

THE LIBRARIAN

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Fall 2019 Issue

READATHON SUCCESS!

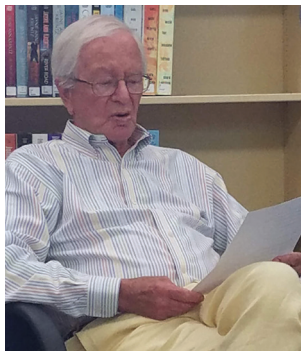
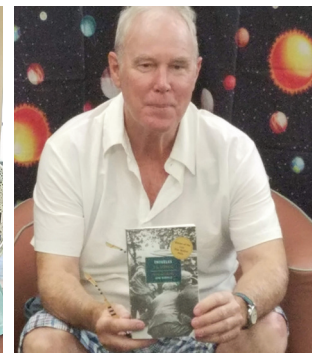
In honor of our Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories, the Stonington Free Library held a Read & Raise READATHON to raise money for our beloved library on Friday, August 2nd, 2019. We had 23 great guest readers with an eclectic selection of literature to share with the crowd. We heard Christmas stories, silly children's books, a Nancy Drew mystery, a one-person play, The Great Gatsby, Shakespeare, and an Arabic love poem. We learned about home-brewing, Italian cooking, unicorns, and eels. It was such a great day!

Thank you to our wonderful readers:

Hailey Fish, Christina Korinek, Tertius de Kay, Lisa Kenyon, Kathleen Smith, Anne Marie Doyle, Hillary Evans, Robert Palm, Bob Statchen, Pat Boyle, Board of Education Chair Alexa Garvey, Maria Haring, Amy Gaby, John Bale, John McCarthy with granddaughter Emilia, Holly Chase, Noreen Kepple, Nick Kepple, Rebekah Kepple, Morgan King, Harry Martin, Board of Education member Farouk Rajab, and Board of Education member Deborah Downie.

Together they raised over \$2,000 and the law firm of Leckerling, Ladwig & Leamon LLC matched all donations up to \$2,000, for a grand total of \$4,265 to support Library operations.

Thank you to all of the donors and Library guests that sat down for the entertainment. A special thank you to Mrs. Currie for her zucchini bread and Judy Westwood for the platter of amazing chocolate chip and ginger cookies.



THE STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY AWARDS CONTRACT FOR ACCESSIBILITY ADDITION TO G. DONOVAN ASSOCIATES



We have previously shared the Library's ongoing work and planning to add a small but critically needed addition on the eastern side of the building. This addition focuses on increasing accessibility for all members of the community, to all parts of the existing Library and includes a new handicap ramp and entrance, elevator and ADA compliant restrooms on both levels.

The carefully-planned project went out to bid in July, and after a vigorous review process, the Building Committee and Board selected G. Donovan Associates as the general contractor. We expect construction to begin in October, however, preparatory work such as soil testing, removing existing shrubs, a small dogwood tree and pruning two branches that overhang the building will happen before groundbreaking. We will continue to update the community as the project progresses.



G. Donovan Associates has been in the construction industry for 25 years and has experience in both the private and public sectors. Their local work includes the recent renovations at the Stonington COMO, and other projects in southeastern CT including the Coast Guard Academy, Fort Trumbull and Ocean Beach Park in New London and the Gallup Hill Elementary School expansion in Ledyard.

LIBRARY AWARDED \$58,805 GRANT TO INSTALL HIGH-SPEED FIBER INTERNET CONNECTION

The Library is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$58,805 grant to install a high-speed fiber internet connection. The grant is funded by both the CT State Library (\$35,080) and the Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as E-rate (\$23,725). E-rate helps ensure that schools and libraries can obtain telecommunications and internet access at affordable rates. The expected installation of the fiber connection is Winter/Spring 2020. CT Education Network (CEN) will be the service provider.



Access to reliable, high-speed internet is essential for libraries nowadays. One of our most utilized services is free access to public computers and Wi-Fi. Whether it be to check email or social media, complete an important application, work remotely, research, complete schoolwork or simply stream a movie/TV show there are many in the Library every hour of every day using our public computers or accessing our Wi-Fi on their own devices. Last fiscal year, there were an estimated 6,109 computer and Wi-Fi sessions during our hours of operation within the building. The Library's Wi-Fi extends out into Wadawanuck Square and can be utilized after hours. The new connection will be an upgrade from the current cable internet service through Comcast.

We look forward to implementing this upgrade and will continue to keep all library technologies up-to-date. We will continue to update the community as this project moves forward.



CT State Library
Division of Library Development

BOOKWORMS FALL 2019

By Maris Frey, Youth Services Director
SUMMER RECAP

It's difficult to believe that summer is over and a new school year has begun. Our Summer Reading Program, with its Universe of Stories theme, brought lots of reading fun to 597 children and teens. We were very happy to see not only many returning friends, but new faces just discovering our library.

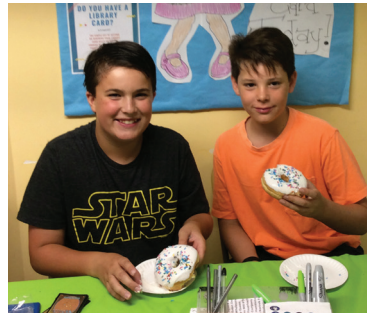
A suggestion from our Teen Advisory Board, brought a new Teen Summer Reading Challenge to those entering grade 7 and older. This was in addition to our regular program. We curated a list of 18 books and gave participants a basket prize ticket for each book they read from the list. We had 51 students take part in this new option and they read 20 books.

A very generous grant from a family foundation not only helps fund our Summer Reading Program, but also allows us to collaborate with area summer camps. We offered two on-site sign ups at Stonington Human Services camp, along with a weekly shopping visit. The summer campers from the COMO came to the library each week. We scheduled five performances at the two camps this summer, bringing Speed Stacking, Science Tellers and Bubblemania to delighted audiences. At the library, we had a harmonica lesson, Animal Embassy, Hula Hoop dancing on the lawn and Donut Day. An artist presented a Starry Night Pastel Workshop as our first joint teen/adult program. We also offered story times and Flash Fridays activities.

We continued our Read and Feed contributions to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Food Pantry. Weekly Specials kept the food bank stocked with much needed items and this is a great opportunity to help others in our community.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Giggles and Wiggles Story Times on Fridays will continue through September with Tuesday (Baby – 18 months), Wednesday (18 months – Age 3) and Thursday (Ages 3 – 5) story times beginning October 1 and running through November 21. We will be hosting the third graders in the annual Look It Up collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of both Mystic and the Stoningtons. The Leslie Buck Memorial Fund buses the children to the library for a tour, library cards, their own dictionary provided by the Rotaries, and a story time with a short scavenger hunt. These visits are usually in October, so please check our Facebook page for these visit dates. Winter Reading Challenges will begin December 2 and we are planning our Holiday Gingerbread House Decorating for Dec. 11. Please watch Facebook and our web page for any date changes or cancellations.



**STONINGTON
FREE LIBRARY**

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20 High Street, Stonington, CT

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PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378

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10am–6pm Monday–Tuesday
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POEMS FROM THE POETS' CORNER

This is the first group of poems from The Sandy McClatchy Memorial Poets' Corner – typed on Sandy's typewriter, gift of Robert Palm. Margaret Gibson, Poet Laureate of Connecticut, wrote a comment for each one which was forwarded to the author – a gift of time and thought which is greatly appreciated.

Margaret did not want to rate any one above the others – each poem having its own value - so here they are – a tribute to the creative spirit that is a vital part of the life of the Library.

Oh, I know,
that the light shines the brightest when a candle burns from both ends
But
then passion fizzles out like fireworks
before you can see the fruits of your labor.
Only a steady kind of self care
lets you survive the winter
like how a home can only stand on a steady foundation and I know
that the corporations tell you that you're only valid
When you're working,
only an asset when you're exhausted,
they've got you trapped in a chokehold,
exploiting your pain for profit,
But if you stop being the running rodent
in their game of cat and mouse,
Then the system shutters
And the walls start to crack
Secrets seep out of every pothole
Because there isn't a job worth doing
If it's not done right.
They may have outsourced their morals to China,
replaced their bones with bars of gold,
and become more machine than man but
we have carnations sprouting in our veins,
we pluck our heartstrings until the devil is lulled
to sleep by sorrow's lullaby
when you can't afford to keep loose change in your pocket for long
there's nothing that can hold you down

Isabella Basile

I wish there was time to tap away
what is frozen inside.
Maybe as the humidity returns
releasing the letters
drip by drip,
tap by tap,
onto the page,
they will find a resting place
as I have found in this space.

R M Tumicki

THE SONG OF THE LONELY SPIRIT

'To have others know what I can see
when light shakes upon the water
and clouds cast dancing shadows at my feet,
but all is still upon the face of thy neighbour'
- sang the lonely person to the ancient maple tree

'I try to leave your gardens
I follow the happy laughter of friends
But of your fruit and awful limbs what can I say?
and how can my feeble voice be understood?'
-sang the lonely person to the ancient maple tree

'Feel the grass scratch at my back, feel the stones press my feet
"feel this eager hand of mine", I hope -
it may be hot, it may be coarse, and if it rubs you like that
my song is one you have forgotten, and will remember'
-sang the lonely person to the ancient maple tree

SLAV SIKORA-SIKORSKI
2019



THE
POETS' CORNER

GHOST WRITTEN

These lines came out
hunted and pecked on an IBM Wheelwriter 1000
owned and operated by J.D. McClatchy.
New to town, I missed meeting him
by a month or so, his memorial service jammed
to the rafters with friends colleagues
fellow poets
former students, acolytes
and his grieving husband.

A born poet, rigorous and exacting, McClatchy
used this instrument until the end. Not a poet
at all, I know how to type, and some poets I know
would kill for my hard-boiled life writing
for cops shows. A death is a death is a death,
in couplet or outlined in chalk on location in lower
Manhattan. Maybe he was a fan.

McClatchy's pal James Merrill was into his
Ouija board -- maybe they channeled Lowell
or Bishop of a howling winter's night. Maybe
that's JDM's spirit's vibrating in this throbbing
electric machine.

The townspeople still call them Sandy and Jimmy, as if
expecting them to descend, pink sweaters around their necks,
to grace the cocktail parties of this saltwater and gin
soaked town where they loved and were loved, where
their words will be remembered long after this ribbon runs out of ink.

Robert Palm

CATS

when cats eat food,
they are in a good mood
they play all day,
then on the bed they stay.
they live in the house,
and catch every mouse.
some are big, some are small,
they like playing with balls.
at night they are up,
in the day they're asleep,
but they always are ready to play,
or to leap.
cats are lovely, cats are cute.
they can be annoying, but they always love you.
at the end of the day,
they are right there, to stay.

Veronica Kemmett

BONE TOMAHAWK

I've been down to Bone Tomahawk
With rifle and mare
To hunt with the old
Wait for me there
The river ain't kind
The current is rough

I've got supplies for one
It won't be enough

Saddles to ride through the night
The coals burned down
And the bones licked bare
To nothing but marrow
Sticky fingers and fur

Michael Wielock
Los Angeles, 2019

EIGHTY

Smoothies slide down
Sweetly, swiftly
When you are three or four,
Tasty memories
When you are thirty-four
And sliding down
The Big River,
With the cataracts ahead
Just a distant roar.

But serpents slide and slither swiftly,
Close to you
When you are eighty or more,
And you can no longer
Hear the crashing of the cataracts ahead.

All too soon the fat and flesh
Will burn away
In white hot heat,
Leaving only bones
Of courage, integrity, and humor
Ground to ashes,
And tossed upon the sea
To rest forever more.

Robin Honiss



Stonington Free Library Fact Sheet

*Statistics based on FY 2019 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)



Annual Budget - \$571,353
Municipal Funding - \$171,000
Donations & Grants - \$256,788
*unaudited figures



211 volunteers worked over
7,000 hours, est. value >
\$180,000



Open 43 hours per week
or 2,236 hours annually



3 full-time,
9 part-time staff



9,468 people attended
431 library programs



597 Summer Reading
Program registrants
75% participation rate and 8,258+
hours read



6,109 public
computer and wifi
sessions



4,218 digital checkouts
and YouTube Views



70,713 total visitors

All library services other than check outs
available to non-cardholders.



3,487 active cardholders

Stonington 46%/Pawcatuck 29%/ Mystic
14%/Other 11%



35,322 library
website visits



46,451 physical items
checked out



6,013 reference
questions answered



79,236 digital user
interactions



PNC branch open 73 hours.
235 people checked out
371 items.



Host of Stonington Nonprofit
Roundtable with 50
active participants.



4 Little Free Libraries offering
1,600+ books

A SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Stonington Garden Club for the beautiful floral arrangements donated to the Library each week during the summer. Our patrons truly appreciate them and always comment on how lovely they are!

STONINGTON



GARDEN CLUB

SFL BOOK SALE AT THE VILLAGE FAIR

By Belinda de Kay, Director

What a wonderful success our first Village Fair Book Sale has been – we made a grand total of \$3,603.10 for the Library!!!! This is entirely due to the hard work, creative thinking, superb organization and again hard work of so many volunteers! We are grateful to Beth Stewart at the COMO and for our long term partnership with them that allowed us to take over the Book Sale which is such a key feature of the Village Fair. We are also grateful to the Rev. Lori Peach-Filban of the United Church for letting us use the Chapel for collecting and sorting the books – a perfect space! Thank you! And we deeply appreciate the invaluable experience and advice shared with us by Cormac O'Malley who ran the Book Sale for many years.

Collecting, sorting and boxing 213 boxes of donated books was an enormous amount of work over several weeks - until the day of the Fair when every piece of thought and planning, each building block of this great enterprise all fell into place and everything went like clockwork! And for that we owe special thanks to Co-Chairs Susie Clapp, Chris Turrentine and Rory Contin for their wonderful leadership and to Micayla Hall for her invaluable staff support. And, yes, it was FUN!

It could not have happened without each and every one of you and on behalf of the Library and the Board of Trustees I thank you with all my heart for your support and enthusiasm, your good will and unflagging energy. It was such a gift to have the Library be such an important part of a key event in the life of this community. See you all again next year!!



THE LIBRARIAN

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Thank you to our 249 runners and our sponsors.

We raised \$4,300 for the library!

Your community support is very much appreciated.



STONINGTON
PIZZA PALACE

