

# The Librarian

Stonington Free Library PO Box 232 Stonington CT 06378

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# The Librarian

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Spring/Summer 2017 Issue

## LIBRARY EXPANDS REACH IN THE COMMUNITY

**T**he Library is committed to expanding beyond its walls to reach more people in town. To this end, several new programs have been launched to bring the Library to the community.

Since the end of January, Library volunteers, Rory Contin, Barbara Corbeil, Beth Freeman, Sharon Sisitzky, Patty Tucchio and Meg Wilhelms, led by Asst. Director Micayla Hall have been offering library services at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) two Wednesday mornings a month. The idea was the brainchild of Director Belinda de Kay, who approached Vicki Anderson, Executive Director of the PNC, about collaborating to bring library services to the PNC.

The volunteers bring a selection of books, DVDs and audio books. Additionally, PNC patrons can request items they would like to borrow, which are brought to them at upcoming visits. The volunteers are able to issue library cards and offer basic technology help.



*L-R Rory Contin, Barbara Corbeil, Micayla Hall and Patty Tucchio at our PNC table*

An idea inspired by Board President, Nick Kepple, has led to a collaboration between the Library and the Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA). "Little Free Libraries" will be placed at Stonington Point and Mathews Park, where free paperback books will be available for anyone to take, enjoy, and keep. The project is funded by the SVIA and the Stonington High School shop class is constructing the libraries. The Library will keep the libraries stocked with books that will make great reads at the beach or the park. The libraries will be registered to the Little Free Library world map available at <https://littlefreelibrary.org>

Another initiative that has burst to life this spring is a book group at the new Masonicare at Mystic. Led by librarian Lindsey Mahn, this group meets monthly at Masonicare and is open to residents of the facility. Masonicare also offers a bus once a month to bring residents to the Library.

## HELP US BRIDGE OUR FUNDING GAP!

**W**e are nearing the end of our fiscal year on June 30th. Thanks to many of you, we have made good progress toward our need of \$177,000 for the Annual Fund, but we still have quite a gap to fill.

If you have not yet donated to our Annual Fund, we ask that you help us in any way that you can. We rely heavily on your contributions to provide the rich array of programs, materials and services you enjoy. Every bit helps!

You can send a donation by mail to PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378, in person at 20 High Street or on our website at [www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org/support](http://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org/support)



**THANK YOU!!**

## EXPANDING OUR HOURS RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



*These hours will be changing in August – stay tuned!*

After a community survey and several focus groups conducted as part of our strategic planning process, it's clear that more user-friendly hours are what our community desires. In response, the Library will add to and change the hours we are open. We do not plan to actually increase our hours immediately since this has large budget implications, but we feel that we can start by re-allocating the times we are open to better serve our patrons.

This **new schedule will be launched in August** and will include staying open until 7 pm several evenings a week. We are constantly seeking new ways to serve our community and to be responsive to suggestions from the survey and focus groups. We hope keeping our doors open at more convenient times will be one of them. Look out for an announcement in our July e-newsletter and posters in the Library for the new hours.

# AN EVENING AT WALDEN

By Charles Harding

***“To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts”***

~ Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*



April 22 was the day whose quality was artfully affected by the Stonington Free Library's 9th annual Mystery Dinner with its theme based on Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. Approximately 145 ticket-holders gathered at 6pm for traditional drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the Library and, promptly at 7, dispersed to 19 appointed homes for sumptuous dinners that reflected this year's theme.



*We are grateful to the DPNC for loaning us their creature collection*



*Barbara Ginsberg in her “Waldenwear”*

***“Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new”***

~ Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Sibby Lynch was in charge of decorating the Library, which was done to a fare-thee-well with a horde of woody creatures, tools for survival in the wild, gardening and workshop accessories, lots and lots of greenery, a forest of branches, and streamers bearing thoughts from Thoreau's books that have become adages for the present day. Thanks go to The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Adam's Garden of Eden, Cask N' Keg, Russ Burgess and Clare Sheridan of Charles Schwab – Mystic (who sponsored the cocktail party), and to Barbara Heuer whose wondrous calligraphy was central to the décor.

Financially, the event was a booming success with ticket sales over \$13,000 — a matter of importance to the Library. In addition, a “Giving Tree” poster was set up on which guests could post their “Giving Leaves” with pledges to fund replacing and updating some of the Library's desktop computers with laptops and expanding the new book collection. This initiative raised more than \$5,000.

Of course, it all comes down to the success of the dinner parties. This year we had the largest number of volunteer hosts and hostesses ever — 19! The guest lists were put together with the aim of combining guests who don't often see each other, and may not even know each other. The food, the drink, the conversation, the meeting of new people and the just plain fun of it all was extraordinary. See you next year—our 10th!



*Bartenders John Leamon and Brian Griffiths*

## THANKS TO:

### OUR MYSTERY DINNER HOSTS 2017:

Beth Black & Randy Bean  
Beth & Sam Chapin  
Harriet & Tony Crane  
Nan & Ted Danforth  
Barbara & Chris Dixon  
Cynthia Elliott & Doug Rice  
Geraldine Griffin, Alejandra & Josh Welch  
Alice & John Groton  
Mary Elliott Haders, Trish & Brandon Watson  
Julia & Paul Leeming  
Spike Lobdell  
Virginia & Bob Montgomery  
Caroline & Scott Muller  
Alie & Gerrit Nicholas  
Deb Norman & Chris Jussel  
Joyce & Francis Pandolfi  
Alexa & Dan Pearson  
Cheryl & Dave Purvis  
Ruth Saunders & Jim White

### AND OUR MYSTERY DINNER COMMITTEE:

Ann Buffum  
Denise Collins  
Nan Danforth  
Anne Fix  
Melissa Floyd  
Barbara Ginsberg  
Belinda de Kay  
Sibby Lynch  
Clare Sheridan  
Chris Turrentine

### CO-CHAIRS:

Allegra Griffiths  
Elizabeth Leamon  
Alejandra Welch

## DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIBRARY FROM YOUR IRA AND HAVE IT COUNT TOWARD YOUR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD) FOR THE YEAR?

By Beth Leamon, Library Trustee and attorney specializing in estate planning

If you are 70 ½ or older and face an annual RMD obligation, you can transfer up to \$100,000 to charities tax-free each year. The money counts as your RMD but it is not included in your adjusted gross income (AGI).

Making a contribution directly from your IRA may provide a more tax-efficient means for charitable giving than simply taking RMDs and separately donating money to claim a charitable tax deduction.

Consider the case of Robert, one of our supporters who contributed \$10,000 to the Library this year directly from his IRA. Because his AGI is reduced by \$10,000, Robert will save \$700 in Connecticut state income tax, as well as \$380 in Medicare surtax on his net investment income.

Bottom line: Robert's \$10,000 gift will net him **over \$1,000 in additional tax savings** compared to claiming a charitable deduction on his tax return.

Speak to your tax advisor to find out if you might benefit from using your RMD to contribute to the Library.

## FRIEND OF STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY, COLIN REVILL

By Charles Harding and Belinda de Kay

The Stonington Free Library has recently lost one of its staunchest supporters and volunteers. Former President, Trustee and Treasurer of Stonington Free Library Colin Revill died peacefully on Dec. 9, 2016, in Westerly Hospital at the age of 91.

Colin was an avid reader and a great friend of the Library. He served on the Library's Board of Trustees for six years from 1993-1999, acting as Board President from 1995-1999. During his tenure he oversaw many changes at the Library. The Stonington Historical Society moved out of its long-time home in the basement and the Children's Room was created. This period also saw the acquisition of the first computers and other digital access.

Colin Revill was very engaged in, and deeply committed, to the life of the Library at a time of innovation and growth. He returned to the Board in 2002 and stepped in as Interim Treasurer upon the untimely death of Patricia Lawrie. He served as Treasurer until 2004 and again played a very active role in overseeing the annual appeal and the endowment. He came up with a very creative idea for fund raising – soliciting signed copies of books from best-selling authors and holding a silent auction. Hands-on, minimum overhead, great fun and successful!

It is true to say that Colin's vision of the Library as central to the life of the community continues to this day and his legacy of public service lives on among us.

Born in Dudley, England, Colin was a modest and reserved man, which belied his dramatic career as a carrier-based fighter pilot in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy in the South Pacific. He was only 17 years old when he signed up. On his return to England, at the end of the war, he studied English Language and Literature at the University of Birmingham, where he met his first wife, Lyn. They had two children, Alison and Simon. He had a successful career with British Gas, rising to director of personnel of the North West Region.

Lyn died in 1974, and he met his second wife, Margaret Frisch (Maggie), in Switzerland in 1981. They married in 1984, and Colin moved to the USA in 1985, living in Manhattan before moving permanently to Stonington to live in Maggie's family home.

Colin had many friends in and around Stonington and delighted in lively company. He will be much missed by his wife, children, five grandchildren, his two-month-old great-grandson and the many people who knew and admired him.



# LIBRARY CALENDAR

**Bold** = Adult Activities  
Programs are tentative – please check the Library website and our monthly e-blasts for the most up to date information and more detail.

## ONGOING

Every Wednesday – PJ Storytime June 21– July 26  
Every Monday – Drop In Storytime July 3 – July 31  
Every Saturday – LEGO® Challenge June 24 – July 29  
Every Friday – Wii U Gaming Ages 9+ (1-4:30pm)  
2nd Thursday of the month – **Book Group Discussion**  
1st & 3rd Wednesday – **Library at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center**

## MAY

May 9th – Dual Language Story Time Ages 4-6  
**May 14th – Sunday Evening Lecture – India Howell discusses her Rift Valley Children’s Village @ La Grua Center**  
**May 18th – Thoughtful Thursday – Nick Bellantoni gives a Custom House Tour – 1830s artifacts**

**May 29th – Memorial Day – Library Closed**

## JUNE

**June 8th – Thoughtful Thursday - Special Stonington Garden Club speaker discusses floral arrangements**  
**June 11th – Sunday Evening Lecture - Kim Bingham talks about his father Hiram Bingham**  
**June 15th – Poetry Picnic – bring your favorite piece of literature to share, BYO Lunch**

June 19th – Summer Reading Program Registration Opens!  
June 21st – Summer Solstice Concert with Bergin O’Malley (Outside – weather permitting)  
**June 22nd – Trip to Blue Garden in Newport**  
June 26th – The Maker Market opens!  
June 26th – July 1st – Make a Plate Drop In (Material cost \$7.50)  
June 28th – Ed Pop Magic Show  
June 29th – Bucket of Blooms with Noreen Kepple – Ages 6-9

## JULY

**July 4th – Independence Day – Library Closed**  
July 6th – Decorate a Fairy House – one per family  
July 8th – Children’s Museum LEGO® Brick Challenge – Build rubber band driven vehicles  
**July 9th – Sunday Evening Lecture - Ambassador Molly Raiser, Chief of Protocol in Clinton Administration, on Diplomatic Insights @ La Grua Center**  
July 10th – Bike check/Puppetry Workshop  
July 11th – Bath Fizzies Workshop  
July 12th – Jester Jim – a comic juggling beatboxer! @ The COMO  
July 15th – Annual Children’s Opera – *Fairy Tale Kitchen* @ Stonington High School  
July 19th – Keith Munslow – Musical storyteller - @ The COMO  
July 20th – Henna Workshop – 2 hour program by Jamilah, a professional henna artist Ages 10+

**July 20th – Thoughtful Thursday – Jean Baur on Job Searching**  
July 25th – Build a Bird House – Home Depot will be here to help  
July 27th – Candy Sushi – Bring your sweet tooth

## AUGUST

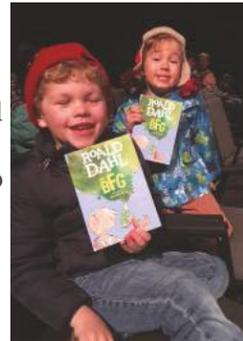
August 1st – Donut Day – Enjoy a sweet treat from Bess Eaton  
August 2nd – Build a Sparkle Jar – create a mood calming jar  
August 2nd – Teen Volunteer Thank You Pizza Party  
August 4th – The Maker Mart Closes – last day to earn or spend bucks  
**August 5th – Village Fair – Library Closed**  
August 7th – Summer Reading Program Ice Cream Celebration  
**August 8th – Thoughtful Tuesday - Michael Adair will present a poetry reading (details to come)**  
**August 13th – Sunday Evening Lecture – John Fullerton, President of The Capital Institute will speak (details to come)**  
**August 17th – CT Author Trail – Jean Baur discusses her book *Joy Unleashed* – Bella, the Story of the Unlikely Therapy Dog**

# B O O K W O R M S S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

*By Maris Frey, Youth Services Director*

## AREA LIBRARY COLLABORATION

For our first Family Reading Challenge, One Family – One Book, we collaborated with the Westerly Library in reading *James and the Giant Peach*, Roald Dahl’s first popular children’s book. Both libraries offered read aloud days and we brought James and his friends to the COMO After school groups at West Vine Street and Deans Mill Schools. We were also thrilled to offer a screening of the movie at the United Theatre in Westerly, the future arts center for the entire area. Wakin’ Up Waggin’ was there with cookies and peach juice! All of the children attending received a Roald Dahl book to bring home. Our deepest, most sincere thanks go out to Simon Holt and the United Theatre, Wakin’ Up Waggin’ and Chuck and Deborah Royce for their assistance in bringing another idea to life for area families.



We welcome your input in considering this program next year.

## UPCOMING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The New London C.B. Jennings Magnet School will present a Dual Language Story Time at the Library on Tuesday, May 9 at 10:30. This is a Drop In Story Time appropriate for preschool and kindergarten aged children.

There will be two Teen Volunteer Orientation sessions June 7 at 5:30 pm and June 8 at 4:30 pm. These are training nights for our Summer Reading Program Teen Volunteers (students entering grade 7 and older) and will last about 30 minutes. Volunteers only need to attend one meeting and their applications are due **BEFORE** these meetings. Teens will receive their schedules on the night they attend and we would appreciate knowing how many to expect each night. Please call the Children’s Room with your date of attendance, questions, or for more information.



**JULY 20TH HENNA WORKSHOP**  
2 hour program by Jamilah, a professional henna artist – Ages 10+

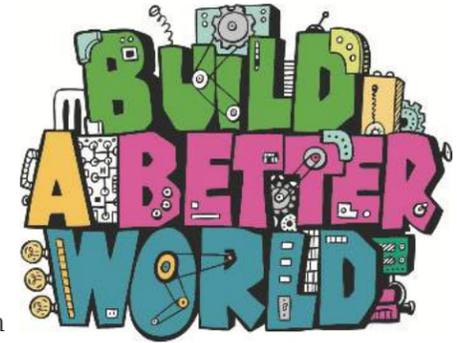
We are quite excited to offer our Annual Children’s Opera in a new season, free of winter weather woes! The

Lollipop Opera will be presenting an interactive original opera, *The Fairytale Kitchen*, with many of the most famous faces in fairytale land dropping by the Witch’s kitchen. This event will be held at the Stonington High School Auditorium on Saturday, July 15, at 11 am. We will distribute tickets to those in line at the High School beginning at 9:30 am, and we will open the doors for seating at 10:30 am. We are so grateful to our opera benefactor who makes this event possible in our community.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

With warmer weather arriving, thoughts turn to our popular Summer Reading Program, ready to kick off with registration opening on June 19. We will welcome Bergin O’Malley with a Summer Solstice Concert on June 21 at 6:30 pm. This program will take place outside, weather permitting, so please bring your lawn chairs and blankets for a musical evening. Our next program will be the Ed Pop Magic Show on June 28 at 1pm. Registration for that program will open on June 19.

Our theme is **Build a Better World** for all age groups. Our youngest group is for children entering kindergarten and younger, students entering grades one through five will be in our middle group, and students entering grade six and older comprise our oldest group. Students in the middle and older groups will earn Builder Bucks for their reading time and will have the opportunity to spend them in our summer store, the Maker Mart. The store will open on June 26. Please remember you must register in order to start counting your reading time. The **LAST** day to earn and spend will be **Friday, August 4** and our traditional after hours Ice Cream Party and basket award ceremony will be held on August 7 at 6pm.



*Candy Sushi is a popular program for ages 10+*

We have wonderful programs planned for all age groups and are again most grateful to everyone who makes this program possible. To date, we have received donations from McQuade’s, the Klewin, Stoddard, Moore and Obuchowski families, Leslie Buck Memorial Fund, Patricia Reilly Giff, Mystic Luxury Cinemas, Mel’s Downtown Creamery, Stonington Pizza Palace, Mystic Cycle Centre, Nigrelli Jewelers, the COMO, Target, Big Y, Lis Bake Shop, Indulge, Bank Square Books, Home Depot, BJ’s Wholesale Club, Dairy Queen, Stop & Shop, and Subway. Check out the the events calendar, which lists all the individuals, families and businesses that support our Summer Reading Program and be sure to thank them again for their generosity.

We have again received a generous grant from an anonymous family foundation, enabling us to take portions of our Summer Reading Program “on the road.” This will allow children in some of our area’s summer camps to enjoy performers, a selection of free books to bring home and an opportunity to register for the Summer Reading Program at their location.

We will be collaborating with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center again with Read and Feed, our Outreach to those in need in our community. Each time a child brings in a food, health or beauty item to donate to the PNC, they will receive a free basket ticket. Our contributions are very much appreciated every year. We will begin accepting donations in the Children’s Room on June 19.

Happy Summer!

*Watch out for new programs and returning favorites by following us on Facebook, Instagram, our webpage and monthly e-blasts.*

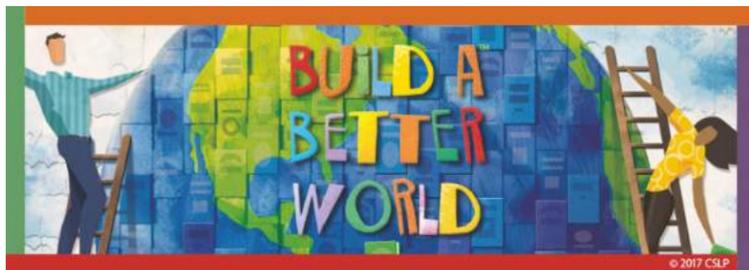


*We always have a great time at our end of year Ice Cream Celebration*

# ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2017

Did you know adults can win prizes for reading this summer too? Our Adult Summer Reading Program returns and will run from Monday, June 19 through Friday, August 4. Participating is easy! Each time you visit the Library and check out materials, you can enter our weekly drawing – entry forms will be available at the front desk. Earn a bonus chance to enter each day you drop off a donation at the Library for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. We will have drawings with three lucky winners chosen each week. Winners can select from a variety of prizes. ***New this year – everyone who enters will be eligible to win a grand prize of a Kindle Fire at the end of the program.***

**Enjoy Reading This Summer!**



## STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The Board of Trustees has spent the winter digging deep into crafting a Strategic Plan document to guide the next few years of Library development. The incredible feedback we received from the community has helped us shape the direction of the Plan and the overarching goals the Library will strive towards.



One of the most important tasks left to do is to tackle a review of the mission statement of the Library. We are very nearly finished with the process, and are looking forward to sharing our goals and objectives with the community in the coming months.



### 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](mailto:stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org)

**Web** [stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://stoningtonfreelibrary.org)

**Executive Director** Belinda de Kay

**Assistant Director** Micayla Hall

**Youth Services Director** Maris Frey

### Board of Trustees

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Susan Martin | Beverly Phillips

George Sylvestre

**Editors** Charles Harding | Melissa Floyd

**Layout** CMB Creative Group

## EXPLORE NEW BOOKS AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!

Our monthly book group is a hit! The group came about through community feedback from our strategic planning process and a collaborative event with eleven public libraries in the area in January – *Southeastern CT Libraries Celebrate Wally Lamb*. The group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 2 pm at the Library. Members volunteer to bring in baked goods for each meeting and the Library provides coffee and tea from our neighbors, Indulge Coffee and Sandwich Co. The group wouldn't be possible without the help of Judy Westwood, who volunteers her time each month to lead the engaging discussions. If you are interested in attending or need a copy of an upcoming title, please call the Library or email [micayahall@stoningtonfreelibrary.org](mailto:micayahall@stoningtonfreelibrary.org).

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TITLES INCLUDE:

**May 11th:** *The Atomic Weight of Love* by Elizabeth J. Church

**June 8th:** *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

**July 13th:** *The Muralist* by B.A. Shapiro

**August 10th:** *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles



*Great discussion and tasty treats – who can resist?*

## THE MAGIC OF SEEDS

*by Noreen Kepple, URI Master Gardener*

Inside every seed is the potential for a full grown plant: flower, vegetable, fruit or herb. The seed holds all the food that the plant needs to get started in the garden. If it is given healthy soil, sunlight and water it will produce a healthy plant for you to enjoy.

Many libraries are sprouting seed libraries for their patrons. There is one at Wheeler Library in North Stonington and one at Green Public Library in Coventry, RI. Now there is one in our own library. The Seed Library at the Stonington Free Library gives patrons a chance to choose a seed packet or two and try growing it at home.

The planting instructions are on the packet to try to make it easier for the grower. All the seeds have come from seed companies that do not use GMO seed (genetically modified organism) which are seeds not found in nature. We only want certified seed from companies that adhere to the Safe Seed Pledge.

The Seed Library is meant to put seeds into as many hands as possible and for people to understand the joy of gardening. In this tech-savvy world it is good to dig in the soil and watch something grow from your hands. Planting more seeds will help bring back the pollinators that we so vitally need for our food supply. So come visit us and pick out a packet of seeds and start growing!



*The seed catalog currently has 48 varieties to choose from*

– SAVE THE DATE –

*Noreen will be talking about seeds and how to plant them for children ages 6-9 as part of our Summer Reading Program this year on June 29th at 10:30am!*

