

FOCL POINT

FOCL Is Still Here To Help Support Our Friends Groups

While the pandemic proved to be a major challenge for all, it seems to be receding into the past. Friends groups have begun to resume their much-needed activities in support of our libraries.

In our new normal, many groups are looking for unique ways to support their libraries and communities.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) is here to help you. Our mission — to facilitate communication, collaboration and advocacy among Friends groups and libraries throughout the state — is even more important at this moment.

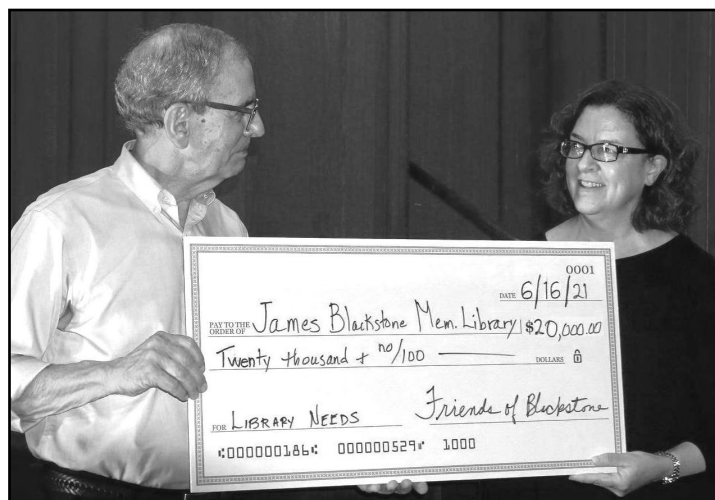
We invite you to join or renew your membership in FOCL, along with 100 other local Friends groups, individual library friends, library directors and organizations to support this effort.

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Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library helped buy a specially outfitted bicycle for the library. A front storage compartment opens to turn into a small mobile library, with bookshelves and a chalkboard. People can get free books for all ages, learn about the library and even sign up for a library card.

You Can't Keep Friends Down



Friends of the Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford gave the library a check for \$20,000. (Photo courtesy of Friends Facebook page)

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Get Ready For Annual FOCL Awards To Return in 2022

Since 1983, FOCL has been recognizing outstanding local Friends organizations, groups and individuals in Connecticut.

It is important to recognize those who have provided dedicated service to their libraries, especially since the pandemic hit.

Awards serve as an opportunity for our membership to publicly thank groups and individuals to whom they owe so much.

The awards are selected from three population groups and have three categories:

- **Friends Group Award:** Focused on the total effort (breadth and depth) of the Friends group



service including lifetime achievement

- **Focused Project Award:** A project usually accomplished or orchestrated by a small group or committee

- **Individual Achievement Award:** Given to one or two individuals for exceptional

As your Friends' groups begin to recover from last year's shutdown of libraries, keep in mind these awards. The application form on the website, www.foclib.org/awards, will be updated soon for the 2022 awards.

The approximate timeline, subject to modification, is that applications will be accepted in April/May 2022, with awards given at the Annual Meeting in June.

In the meantime, review them for necessary requirements.

Support, Continued

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Members can take advantage of FOCL's centralized resources for Friends groups:

- The FOCL website, www.foclib.org, which includes an extensive resource section about Friends topics, a listing of member groups and book sale information.
- An active FOCL Facebook community.
- FOCL-Forum, an email listserv on which you can ask questions, share information and post announcements.
- Events on topics of interest to Friends groups. Note: While we couldn't meet in person this past year, we held several chat groups on Zoom to solve problems, share successes and keep visible in our communities. Recordings are posted on our website.
- FOCLPoint, our newsletter, contains important news and ideas for Friends throughout the state.

We're on the web!
www.foclib.org
And on Facebook!

- Recognition of outstanding individuals, groups and projects at FOCL's annual awards meeting planned for spring 2022 (including those nominated in 2020).
- Grants and consultations to Friends groups in need of organizational support.

We encourage you to go online to fill out your membership information and make your donation at www.foclib.org/join-us.

(If you need help logging in or have both a group and an individual membership, email

friendsctlibraries@gmail.com.) However, if you prefer, you can mail your membership form and payment to FOCL by Oct. 15. For groups, this will ensure earlier inclusion of group information in our online directory and calendar. Individual donations may be tax deductible.

Thank you for all you do for libraries in Connecticut and for supporting FOCL's work! Please let us know if there are any other ways we can serve your group and library.

—Linda Grayson, Membership Committee chair

Answering Members' Requests — In Person Meeting!

In these unprecedented times, there is a new "normal."

Large group gatherings have become impossible to hold, especially on college campuses or in other facilities. FOCL has been trying to keep connected to our members via small Zoom meetings.

Now FOCL has planned three small, in-person meetings:

Staying Alive in a Sea of Change Sept. 25

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library,
234 Kensington Road, Berlin
(Centrally located in Town Hall complex)

Three sessions will be limited to 10 members each, for a total of 30 participants.

Each session will focus on what worked, what didn't and what lessons were learned. Sessions will be held at:

10:30 a.m.-noon

12:15-1:45 p.m.

2-3:30 p.m.

Choose a time for your 1st and 2nd preference.

If your 1st choice is filled, you will be notified of the move to your 2nd choice.

CDC guidelines will be followed, and participants must wear masks.

Light refreshments will be available but participants may bring a lunch if they like.

Please email: misiaszekd@comcast.net with your name, town/library, 1st and 2nd time choices. The registration deadline is Sept. 20.

If there are topics that you would like to discuss at a future meeting or you would like to host a small meeting, please send your remarks to:

misiaszekd@comcast.net.

Our program committee appreciates suggestions.

FOCL wants to remind you that we are available to assist you.

New Online Handbook Will Be Ready Soon

FOCL is revising its handbook and expects to have it available on the FOCL website this fall.

The handbook is a helpful reference tool for Friends' groups with items such as:

- How to start a Friends chapter
- What is the difference between duties of library trustees and duties of staff
- What papers do Friends need to file with the IRS to get and keep their status as a nonprofit

Keep watch on foclib.org for the latest help, just one of the many benefits of being part of FOCL.



Friends of the Hagan Memorial Library in East Haven sponsored a petting zoo's visit to the library in August. It was part of the summer reading program finale. (Photo courtesy of the library Facebook page.)

Friends Around the State

We encourage all Newsletters editors to put us on their mailing lists so we can have a rich exchange of information to pass on to fellow Friends organizations. If you'd like to see your news here please put Friends of Connecticut Libraries, Middletown Library Service Center, 786 South Main St., Middletown, CT 06457 on your newsletter mailing list, or send by email to friendsctlibraries@gmail.com. Note: We only include events run, sponsored, or funded by Friends Groups. To make our job easier, in your newsletters, please include that information when describing events.

Friends of the Babcock Library in Ashford are accepting book donations again in a bin in town hall.

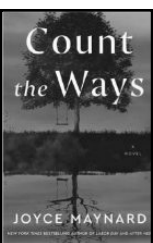
Friends of the Beacon Falls Public Library are hosting an outdoor vendor fair on the grounds of St. Michael's Church, 25 Maple Ave., on Sept. 18.

Friends of the Brookfield Library sponsored a pop-up book sale in the library parking lot in August.

Friends of the Cheshire Public Library sponsored a concert in August by the Irish group the Kerry Boys. It was held at Mixville Park.

Friends of the Hall Memorial Library in Ellington placed tables out with

books for the both adults and children. Rather than asking for a specific amount of money, they ask people to donate whatever amount they are able.



Friends of the Fairfield Public Library are hosting Joyce Maynard, the New York Times best-selling author



Friends of the Andover Public Library sponsored this concert in August at the town gazebo, their 13th concert in 14 years. Redwood Hill was the band.

of "Count the Ways," Sept. 21, at their annual meeting.

Friends of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury held several pop-up grab bag book sales this summer on the library lawn. For \$5, people had the choice of a bag of books in many categories – mystery, children's science, biography – with the category printed on the side of the bag. Friends also gave a scholarship to a young man who will be attending Middlebury College. Applicants were judged based on essays they wrote.

Friends of the Bill Memorial Library in Groton are hosting an Outdoor Artisan Market Sept. 25 next to Fort Griswold. Friends also held an outdoor book sale on the same day as Groton Heights Open House Day in August.

The Circle of Friends of the Groton Library sponsored Mark Gostkiewicz of Tri Gable Lea Farm who talked about the pros, cons and best practices for raising backyard chickens. He even brought along some of his hens. This July event happened outside the library.

Friends, Continued

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Friends of the Hamden Public Library will be at Hamden Fest Sept. 18, holding a book and bake sale.

Friends of the Lyme Public Library planned to host talks on birding basics with a speaker from the Connecticut Audubon Society and with author David Handler, who has written several mystery series. Both events were scheduled for August. In September they plan to host James Benn, author of the Billy Boyle mysteries. Friends are also holding a book sale Sept. 10-11.

Friends of the Middlebury Public Library sponsored prizes for the children's summer reading program.

Friends of the Milford Library opened an upstairs book sale, welcomed back table volunteers, hosted their first virtual trivia night, celebrated the library staff during National Library Week, launched a Garden Gram fundraiser, put their new library-themed mugs on sale, held their first in-person book sale since the start of the pandemic, volunteered at Milford's Pirate Day and the Juneteenth Celebration and distributed two high school scholarships and four high school book awards.

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library in Monroe



Students Kira and Julia designed a logo for the book donation bin for the Friends of Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester. (Photo courtesy of Friends Facebook page.)

are sponsoring a series of talks via Zoom by a local historian on the Revolutionary War. They are also sponsoring in-person yoga classes for adults on the library grounds.

Friends of the Bakerville Library in New Hartford are at it again for the 10th time. On Sept. 25



they will raffle off Delilah, a black 2021 Dodge Challenger R/T. The 550 tickets are \$100 each, with the proceeds benefitting the library. They have already upgraded the heating and cooling system of their historic 1834 building.

Friends of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library in Newington has scheduled one date a month for when they will accept book donations outside the library. They are planning outdoor book sales in September and October.

Friends of the Plainville Public Library sponsored the summer reading program for all ages.

Friends of the Portland Library sponsored a multi-generational, West African inspired drumming circle on the town green along with other summer activities.

Friends of the Prospect Public Library sponsored the high-energy BenAnna Band and the Matica Circus Duo in July outside the library.



Friends of the Prospect Public Library held a book sale in August at the community center.

Friends of the Salem Library planned a weekend book sale in a garage by the community garden to go along with the Lions Club tag sale. Friends are also sponsoring a talk in October by Ebris Urban and Velya



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Friends of Connecticut Libraries

Middletown Library Service Center
786 South Main St. 06457

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We're on the web!
www.foclib.org
And on Facebook!

Newsletter edited
and designed by
Marjorie Ruschau

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Jancz Urban, authors of "Dare To Be a Green Witch: The Grounded Good-wife's Guide to Holistic Healing."

Friends of the Stafford Library sponsored an outdoor sensory story time in August, with songs by music therapist Renee Coro.

Friends of the Thomaston Public Library held a pop-up book sale in front of the library for a week in July.

Friends of the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury partnered with Literacy Volunteers and had a successful and fun-filled designer purse bingo at Hawk Ridge Winery. Due to popular demand, they are planning another fundraiser for the fall.

Friends of the West Haven Public Library



sponsored summer reading activities at the library.

They also planned a virtual paint night fundraiser in August and are planning a book sale for Sept. 4 in

the library's parking lot.

Friends of the Westbrook Public Library

brought raptors to the library in August. They also sponsored a stuffed animal sleepover in the children's department (but dolls and puppets were welcome.)

Friends of the Willington Public Library scheduled a book sale inside the library in September.

Publicize Your Friends Book Sale

Want to publicize your Friends' book sale for free?

FOCL members can send updated book sale information to Ashley Volkens who will add it to the FOCL book sale calendar on the FOCL website –foclib.org. Just email her at avolkens@yahoo.com