayed for a few weeks sleeping in the

Library during the day and carousing at night. One morning he didn't appear for his breakfast. It is hoped that he continued the journey he was on when he stopped at the Library for help.

After another period with no felines, **Emily** joined the staff in 1989. A Library patron found her on a rainy night and she ended up with us at a tender young age. Emily attended meetings, story hours, and every event in the Library.



Gift to Mystic-Noank Library — The Mystic Lions Club donated an Apple IIe computer to the library in memory of James Messina, a pharmacist and a past president of the club, who died last year. David V. Page III, left, past president of the Mystic Lions Club, and Joanna Case, library director, are given a demonstration by Darrie Hanna, a technical processor who works part time at the library. The computer is programmed to locate books at the Groton and Waterford libraries for an inter-library loan program for their patrons.



We are thrilled to announce that we were notified just before Christmas that we are the recipient of a \$250,000 State Library Construction Grant for Library Park. There are many requirements and deadlines that we must meet, but we do not see any barricades to meeting those requirements. This grant, along with the generous Neag Foundation Grant of \$150,000 awarded in May and approximately \$50K from the ARPA grant from the Town of Groton, will move us toward closing the funding gap to begin the first phase.

Chad Frost, our landscape architect, is working on construction drawings for this first phase, and this will provide us with an updated cost projection. We anticipate this information in late February which will allow the board to review a potential schedule to provide direction.

This first phase renovates the parking lot and adds accessible parking along with a new accessible path to the front door and relocated parking lot stairs. This path also connects to three classroom/program areas, one with accessible tables for hands on activities. Check out the renderings posted in the lobby.

On the demo site, we did some further debris removal and planted additional grass seed to ensure erosion deterrence over the winter. This site offers some great views - take a look the next time you are at the Library!

*Judy Munro,
Library Park Chair*

LIBRARY PARK



Scan to donate
Thank you!

The Library Development Committee

Greetings!

Let me introduce new and familiar faces on the Development Committee as we enter 2025!

The Committee welcomes new Board of Trustee members Kathleen Gioffre and Judy Leonard, and the return of volunteers Blair Eddy Pattek, Jamie Densmore, and Diana Boersma.

Additionally, Board of Trustee members Mary Tullis Engvall (Co-President of MNL), Linda Kosta (Chair of Development), Judy Munro and Eric Janney continue to serve on the Development Committee, along with Executive Director, Chris Bradley, and Assistant Director, Roberta Donahue. Together, this group has many exciting and fun events planned for this year.

The Development Committee is critical to the Mystic & Noank Library as it helps to raise nearly \$200,000 each year, which represents nearly a quarter of our annual operating budget. Without these fundraising events, and our Annual Appeal, the Library would not be able to offer the enriching services that our community enjoys.

First on the event calendar is our **Sip&Paint** night at the library on February 27, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Enjoy creating a beautiful winter landscape while enjoying beverages and light food in the gorgeous

Spicer's Reading Room. Sip&Paint will be led by the incredibly talented artist, Julie Garvin Riggs, and is the perfect cozy event for a chilly February evening! Tickets are \$50.

On April 1, join us for our **4th Annual Reading on Tap** at Milestone Restaurant, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Enjoy an evening of readings from local notables with light food provided by the restaurant and cash bar. Tickets are \$25.

Secure your spot today by obtaining tickets on the Library's site.

As always, thank you for your support!
Warm regards, Caitlin Wroblewski
(Co-President of MNL Trustees)

Save the Dates!

SIP & PAINT
Mystic & Noank Library
February 27, 5:30-7:30pm

4th Annual READING ON TAP
Milestone Restaurant
April 1, 5:30-7:30pm



Sixteenth Annual Edible Book Festival



March 29, 2025

Groton Public Library
52 Newtown Road, Groton

Brought to you by:

Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library (860-536-7721 / friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org)
Groton Public Library Circle of Friends (860-441-6750 / gpl.circleoffriends@gmail.com)

What is an edible book? An edible book is food that can look like a book, be a pun on a book title, refer to a book character, or have anything to do with books, as long as it's edible.

How does it work? This event is held as part of the International Edible Book Festival. Just search online for "edible books" and you'll find pictures, ideas, and a history of the event.

Who can enter? Everyone is invited to create an edible entry—you can enter as a book group, family, or on your own! Here are a few rules:

1. Your creation must be edible.
2. It must have a book connection in form or theme.
3. It must be in good taste and taste good.
4. Your entry form must be submitted to one of the libraries by March 24th.

Who's invited? The Edible Book Festival is a family event, free and open to the public.

What time? Entrants may set up at 1:15 PM. Viewing, tasting, and the raffle begin at 1:30 PM.

ENTRY FORM—EDIBLE BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Title and author of book your creation is based on: _____

Please return this form to your Library by March 24th and ask that it be put in the Friends' mailbox.



OPEN BOOK



Kristina O'Leary
Library Assistant



One of the newest faces at the Front Desk is as shy and self-effacing as she is beautiful, which makes for a challenging interview! Kristina comes to us after 25 years in Glastonbury where she and her husband Dave raised their two daughters. Since they often visited this area to spend time with family, they already loved it here. So when the girls went off to college and other pursuits, it was time to leave “the ‘burbs” and move to Mystic, where her husband’s family had roots since the 1600’s.

Kristina was a free-lance editor for many years, for fiction as well as medical papers. Dave is a painting and building contractor. They are renting here, still in pursuit of the right house for them. Having owned many “antique” Colonial houses which together they renovated and restored over the years,

they are very comfortable in Mystic’s historical district.

We have Elihu Spicer to thank for attracting passers-by like Kristina, and Lorianelle before her, to inquire within this handsome library building. After volunteering last spring, Kristina was hired on staff last fall.

Kristina graduated from Boston University with a degree in English and Art History, went on to Pennsylvania State University for a Masters Certificate in Children’s Literature, and then a Masters degree in Education. Armed with all her degrees and innate abilities, she homeschooled both daughters. (I am in total awe!)

We are enriched by and grateful for Kristina’s many skills which she brings to us at MNL.

by Dana Semeraro

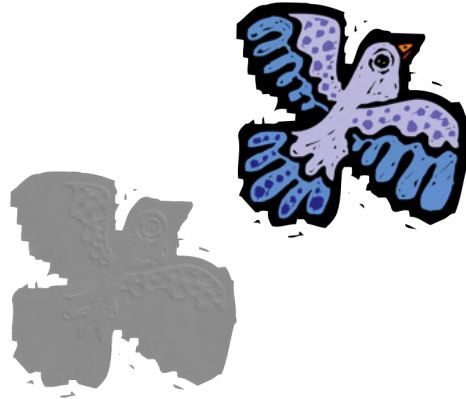


So Near the Real Thing

The shadow of a blue jay
landed in the sunlight
on the surface of the table
where I sat.

I touched the shadow.
It moved.

I removed my finger.
The shadow went still.
Suddenly, it shot to flight,
as though the sunlight had swallowed it.



Philip Kuepper
Resident Poet & Librarian



Mystic & Noank Library
40 Library Street
Mystic, CT 06355