

FOCL POINT

SAVE THE DATE!

Friends of Connecticut Libraries Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Saturday Morning, June 10, 2023

**Avon Public Library Community Room,
281 Country Club Road**

More details to follow in mailing

(For information on honoring your group, see Page 3)

FOCL Forum Down But Not Out

Change is always happening, and the FOCL Forum is no different.

The platform we used no longer exists, making the FOCL Forum currently unavailable. The FOCL Board is busy at work determining next steps to ensure that Friends groups around the state can share ideas and ask questions of each other.

We ask for your patience as we go through this transition to bring you a new and improved FOCL Forum. Stay tuned!



Friends of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library in Newington held a Winterfest in January with games, raffles, food and drinks.

Having Fun Raising Funds

At right, Friends of the Danbury Public Library work in their Little Red House Bookstore. From left, Audrey Price, Anita Kretzmann, Danelle Woermann, Joan Bybee, Mark Hasskarl and Kate Johnson.



FOCL Can Help Your Friends Group With \$\$\$

As everyone continues to recover from the COVID pandemic, the board of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries wants to lend a hand to new Friends groups and groups trying to rekindle themselves who have little financial support.

The purpose of this aid is to cover government-mandated fil-

ing and application fees, as well as other start-up expenses, for new Friends groups and existing groups seeking to reestablish their legal status.

A grant for up to \$200 is available. If your group needs more than that, we may be able to provide up to \$200 additional aid in

the form of a no-interest loan.

There is a simple form to fill out, located on the website, <https://foclib.org/resources>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any board member.

Contact information is also listed on the website.

Danbury Friends Get Letter From Teenage Fan

Friends of the Danbury Public Library published this essay on their website:

We thought you might enjoy what one of our younger customers wrote about his experience in our Little Red House Book Store:

It's been some time now so I can't quite remember when I first found the "Red House Bookstore" but it's hard to forget the strange books I've bought from them over the years. Located on 15 Main Street, Danbury, Connecticut, this small shop accepts and sells donations, providing all proceeds to the Danbury Public Library. I'm afraid that if your only goal is to resell, you'll be hard pressed to find anything of great material value. But ... if you are anything like me, the exploration and discovery of something you otherwise would have never seen is the only motivation you need. Take for instance the Plan De Paris par Arrondissement et Communes de Ranlieue avec la station du metro la plus proche – Nomenclature

des Rues – Autobus – Avec Repertoires. A rather long mouthful of a title, this small pocketbook is a travel guide to the streets and metropolitan of Paris, France. In 1980. As a student years away from graduating (let alone leaving the country), by the time traveling to Paris is even a consideration, this guidebook will be fifty years out of date. In that regard, it serves no purpose. Not to tourists or the people of France. Its very essence is obsolescence. However, that doesn't detract from its value to me. Frankly, it's neat. And sometimes that's enough. To know that someone in Danbury traveled to Paris around the 1980s, purchased a travel guide, and forty years later donated it to an obscure local bookshop, is fascinating. And that's only from the front cover! As for a look inside, a map book is exactly as it sounds, filled with detailed models all across Paris. From the dense underground, to the complicated city streets; maps along real-ize the scale of France's most iconic location. This is the enduring legacy of a forgotten tour book, a peek into

Paris from nearly thirty-three years ago.

But that's hardly the only thing I've found from this local business. In fact, a particular book was once used here in Connecticut, to teach a subject long since abandoned in public education. Caesar In Gaul And Britain is still published to this day by numerous different companies, but the novelty of this version from Cambridge is when it was first printed. In 1958, nearly thirty years before the Plan De Paris, Latin was taught in Connecticut Public Schools. Rather reasonably, the book does not feature any translations for the Latin excerpts it presents, but does provide some context in English of the original work. Bizarrely, the book was at some point a desk copy for Weston Junior High School. How it ended up in a local bookstore in Danbury is anyone's guess.

So remember that every book tells a story, one between its pages and one outside its cover. Both waiting to be found.

*Colton Kittredge
10th Grade Student
Danbury High School*

Time To Give Awards to Your Friends Group, Individuals

You are invited to participate in the 2023 Friends of Connecticut Library Awards.

This is an opportunity to recognize talented people in the organization or an entire Friends group and nominate them for one of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries Awards.

Did your Friends group do something new this year? Did you realize a major goal? Do you know of people who make things happen or provided extraordinary support to your Friends organization?

The FOCL awards will be presented at the annual meeting on Saturday, June 10 at the Avon Public Library. Those chosen by the awards committee will receive that recognition in the company of people who understand and personify dedicated library service.

There are three categories of awards available to small, medium and large libraries:

The Friends Group Award is focused on the total effort of the Friends Group. To qualify, the group has either accomplished major goals in support of the library and the community, provided new and/or innovative programs or raised significant money or



awareness by attracting the community to the library.

The FOCL Individual Achievement Award is given to one or two individuals in a FOCL group who have made significant contributions to the Friends group, such as a lifetime achievement, exceptional library service, substantial increase in book sale or fundraising profits or a great idea that has been implemented.

Finally, the FOCL Focused Project Award is usually orchestrated by a small group or committees. Some examples of projects that would be considered include a successful membership drive, a great idea implemented, an outstanding use of media or efforts that raised significant money or awareness by attracting the community to the library.

The application was mailed to all library directors and Friends groups. We are requesting that the summary (no more than 1,000 words) be submitted electronically in a word processing format. The summary should be e-mailed to: foclawards@gmail.com.

For any questions, please contact the FOCL Award Chair Pam Monahan at 203-525-5674. Copies of the application materials are on the FOCL website and the Facebook page.

Tell Us What We Can Do To Be More Relevant to Your Group

FOCL was very disappointed to cancel the Fall Conference due to low attendee numbers. FOCL tries to address topics that Friends want to discuss.

Perhaps the date didn't work for you or the venue wasn't to your liking. We would love to hear from you if you have any comments to share regarding the conference.

Please email them to Debbie Misiaszek

(misiaszekd@comcast.net), FOCL wants to remind you that we are here for you.

We received this note from one FOCL group: "I was disappointed that the meeting was cancelled. ... [FOCL] is a valuable organization for sharing Friends' experiences and programs."

Perhaps you'd like to attend our Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in June? It will be held June 10 at the Avon Free Public Library.

Friends Around the State

We encourage all Newsletters editors to put us on their mailing lists so we can have a rich exchange of information to pass on to fellow Friends organizations. If you'd like to see your news here please put Friends of Connecticut Libraries, Middletown Library Service Center, 786 South Main St., Middletown, CT 06457 on your newsletter mailing list, or send by email to friendsctlibraries@gmail.com. Note: We only include events run, sponsored, or funded by Friends Groups. To make our job easier, in your newsletters, please include that information when describing events.

Friends of the Avon Free Library raised more than \$11,000 in their fall book sale.



The Friends also run a continuous Booktique, open whenever the library is.

The Friends also began their Sundays at Three music series with a concert in January.

Friends of the Beacon Falls Library



arranged with a local restaurant to get a share of all

their profits for a certain period.

Friends of the Bentley Public Library in Bolton provide the snacks for the library's programs.

Friends of the Blackstone Library in Branford offer mostly



books published in 2022 and 2023 on their virtual

book cart. Potential buyers can peruse the list of available books at [https://](https://cloud.collectorz.com/510742/)

cloud.collectorz.com/510742/

books, then email the Friends to learn the cost.

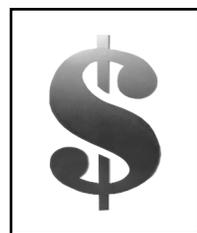
Friends of the Burnham Library



scheduled a bake and book sale in February to benefit their Junior Friends.

Friends of the Bristol Library donated prizes for the adult winter reading bingo including four VISA gift cards.

Friends of the Cheshire Public Library



had a record-breaking fall book sale. They raised more than \$17,800 that will be used to fund programs and activities for children and adults. They credited their success to Friends members, members of the High School Interact Club, Honor Society, and parents and students from the MechRams robotics club. They unpacked and organized more than 400 boxes of books.

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Friends of the Chester Public Library

partnered with ShopRaise, an app that gives a percentage of everything purchased at more than 1,000 retailers to the Chester Library at no additional charge.

Friends of the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester



helped the library offer Family Movie Binge Bags to library patrons, complete with movies, activity sheets and popcorn.

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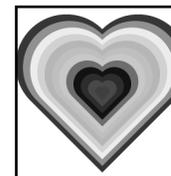
Friends of the East Hampton Public Library



sponsored Violins and Valentines, an evening of music with Albanian-American violinist

Brunilda Myftaraj for Valentine's Day.

Friends of the Hagan Memorial Library



in East Haven held a Valentine's bake sale on the Saturday

before the holiday dedicated to love.

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Friends, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

Friends of the Hall Memorial Library in Ellington sponsored a



mini-golf event inside the library in early February that attracted 452 golf-

ers. In addition to the golf there were snacks and raffle prizes. And their book shop was open during the event.

Friends of the Fairfield Public Library are scheduled to host author and screenwriter Jane L. Rosen at their literary luncheon in May.



Friends of The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village held their annual winter fundraiser, A Midwinter's Night in the Village, at



Friends of the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill sponsored Harvey, the Llama, and Debbie Labbe from Country Llama Farm for Take Your Child to the Library Day. Who enjoyed story time most?

the library in February. The main feature was the library's famous 16-ft long bread board piled high with a variety of homemade breads ranging from sweet desert loaves to hearty savory breads, delicious hors d'oeuvres and chocolate treats. A roster of local personalities performed poetry, songs and comedy focused on love with a dose of laughter thrown in for good measure.

Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury helped honor long-time director Barbara Bailey on her retirement after more than 45 years at the library.

Friends of the Granby Public Library sponsored an aromatherapy workshop in February, which offered to show the health



benefits of essential oils. Participants also had a chance to make a botanical dream pillow and a healing foot salt soak.

For Take Your Child to the Library Day, the Friends sponsored a dance party, promising to teach easy Hip Hop and party dance moves.

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Friends, Continued

(Continued from page 5)

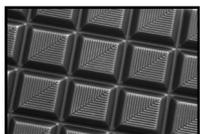
Friends of the Greenwich

Library sponsor an oral history project, a collection of interviews with people who have helped to make or witnessed the history of Greenwich since 1890. To date, the collection contains more than 1,000 interviews and 142 books.



The Circle of Friends of the Groton Public

Library sponsored a program in February to teach participants how to paint on chocolate using cocoa butter-based paints.



Friends of the Guilford Free Library held a one-day vintage books and ephemera sale in February. They offered books for adults from the 1800s to 1945, books for children from the 1800s to 1955 and items such as sheet music, magazines and theater programs.

Friends of the Hamden Public

Library sponsored a program in February for teens on all things Australian, letting them try Aussie snacks and a throwing in a little



trivia about the Land from Down Under.

Friends of the Harwinton Public Library list on their web page what magazines they sponsor at the library: Consumer Reports, Money, National Geographic, Prevention, Real Simple, Taste of Home and Time.

Friends of the Lyme Public Library are co-sponsoring the Sweet Spot Café in the library's periodicals room on the first Tuesdays of the month. They provide free coffee,



tea and pastries (but welcome donations.) They also provide games & puzzles, magazines, newspapers, and adult coloring books, as well as a warm and cozy space to meet old friends and make new ones.

Friends of the Meriden Library plan to reopen their bookstore this spring. It has been



closed for months while the library is undergoing renovation. The Friends are offering naming opportunities for businesses and individuals in the newly renovated library including room dedications.

Friends of the Milford Public



Library held a Baubles, Bangles and Bling jewelry sale in November that sold out early.

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

in Monroe sponsored children's book author/singer Ryan SanAngelo for a delayed Take Your Child to the Library Day concert and reading.

Friends of the New Fairfield Library

scheduled a Casino Royale fundraiser – a night of games, food, and friends inspired by Ian Fleming's "Casino Royale." Guests, limited to 30 people aged 21 years or older, were invited to come in



their elegant best and enjoy casino style games while sipping mocktails and eating hors d'oeuvres. Door prizes were awarded all night.

Friends of the North Haven



Library turned Irish in March, and were scheduled to host a concert by Liz McNicholl of County Meath, Ireland.

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Friends, continued

(Continued from page 6)

Friends of the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library scheduled a mini-golf event in February to benefit the library.

Friends of the Acton Library in Old Saybrook partnered with the Garden Club to provide solar lights for the Evergreen Story-Walk in December.

In April the Friends are sponsoring the library's 29th annual poetry contest, with four categories for children of different ages and one for adults.

Friends of the Ridgefield



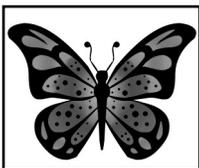
Library are sponsoring the Ridgefield Folk

Concert Series.

The next concert in June is scheduled

to feature singer-songwriter Marc Berger, whose songs celebrate the romance of the West.

Friends of the Salem Library are scheduled to sponsor several nature programs – from growing milkweed for the monarch butterfly



to growing mushrooms.

The Friends are also sponsoring a program on

the Iditarod with musher Karen Land, who is scheduled to bring



Friends of the Ferguson Library in Stamford fund the Purple Bus, which often takes children to the library to learn its history and all the cool things to see, learn and do there.

her sled, her gear and her dogs, Chloe and Noggin.

Friends of the Southbury Public Library sponsored a program “Were There Slaves in



Southbury” for Black History Month, presented by the local historical

society. This is the 350th anniversary of the town’s founding.

Friends of the Southington



Library are co-sponsoring author Elise Hooper in March for Southington Reads 2023. She has written such his-

torical novels as “Angels of the

Pacific,” “Fast Girls” and “The Other Alcott.”

Friends of the Ferguson Library in Stamford are planning their annual fundraiser, A Novel Affair, in April.

Friends of the Kent Memorial Library in Suffield sponsored a Valentine’s craft program for kids.

Friends of the Thomaston



Public Library are sponsoring all sorts of adult programming from How To Henna to Trivia Nights.

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Friends of Connecticut Libraries
 Middletown Library Service Center
 786 South Main St.
 Middletown, CT 06457

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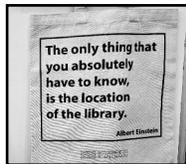
Friends, Continued

(Continued from page 7)

Friends of the West Haven Public Library have begun planning their June ice cream social and book sale.

Friends of the Weston Public Library are sponsoring several Zoom programs including one like an old-fashioned radio hour where participants listen to a classic short story and then join in to discuss it.

Friends of the Woodbridge Town Library are selling totes with quotes by famous people



including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Virginia Woolf and Albert Einstein.

Friends of the Woodbury Public Library were honored by their library in September on the 20th anniversary of their Book Cellar. The all-volunteer group started the Book Cellar in 2002, thinking that a used book

shop could benefit the community and provide funds to the library. They weren't wrong.



Twenty years and thousands of book sales later, the Book Cellar is thriving, and the

Friends remain a continuous support to the library in so many ways. Participants at the open house were able to join in a variety of crafts and card-making activities. All enjoyed a special Friends cookie from Sweet Nelsons Bakery.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries is dedicated to helping Connecticut residents realize their full potential. Lives are enriched through a lifelong relationship with ideas, art, literature, information and technology. Through FOCL's efforts, Friends groups will help support their libraries, thereby enhancing the cultural, educational and career opportunities available to Connecticut residents. Friends of Libraries groups will become a real force to be reckoned with.