



Bookends

MYSTIC & NOANK LIBRARY

From the Director's Desk

Chris Bradley, MNL Director

In December of 2021, MNL kicked off our local author project with a conversation with Steven Slosberg about his book, *Columnist: 45 Years of Having a Say*. We were able to host that conversation in the Spicer Reading Room with a live audience, but that was before the Omicron variant and renewed fears about attending indoor programs.

We will not be deterred however, from our plan to host a conversation with a local author each month, and then to add that author's work to our Local Author Bookcase, maintained by Julie Worthen (and guarded over by new reference librarian, Ms. Matilda). We have decided to film the conversation without an audience, and then post it to our YouTube channel for online viewing.

The conversation with our January author, Melanie Greenhouse, was filmed in the Ames Room by our own Chris Kepple, with help from Michael Grater. (New Book Conversation with Steven Slosberg was filmed by Shawn Greeley, and can be seen on Groton Community Television's YouTube channel.) Melanie, an acclaimed Noank playwright, was active for many years with the Arts Cafe and has published *Point of Land: A Dive beneath the Surface of Noank* and *Read My Shorts*, a collection of short plays.

Next up, in February, is Lara Ehrlich, author of *Animal Wife*. Selected as the winner of the Red Hen Fiction Award, it is a collection of fifteen stories unified by girls and women seeking liberation from family responsibilities, from societal expectations, and from their own minds.

In March, we have our own Philip Kuepper, author of *A Sea to Row By*, who will read "Putting on the Garment of Water and Light" from that published collection of his poems. Philip also plans to read some poems not included in that book. He will read "New England Song", (which contains one of my favorite lines of poetry, "We stepped off the Mayflower, onto the Acela"). Philip will also read two other unpublished poems, "The Illusion" and "Winter Dusk."

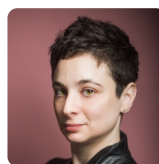
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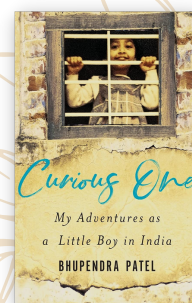
In April (when we might be able to host an audience outside), we host Bhupendra “Bob” Patel, author of *Curious One: My Adventures as a Little Boy in India*. After having a distinguished career in designing and building nuclear submarines, Bob sat down at age 70 to write this memoir, which includes snapshots and emotions that have guided him through the years.



A Sea To Row By
by Philip Kuepper



Animal Wife
by Lara Ehrlich



Curious One
by Bhupendra Patel

The Board of Trustees

Judy Munro & Linda Kosta, Co-Presidents of the Board of Trustees

A new year has arrived and has brought with it all the charms of winter in New England. If you stroll through our beautiful village of Mystic, you will notice the gorgeous architecture of the mature trees normally hidden by leaves, the whitecaps billowing on the Mystic River, and sometimes a fresh blanket of pristine white snow. Our historic library building becomes more visible as you climb the hill in the winter beckoning you in to utilize its many resources.

Our majestic building, collections of resources, knowledgeable and professional staff only exist due to the generosity of the communities we serve. As an association library, we are able to be flexible as demonstrated by our remaining open during much of COVID. We offered computers, WIFI, printing and copying in addition to non-contact book pickup, grab & go bags for crafts and librarians still doing research and helping members of our community. However, as an association library, we also receive only a small but very significant portion of the Library's annual operating budget from the Towns of Groton and Stonington. Since we do not receive any town services, these funds help pay for our daily operating expenses. The majority of our funding comes from fundraising, grants and interest from our carefully managed endowment. Over the next few months, the Library Staff and Board of Trustees will begin our annual budget development process.

The Board of Trustees is extremely appreciative of all of our donors and supporters. Additional and meaningful support of our Library can be achieved through your support within your Town's budget process. This spring, at an appropriate time, we will ask you to reach out to your local government representative and ask that they vote “YES” for the Library's 2022 budget request.



Upcoming Events

Digital Program: Women in Jazz

Thursday, March 10th @ 6:30 PM

Galen Abdur-Raazaq, Master Flautist and Riveting Speaker, will give a presentation on women Jazz performers' lives, their ability to read music, perform and survive in a time when Jazz was considered a man's world. He will also cover the full spectrum of years, genre, recordings, recognized achievements and samples of artists' music.

Friends Indoor Yard Sale

Friday, March 18th: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday, March 19th: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Got cabin fever? Join us for the Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library Indoor Yard Sale and get your tag sale fever in gear! There will be lots of great treasures looking for new homes for adults and children. Proceeds of the sale will be used by the Friends to support the Library throughout the year. For further information, please call the Library at 860-536-7721.

In the Ames Room: The True Depths of the Plastic Crisis, "Thicker Than Water"

Thursday, April 7th @ 6:00 PM

Join author Erica Cirino as she discusses her recent book, *Thicker Than Water: The Quest for Solutions to the Plastic Crisis*. In *Thicker Than Water*, Erica documents plastic across ecosystems and elements; shares stories from the primarily Black, Brown, Indigenous and rural communities that are disproportionately harmed by industrial pollution globally; and uncovers strategies that work to prevent plastic from causing further devastation to our planet and its inhabitants.

Digital Program: Going to Extremes - Adventure Travel!

Thursday, April 14 @ 6:00 PM

Join nationally-known adventure travel journalist and author, Peter Mandel, as he shares stories of his most extreme travel experiences —surviving a coup in Ecuador, visiting a ‘city’ of penguins at the South Pole, fishing for piranha on Brazil’s Rio Negro, floating in the Goodyear Blimp, sailing on an Arctic icebreaker, camping in the African bush - and discusses how adventure travel turns to prose in today's media.

**“There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer.”
— Gertrude Jekyll**



Our Cat Year

Jes Trejo, Circulation Desk Supervisor



The Mystic & Noank Library is happy to announce that this March of 2022 will officially mark one year since the adoption of Matilda and Violet. It is amazing to think about all the new and exciting things the girls have experienced since making the Mystic & Noank Library their home. For those who are not yet familiar with our library cats, they are Manx cats, hence they are tail-less, and bonded sisters.

When we first brought them in, they were so scared they would hide under the curtains of the lounge chairs; but eventually they realized how great it is upstairs and started to explore. Matilda has since discovered a love of jumping onto the tops of stacks and enjoys taking naps in Local History. However, Violet lives for food and affection, and you can find her by following the clumps of cat hair left behind.

They are both playful and loving, whether it is with a librarian, patron, or bat. With everything happening in the world nowadays, it's always welcome to find little joys in life. Fortunately for the Mystic & Noank Library, having Matilda and Violet has brought joy not only for our staff, but for our patrons as well. We are happy to have them, but moreover, we are happy they have this library to call home!

History of the Mystic & Noank Library

Joanna Case, Friend of the Library and Former MNL Director

Miss Ethel Fish, the third Librarian who was hired in 1927, was apparently an assistant to Miss Generva Ricker before taking over the position of Librarian. During her tenure the switch was made away from the purchased, covered and bound catalogue to organizing the collection by the Dewey Decimal system and a card catalog. This was a long and tedious job that took multiple years. The shelves were opened in 1927 so that a patron could collect his own books. This relieved the Librarian of the task of retrieval. A Book Committee was also formed during Miss Fish's tenure. This group met and made decisions about what books were added to the collection through purchase. I also wonder if they made decisions regarding gift materials.

In her annual report for October 1, 1946, more statistics were added and no more listing of individual gifts. Circulation figures were given for Fiction and Non-fiction as well as Adult and Juvenile. The Library was open 299 days during the year and holidays were listed. At this point, I think the Library was now on the first floor with the Children's Section in the East corner facing the Union Baptist Church. I never found any information on when the move was made, but I am assuming that it occurred during Miss Fish's term. Miss Fish retired in July 1947 after 30 very productive years as the Librarian. She was instrumental in moving the Library into what was, at the time, the new system of organization, which made all libraries alike. Miss Fish died in 1962 at the age of 76 years. She is buried with her parents, Charles Palmer Fish and Fanny Parke Fish at Elm Grove Cemetery.

An interesting side note: the Board in 1934 gave the Mystic Gun Club permission to use the basement as a rifle range. IMAGINE!!!!

Write the Library Into the Last Chapter of Your Story

Chris Kepple, Development Director



A library lasts a lifetime and including the Library in your estate plans secures this renewable resource for generations to come. Here at the Mystic & Noank Library, we renew our commitment each year to welcome all with open arms to a place for learning, literacy and enjoyment. As a donor, you have expressed your desire to support the Library. Have you considered including the Mystic & Noank Library in your estate planning?

Today, there are many ways to leave a legacy gift to the Library. The most common way to add the Library to your estate plans is to include it in your will. Did you know you can also name the the Mystic & Noank Library as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy? Other options for making a legacy gift are also available. To learn more about writing the Mystic & Noank Library into the last chapter of your story, please reach out to our development office today.

How can you take the first step? Schedule a visit with our development office on the second floor of the Library to discuss this impactful way of giving to the Library. You can also reach out by phone at 860.536.7721 ext. 210 or by writing to: mysticnoankdevelopment@gmail.com. If you prefer to keep your plans private, then consider scheduling some time to speak with your attorney or financial advisor about how to make a legacy gift to the Library.

For 129 years, the Mystic & Noank Library has remained steadfast in its commitment to deliver essential services to its patrons. Today, it is a living monument to the communities of Mystic, Noank, Old Mystic, Groton Long Point, Groton, and Stonington. The success of the Library we love is a tribute to the many individuals who chose to include it in their estate plans. Because of this tradition of generosity, the Library reflects the contributions of more than five generations. We promise to invest your bequest into everything that makes this Library a wonderful community asset.



Friends of the MNL Report

Sally Salancy, President

The world, and our little corner in it, changed forever on Friday, March 13, 2020, the day that all the libraries closed. By Saturday the Friends of Mystic & Noank Library realized that the upcoming Indoor Yard Sale could not be held, and that our Silent Auction, Library Fair, and Saturday-to-Saturday Book Sale, our biggest fundraisers, would have to be cancelled; and we wondered how MNL could continue to serve all its patrons in this new world.

Fortunately for everyone, libraries are resilient institutions, and ours already had the means to loan texts, music, and movies electronically. For patrons preferring to hold a book, MNL and other libraries set up a system so we could call in or email a request, have the book set aside, and pick it up at a set time in a safe place. Our Children's Librarian, Roberta Donohue, started making "Grab N Go" bags, which became an instant hit and are still being used today.

Last year, on the first Saturday of June, the Friends were able to have a scaled-down Library Fair, the first since 2019. This, plus the proceeds from the Mystic Garden Club's sale added \$8,736 to our budget. Finally, the Monday after last Thanksgiving, we were able to hold our first Like-New Book Sale since 2019, which netted \$4,066, a welcome addition to our bank account.

This year on Friday and Saturday, March 18th and 19th, the MNL Friends hope to have their first Indoor Yard Sale in two years. Then on Sunday, March 27, our Library Cart Drill Team will perform in the Mystic Irish Parade! After very little practice our amazing team has twice won an award in the Parade, so be sure to stay in town on that Sunday, to cheer us on!

Enjoy the last of the snow! Hope to see you at the Library!



Memorial Donations

In Memory of:



**W.P.T. Hill
Colombia Leo
Barbara Hood
Gerry Johnson
Jean Noyes Evans**

**Gail Rosen
Sally Lamb
Susan Sayer
Lee Vincent**

**Marilyn Sorensen
Barry Boodman
Patricia B. Copp
Maria Ksiezopolska**

**Paul Neuman
Peter D. Feeley
Kristill Bella
Paula Dufault
Michael Bell Meyer**

In Honor of:

**David Evans III
Cindy Palmer**

**Melinda Carlisle
Sharon Carlee**

Independent Media a Trusty Source for Sorting through Online News

Ery Caswell, Adult Services Librarian

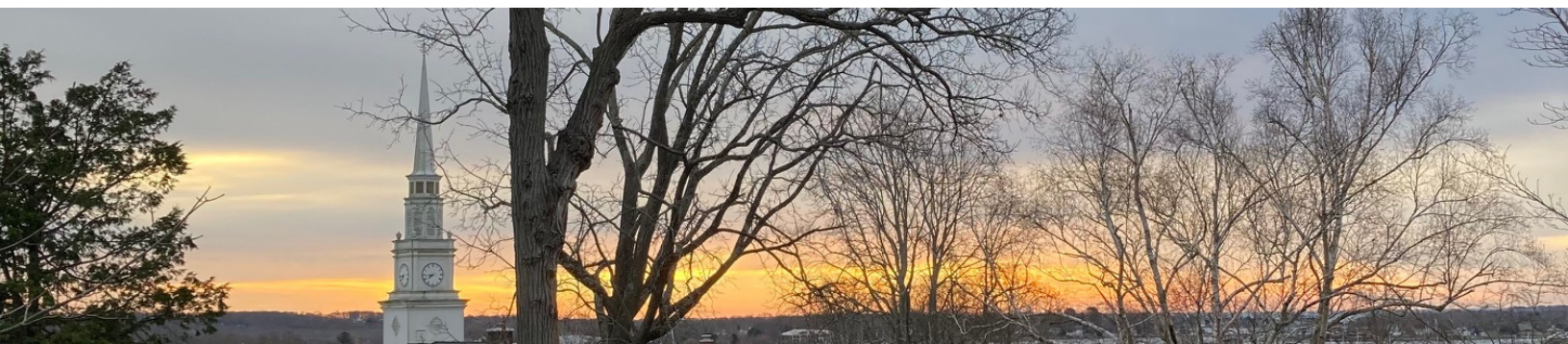
Separating fact from fiction in the digital era has never been more arduous. (Mis)information proliferates with ease online, and no one has time to fact check every single claim that floats in front of them on social media, constantly chirping apps, and hundreds of email newsletters you swear you never signed up for. Factor in a media landscape largely motivated by profit, headlines written strategically to incite outrage or panic to generate more revenue-generating clicks, and voila—you get a journalistic crisis.

Independent media sources have emerged throughout the last couple of decades to make up for this gap in truly unbiased, investigative reporting. Free from financial or editorial ties to corporate, government, or other influential institutions, independent journalism promises a more trustworthy model of reporting.

I imagine journalists and librarians as natural allies. We're both concerned with fact checking, consulting authoritative sources, and providing truthful, unbiased answers to people's questions to the best of our ability. This is why I'm particularly excited for us to host The (Nutmeg) State of Independent Journalism on Monday, February 28 at 6 PM on Zoom.


Bruce Putterman, the editor in chief of Connecticut's very own independent media source, The Connecticut Mirror, will inform us about the need for independent media, the difficulties in sustaining their publication, and what the future holds for those of us in the business of knowing what the heck is going on in the world (no small feat!).

And remember, you can always ask a librarian for help finding additional sources about a topic from a wide array of sources that represents many points of view.



Eat Your Heart Out, Charles Wysocki

By Katie Kenney



There is a small happiness
in a tawny leaf slowly
floating to the ground mingling
sweetly in cool grass.

A brisk New England street
where mizzly eyes reflect back
in every parking lot puddle.

The rose haze of dawn
from the panoramic pullout

bobbing boats and black-bellied
geese those riverbank loiterers.
Seaside museum rooms painted
in potential soulmates who linger
around every watercolor.
Cerulean sky and ancient dust among
lazy graves, downy and velvet,
reminding you for a moment,
it all keeps going.



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Visit us on the web at
www.mysticnoanklibrary.org

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Sign up for our monthly eNews!

We are open:
Monday & Wednesday: 10 to 7
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 10 to 4

The Library will be closed:
Monday, February 21 for Presidents Day
Friday, April 15 for Good Friday

Want to receive Bookends electronically?
Email friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org and include your name, address and email address.

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