

THE LIBRARIAN

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Winter 2019 Issue

ANNOUNCING THE J.D. McCLATCHY MEMORIAL CORNER

We are very excited to announce that The J. D. McClatchy Memorial Corner in the Library Gallery is complete. Our patrons and visitors are welcome to browse and enjoy this unique collection, a gift from the estate of J. D. (Sandy) McClatchy (August 12th 1945-April 10th 2018) to the Stonington Free Library. The collection is non-circulating, but can be explored and enjoyed within this special place. These beautiful books represent a life-long devotion to poetry, arts and letters, scholarship and music. They are a mirror of an extraordinary creative mind and serve as a lasting memorial to our distinguished neighbor and friend.



Our heartfelt thanks go to Chip Kidd who offered the Library the opportunity to become a permanent home for Sandy's books. Also, it is with great gratitude that we acknowledge the guidance and advice of Sandy's friend and colleague, Professor Jonathan Post, in selecting these books and the support of the Stonington Historical Society and the Merrill House for this project. Lastly, we thank the Stonington Village Improvement Association for their generosity in donating the beautiful memorial plaque and the framing of the photograph and thus making this special corner of the Library both a fitting tribute and a place of thoughtful rest for all comers in perpetuity.



Board Co-President Allegra Griffiths (left) and Mollie Burton (right) help staff the Library's Book and Bake Sale table at Stonington High School on Saturday, January 12th.

BOOK AND BAKE SALE

A big thank you to all who visited our Book and Bake Sale table at the Stonington High School on January 12th, and special thanks to those who donated delicious home-baked treats. We were delighted to see everyone who stopped by, and all sale proceeds will support Library programs and services. This first annual town-wide Indoor Yard Sale & Market was organized on behalf of the SHS Boys' Soccer Team, and leftover baked goods were donated to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center - a winning event for many community organizations!



STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY

Stonington Free Library
20 High Street, Stonington, CT

Mailing address
PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378

Hours
10am-6pm Monday-Tuesday
10am-7pm Wednesday
10am-6pm Thursday
10am-5pm Friday
10am-1pm Saturday

Phone
860.535.0658

Fax
860.535.3945

E-mail
stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org

Web
stoningtonfreelibrary.org

Executive Director
Belinda de Kay

Assistant Director
Micayla Hall

Youth Services Director
Maris Frey

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Co-Presidents
Denise Easton
Allegra Griffiths

Vice President
Scott Muller

Treasurer
David Purvis

Secretary
Richard Cole

Trustees
Stephen Bessette
Deborah Dodds
Chris Donahue
William Griffith
Elizabeth Leamon
Susan Martin
Dima Rajab
Clare Sheridan
Sage Williams

Editor
Charles Harding

Design & Layout
CMB Creative Group

Printing
Quality Printers
2

GRANTSTATION NOW AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY

GrantStation

Your Fast Track To Funding

Thanks to funding from the Town of Stonington, the Library is now offering access to GrantStation. GrantStation provides grantseekers the opportunity to identify potential funding sources for their programs or projects as well as resources which mentor users through the grantseeking process. Those seeking grants can find new opportunities by searching the site's databases, build a strong grants strategy with GrantStation planning tools, and write powerful proposals with the assistance of step-by-step tutorials.

If you are interested in accessing GrantStation, please call the Library at 860-535-0658, email micaylahall@stoningtonfreelibrary.org or stop by to schedule an appointment. GrantStation is only available for use on the Library's public computers.

HOLIDAY RAFFLE WINNERS

Tom Rezendes, of Tom's Newstand, donated a giant stocking of children's toys, several gift cards and two holiday goodie baskets as raffle prizes for the second year in a row to celebrate the holiday season. Children and families entered the free raffles at the Library and the winners were announced on December 18th.

Lots of smiles as everyone picked up their prizes! Thank you Tom!!



HOLIDAY STROLL FESTIVITIES

We would like to extend our thanks to the Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA) for decorating the Library for the holidays. They hang the beautiful wreaths and lights that adorn the front of the building, decorate a tree in Wadawanuck Square and light it at the annual Stonington Village Stroll each year. The SVIA and Doug and Cynthia Elliott also ensured that Santa visited everyone after a reading of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* at the Library the evening of the Stroll.



*Santa greets everyone after a reading of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* on the evening of the Holiday Stroll.*



David and Kathryn Burchenal from the Stonington Village Improvement Association hang wreaths on the front of the Library.



Santa takes photos & hands out candy canes.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ASK A DIFFERENT QUESTION?

By Denise Easton, Board Co-President, and Sage Williams, Library Trustee

Library Trustee Sage Williams did precisely that when she asked, “How can we encourage Library supporters to support local merchants?” Her question was part of a development committee meeting where a volunteer committee was exploring ways to promote the annual Giving Tuesday fundraiser on November 27, 2018.

The Stonington Free Library found a “win/win” way for all our local businesses to join together and encourage members of the community to take advantage of a matching challenge through the creation of The Stonington Small Business Collaborative.

Sage’s idea helped the Library raise over \$22,000 from Giving Tuesday donations, including the Small Business Collaborative that pooled their donations in a matching opportunity of \$2,400. “Our local businesses have big hearts but often limited budgets. Working together as a group, they are able to create a significant matching opportunity for donors.” As a special thank you, the Library highlighted and promoted the local businesses that joined the Collaborative throughout December.

This year, 24 participants of the Small Business Collaborative joined Legacy Supporters Switz Real Estate Associates, the law firm of Leckerling, Ladwig & Leamon and the law firm of Avena & Kepple in the matching challenge. We are grateful to all our donors and hope that we will continue to find ways to collaborate for the benefit of our entire community!

Grand & Water Antiques

Seawell Seafood, Inc.

Tom’s Newstand

Vivian’s Marketplace

Zack’s Bar & Grille

Noah’s Restaurant

Antonio’s Hair Design

Elizabeth’s Hair Studio

Rhodes Collar

Mystic Clippers

A.K. Dasher Jewelry

Pot of Green Florist

Cove Ledge Wines

The Fun Store

Hungry Palette

Stonington Veterinary Hospital

Portuguese Holy Ghost Society of Stonington

Advanced Improvements

Michael McKinley and Associates LLC

Berkshire Hathaway

Mystic River Building Company

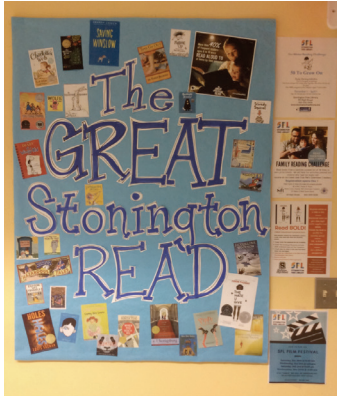
Simply Majestic

Masons Island Marina

Black Orchid Jewelers & Art Gallery

WINTER READING CHALLENGES FOR ALL AGES AT THE STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY

By Maris Frey, Youth Services Director



Following in the footsteps of PBS' Great American Read, we have The Great Stonington Read! **50 to Grow On** is an early literacy reading program for children aged 7 and younger. Children receive a reading log with 40 selected titles and an opportunity to choose 10 other favorites. Children earn a sticker for each book read to them and receive a small prize when they finish all 50. **The Family Reading Challenge** is designed for school age children with a list of 18 books chosen for different interests and reading abilities (this is where a family read aloud can be wonderful!) Children earn one entry into a prize drawing for each book read. Prizes include a Kindle Fire tablet and 5 gift card baskets with gift cards to Bank Square Books, Sift Bakery and Mystic Luxury Cinemas. If children read 10 books off the list, they will receive a free ice cream cone at Mel's Downtown Creamery. Finally, we offer **Read BOLD!**, a community read for teens and adults, focused on the YA book, The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. We will have a book discussion in April, date TBD. There will be adult and teen winners of a Kindle Fire tablet and also a gift card winner from each group. When

you have finished the book, please email marisfrey@stoningtonfreelibrary.org and let me know which prize you would like to take a chance on. All three programs will run until April 1. There is a film festival associated with the Family Reading Challenge with free showings of the movies **Holes** (January 16 @ 4:30), **Charlotte's Web** (February 2 @ 10:30) and **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** (March 20 @ 2 an early release day). Please feel free to bring a snack.

We collaborated with local businesses and Stonington High School and the programs are made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Royce. We also offer thanks to our local business supporters: Bank Square Books, Mel's Downtown Creamery, Mystic Luxury Cinemas and Sift Bakery. We are very grateful for the commitment to literacy in our community for all ages. If you have questions about any of the programs, please email (marisfrey@stoningtonfreelibrary.org), stop in or call.

LIBRARY AWARDED \$145,000 GRANT FOR REFURBISHMENT FROM CT STATE LIBRARY BOARD

The Library is proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$145,000 grant by the Connecticut State Library Board. The Library will use the grant to help fund Phase 2 of our planned Renovation and ADA Accessibility Building Project, addressing the existing spaces of the Library and focusing on creating more flexible, functional, user-friendly spaces throughout the Library, including movable furniture, mobile shelving, new carpeting and paint, improved electrical infrastructure and critically needed work space for the public. The State Library grant will cover half of the estimated \$290,000 cost of Phase 2 of the project; the Library is required to raise matching funds within one year to receive the grant amount.

LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM™

BECAUSE SHARING RESOURCES
MAKES US ALL STRONGER.

 **CT State Library**
Division of Library Development
FAIR. EQUITABLE. IN DEMAND.

The first phase of the project will **expand the Library's reach** to all patrons, addressing ADA compliance and accessibility improvements with a modest addition on the eastern side of the building. Phase 1 will create a new, fully-compliant ramp and side entry with an elevator and handicap bathroom on each level of the Library. The completion of this first phase, while directly adding only 700 square feet to the Library's existing footprint, will also create an additional 575 square feet of new, usable space within the existing building. The Library is seeking an estimated \$420,000 in private and public funds to complete Phase 1; \$210,000 has been pledged to date.

Each phase of this project is a direct result of the strategic plan and self-assessment initiative which consisted of a community-wide survey and focus groups, technology review, space review, financial analysis, and review of the Library's compliance with ADA standards. Over 600 community members, Library Trustees, Library staff and Town leaders were engaged throughout this process. The receipt of this grant is a significant step toward achieving the Library's strategic goal to **Restore, Renew and Reimagine** the spaces of our Library for all residents of the Town of Stonington.

BOOKWORMS WINTER/SPRING 2019

By Maris Frey, Youth Services Director



Families enjoy the Holiday Gingerbread House Workshop.

FALL RECAP

After the rush of summer, fall always feels like a fresh start to our year! Baby and Preschool Story Times began here at the Library and we also continued our Outreach Story Times to area preschools. An invitation from Mel's Downtown Creamery resulted in a new monthly SFL Story Time and craft at the popular Pawcatuck ice cream parlor, introducing us to more area families.

The annual Look It Up collaboration between the Rotary Clubs of Mystic and the Stoningtons, the Leslie Buck Memorial Fund and the SFL saw all community third graders visit the library for a library card, personal dictionary, story time and a tour. Their visit always wraps up with a scavenger hunt around the library.

Our Holiday Gingerbread House Workshop was lots of fun and we offered two time slots to accommodate a larger group. Tom's News once again generously donated a giant Christmas stocking filled with gifts, gift cards and gift baskets

to be given away this season, generating lots of excitement among the children (and adults!) The Village Stroll began at the library with afternoon crafts, cookies and cider for the children and a reading of Twas the Night Before Christmas. Santa was here with candy canes for everyone!

After the success of the PBS Great American Read, we decided to carry on the excitement and spent much time planning and making selections for our own Great Stonington Read. Registration is ongoing and details are covered in the piece about Winter Reading Challenges.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Drop In Story Times have begun and will continue through April 11. Tuesdays at 10:30 are for babies – 2 year olds and Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 are for 2 – 5 year olds. This Thursday story time is a new offering in order to accommodate children enrolled in a M, W, F preschool program. Our Mel's Downtown Creamery Story Times will be Feb. 7, March 7 and April 11 at 4 pm.

Take Your Child to the Library Day is February 2 this year and we are showing the movie, Charlotte's Web at 10:30. This is free and open to everyone. Bring a snack and a friend. Along with the movie, what better way to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day than getting a free book? We will have free books available Saturday in the Children's Room.

We are also excited to announce new youth library cards for those under the age of 16. The benefit of this card is that there will be NO overdue fines on any items checked out from the Children or Young Adult sections of the library. If books or materials are lost, they will still incur replacement costs. Adult materials will need to be checked out on an adult card. We are making this change based on research concluding that library fines affect children differently than adults. Children cannot come to the library independently, their sense of responsibility is developmentally that of a child, and the punitive nature of a fine is counterproductive to the goal of developing library patrons who love to read. We hope the community supports this new policy and we would love to hear your input. Please feel free to email your thoughts or comments to my email below.

If you are interested in obtaining a youth card for your child, please come to the library and we will be happy to issue one. If your child currently has an SFL library card, please email me, marisfrey@stoningtonfreelibrary.org and the current card can be switched to a Youth card.



Mrs. Burt reads *Twas the Night Before Christmas* before the Holiday Stroll festivities begin.



Mrs. Frey hands out shaker eggs during a very busy story time for babies.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF BOBETTE MCCRACKEN TOP \$7,000

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we report that The Library has received over \$7,000.00 in donations honoring Bobette McCracken, long time Stonington resident, favorite Library patron, beloved by her family and all who knew her. As her family wrote, "SFL was more than a special place to our mother. It was a part of her being". It is people like Bobette who make the Library such a special place. We will miss her vibrant and dynamic presence, her energy and joy in life, but cherish the fact that this Library was one of many that played such an important part in her life. The generous gifts in her memory will beautifully support this place that she loved so well.



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Sue Buchman. Sue was treasured as a friend by many and she will be missed by everyone who knew her.

All arrangements are private.



*"Who can say if we've been changed for the better?
But, because we knew you, we have been
changed for good." (Wicked)*

SOCIAL COFFEE ROASTERY RAISES \$1,840 FOR STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY

Stonington Free Library extends its warmest thanks to Tom Piacenza of Social Coffee Roastery, and Italian singing sensation Gianpaolo Digrazia for raising \$1,840 in donations to the Library during the Stonington Holiday Stroll on Friday, December 7! Social, as it's known in Stonington, was packed with patrons all evening, and Gianpaolo's festive singing could be heard up and down Water Street. Tom and Gianpaolo generously chose to donate all proceeds raised during 'The Italian Show' to the Stonington Free Library, including sales of delicious cannoli imported from Hartford just for the occasion. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Library during this event, and special thanks to Tom and Gianpaolo for their enthusiasm and heartwarming generosity toward the Library. Social Coffee Roastery is located at 117 Water Street in Stonington Borough.



Left to right – Gianpaolo Digrazia, The Italian Singing Sensation, Belinda de Kay, Library Director, Micayla Hall, Library Assistant Director, and Tom Piacenza of Social Coffee Roastery. Tom and Gianpaolo raised \$1,840 for the Library during their 'Italian Holiday Show' on the evening of the annual Holiday Stroll.



Gianpaolo Digrazia singing during 'The Italian Show' at Social Coffee Roastery on the evening of the annual Holiday Stroll – Friday, December 7, 2018.

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Mike Payne from ProClean Restoration for donating \$750 in water mitigation services to help the Library! We truly appreciate your generosity Mike!

www.procleanct.com



Assistant Director Micayla Hall (left) with Mike Payne (right) of ProClean.

THE LIBRARIAN

Stonington Free Library PO Box 232 Stonington CT 06378


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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WINTER 2019 LIBRARIAN

J.D. McClatchy Memorial Corner	1
Book & Bake Sale	1
GrantStation	2
Holiday Winners	2
Stroll Festivities	3
Small Businesses	3
Winter Reading	4
Awarded Grant	4
Bookworms.....	5
Memorial Donations	6
Tribute to Sue	6
Thank You	7
Social Raises \$	7
Contribution is Appreciated	8

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS APPRECIATED



*Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination
- and contribute to improving our quality of life.* Sidney Shelton

THANK YOU to everyone who has given to Stonington Free Library this year.
YOU make it possible for us to continue to provide the hours, services and
programs you appreciate and have come to expect.

**If you have not yet contributed, please take a moment and give
generously so that we can grow and thrive in 2019.**

Your support speaks volumes!