

The Librarian

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Fall 2015 Issue

SUMMER READING RECAP 2015

By Maris Frey, Children's Librarian

Summer Reading 2015 was another chart topper! We had 700 children and teens register for our **Summer Reading Program** and 80% of the youngest, 84% of the middle group and 75% of the oldest participated by reading something over the summer, adding up to 10,192 hours. SO proud of all your efforts!!!

We had a wonderful finale celebration with a slide show of all the pictures from the summer, our sixty basket winner awards and ice cream sundaes for everyone! Many thanks to all the helpers who made this possible and to the families who share their delightful children with us!

We are very grateful to the Dog Watch Café, whose generosity supports our summer performers and programs! We also offer our appreciation to all of the families and businesses who donated so generously – they are OUR HEROES! Be sure to thank them for their support of our program. The Alexander Family, Bank Square Books, Bess Eaton Donuts, Big Y, BJ's Wholesale Club, Dairy Queen, Deans Mill School PTO, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, The Fix/Bowdler Family, Fun Company, The Hambleton Family, The Kelley Family, Leslie Buck Memorial Fund,

Lis Bake Shop, McQuade's Market, Mel's Downtown Creamery, The Menzies Family, The Murray Family, Mystical Toys, NESS, NEST, Olde Mistick Village Arts Cinema, The Palmer Family, Stonington Pizza Palace, Stop & Shop, Subway, Walmart, The Wanta Family, Gail Woodrow and Yellow House – thanks for all you did!

A grant from a family foundation gave us the opportunity to offer programming to children registered in summer camps at the COMO, Stonington Human Services and the Mystic Y. We also offered some story times and special programs at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC). Additionally, we were thrilled to provide new free books at all these locations for the children to bring home! Great to expand literacy efforts into our community!

The **Read and Feed** program contributed more than 575 food items to our community food bank at the PNC this summer. Weekly Specials helped ensure that the PNC received needed items, while the children enjoyed the chance to earn double rewards!

Our Teen Volunteers really help make this program possible and we thank Sarah

Bailey, Aiden Borsher, Emma Boudreaux, Heidi Chappell, Matthew Cheetham, Ella Cook, Haley Delmonaco, Nikhil Desai, Taylor Donovan, Sophia Duhig, Audrey Fuller, Hayley Geyer, Megan Mazikas, Bailey McCarney, Angel McClurg, Brenna McNeil, Haley Mentz, Celia Moffit, Bryn Morgan, Lucas Morrison, August Murko, Anna Potochniak, Adam Rajab, Madison Rea, Gabriella Ross, Marissa Sasso, Una Schaffer, Ava Schrage, Taylor Starr, Ryan Teixeira, Katya Torruella, Ella Turner, Tommy Voelker, Owen Williams and Caitlyn Wrang.

Three favorite stories from this summer:

The little boy who brought out two toys from the store so his younger sister could choose the one she wanted – a lesson in sharing.

The boy who turned around with the basket he won at the finale and called out, "Mommy, Mommy, I won!" – a moment of unbridled joy and a reminder that summer reading should be FUN.

The eight year old who told me, "I really wanted to win that Nerf gun, Mrs. Frey, but there's always next year." – a lesson in how to lose gracefully.

THE TEEN VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

"Stonington Free Library provides a summer reading program for children entering preschool to high school students. As a volunteer seeing the kids come to the store and be so happy to claim their rewards from reading makes you happy to be part of such a great community. Every so often families come and if siblings/friends don't have enough money to buy items from the store siblings/friends will buy it for them. This is very nice since the siblings/friends will use their own money they earned by reading to help out other siblings/friends. Also when the preschoolers come in to earn a sticker for reading they are so adorable and have a huge smile on their face to see that they earn more stickers. Volunteering at the library is enjoyable and fun when you see the expressions from kids when they earn rewards."

– by Brenna McNeil and Haley Delmonaco

"As a teen volunteer at the Stonington Free Library's summer reading program for the past three summers, I have learned so much. One. When children are given the opportunity to choose the literature of their choice, or they have a librarian who will take the time to help them pick a book they might like, they will actually spend more time reading. This reading program has that. This program allows the children to choose any book that they want to read and has the caring librarian, Mrs. Maris Frey, who takes the time to help the children find books that they may like. Also, when children know that they will be rewarded with many options of prizes for reading any book that they want, they actually take the time to read more. This program rewards the children with "money" that they can use in a store set up in the library. The store has prizes from books, to games, to candy, and much, much more. The "money" can also be used to earn raffle tickets for a large assortment of baskets with incredible prizes. This reading program has let me watch children enjoy their summer reading; enjoy coming to the library to see what new prizes are in the store; and mainly enjoy finding a good book to read."

– by Bryn Morgan

*"I have really enjoyed working as a teen volunteer for the Stonington Free Library youth reading program this summer for a number of reasons. One reason that I like the Stonington Free Library's reading program so much is because the children are always so enthusiastic about shopping in the store with the **Mighty Bucks** that they have earned for reading. I like how the kids have an incentive to read over their summer vacation. I also think that it is a nice way for the teen volunteers to have the experience of having a job in a comfortable library setting. The final reason that I like to work at the library so much is that when my family and I moved here one of the first things that we did was sign up for the summer reading program."*

– by Owen Williams



Bold = Adult Activities ⚡ = Pre-registration Required. Please call.

SEPTEMBER

All Month	Halloween Costume Drop Off (FREE shopping Oct. 1 – 10)
2 6:30 pm	PJ Story Time
5 10:30 am	Junior Maker Space Building with LEGO® bricks
7	Labor Day – Library Closed
8 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
9 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
12 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space Ages 6+
15 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies - 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
16 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
19 10:30 am	Saturdays in Stonington – Apple Stamping
22 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
23 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
5 – 8 pm	NEW Coloring Party! Fun for all ages, kids to adults!
26 10:30 am	Saturdays in Stonington – Sticker Day
29 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
30 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)

OCTOBER

1-10 12 – 5 pm	Halloween Costume Swap or Drop Shopping
3 10:30 am	Junior Maker Space Building with LEGO® bricks
6 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies - 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
7 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
6:30 pm	PJ Story Time
10 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space Ages 6+
11 5:00 pm	Sunday Evening Lecture Series with Ted Danforth on his new book <i>The Great East-West Historical Development at The La Grua Center</i>
12	Columbus Day – Library Closed
13 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
14 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
15 5:30 pm	Thoughtful Thursdays – First in a series on genealogy: Linda Christensen, Pres. Of Historical Society, Preston CT <i>Tracing Our Roots as a Way to Know More about Ourselves at the Library</i>
17 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Make a Haunted Gingerbread House Family Workshop. Space is limited – One per family. Registration opens Sept. 30 ⚡
20 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
5:30 pm	Thoughtful Tuesday – Second in a series on genealogy: A Workshop on Genealogy with Anne Thacher and Liz Wood at Palmer House
21 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
5 – 8 pm	NEW Coloring Party! Fun for all ages, kids to adults!
24 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Play Dough Day
27 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
28 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
31 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Make a Halloween Craft

NOVEMBER

3 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
4 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
6:30 pm	PJ Story Time
7 10:30 am	Junior Maker Space Building with LEGO® bricks
10 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
11	Veterans Day – Library Closed
14 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space Ages 6+
15 5:00 pm	Sunday Evening Lecture Series with Pieter Visscher on <i>Discovery of Life on Earth 3 Billion Years Ago at The La Grua Center</i>
16-20 12 – 5 pm	Make A Plate Week (All ages) Cost - \$7.50 + 1 canned or dry good for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center – let's remember our neighbors in need at this time of year!
17 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
18 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
5 – 8 pm	NEW Coloring Party! Fun for all ages, kids to adults!
19 5:00 pm	Thoughtful Thursdays – <i>Frauds and Scams: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You at the Library</i>
21 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Make a Plate
25	Library Closes at 1pm
26	Thanksgiving Day – Library Closed
28 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Painting Day

DECEMBER

1	First day to sign up for our Winter Reading Challenge (ages 7 and younger) - 50 To Grow On ⚡
2 6:30 pm	PJ Story Time
5 11 am – 1 pm	A Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus (Ages 8 and under) ⚡
9 5 – 8 pm	NEW Make a Gingerbread House Family Workshop – Space is limited – One per family. Registration opens November 23 ⚡
12 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space Ages 6+
16 5 – 8 pm	NEW Coloring Party! Fun for all ages, kids to adults!
19 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Reindeer Story Time and make Magic Reindeer Food!
23 5 – 8 pm	NEW Make a Stained Glass Night Light Jar
24	Christmas Eve – Library Closes at 1pm
25-26	Library Closed for Christmas Holiday
31	New Year's Eve – Library Closes at 1pm

Bookworms

By Maris Frey, Children's Librarian

Librarian Bookworms Fall/Winter 2015

As another school year begins, we are ready for an exciting season of new programs and the return of perennial favorites. We will continue our **Drop In Read and Play** story times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These story times are designed to introduce and reinforce early literacy skills. Reading, talking, singing, writing and playing are the five practices that form the building blocks of early literacy skills. The Family Literacy Enrichment Program continues to offer four free outreach story times to local preschools along with a rotating library of print and audio books. Monthly **PJ Story Times** will be on the first Wednesdays beginning on Sept. 2 at 6:30pm. Other returning favorites will be **Halloween Costume Swap or Drop, Make a Plate Week** November 16 – 21, **50 to Grow On Winter Reading Challenge**, our annual visit with **Santa** on December 5 and **Reindeer Story Time** with Magic Reindeer Food on December 19. Please check the calendar for registration and age details.

Our **Saturday in Stonington** will vary - **Junior Maker Space Building with LEGO® bricks** will remain the first Saturday of the month and the second Saturday will be **Minecraft Junior Maker Space** (ages 6 and older, the pieces for this are extremely small). Check out our Facebook page to see what is coming up each week.

We will be offering **Coloring Parties** for all ages from 5 – 8pm on September 23, October 21, November 18 and December 16. We will have coloring pages and supplies available in the Children's Room, the Teen Room and upstairs for adults. Drop in and try it – coloring is calming and almost meditative, relieves stress and provides a lovely creative outlet for those who are not necessarily crafty. Come see what all the buzz is about!

Our **Family Craft Workshop, Decorate a Haunted Gingerbread House**, will be on Saturday, Oct 17. We will offer already constructed gingerbread houses, one per family, to decorate. Registration opens on Sept. 30 and space is limited.

We will offer a **Holiday Gingerbread House Family Craft Workshop** on December 9 from 5 – 8pm and registration will open on November 23.

We will begin offering **We Are Makers** on selected Wednesday evenings with the first opportunity a **Stained Glass Night Light Jar** on December 23 from 5 – 8 pm.

The Library will be hosting the third graders for the annual **Look It Up project**, which is a partnership between the Rotaries of both of Mystic and The Stoningtons, the Leslie Buck Memorial Fund, and the Library. All the third graders tour the building, listen to a story, and participate in a scavenger hunt. They each receive their own dictionary and library card. This will require closing the Children's Room briefly for a few mornings in the fall; please check our webpage for days and times.

Happy Autumn!



Summer Reading 2015

Strategic Planning and the Stonington Free Library

By Mary Kelley, Vice President, Board of Trustees

The dictionary defines strategic planning as a process of decisions made by an organization to set goals and to outline a course of action to achieve those goals. In even simpler terms, it is a plan aimed at creating a desired future. Such planning is routine practice in business and one that has become increasingly more common with non-profits, such as libraries. The Stonington Free Library is no exception.



Recently the Library's Board of Trustees surveyed a small sampling of our library users. The goal was to learn what we were doing well and what we could improve upon. The information gathered from our survey led us to the realization we needed to be more thoughtful and deliberate about our future goals. Our respondents told us there was much we did well, but there were also many areas where we could improve. Respondents shared they wanted the library to address changes taking place in our fast-paced society, a challenge for one of Connecticut's smallest libraries, but they also wanted us to continue to provide a foundation in literacy for our youngest users. With challenge comes opportunity, and so the Board of Trustees decided it was clearly time for us to strategically plan for the future. Without such a plan, we were reminded of a Yogi Berra quote, "if you don't know where you are going, you might wind up some place else."

The Board is now seeking a consultant to help with this work, and over the next several months you will learn more about our efforts. Members of the community will soon be asked to participate in this process through surveys, focus groups, or even one-on-one interviews. We will ask how you feel about the library's responsiveness to the community's needs and what role you see the Stonington Free Library playing in the town's future. We believe the Stonington Free Library is a true community resource, and your input will help to make it an even stronger one.

Thank You!

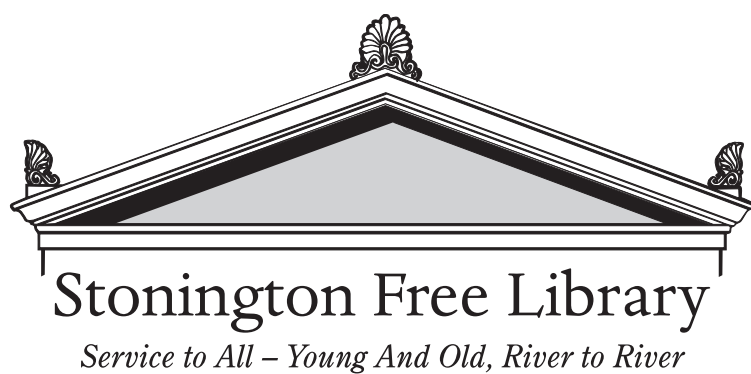


Welcome to the new Corporate Sponsors of our *Sunday Evening Lecture Series* for this season. Thanks to their support we are able to offset the cost of these free programs and focus Library funds on new and exciting programs, materials, and services for the community.



Adult Summer Reading

This summer adults have not been left out of the summer reading program festivities. We launched a month long Adult Summer Reading Program that rewarded patrons who checked materials out of the Library with chances to win weekly drawings for goodies in our display case. We had a wide array of prizes ranging from autographed books and library tee-shirts to travel mugs and lanterns. Over 80 adults participated in the program and we hope to make it a summer season staple. Not that reading isn't its own reward...



Stonington Free Library
20 High Street, Stonington, CT

Mailing address
PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378

Hours
10am-5pm M, T, Th and F
10am-8pm Wed • 10am-3pm Sat

Phone 860.535.0658

Fax 860.535.3945

E-mail stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org

Web stoningtonfreelibrary.org

Acting Director Belinda deKay

Children & Teen Services Maris Frey

Board of Trustees

President Nick Kepple

Vice President Mary Kelley

Secretary Kaylan Randolph

Treasurer Allegra Griffiths

Trustees Candace Anderson

Stephen Bessette | Lois Cole | Vera Harsh

Janet Hatton | Elizabeth Leamon | Tim Love

Susan Martin | Scott Muller | Kaylan Randolph

George Sylvestre

Editors Charles Harding | Melissa Floyd

Layout CMB Creative Group

New Director Search

By Nick Kepple, President of the Board

As part of the strategic planning process the Library has undertaken, the Board decided this summer, after much analysis, to pursue a different direction in the management of the Library. We acknowledge and appreciate Margaret Victoria's years of service to the Library and wish her well in her new endeavors. The Trustees are grateful to Belinda deKay and the staff for their willingness to extend themselves during this transition. The Board takes its responsibility to our user community very seriously and has devoted hundreds of hours toward the goal of making the Stonington Free Library the best it can be. We look forward to sharing our progress in this endeavor with you over the next year and thank you for your continued support for this wonderful community resource. A vigorous search effort is underway for a new Director.

Inside:

F A L L 2 0 1 5

Summer Reading 2015 A Super Summer

Bookmark September through December Calendar of Library Events

Bookworms Happenings in the Children's and Teen Rooms

Strategic Plan Gearing Up to Look Toward the Future

Annual Appeal Thanks for a Successful Year



We are so grateful to all who donated to the Annual Appeal. We had another great fundraising year thanks to generous people who believe in the value of our library to the community. Your support is critical to our success. Thank you.

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MYSTIC, CT
06355
PERMIT NO. 139

Stonington Free Library PO Box 232 Stonington CT 06378

The Librarian