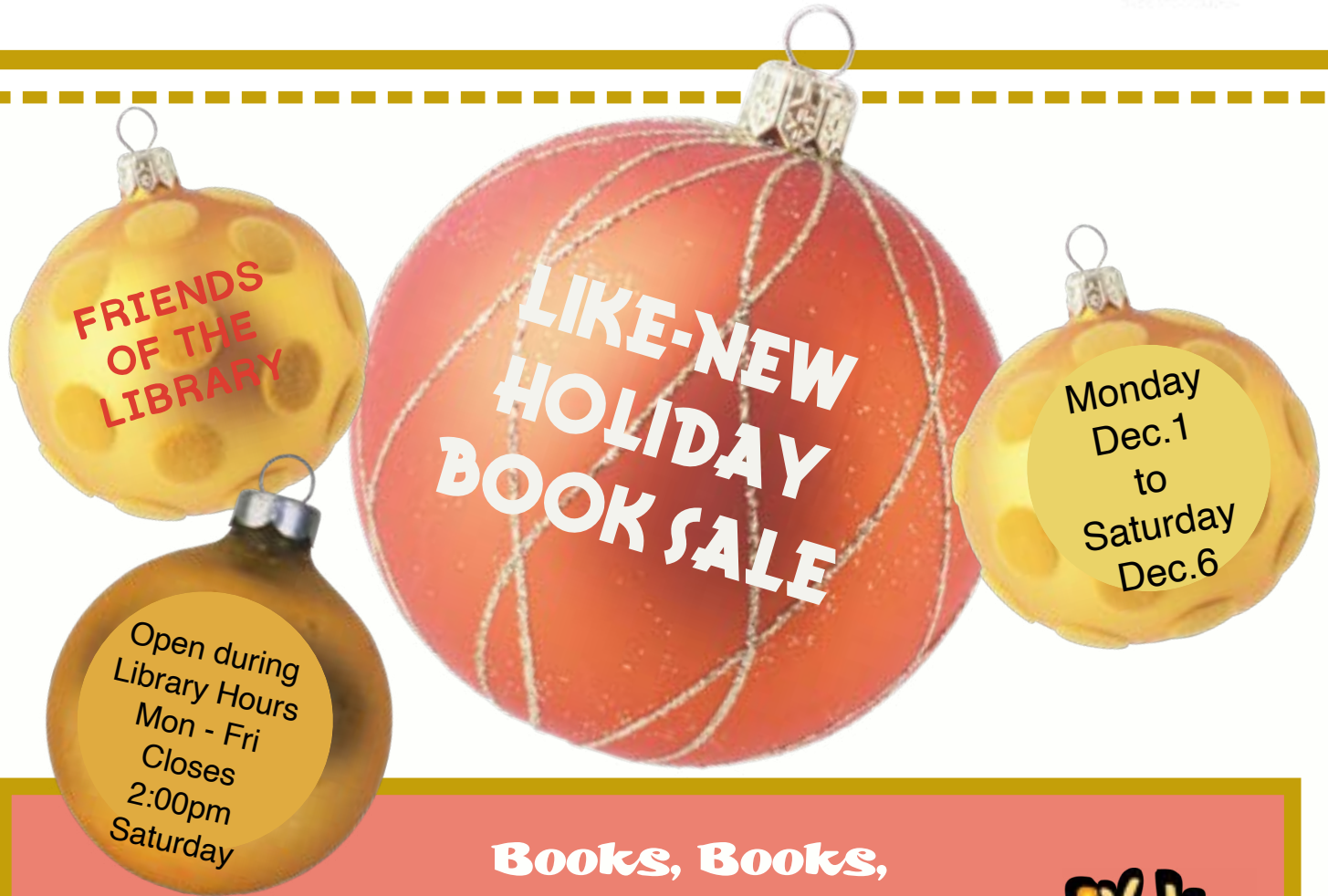


November
2025

Bookends



Books, Books, Books

Mysteries

Cookbooks

Novels

Children's

Memoirs

Travel

Boating

Science

And LOTS MORE!



- extra gift ideas -
Gently used items & holiday decorations, too!

Volunteers needed.
Please email:
friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org



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



The Friends have been busy supporting the Library's events by greeting guests for music concerts, assisting with the annual magic show for children and providing them with a small take-home pumpkin. We also participated in the Library's annual "Honor Books" event at Bank Square Books where customers can purchase a book to donate to the Library in honor or memory of someone.

The Friends also sponsored the annual Craft Exchange in September - very, very popular!



There was a line of people waiting outside before the Library even opened! People dropped off unused craft items; others picked up free craft supplies. Everyone wins!

Upcoming is our ***Like-New Book Sale***. Books are the best gifts and the Friends will have an amazing selection, donated but practically brand new, and always "new" to you or a family member or friend. It is right in

time for Christmas & Hannukah gift-giving or anytime-giving. Plan to attend the week after Thanksgiving.

In addition to supporting the Library with events, our fundraising efforts support Library programs. We recently gave \$1500 to support the children's programs. One of the beneficiaries of this is the Chess Club.

Michael Grater, Library Associate and chess enthusiast, leads the Chess Club. He grew up playing chess and continues to play for fun. Chess is a great game that builds concentration, patience, planning, sportsmanship, and problem-solving skills in children, teens and adults.



The Club welcomes children in grades 3 and up. Children should know how the chess pieces move before joining. Children learn chess strategy, chess sportsmanship, and participate in organized games.

These are just a few of the ways we, as Friends, have fun supporting our Library. Join us at our next meeting on Monday, **November 17 at 1:00pm.**



Shhh...out-out!

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



For a number of reasons, I have decided to stop doing my column on the history of the Library and the Librarians. The main reason is that Judy Hicks and I have written a history of the Library entitled, *A Gift to Mystic*. We are slowly finishing the editing and hope to get it printed soon. We will be donating the book to the Library so it can be available for sale, with all proceeds given to the Library. It has been fun doing both the articles and the book. Thank you for the opportunity to recount our extensive history.

In addition, we are grateful to Dana Semeraro for proofreading the book and helping make sure the index was correct. Also, thanks to "Uncle" Dick Voyer, Marilyn Comrie and Peggy Brissette in the beginning, getting us going in the right direction.

Library Development



Please help us welcome Andrea Reynolds to the Mystic & Noank Library team as our Development Associate.

Andrea joins us after more than 20 years with non-profit and educational institutions, including development positions at the Stoneleigh-Burnham School and Mount Holyoke College from which she graduated. She also holds a Master's degree from Brown University.

As the Library aspires to do even more to meet current and future needs, Andrea will work closely with the Library Board and staff to build strong relationships across the community to ensure that the Library thrives and is able to meet those needs.

"After living for many years in Western Massachusetts and raising my son there, I have returned to settle on the beautiful coast of Connecticut. I grew up in Guilford where I visited our public library every week as a child and sailed on Long Island Sound.

Contributing to education and my community are central to who I am so it was a natural fit to put this commitment into action at the Library.

I look forward to meeting you at the Library and during our events and programs!"



*Christine Bradley,
Library Director*

As we approach Thanksgiving, I remember how thankful I am for all the many volunteers who make this Library possible. On November 1 we have our Fall Volunteer Day, where, under the capable direction of Kathy Weinberger, we spruce up the grounds, putting them to bed for the winter. Volunteers from ARC and Rotary help, and this year we will also have cadets from the USCG join us, adding their much-needed muscle to the task.

How about those bulletin boards in the Children's Room! Not only does volunteer Lisa



Hill create the most appealing and timely works, but she changes them regularly to keep current with important topics.

And our Friends of the Library are just the best! Sandie and Dave Scott coordinate the used book operation, from sorting the donations weekly with the Cellar Dwellers, to putting the valuables for sale on eBay. Sandy Walton every year organizes the very popular exchange of craft materials. And Peggy Brissette manages the event of events, the Friends' Fair, every first Saturday in June. Peggy (and her very strong sons) get those heavy tables outside, set up the

hot dog stand, and then Peggy organizes the rest of us to sell books and white elephant items. The Friends' co-prez, Tricia Menno-Coveney and Kathy Busse, keep it all together, recently coming up with a plan to include money in the Friends' budget for new, lighter-weight tables for the Friends and Library events.



I would be remiss if I didn't thank Joanna Case, a Library Director like no other, who has continued to lend her professional and artistic expertise to the Library as a volunteer extraordinaire.

It will indeed be a Happy Thanksgiving at Mystic & Noank Library!





Library Board of Trustees



What Does our Library Mean to You?

Think back on your memories of the first time you entered the Mystic & Noank Library... What comes to mind? Were you a child fascinated by all the books that stood ready to whisk you away on an amazing adventure? Or a parent bringing your children to story time to begin their love of reading? Or did you come to engage in an interesting program or enjoy a concert? Or were you working on a project where just the calm environment gave you a sense of confidence that you could actually tackle that task?

Whatever the reason, so many of us remember the first time we stepped through the doors into the magnificent interior with its carved oak, polished brass and glowing stained glass. Our patrons describe the space as serene, enchanting and even magical. In today's lexicon, the Mystic & Noank Library has its own special vibe!

You might know that our beautiful Library was a gift to our community from a sea captain, Elihu Spicer, back in 1893. For generations, our community has been served by the Library and it still anchors us here today. As a non-profit association library,

financial gifts are essential in allowing us to keep providing our well-loved programs and services to our patrons and to maintain our beautiful, historic structure. Each year, the Board of Trustees is tasked with producing a full two-thirds of our operating budget to keep the doors of our cherished Library open for all.

As we kick off our important **Annual Appeal**, we want to take this moment to thank you sincerely for your past support, and kindly encourage you to continue your generosity to allow the Mystic & Noank Library to keep making those special first-time memories in the years to come.

Mary Tullis Engvall &
Caitlin McEachern Wroblewski
Co-Presidents
Board of Trustees





Philip Kuepper
Librarian & Poet



OPEN BOOK



by Dana Semeraro

Imagine the quintessentially gentle, sensitive and perceptive poet, and you might conjure up something like our very own resident poet, Philip Kuepper. Self-effacing and humble, he would rather “hide behind” his poetry and “let the poetry be the celebrity” instead of himself. But what about the person?

At the Library 18 years, many people know him at the Circulation Desk, where he now efficiently schedules and secures all books for the various book clubs. You may also have heard him read his poetry at one of our poetry nights or seen his poems regularly featured in Bookends, or read his suite of poems, *American Trilogy*, on Göran's website: www.heartheboatsing.com; or at <https://heartheboatsing.com/2025/06/15/two-poems-america-coast-to-coast/> In 2015, Göran and HeartheBoatSing published a volume of Philip's poetry, *A Sea to Row By*.

Philip's first love, from Burlington Notre Dame High School days in Iowa, was literature. But he became serious about poetry at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa. That is when his innate gift emerged and flourished. Some of his favorite poets he regularly returns to are Rainer Maria Rilke and the Greek poet, Constantine Cavafy, as well as Walt Whitman (*O Tan-Faced Prairie-Boy*), Percy Bysshe Shelley (*Ozymandias*), and Emily Dickinson (*Because I could not stop for Death*).

After college he was granted Conscientious Objector status. Having been brought up a Catholic in Catholic schools, he wasn't about to start shooting people. Working for a bookstore was the perfect match.

While in NYC at a corporate holiday gathering of employees of the famous Brentano's, Philip, then at the Boston store, met Michael Meyer from the San Francisco store. A year later, a colleague called Philip to join him at a college bookstore in southern California. En route, he stopped in San Francisco to say hello to Mike. When Mike was promoted two years later, they both moved together to NYC, Mike at the Fifth Avenue Brentano's, and Philip at the Village branch. Their journey to Mystic came via Walden's Books in Stamford after Brentano's closed, and finally to the Mystic Seaport Museum Bookstore. It was there that Philip and Göran became friends, and eventually both of them landed at the Mystic & Noank Library - to our great advantage!

Philip and Mike were together for fifty years, until Mike's death in 2020. Philip remarked, “There is no point in death.” He aptly called it, “a palpable absence.”

(To see Philip's poems, Google: Philip Kuepper, poet.)



Poems by Philip



The Offerings Up

What pearls are these whorled
along the shore,
what diamonds, adamantine,
hard, glistening,
what emeralds whirled green
out of the foam-torn surf,
and sapphires touched
by summer's fairest sky?
Are these found treasures
mine to collect,
or ocean's possessions proudly
on display?
I touch one. O!
it vanishes at my touch.
It is only then I know
they are possessions of the sun,
having reflected the embroiled
waves,
illusions of the eye
spilled on the receptive shore,
I had thought to bring as gifts
to my love that I might
delight in my love's surprise.



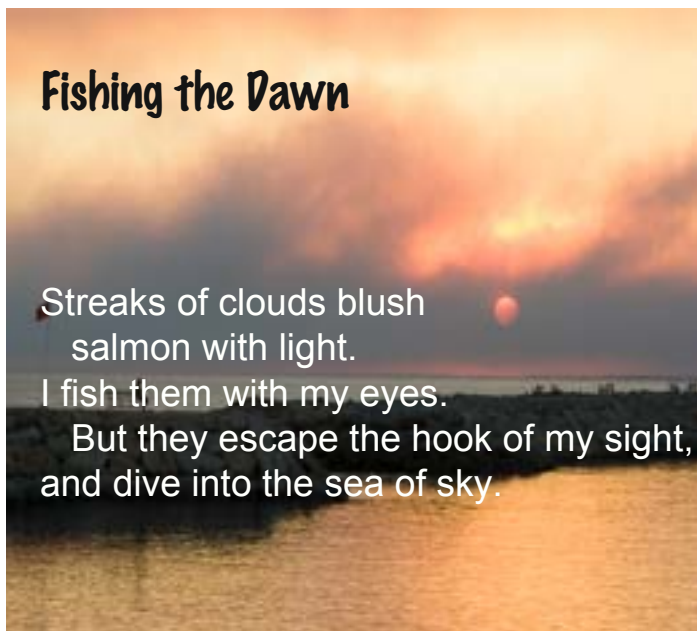
A Moon-Tended Fire

A cream moon hanging in a lavender sky,
picks out gold leaves lying
on the ground autumn nights,
embers of gold glowing
in the hearth of earth,
a fire the moon tends
as I sleep the sleep of dreams,
themselves embers glowing



Fishing the Dawn

Streaks of clouds blush
salmon with light.
I fish them with my eyes.
But they escape the hook of my sight,
and dive into the sea of sky.





Like-New Book Sale

Monday, December 1 to Saturday,
December 6

Open: Library Hours - Monday to
Friday

Closes: 2:00pm on Saturday

Annual Appeal 2025

Please support our Library
with a donation to the
Mystic & Noank Library

