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**FOOD FOR FINES**  
The Library will run a Food for Fines program throughout the month of January. Library patrons may pay off all outstanding fines for overdue materials by donating non-perishable food items, which will benefit the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.  
Fines for any amount, excluding charges for lost or damaged materials, will be forgiven in full for those who offer at least one food item. Please call or stop by the Library for information on accepted food items.



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# The Librarian

Stonington Free Library PO Box 232 Stonington CT 06378

# The Librarian

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Winter/Spring 2016 Issue

## MEET DONNA MARIE LOLOS, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY

Donna Lolos' experience is broad and deep. She has a Master of Library Science, from the University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI. She was Executive Director of Libraries at West Haven Public Library in West Haven, CT where she had responsibility for 50 employees, 50 volunteers, an annual budget of \$2-million, plus a \$2.2-million endowment fund. Most recently, Donna was Deputy Director in management and operations of the Harris County Public Library system in Houston, TX with 26 branches and a \$24-million budget.



**Librarian:** I guess the first question is what brings you here?

**Donna:** I've come back to New England, which is home basically. I grew up and spent my summers in Crescent Beach, so Stonington is familiar to me. I've come back to my roots here. I saw your recruitment announcement, which said you wanted to change and grow, which is a goal I feel at home with. So I decided to take a look and what I found was this is an extremely community-based library. I mean libraries are community-based, but the community here *loves* this library. People actually tell me how much they love this library. It's the heart of the community. And the setting is so beautiful. So I knew I'd be happy here. And as the process was taking place, I really dug into the goal of change and growth and the Board is committed to it.

**Librarian:** What ideas do you have for developing Library programming?

**Donna:** We have to try different kinds of programming to attract a broader audience. Looking at the programs the Program Committee has done, I thought maybe it's time to bring in some music. I would like to explore bringing in music and drama groups. And I think it would go over well here because of the community demographics. Maybe people who don't want to sit through a talk would enjoy being entertained in an afternoon.

**Librarian:** How do you see the role of the Library on social media?

**Donna:** We have Facebook. Twitter we don't have yet, but Facebook we have. One thing I'd like to pursue is creating a library mobile app. This would more easily allow patrons to access library services on their mobile phones than is possible through a traditional website. So many people now consume information through their smartphones. The digital culture is rising and the need for libraries to participate is greater than ever.

**Librarian:** What do you feel is the most important role of the Library?

**Donna:** Libraries are storehouses of knowledge. Many people don't realize libraries are protected by the first amendment. The continuing mission of libraries is to provide free and equal access to information for all people of the community the library serves. That is why they are so important.

Because the Stonington Library is so beloved by the community, I am inspired to lead the Library to its greatest potential.

## OUR POPULAR ADULT LECTURE SERIES

By Susan Martin, Library Trustee

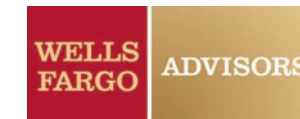


The Sunday Evening Lecture Series sponsored by the Stonington Free Library has been flourishing for many years. Its mission is not only to have local people give meaningful talks, but also to have worldwide experts speak on a varied set of interesting topics. These 5 PM talks at the Library and La Grua draw up to 140 people on a Sunday evening. They bring our Library's services to the attention of our market while providing a free wonderful learning experience to varied generations.

Recently we have had nationwide authors like Betty Medsger, Nathaniel Philbrick, Mac Griswold, and Fritz Schwartz speak. We also have local presenters like Tertius De Kay, Ted Danforth, Tony Pellegrini, Harry Martin, Jenny Dixon, Tim Love and Pieter Visscher speak on subjects of historical, literary, political, economic, scientific and social interest. The series will soon be evolving into other venues. Director Griff Mann's future talk on the Cloisters will be followed by a bus trip to this museum featuring a specially guided tour. In August we will have a prominent artist speak on his work and in September an authority on ISIS will give a talk.

In addition, we recently introduced a new series of "Thoughtful Thursday" talks. These are designed to deliver useful information on personal subjects like a) Genealogy, b) Computer data protection, c) Social media's risks to teenagers, and d) Dynamic changes in secondary education. In the spring we plan to have a panel on Children's Anxiety Issues. These Thursday events reach a market of young parents, senior citizens and others who may not attend our Sunday evening presentations.

Thanks to our Sunday Evening Lecture Series Sponsors



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

<b>JANUARY</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>New Year's Day – Library Closed</b>
2	10:30 am Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks Registration opens for Annual Opera for Children. Call for details.
5	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
6	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 6:30 pm PJ Story Time
9	10:30 am Minecraft Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks (Ages 6 +)
<b>5 - 7 pm</b>	<b>Merrill House Poet Geri Doran reads from her work</b>
12	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
13	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
16	10:30 am Dad & Me Story Time – Shark Week!
<b>18</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Day – Library Closed</b>
19	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
20	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 5 - 8 pm Coloring Party! Coloring pages and supplies provided. Fun for all ages, kids to adults!
23	11 am & 12:45 pm Annual Opera for Children - <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> performed at Olde Mistick Village Art Cinemas. <b>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!</b> Call the Library for registration. ⚡ Registration opens for Beauty and the Beast's Belle concert performed by Simply Enchanted!
25	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
27	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 5 - 7:30 pm We Are Makers! Olaf Night Lights (Ages 4 – 10)
30	Blizzard Date for Opera – same times 10:30 am Saturdays in Stonington – Play Dough Day
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
2	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
3	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 6:30 pm PJ Story Time
6	10 am Beauty and the Beast's Belle will be here to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day recognizing the special place libraries play in the lives of children all over the world! ⚡ 11:30 am Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks
9	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
10	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
13	10:30 am Minecraft Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks (Ages 6 +)
<b>15</b>	<b>Presidents' Day – Library Closed</b>
16	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
17	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 5 - 8 pm Coloring Party! Coloring pages and supplies provided. Fun for all ages, kids to adults!
20	10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Stamp Day
23	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
24	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 5 - 7:30 pm We Are Makers! Bristlebots Workshop Registration opens Feb. 3 (Ages 8 +) ⚡
27	10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Sticker Day
<b>MARCH</b>	
1	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
2	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 6:30 pm PJ Story Time
5	10:30 am Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks 11 am Meet Tish Rabe, an author of the <i>Cat in the Hat's Learning Library</i> @ The La Grua Center (Ages 8 +)
8	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
9	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
12	10:30 am Minecraft Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks (Ages 6 & up)
14	Registration opens for the Mo Willems Weekend! Meet Elephant and Piggie!
15	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
16	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 5 - 8 pm Coloring Party! Coloring pages and supplies provided. Fun for all ages, kids to adults!
19	10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Spring Story Time
22	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
23	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
26	10:30 am Saturday in Stonington Painting Day
29	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) Bunnies will be visiting from Terra Firma Farm 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
30	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) Bunnies will be visiting from Terra Firma Farm 5 - 7:30 pm We Are Makers! Lava Lamp Workshop Registration opens March 2 (Ages 7 +) ⚡
31	LAST day for our 50 To Grow On Reading Challenge! Bring in your reading log!
<b>APRIL</b>	
1	Voting OPENS for the 2016 Nutmeg Award Books of the year!
2	10:30 am Mo Willems Weekend in Stonington/ Pawcatuck/ Mystic/Westerly! Meet Elephant & Piggie! It's an Authorless Visit & we are celebrating the end of 50 to Grow On! Registration opens March 14 ⚡
5	10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2) 11:45 am Sandwich & Stories. Bring a lunch & enjoy story time! (Ages 3 – 6)
6	10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6) 6:30 pm PJ Story Time
9	10:30 am Minecraft Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks (Ages 6 +)
<b>10 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday Evening Lecture Series - Merrill House Poet Adam Giannelli @ the Library to kick off National Library Week</b>
16	10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Play Dough Day
18	Quack, Quack - It's Duckling Week! Our babies should hatch this week!
20	Coloring Party All Day long for all ages!
23	10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – stop by to see our little quackers
<b>23 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Mystery Dinner</b>
27	5 - 7:30 pm We Are Makers! LED Light Workshop - (Ages 7 +)
29	LAST day to VOTE for the Nutmeg Awards!!
30	10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Bead Day

# Bookworms

*By Maris Frey, Children's Librarian*

## Upcoming Program Highlights

Winter Drop In Story Times will begin the week of January 4 and will continue with Spring programs at the beginning of March. Tuesdays at 10:30 are for babies – 2 year olds and Wednesdays at 10:30 are for 2 – 6 year olds. We are trying out a NEW Sandwich and Story Time at 11:45 on Tuesdays. Bring a little lunch and relax with friends before stories and a craft. Story Times will run until April 6.



Little Red Riding Hood will be our Annual Opera for Children on January 23 with two shows at 11 am and 12:45 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to expose children to the beauty of the opera in a child friendly atmosphere! The performances are free and made possible through the generosity of our opera aficionado! We will once again be at the Olde Mistick Village Art Cinemas in its brand new renovated space! Reservations are required for the performances and can be made by calling the Library beginning on January 2. Please call us for more information.



Simply Enchanted's Belle from Beauty and the Beast will be here to mark Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 6! Call or stop in to register for this musical morning beginning on January 25.

Our new STEAM programming, **We Are Makers**, will continue with Olaf night lights in January, Bristlebots in February, Lava Lamps in March and LED Lights in April.

Our Winter Reading Challenge, 50 to Grow On, has begun! This early literacy initiative encouraging parents to read aloud to their children is open to all children, ages 7 and younger. It will continue until March 31. If you haven't signed your child up yet, come in and join the fun! Our Celebration Party for the children who participated this year will be on Saturday, April 2 at 10:30. We are spearheading a Mo Willems Weekend with the Mystic Noank Library and Westerly Library which will bring Elephant and Piggie here for our party along with other fabulous fun! Be sure to register for this opportunity beginning on March 14!



To celebrate school vacation week, we are looking forward to welcoming our baby ducklings! Terra Firma Farms will once again be providing us with an incubator and duck eggs this spring and hatching should coincide with spring vacation. Be sure to check our Facebook page for updates!

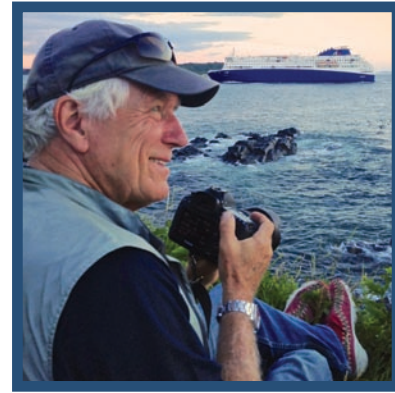
## Summer Reading Ahead

We are looking for Teen Volunteers to help us out this summer. This "TV" program gives our volunteers real work experience and they earn community service hours at the same time! The opportunity is open to students entering seventh grade or older who would like to work in our air-conditioned Children's Room for one or two shifts weekly. We are flexible with family vacations, but we do require volunteers to commit to at least 4 weeks between June 23 and August 1. Volunteers must also attend one of two training sessions in June, dates to be determined. **Strong mental math, computer and social skills** are needed for this position and excellent organizational abilities, a good memory and creativity are appreciated. We hope this is an opportunity for a positive learning experience allowing young teens a chance to learn skills useful to a future paid position. Applications are available on-line at [stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://stoningtonfreelibrary.org) under Children/Teen - Teen Volunteer Club. Drop off your completed application in the Children's Room! We begin working on schedules as soon as applications are received.

The themes for the Summer Reading Program are On Your Mark, Get Set, Read and Get in the Game: Read! Please contact the Library for more information. We are also looking for donations for our Store or Basket Drawings. If you are looking for ideas, please call the Children's Room.

**Registration opens on June 13!**

# New Book From Local Author



Raymond Uzanas was a chemist working in the industrial diamond industry before he left the corporate world to pursue another world of writing, photography and adventure. His travels have taken him to all regions of the globe in search of interesting, scenic and culturally diverse places. In this book, he has combined his interests in people and places to present a modern view of America's Deep South. Ray was born in Hartford, CT and when not globe-trotting, resides here in Stonington.



In his latest book *Faces and Places of the Deep South*, Ray takes the reader on his 2015 journey through America's rural south where he visits towns mired in

poverty and those infamous for their role in the civil rights movement of mid-20th century America. Ray explores the vast Mississippi Delta that gave birth to the Delta Blues sounds; traveling to its smallest desolate towns as well as to Clarksdale, Mississippi and its annual Juke Joint Blues Festival. Interviews and shared stories with people he meets resonate across racial and economic lines as he profiles the lives and times of today's Deep South.

It is a book mostly about the people—what Ray calls the human wealth of the region. His photographs capture and convey the mood and character of the land and its people. Come along for a ride through a half century of southern history. This book is available to check out at the Library.

# BATTLE OF STONINGTON 5K ROAD RACE BENEFITING THE LIBRARY

Through the generosity of the Battle of Stonington 5K Road Race, the Library would like to thank the over 250 runners and sponsors who came out, in August, to support the Run and support the Library. For over 17 years, this event has been a summer tradition in the Borough. Thank you to Race Director, Stephen Bessette and his group of volunteers who make this happen. Special thanks to event sponsors:

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## – Save the Date – 8th Annual Mystery Dinner

Clear your calendar for Saturday April 23, 2016! Our next Mystery Dinner is in the works. The theme is still a mystery, but it is sure to be a festive time as usual. This year we have new leaders at the helm planning the event – Allegra Griffiths and Elizabeth Leamon have agreed to take on the monumental task of bringing it all together along with a dedicated committee of volunteers. Keep an eye out for details which will be available in early 2016. The event sells out each year, so be ready to get your tickets early!!