

# FOCL POINT

## Annual Meeting Will Take Revised Shape This Year

Tuesday, May 11, 10 a.m.

Zoom meeting

Watch our website – [foclib.org](http://foclib.org) – and FOCL Forum for more information on preregistering as it gets closer.

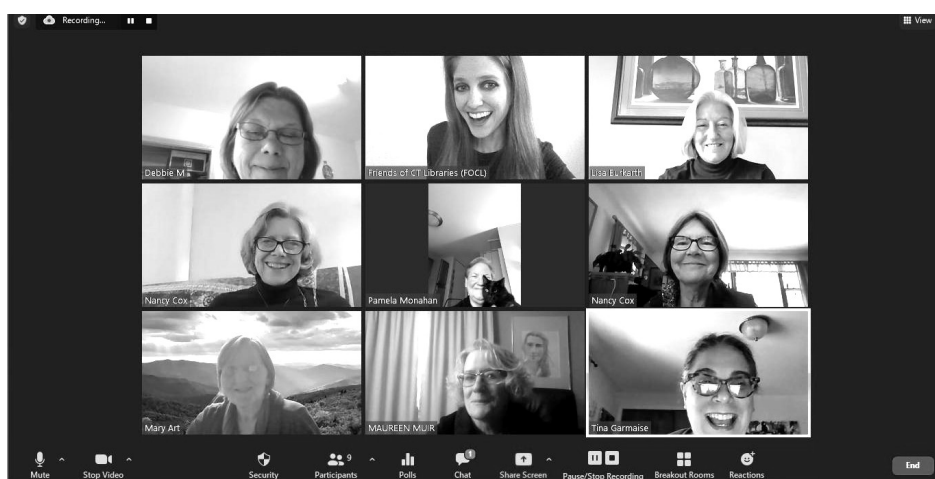
## Book Sales Have Been A Little Different Since Pandemic

**L**ibraries around the state gathered on Zoom in January to discuss the state of book sales at their libraries and what the road ahead looks like. Each library's situation varied. Variables that impacted their book sales were:

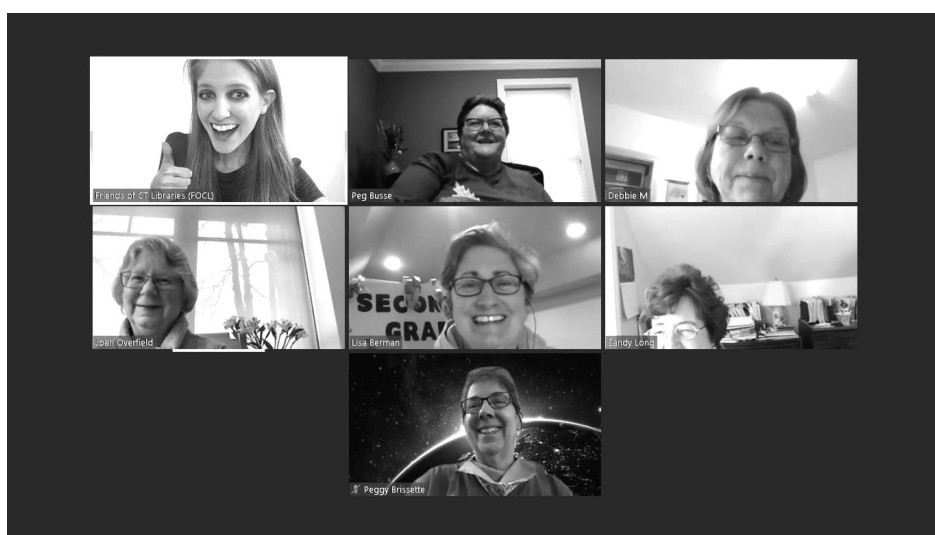
- library open/library closed/library never opened
- plenty of volunteers/low number of volunteers
- donations accepted/no donations
- space to hold book sale inside/space to hold book sale outside/no space to hold book sale

Funds from book sales are impacting the operations of the groups in different ways. The

(Continued on page 2)



Friends members from small and medium-sized libraries participate in a Zoom meeting on book sales as part of a FOCL Chat in January.



**Inside this Issue:**

**Awards Canceled**

**3**

**Friends Around the State**

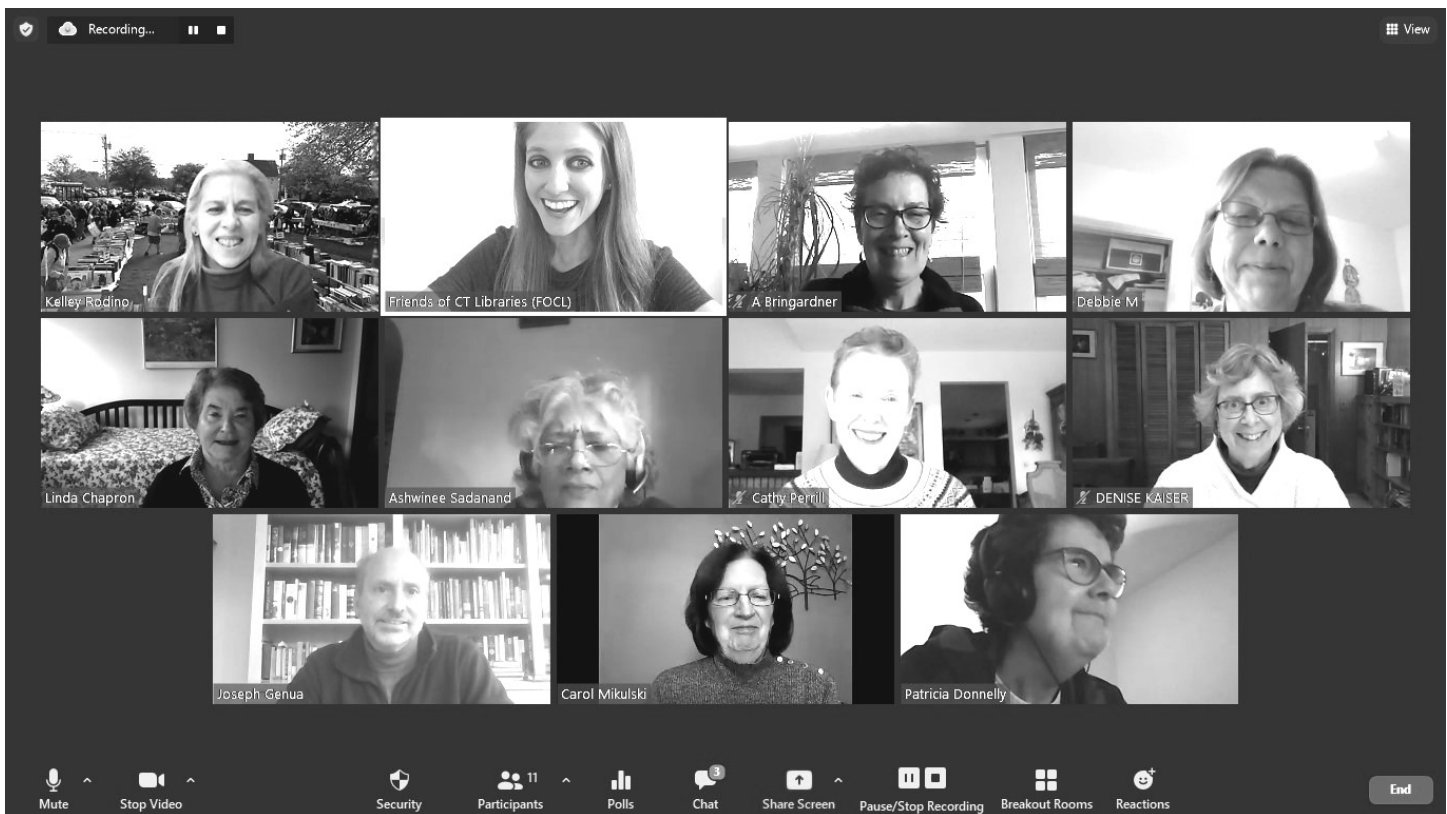
**4**

**Keep Friends in Mind**

**6**

**New State Librarian**

**8**



Members of Friends groups at large libraries attend the January FOCL Chat on book sales during the pandemic .

## Forum, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

consensus among the three chats was that sales of DVDs, audio books and CDs are slow to nonexistent.

### Medium Libraries

**Madison** — May to December donations accepted and books were sold in a small seating area. Used a grant for a tent in May. Sold books online.

**Avon** — created a Facebook page, web page. No book sales since 2018. Members are stepping up. Received a \$3,000 donation. No book donations. Outside sale possibly in the spring. Funds are OK.

**Mystic & Noank, Niantic** — hope to do something in June

even if just a plant sale with garden club. Series of online auctions. Ebay book sales good.

**Ellington** — book sale in library re-opened by appointment. Sold by bags (\$10). Good publicity: Facebook, local paper. Library closed; went to curbside only. Booksellers allowed in by appointment. Sold on Amazon (make sure item will sell for \$11 plus). Membership \$50-\$100. Hope to do a bag sale before September.

**Old Lyme** — definite amounts for museum passes and children's summer reading program. Sold 355 books to a dealer. Using the basement, separate entrance. Have 40-50 volunteers. Funds are about \$10,000. Open with no appointments/no limits. Had

outside book sale the two warm Saturdays in November. Able to use the small business Saturday and art show. Sometimes select a special category of books (ie. romance) and put on website as a special.

### Small Libraries

**Essex** — closed/by appointment. Oct. 2, outdoor sale in parking lot bags \$5 (mystery, biography, fiction, etc.) Raised \$400 with a matched amount. Dec. 15-Jan. 15, gift sale — \$450. Puzzles — \$175 (priced from \$2 to \$8). Not taking donations. Book sales are carts in foyer with donation jar.

**Harwinton** — closed in March. Zoom meetings, Facebook page and local paper. Sold crafts online, ordered through the library and

(Continued on page 3)

## Forum, Continued

(Continued from page 2)

picked up on porch — \$540. Put money in a box. Items were covered notebooks, Christmas ornaments, knit items, bookmarks. Flood damaged children's books. Donations by appointment and placed in a shed. Plant and book sale. Summer monthly book sale.

**Prospect** — March 12, 2020, book sale canceled. Library closed. Book nook not open. Donation to summer reading program cut in half. Sent newsletter for Thanksgiving. Dues came in at \$1,000. Not sure what will happen in the spring. Library is curbside pick-up. Have about 110 members.

**Burlington** — closed; curbside. Starting in August getting donations. Sold online and bags of books. No book sales. Did get some old books.

**Portland** — send newsletter every year with membership info. Also put in the local paper. \$17,000. Fund the library directly. Membership \$10-\$1,000 (different levels). No book sales since October. Major donations four times a year.

**Killingworth** — lost major fundraising: golf, big sale. Library is closed except for pick-up, delivery. No donations accepted.

### Large Libraries

**Glastonbury** — book sales were two one-day sales and two small. Bags: children's \$7 for 4 books. Ordered online and paid with PayPal. Two pop-up sales on the lawn. About \$3,200. Uses Facebook, social media and local paper. Library closed.

**Milford** — before: spring with garden club, sales two days, on-going book sale. Now: no book sales, just whatever books are in the nook. No donations.

**Farmington** — before: two sales three days each and book nook. \$500-\$1000. Now: books on table, pay by honor system. Now closed. \$5,000 outside in tent — DVD/CD sale. Inviting dealers into back room — \$700. Plan to open table in March. No volunteers.

**New Britain** — bagged children's books and gave to the school. August had a pop-up sale outside. October outside sale — \$500. Maybe April/May. No donations.

**South Windsor** — before: on-going book sale. Now: by appointment. Closed in December. Hope to re-open in spring. Items not selling: CDs, DVDs, audio. In 2020 raised \$3,500.

**Newtown** — before: annual sale, little book sale, auctions — \$105,00-\$120,000. Using reserve dollars to fund 2021. Closed March through September. Off-site storage. Sold at town's farmers market (\$2,500). Library re-opened in September; donations outside put in pods for five days. Use Discover. Have a large volunteer base. Use honor system for little bookstore. Still have Amazon but not using.

**Branford** — large sale on town green under tent (\$65,000 in 2019). Warehouse for storage. 2020-July and August \$24,000 over 5 separate weekends. Online presence has almost tripled.

**Wallingford** — no Friends group. Had bag sale outside under overhang. Made 150 bags and sold all but 10 — \$700. No donations. No big storage area.

**West Haven** — 2 book sales raised more money than previously. Small, steady stream.

If you would like to be put in touch with a Friends group from one of the chats, please feel free to reach out to FOCL to facilitate the introduction or visit the respected Friends Group webpage.

## 2021 Annual FOCL Awards Canceled Due to Pandemic

What a year this has been! Libraries were closed, and some remain closed to this day.

Major fundraisers and programs were canceled by Friends organizations throughout the state.

In view of this, the Friends of the Connecticut Libraries Annual

Awards are canceled for this year. Hopefully, in 2022, we will be able to resume the Friends' awards program.

"We are in the process of looking at the 2022 format of the awards," said Pam Monahan, chair of the FOCL awards committee.

"As libraries continue to re-open in 2021, we will take the past two years into consideration."

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Monahan at 203-525-5674 or [pamela.monahan64@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.monahan64@gmail.com)

## 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 Avon Free Library sponsored a series of



four virtual yoga classes in March by a local teacher. People registered and were sent a Zoom link to join the classes.

### Friends of the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library re-opened



their book sale in March on Wednesday mornings. Friends monitored the number of people in the room at one time.

**Friends of the Blackstone Library** in Branford has launched its Virtual Book Cart, an easy way to obtain "newish" books, mostly fiction — in both hardcover and trade paperback format, at nominal prices (\$3 for hardcover and \$2 for trade paperback). Also



included are some limited newer nonfiction and popular fiction titles. Potential buyers click on a link on the library's website to the list of books they have for sale. They send an email to the Friends, who let them know if the books are available, the cost (which must be paid by exact



**Friends of the Welles Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury present a \$100,000 check to the library.**

change or check) and when they can be picked up.

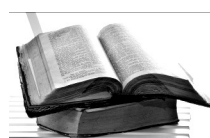
### Friends of the Cheshire Public Library sponsored a



Zoom talk in March on trends in landscape and lawn care with

professional landscapers and garden center owners. It was billed as a chance to learn the landscape industry thinks about its direction and about technology on the horizon.

### Friends of the Danbury Public Library put a



list and photos of rare books

for sale through their group on their website. Potential buyers can email the group about a book's condition and to arrange a purchase.

### Friends of the Hall Memorial Library in Ellington opened



their Book Cellar for three hours on Saturdays during March.

**Friends of the Welles Turner Memorial Library** in Glastonbury presented a \$100,000 check to the library on Dec. 19, 2020, during a ground-breaking ceremony for renovations. The last



Friends of the Ridgefield Library hosted outdoor "on the wall" book sales in October.

## Friends, Continued

(Continued from page 4)

time the library was updated was in 1999.

**The Circle of Friends at the Groton Public Library** has teamed with Boon Supply for an



online shopping fundraiser. The library gets 40% of what people spend on items that are eco-conscious, seasonally designed, and sustainably sourced such as mesh farmer's market tote bags, infuser water bottles and reusable straws.

### Friends of the Harwinton



**Public Library** sold mystery bags of eight cookbooks for \$5 in March.

### Friends of the Lyme Public Library



are sponsoring several Zoom programs including one April 17 on cybercrime and another April 20 on the hidden history of Lyme, Old Lyme and East Lyme.

### Friends of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library



in Newington are assembling bags of books to sell. Buyers email to say which author or genres they like and Friends prepare a bag of adult, teen, or children's books for \$5-\$10. They have planned an outdoor book sale for April 17.

### Friends of the Portland



**Library** are selling reusable "I love CT libraries" bags for \$1 at the library.

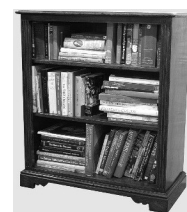
### Friends of the Ridgefield Library

gave the library \$40,000 to buy protective equipment and supplies during the pandemic. Friend Felicia Soltys sewed masks for all the staff.

The Friends also hosted outdoor "on the wall" book sales in October, with books displayed along a stone wall bordering the building.



Friends also donated \$5,000 towards a bronze cat and a book sculpture in honor of a late recent library assistant director.



### Friends of the Southbury Public Library

have reopened their book sale in the lobby during regular library

hours. The selection is updated three times a week.

## How To Keep Friends' Presence in the Community — Saturday, May 1

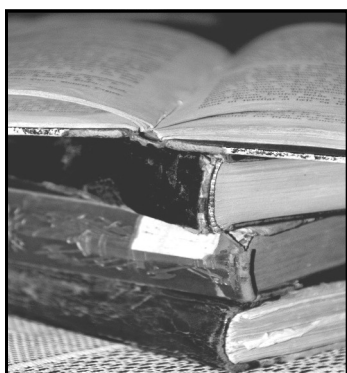
This will be another open session by way of Zoom. Come prepared with a digest version of how your group has kept visibility within the community, what you are planning in 2021 and/or any questions you want to pose to the group.

Tune in for your size library:

- 9-10 a.m., small libraries
- 10:30-11:30 a.m., medium libraries
- Noon-1 p.m., large libraries.

Registration for each session will be limited to no more than 10 people to provide a welcoming and conversational environment where everyone's voice can be heard. To ensure everyone gets a chance to speak we will be enforcing 5 minute-windows per library.

Registration is required, and is first come, first served. To register, go to [www.foclib.org/FOCL-Chats](http://www.foclib.org/FOCL-Chats)



### Looking for Dealers in Antique Books?

Here is a list of members of the Southern New England Antiquarian Booksellers: <https://sneab.com/>

It includes members in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

You might want to contact them if you have old books that you think might be valuable.

## Please Help Us Update FOCL Website With Your Library's, Friends' Addresses

This has been a challenging year for all of us — our Friends groups, our libraries and for FOCL. But hopefully, we're beginning to see a return to normalcy.

As your libraries open up and your Friends groups resume their activities, FOCL continues to provide support to you through our extensive resources.

We need you to help us by ensuring that our records are correct so that any mailings go to the appropriate person in your Friends group.

We noticed this past year that some groups never received membership renewal information, newsletters or other communications due to lack of or incorrect contact names/email addresses.

To correct this problem, we are asking you to log into your profile on FOCL's website: <https://foclib.org/Sys/Profile>

Just enter your email address/ password and update your contact information.

This will include information such as your library's website, your Friends website (if you have one, which might be a page of your library's site) and an email address

for your group.

If you don't remember your password, you can reset it at <https://foclib.org/Sys/ResetPasswordRequest>.

If you have any questions, please send an email to: [friendsctlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:friendsctlibraries@gmail.com) or [avolkens@yahoo.com](mailto:avolkens@yahoo.com)





## Friends Groups Offer Suggestions To Handle Leftover Books

### Danbury

**A**t the last BIG sale that we sponsored before COVID-19, we built in four hours at the end of the sale from 3-7 p.m. We closed from 2 p.m. after our \$10 for a free cloth shopping bag and all the books one could stuff into it, until 3 p.m.

This gave us time to throw in some empty boxes we had saved along the back of the room and treat the staff to pizza that we ordered. The doors were locked until 3 p.m.

People came from two hours away and filled their cars. We were taking down tables as they shopped. They carried out books to fill little libraries and for crafting. There are lots of cute

ideas online for furniture or crafts. When books are free it makes it easy to make money at craft sales. We saved ourselves lots of time and energy on breakdown morning.

We would definitely advertise this again. No one wants to see books going to recycling if people can get some use out of them.

If you have willing volunteers, you can also set up teams to send certain genres to good homes in your community. A willing veterinarian can design a corner for stories about animals. Or a veterans group would be glad to seek gardening books in winter when we are all looking forward to spring planting. Technical schools like getting beautiful

cookbooks to give as graduation presents to future chefs.

If you put some thought into this, there is a lot of satisfaction in giving away some of the books at the end of the sale. Always keep track of what you donate for bragging rights.

I would recommend a different group of volunteers do this task. Maybe senior volunteers who aren't up to actually working on the sale. You would also need a couple of guys who can lift boxes into their cars. We seniors can usually find help unloading gifts of free books.

Good luck with your sale. There was no noticeable difference in sales before free hours.

— Karen Chambrovich, Friends of the Danbury Library

### Farmington

**F**riends of the Farmington Library recommend [www.discoverbooks.com](http://www.discoverbooks.com) Call Gary Parenteau, 401-408-8606 or email him at [gparenteau@discoverbooks.com](mailto:gparenteau@discoverbooks.com)

They have been great. Our library has them come about once a month to haul away library discards. I heap my weekly castoffs from book donations on their pile.

We usually box up all books and they haul these to Gaylord boxes in truck and empty the boxes there. After the sale we have double door access to the book sale area and they bring in Gaylord boxes on a forklift.

It has been such a blessing, and I don't have to haul books weekly to a dumpster where the lid is above my head and I need two people to lift and dump!

— Linda Chapron, Friends of Farmington Library

### Cheshire

**T**he day of cleanup, we open our doors to any nonprofit in the area to take books for free.

We have Read to Grow, senior centers and some international charities take books.

After they take what they want, we have Goodwill come. We have used them for the past several book sales.

They come promptly the morning of clean-up with 10-12 blue collection bins and take all our leftover books, DVDs, etc. Our library has also switched to them for their discards.

We're looking forward to book sales again, but probably not until the fall.

— Tom Morck, Friends of the Cheshire Library



Friends of  
Connecticut  
Libraries

Middletown Library Service  
Center  
786 South Main St.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #379  
MIDDLETOWN, CT

We're on the web!  
[www.foclib.org/](http://www.foclib.org/)  
And on Facebook!

Newsletter edited  
and designed by  
Marjorie Ruschau

---

**The Friends of Connecticut Libraries** is a statewide support group whose members believe libraries are essential. FOCL exists to promote

library enrichment by helping Friends groups support their libraries through education, advocacy, training and resources.

---

## Deborah Schander Named New Connecticut State Librarian

**D**eborah Schander became Connecticut state librarian in 2021.

Before joining the Connecticut State Library, she was an educator and law librarian, serving in library administration at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., and Vanderbilt University in Nashville as well as



**Schander**

working at law libraries in Georgia and California.

She holds a doctorate in law and a master's in information and library science from Florida State University.

She writes and speaks on a variety of topics including legal research instruction, leadership development, personnel management, technology and library outreach.

Schander is past chair of the professional engagement, growth,

and advancement special interest section of the American Association of Law Libraries as well as past president of the Atlanta Law Libraries Association.

Schander is the 11th state librarian since the position was first created in 1854 and held by James H. Trumbull.

She is the first woman to hold the office.

She follows Kendall F. Wiggin, who was state librarian from 1998-2019.