

BookEnds

MYSTIC & NOANK LIBRARY

From the Director's Desk

Karen Wall

Hello and Happy New Year!

A new year is here, and this means a new budget season. We are so fortunate for this wonderful legacy that Elihu Spicer left the community over 125 years ago and thankful to all of our supporters who ensure the Mystic & Noank Library continues for another 125+ years. Currently, Mystic & Noank Library receives less than 30% of our yearly operating funds from the towns of Stonington and Groton, and the State of Connecticut with the balance coming from generous supporters like you. For comparison, in FY 2015-2016 this percentage was approximately 50%. And although state and municipal funding has dropped, we have continued to provide top quality programs, services and materials to our community, all free of charge and open to all who enter our doors. Indeed, visits to the Library have jumped to nearly 100,000 per year! We want to continue to add innovative programming and resources to our current offerings, but in order to do this we must get this percentage back up to the 50% range. We would appreciate your support by attending the public meetings, writing or speaking on our behalf, and expressing how much this Library is a VITAL part of this community.

If you are not already on our eNews mailing list, I strongly urge you to sign up via our website homepage (mysticnoanklibrary.org – right margin, “Join our eNews List” button). As I learn of the budget hearings and meetings, I will use this as a primary means of communication to get the word out. In the meantime, please email me at director@mysticnoanklibrary.org with your Library stories, feedback on what materials and resources you would like us to carry, and thoughts and ideas for new programs. No idea is too crazy! See you in the Library...

Cheers,
Karen Wall

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Erik Caswell, Adult Services Librarian –
Reference/Programming

Erik joined our team in September 2019. He's responsible for tech instruction, adult programming and some of the teen programming as well as our exhibit spaces. Erik was previously in at Westerly Library, planning programs for teens and adults. Erik obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Writing/Political Science from Ithaca College and will complete his Master of Library/Information Science from URI shortly. His favorite part of working at a library is learning new facts as a result of helping patrons. Never a dull moment in a library!

New Staff Members



Katie Kenney, PR/Marketing Coordinator
Katie joined our team in October 2019. She's responsible for our monthly eNewsletter and quarterly BookEnds publications, creates publicity flyers and collateral materials, maintains our social media presence, and helps us communicate who we are and what we do. Katie has an MFA in Creative Writing from Western Washington University and Certificate of Publishing from Denver Publishing Institute. In addition to her part-time role at MNL, Katie is also Marketing and Event Coordinator at Bank Square Books. Fair to say she is passionate about books and libraries!

Friends of the Library Report

Sally Salancy, Friends of the Library President

People ask, "Who are the Friends of MNL? What do they do?" First, anyone who donates to the Library's fundraisers, or volunteers at the Library, is automatically a "Friend." Second, everything the Friends do is for the benefit of the Library and its patrons. Third, all Friends are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, and join us in our work. We meet in the Ames Room on the third Monday of the month, at noon, though there are exceptions. (If you'd like to attend, please check the date at the Front Desk.) On the scheduled day, bring your lunch, talk to other Friends, and enjoy the dessert provided. The business meeting, which starts at 12:30 and takes about an hour, gives us a chance to evaluate recent activities and plan future projects.

Our projects in late 2019 were the Art Silent Auction in October, which raised \$1,232, and our Like-New Book Sale in December, which made \$5,322. Our 10th Annual Indoor Yard Sale is coming up on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21. (We're already accepting items in good condition!) The very next day, Sunday, March 22, our Library Cart Drill Team, made up of MNL Friends, staff, and Board members, will march in the Mystic Irish Parade, astonishing onlookers with our synchronized maneuvers! Last, but not least, the Friends' Silent Auction, part of the 2020 Library Fair, will open on Monday, May 4! Happy Almost-Spring! See you at the Library!

President's Letter

by Judy Munro, Board of Trustees President

Jamie Densmore, Board of Trustees Vice President & Sara Lathrop, Board of Trustees Treasurer

Happy New Year! Did you prepare some New Year Resolutions this year? Every year, I seem to resolve to do the same things; exercise more, lose weight, go to bed earlier and like many, am soon back into my old habits, forgetting to eat the carrots, not turning on my treadmill, nor closing my eyes at a regular time. So this year, I did New Year's aspirations. I feel less guilt about transgressions since my goals are aspirational. In fact, this year my new year did not even start until mid-January! If this year, you have aspired (or resolved) to become more involved in the community, the Mystic & Noank Library would be a wonderful place to start.

During February, we will start recruiting community members for our Board Committees. We will be posting "job descriptions" for these committees on our website during the month - a month when we celebrate our volunteers. For more information about these committees please email trustees@mysticnoanklibrary.org. If these committees are not your cup of tea, of course, the Friends of the Library are always looking for additional recruits. We would love you to join us!

Adult Programming

Ongoing Programs

Mondays at 4 PM – Writers Group
Tuesdays at 1 PM – Knitting Circle
2nd & 4th Tuesday at 10 AM – Newly Bereaved Support
2nd Wednesday at 6:45 PM – Mystic Calligraphers
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM – Literacy Conversation Group
Thursdays at 3 PM – Cribbage
Fridays at 11 AM and 2 PM – Meditation Groups

Stay tuned for introductory programs Monday mornings and evenings throughout the rest of the year for the technologically adverse. A reminder, too, that you can always schedule an appointment for individual help with your mobile devices, research, or writing with our Book-a-Librarian service. Here are some highlights for the next few months of adult programming. If you have suggestions for a library program, or have a skill, experience, or talents you'd like to share with the community, contact us!

We are here to help however we can.

Author Talk: *The Crate* by Deborah Levison

February 27 at 6:30 PM

Join us for Connecticut resident and critically acclaimed author, Deborah Levison's book talk in the Ames Room. In her book, Deborah Levison, an award-winning journalist, tells the extraordinary account of her parents' ordeals, both in one of the darkest times in world history and their present-day lives. Written in searing, lyrical prose, *The Crate: A Story Of War, A Murder, and Justice* examines man's seemingly limitless capacity for evil but also, his capacity for good.

New Series: Research Roundtable

Census 2020—Saturday, March 7 at 10:30 AM

We have access to more information than ever before, and it can be overwhelming to find accurate sources. At these monthly Roundtable meetings, learn strategies for finding resources you can trust and favorite sites from your community members and library staff.

Get Writing & Reading Again

Book Writers—1st Wednesday of March at 5:30 PM & 3rd Wednesday of March at 6 PM

Critics Book Club—4th Wednesday of March at 6 PM

Jump start new habits with these ongoing programs. Work with a community of writers to stay committed to a full length book project. Or join us each month to read and review new ARCs (Advanced Reader Copies) that haven't even made it to shelves yet, courtesy of Bank Square Books.

Complete program information is available on our website or sign up for our monthly Eblast!

**“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”
— Cicero**



Collection Highlights

Julie Worthen

This February, come to the Mystic & Noank Library to get inspiration and nourishment for the home, the body, the mind, and the spirit. Here are some suggestions:

Cosy: The British Art of Comfort, by Laura Weir

Escape dark days and bleak news cycles with British coziness.

Cozy: The Art of Arranging Yourself in The World, by Isabel Gillies

Learn to make yourself at home no matter where you are.

The Book of Ichigo Ichie, by Hector Garcias

Find happiness by living fully in the present and making the most of every moment.

Martha Stewart's Organizing, by Martha Stewart

Start the year off right with the queen of home comforts.

The Power of Nunchi, by Euny Hong

Hone your skills of emotional perception.

The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read, by Philippa Perry

Develop strong and lasting relationships with your children while establishing an atmosphere of calm in the home.

Nourish yourself and make your house smell delicious with these new cookbooks:

In My Kitchen, by Deborah Madison

Mediterranean Instant Pot, by America's Test Kitchen

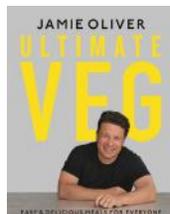
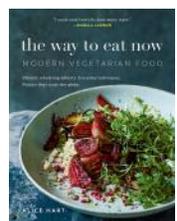
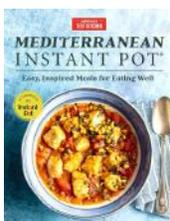
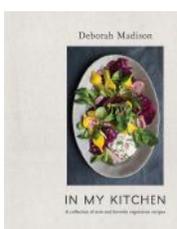
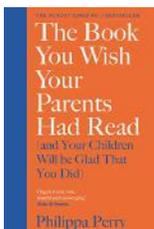
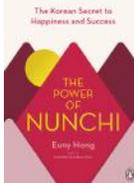
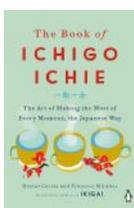
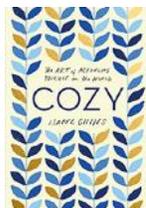
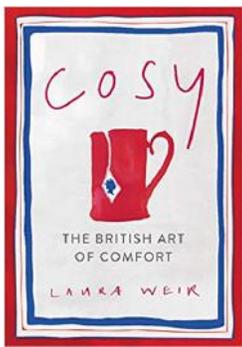
The Way to Eat Now, by Alice Hart

The Modern Cook's Year, by Anna Jones

The Vegan Instant Pot Cookbook, by Nisha Vora

Ultimate Veg, by Jamie Oliver

Mixtape Potluck Cookbook, by Questlove



Kids & Teens Highlights

Roberta Donahue

Children's Room

Special Thanks! A big thank you to Carole Hawes, Bill Temme and colleagues from American Express for your generous support of our Library. On a recent business trip to Mystic, they stopped by and made a donation to our Children's Department. Thank you so much for supporting our young readers!



We are also thankful to Jessica Geren and her family who recently took the Children's Room dollhouse home for a week and repainted it, put up new wallpaper and added new dolls and furniture. Wow! It looks great. It even has a trash bin and recycling bin on the porch. Be sure to check it out on your next visit. Thank you Geren family for your thoughtful donation!

Upcoming Program Highlights

Drop-in Craft Day: Weaving!

Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Drop-in Craft Day: Tissue Paper Shamrocks!

Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Children of all ages are welcome to stop by the Children's Room and let their creativity run wild. Supplies will be provided. Bring home something special made by you!

Creative Movement with Eastern CT Ballet: The Mitten; Friday, February 28 4:00 PM in the Ames Room

During class, we will read Jan Brett's, *The Mitten* and then do 35 minutes of movement around the theme. Registration is required. Generously funded by the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library.

Creative Movement with Eastern CT Ballet: Going to the Zoo; Friday, March 27 4:00 PM in the Ames Room

Creative Movement is a 45 minute program for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 years old. During class, we read about going to the zoo and then do 35 minutes of movement around the theme. Registration is required. Generously funded by the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library.

Memorial Donations

Christiana Donnel

Barbara Flora

Chuck Glaza

Theo Hamell

Paula Toomey Knott

Scott Martell

Judith Roure

John (Jack) Washburn

Gift In Honor of

Carl A. Strand Jr.



Development Report

Loren Wren

Happy New Year! As the Mystic & Noank Library enters its 127th year, we feel so honored to have such a loyal donor family who continue to give so generously to our Library each year.

We are so grateful to all of you for your investment in our Library and for helping us provide a critical resource to our community, all housed in a beautiful and historic building. Please visit www.mysticnoanklibrary.org/oursupporters.asp to view our online donor honor roll that celebrates everyone who made a gift in the calendar year 2019 (January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019).

We thank you so much for your support and for helping the Mystic & Noank Library continue to transform lives.

Please save the date for two of our favorite events of the year!

Saturday, April 4, 2020 10:30am-4:00pm

19th Annual Honor Book Day at Bank Square Books

Come purchase a book for our Library collection to honor a friend or loved one. Each book you buy will have a custom bookplate created to recognize your donation. This is a wonderful way to support the Library, a beloved local bookstore and honor a special someone.

Thursday, October 15, 2020 6:00-8:30pm

Mystic & Noank Library's Fall Fundraiser

Stay tuned for the announcement of our exciting entertainment.

**“She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live.”
— Annie Dillard**

Library's 127th Year

Joanna Case

127 years ago this past January 23, the Mystic & Noank Library opened to the public at 2:30 in the afternoon. A crowd gathered in the meeting room on the first floor. The room is described in the newspaper as "one of the coziest places imaginable." It had seating for 200 and a raised platform for speakers. The Opening Reception included brief speeches by the various clergy in town and after a reading of part of Capt. Spicer's will, the deed was formerly presented to Amos Taylor, who represented the Board, in the absence of the President, Robert Palmer. Attendees then went to the second floor where the library was housed.

Miss Annie A. Murphy was the librarian. She was a well-known and admired schoolteacher. The library started with 4,000 volumes and there was a subscription of \$1 per year, payable quarterly. The library was open for the use of Mystic, Noank, Old Mystic and adjacent neighborhoods in Connecticut Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 2:00 - 5: 30 PM and 7:00 - 8:30 PM. For months prior to the opening, every detail of construction was described in the local newspapers. People watched the construction of this magnificent building and marveled at its beauty. The building was lauded for its stone and brick construction, beautiful imported stones and mosaics and for its sturdiness. Capt. Spicer provided a library that was built to withstand years of use. It has certainly proved itself over these 127 years. We need to maintain this wonderful gift from Capt. Spicer. I am very pleased to see that the Library is starting a Building Restoration Fund so that money will be available when needed to keep our building sound, safe and secure.

Seasonal Highlights

Peggy Brissette

17th Annual Mystic Irish Parade

The Friends have registered to participate in the Mystic Irish Parade which kicks off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 22nd from the Mystic Seaport. Our Library Book Cart Drill Team is the best entry in the Parade! We hope you will watch and cheer us on!

Indoor Yard Sale

Start your yard sale season off early! There will be treasures for all ages and all priced to sell! Donations for the sale may be brought to the Library during normal hours - please, no furniture or clothing.

Yard Sale Dates:

Friday March 20 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday March 21 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bridge Tournament

Ken Levy

We will plan on starting the 26th Mystic & Noank Library Benefit Bridge Tournament in June 2020. Details will be forthcoming in April. Please contact your bridge friends and encourage them to participate in this fun event that also helps support the Library.

Book Club Corner

Kate Nelson

Happy 2020 everyone!

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank all of our thoughtful patrons for remembering us with cards, delicious holiday treats and good wishes. For those of you who want to continue reading, listening or watching items in our holiday collection, they are available year-round and located on second floor in the glass-fronted shelves. For those looking forward to the upcoming Oscars, we will be getting many of the nominated films in on DVD as they become available. We're looking forward to another busy year here at the Library and hope that we will see you all on a regular basis.

Mystic & Noank Afternoon Book Club

1st Wednesday at 1:00pm

March 4: *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Stories*, by Raymond Carver

April 1: *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World*, by Mark Kurlansky

Mystic & Noank History Book Club

2nd Tuesday at 7:00pm

March 10: *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century*, by George Packer (First Half)

April 14: *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century*, by George Packer (Second Half)

Mystic & Noank Evening Book Club

1st Wednesday at 7:00pm

March 4: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou

April 1: *Lilac Girls: A Novel*, by Martha Hall Kelly

CLAMS (Classic Literature At Mystic)

2nd & 4th Mondays at 7:00pm

March 10: *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte

**“Maybe this is why we read,
and why in moments of
darkness we return to book:
to find words for what we
already know.”**

— Alberto Manguel



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We are open
Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday
10 to 9
Thursday ~ Saturday ~ 10 to 5

Library Closings:
Monday, February 17 - Presidents' Day

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