

# FOCL POINT

## Friends Honor Hard Workers From Across State

**F**riends members from throughout the state gathered at Middlesex Community College in Middletown in June to pay tribute to volunteers.

FOCL president Barbara Leonard welcomed them and highlighted FOCL's own accomplishments in the past year:

- Held a Fall Conference in November with more than 95 Friends from 27 groups attending. Programs detailed how to grow your membership, how to support libraries during the state budget crisis, statistics on Friends membership and how to use Square.
- Published two newsletters.
- Grew to 420 Facebook followers. ("Please join us," Leonard said.)
- Maintained a FOCL Forum where anyone can ask a question and usually get it answered quickly.
- Visited numerous Friends groups including ones at the Russell Library in Middletown,



**Friends of the Milford Public Library won a Focused Project Award for creating a fantasy-themed, costumed fundraiser at their library. Accepting the award are, from left, Jack Button, Andy Gargiulo, Sylvia Hazard, Lois Barr-Button and Lisa Thornell.**

the Preston Public Library and the New London

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## Selling New Book on New England



Peter M. LeTourneau, left, told FOCL members of his new book *"The Traprock Landscapes of New England: Environment, History, and Culture."* He and the book's photographer, Robert Pagini sold copies. LeTourneau is with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, and a visiting scholar at Wesleyan University. This book received acclaim for its unique perspective on the historic landscapes of the Connecticut Valley.

## Awards, continued

(Continued from page 1)

Public Library.

- Maintained close contact with the State Library, the Connecticut Library Association, the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and national library groups such as Libraries United.

Leonard turned the program over to Carl Nawrocki to present awards to those who have gone above and beyond.

### **Individual Achievement Award Municipalities Between 10,000 and 25,000 Lisa Berman, Avon**

“What Friends group would not like to have Lisa as a member of their Friends group?” Nawrocki said. “Her dedication to the Avon Friends is extraordinary.”

Berman has supported the Avon Library through her service to the Friends board, her excellent communications with state and regional FOCL groups, her fund-raising efforts, and her very impressive ability to manage special volunteers and donors. She has dedicated herself to the Friends of the Avon Library while at the same time managing her family.

Berman is a tremendous proponent of libraries and develops relationships with other groups that share common goals. She was instrumental, working

with Linda Chapon, in creating the Farmington Valley Regional group.

She has helped improve communications between valley area libraries, allowing all to share ideas, supplies, hear guest speakers, expand membership, increase book sale profits and market services. At FOCL's November conference, Berman served on a panel that shared experiences using the Square point-of-sale system for book sales.

As Berman pursues the goal of working together for the benefit of all she has become invaluable for connecting us with the wider library communities.

In Avon, Berman advocated for a place where library patrons could purchase the best of our book sale stock on a daily basis. This led to the creation of our Booktique, which has increased book sale revenues by about \$5,000 a year.

Perhaps Berman's most important gift is her ability to integrate volunteers with a variety of skills into the book sale process. Like many libraries, volunteers are older people who



**FOCL President Barbara Leonard presents Lisa Berman of Avon with an award. Berman has been instrumental in improving communications with other Friends groups.**

are unable to lift books or have to work while seated.

Berman recognizes that these people come to the library seeking a place where they can be part of a group and participate in the community in a meaningful way. Lisa is excellent at streamlining tasks for these volunteers and making the library and the Friends an inviting place for all volunteers.

Berman's dedication to connecting the Avon Library and the Friends to local resources has improved the library's image and significantly increased the Friends' profits. Her outreach to town residents and other groups is invaluable in guiding volunteers. The Friends of the Avon Library is

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## Awards, continued

(Continued from page 2)

grateful to have such a dedicated volunteer in Berman.

### **Individual Achievement Municipalities Between 10,000 and 25,000 Ginny Canfield and Kirby Klump, Ridgefield Library**

These two volunteers “well exceeded all the metrics associated with volunteering,” Nawrocki said. “In the last 3¼ years they have volunteered nearly 1,000 days, not hours. Even 1,000 hours would be incredible but days?”

Kirby Klump and Ginny Canfield have fulfilled internet



**Kirby Klump and Ginny Canfield have fulfilled internet sales orders for the Friends of the Ridgefield Library five to six days a week since 2014.**

sales orders for the Friends of the Ridgefield Library five to six days a

week since 2014. That averages out to 286 days a year! Multiply that by the three years and it comes to 858 days. Tack on January, February, and March of 2017 and you're looking at a grand total of 929 days they've been plugging away packing

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## Chatting With the State Librarian



**Carol Eckart, of the Salem Friends and Frank Ridley, FOCL vice president and member of the Meriden Friends, have a chance to talk with Kendall F. Wiggin, Connecticut state librarian, at the annual meeting.**

## Friends Around the State

We encourage all newsletter 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](mailto: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 Bethel Public Library** gives a sunny yellow book bag with a book inside to every child who signs up for his or her first Bethel Library card. Tres Cella, an elegant sculpture created by local artist Michael



The artwork "Tres Cella" was given to the Bethel Library by the Friends.

Vaughan from three heavily damaged, unrepairable cellos, had been on temporary display on the library's second floor. Now, thanks to the Friends' purchase, it is part of the library's permanent collection.

In March the Friends held an open house to "Meet Friends, old

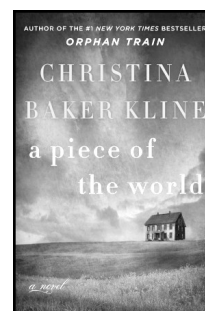
& new, enjoy refreshments, learn what we do, make suggestions, get a free book or two!"

In May they presented "Boards of Selectmen: A New England Tradition," a journey back to Colonial days with Bethel's First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker to discover how this unique executive arm of government evolved through the centuries.

**Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library** funded "Trashion," a program for teens to have fun creating fashion accessories and wearable art pieces from recycled and "trash" materials, culminating in a mini "trashion show," with artist Carlene Bermann from the Mystic Museum of Art. The Friends are currently receiving, identifying and pricing materials for the *Silent Auction Just for Art*, a spin-off of the silent auction at the Annual Fair, to be held during the month of November. In March the Friends were part of the library's Book-Cart Drill

Team, which participated in the 2017 Irish Parade. They won the award for Most Gregarious Unit!

**Friends of the Simsbury Public Library** provides Books-to-



Your-Door for homebound patrons. Simsbury residents who are homebound temporarily or permanently can request library materials

to be delivered and picked up. Volunteers are happy to select materials for them based on the patron's interests. In May the Friends held their annual luncheon at the Hop Meadow Country Club. Author Christina Baker Kline spoke to a sell-out crowd of 250 guests about her novel, "A Piece of the World," which evolved from her fascination with Andrew Wyeth's painting Christina's World.



**Mystic & Noank Library Book-Cart Drill Team, which won a parade honor.**



## Friends, continued

(Continued from page 4)

The Friends book sorters gathered to honor Charmaine Glew for her 25 years of leadership of the Giant Used Book Sale. Included was a proclamation from First Select-woman Lisa Heavenr proclaiming May 30, 2017 "Charmaine Eleanor Glew Day."

### Friends of the Watertown Library

sponsored Family Programs in July and August, including a Chinese acrobat, a troupe of traveling players who built



their dream house with the audience, a Rube Goldberg machine workshop, a fabulous magician who performed and taught some tricks. In addition, in August, the Friends

sponsored two afternoons for young adults to play classic board games, such as Monopoly, Yatzee, Parcheesi, Trouble and others.

The Friends report that following the loss of Queenie Mraz, manager of their Book Nook for 25 years, the volunteer staff has reorganized. Two co-managers have been named, there have been organizational changes to the Book Nook, and all is going well. Whenever they're stumped by a tough question or decision, they ask themselves, "What would Queenie do?"

### Friends of the Avon Library

sponsored the "2017 Sundays at Three Music Series." Included were the Thimble Island Saxophone Quartet; the Marlene Verplanck Trio; Luiz de Moura Castro, Piano; Tom Hicks, winner of the 2016 Connecticut Young Artist Piano Competition; and others.



**Friends of the Meriden Public Library** sponsored many programs this summer. At one pro-



**Friends of the Meriden Library** sponsored a Paint Night in August, with about 25 patrons getting a chance to try painting with acrylics on canvas.

gram, participants learned from Karen Rossi how to create aluminum flowers for their gardens from flashing, electrical conduit and wire. Others, at another program, learned to make a tote bags from old (or new) t-shirts by cutting and sewing, no sewing experience necessary. On Paint Night, everyone, including beginners, painted a picture of a lighthouse, following step-by-step instructions from Karen Jaime. Mini terrariums were built at another program, with direction from librarian Laura Pudvah; all supplies were provided.

Other entertaining and educational programs included musicians, a magician, a juggler, bubbles, animals, and bugs (to eat?).

### Beekley Library Book Friends, of the Licia & Beekley Community Library,



New Hartford, will present "Gangsters In Love" by Steve Henderson, a dinner theater mystery comedy from BrickRoad Productions. "Well, sort of in love...A dastardly deed, numerous suspects, a tangled web of clues and lots of chances for audience participation." Bring your

own picnic dinner, and dress as gangsters, if you wish. It's scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30.

## Awards, continued

(Continued from page 3)

How do they do it you ask? Their first step is to locate each book that has been purchased on Amazon through the Friends of the Ridgefield library listings.

Then they package the books and take them to the post office to mail to customers (always within Amazon's two-day limit!). Some days as many as 30 books are shipped.

In the three years and three months they've been handling fulfillment, Kirby and Ginny have packaged and shipped over 12,521 items and *netting* FORL over \$156,000 through internet sales!

The diligence to make sure books are shipped within the two-day limit has kept our Amazon ratings in the high 90s.

Due to their hard work day after day since 2014, the FORL have raised more than \$156,000 to fund programs and services at



**Lois Barr-Button relaxes before picking up the award for the Friends of the Milford Library while Jack Button seems to be looking to see what comes next.**

the Ridgefield Library. We cannot think of anyone who deserves recognition more than Kirby and Ginny.

**Focused Project  
Municipalities Greater  
Than 25,000**

### Friends of the Milford Library

"If you gave a party at the library, would anyone come?" Nawrocki asked. Better yet, would people pay to come to the party."

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## Does Your Friends Group Have Legal Status?

- Is your Friends group incorporated in Connecticut?
- Is the incorporation renewed yearly?
- Does your group have a Federal Employer ID Number (EIN)?
- Does your group have federal tax exempt status? (Is it a 501©3 non-profit organization,

a "charitable organization"? If so, don't forget to file your 990 -N (e-postcard) annually (or other form of 990 if you gross more than \$50,000). If you skip 3 years, you will lose your non-profit status.

- Has your group registered in Connecticut as a charitable organization? If not, visit the Connecticut Attorney

General's web page ([ct.gov/ag](http://ct.gov/ag)) section on Charities and follow directions to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). You can apply and easily get a waiver for the annual fee.

- For more information, see the Handbook for Connecticut Library Friends ("Handbook") on our website.



## Awards, continued

(Continued from page 6)

This past year, the Friends of the Milford library decided to create a special event that would:

- Generate new interest in the library
- Position the library differently in the public mind
- Generate funds for library programming

The 11-member committee who stepped up to this challenge far exceeded anyone's expectations, producing a literary-themed, fun-filled evening that met with universal accolades while raising significant funds for library programming.

For one night only library rules were suspended, and guests were invited to come as their favorite author or character and dance, eat, drink and make some noise.

The city's poet laureate hosted an add-a-line poem event. The

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*"If you gave a party at the library, would anyone come?"*

—**Carl Nawrocki**,  
FOCL board member

---

library's 3D printer debuted and amazed the crowd by producing a smiling pumpkin over the course of the evening.

Guests dined on book-inspired hors d'oeuvres such as Green Eggs and Ham, Alice in Wonderland Mushrooms and Yellow Brick Road

Lemon Squares while sipping Dark and Stormy cocktails.

Funds were generated by an innovative silent auction and the sale of books "Under Wraps." Those who hadn't come in costume could don masks that had been decorated by Friends members.

While they had hoped to attract 100 guests, they ended up hosting 150. The library garnered tremendous publicity, and the Friends raised much-needed funds for library programs.

As a direct result of the success of this event, the library was able to purchase a new podium with a sound system that will greatly enhance programs and to sponsor a new library initiative, *1000 Books*

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## An Official Welcome From Middlesex Community College

The library director of Middlesex Community College, Lan Liu, talks with Carl Nawrocki, a FOCL board member and former FOCL president. Liu welcomed Friends to the college for the annual meeting.

## Awards, continued

(Continued from page 7)

Before Kindergarten, which was launched in June.

### **Group Award Municipalities Greater Than 25,000 Friends of the New Milford Library**

"I am sure you have all heard of the Magnificent Seven," Nawrocki said. "Well the Friends of New Milford Library are the Magnificent Eight."

The New Milford Friends organization consists of just eight women. They have always done an amazing job organizing and conducting an annual book sale from donations received during the year.

The sale captures an average of \$15,000 per year. However, this year they have gone beyond amazing.

Donations arrive on a daily basis and are temporarily stored in a cramped area in the library proper.

Virtually every day, Friends members take carts of donations across the library to the elevator and down to the basement where everything is stored until the sale.

In a cold, humid, and frequently leaking basement, these eight women sort all the items, box them into rough BISAC subject headings to ease setup when they move all boxes to the



**Barb Ahern, Christine Langerfeld and Anne Adams accept the award for the Friends of the New Milford Library. They are three of the eight members of the group, which has carried on despite losing their storage space and use of the library's elevator to move books.**

local high school, for the sale -- a mammoth task for eight women in regular circumstances.

This year, however, they have continued to manage in spite of several obstacles. First, they lost their storage space for two months due to a major basement wall repair and still managed to accept and organize donations.

Then, for the entire year since the last sale in July, there has been no elevator. They have sorted books as best they can in the cramped arrival space and have then carried *hundreds* of boxes and other items down two flights of stairs to the storage area.

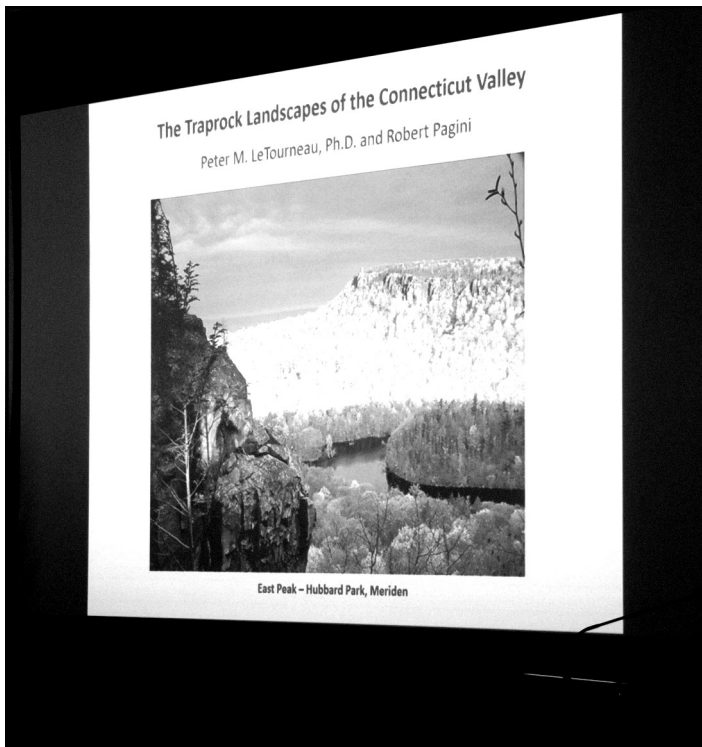
The elevator continues to be unusable, and they are now faced with the possibility of the sale not happening. There is no way to move hundreds of boxes of books in one day without the elevator. Their response? "Don't worry, we'll be fine."

These Friends make the library 100 times better than it could ever be without them. The enhancements to programming alone make the New Milford Public Library stand well above-average in the state statistical study for attendance.

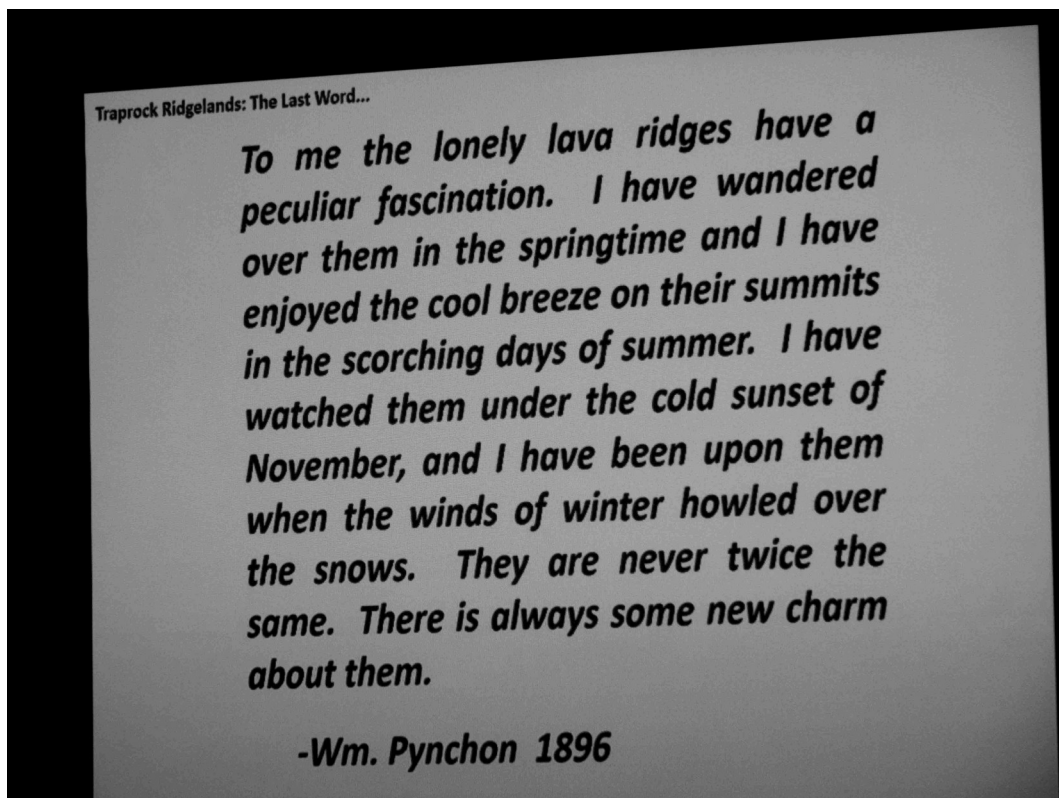
And this is only one of the ways the Friends support these efforts.



## Exploring Connecticut's Land



Peter M. LeTourneau, of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University and a visiting scholar in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Wesleyan University, tells the Friends about his new book, "The Traprock Landscapes of New England: Environment, History, and Culture." It has been praised for its unique perspective on the historic landscapes of the Connecticut Valley. He spoke at the annual meeting.



## At the Annual Conference ...



Tom Mitchell and Peggy Beauregard of the Avon Friends were able to see their fellow member Lisa Berman get an Individual Achievement Award.



Barb Ahern of New Milford, won 10 pounds of Wilbur chocolate in the raffle. (And she is actually from Lititz, PA, the home of Wilbur.)

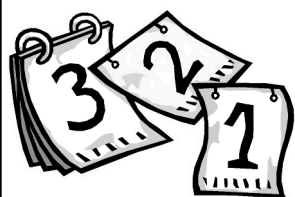
Anne Adams, center, keeps her table listening. They are, from left, Sarah Terrill, Middletown, and Sally Tornow, Adams, Barb Ahern and Christine Langerfeld, all of New Milford.



## Save the Date!

Friends Fall Conference  
Central Connecticut State University  
New Britain

Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to about noon  
Sure to be chock-full of great information



## ... Smiles Were Plentiful



**Andy Gargiulo and Liz Thornell of the Milford Friends were all smiles about getting a FOCL award.**



**Meet Jack Clonan, who takes care of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries' website. Email him when you schedule book sales or other events at [jclonan.focl@gmail.com](mailto:jclonan.focl@gmail.com)**

## Why Nominate Your Friends Group, or an Individual, for an Award?

One of the best ways to invigorate your Friends group is to win a Friends of Connecticut Libraries award.

I know you and your group are not doing what you do for recognition or rewards. You do it because you want to help your library and your city or town. You feel good about that, and you should.

When a Friends group wins an award, everybody benefits from it. It shows lapsed members and others that you are doing

something productive and having fun.

Yes, the most successful Friends groups are having fun.

You can tell the community what a positive experience it is to have the Friends recognized by the entire state. That brings it to a new level.

When you win an award, I encourage you to tell your local newspaper. It's not bragging. You did something exceptional and others should be aware of it. The

best way to draw new members is by example.

Some may be concerned that recognizing someone for an "Individual Award" may be a slight on other members. This has never been an issue for Friends. What's good for one person, is good for the group.

Submit your Friends Group or individual for a 2018 reward.

When you win, you will see your group come back to life.

—Rob Sweeney  
Award Committee Chair



Friends of  
Connecticut  
Libraries

Middletown Library Service  
Center  
786 South Main St.  
Middletown, CT 06457

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

Newsletter edited  
and designed by  
Marjorie Ruschau

## Don't Delay! It Will Be Time To Renew Your FOCL Membership Soon

**J**oin with other Friends groups, libraries, and library advocates to support FOCL's work on behalf of Friends groups throughout Connecticut.

Your membership enables FOCL to compile and share information on fundraising, programming, advocacy for libraries, membership, volunteering and group organization through its newsletters, workshops, conferences, meetings, web site and advisory visits to new Friends groups.

Members receive discounted conference registration, the newsletter and group listing in the directory and calendar. Individual donations are tax deductible.

Printable forms and online renewal are available at the FOCL web site at <http://foclib.org/join-us>,

and paper forms will be sent to our mailing list at the end of August.

Thank you in advance for your support and all you do as a friend of libraries!

**Membership Categories:**  
**Friends Groups Membership --**  
\$50 per year.

For Friends groups supporting a particular library, be it public, academic or special interest.

**Individual/Institutional Membership -- \$15-\$100**, with additional donations and sponsorships welcome. (For individuals or organizations, such as libraries, consortia, and businesses, who recognize and appreciate the value of libraries and want to support the Friends library network throughout Connecticut.)

