

F O C L P O I N T

Friends Celebrate Their Successes at Annual Meeting

Without Friends of Libraries, most of what our libraries want to achieve would never be possible."

So said Jan Glover, chairperson of the Hamden Public Library board, opening the Friends of Connecticut Libraries annual meeting. The meeting was held June 9 at the Hamden Library with about 80 people attending.

Seven awards were presented to individuals and Friends groups.

Author and publishing expert Laura Van Wormer spoke of the continued change brought about by electronic publishing and how she plans to be part of it.

The Friends elected the board for the 2012-2013 year – president, Paul McIlvaine of Brookfield; vice

Award winners, Page 2

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Members of Friends of Connecticut Libraries meet at the Hamden Public Library in June for the annual meeting.

Author Warns Of Lurking E-Book Troubles

Author Laura Van Wormer has a strong link to library Friends groups – she was once president of the

Meriden Friends of the Library.

"We all start the same way," she said about joining Friends in her hometown. "We want to get a

first look at the books at the Friends of the Library book sales."

But Van Wormer has an even stronger link to

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Seven Friends, Groups Honored at Annual Meeting

Two Friends groups and four Friends members were each honored by the Friends of Connecticut Libraries at the Annual Meeting while another library was singled out for a special achievement award.

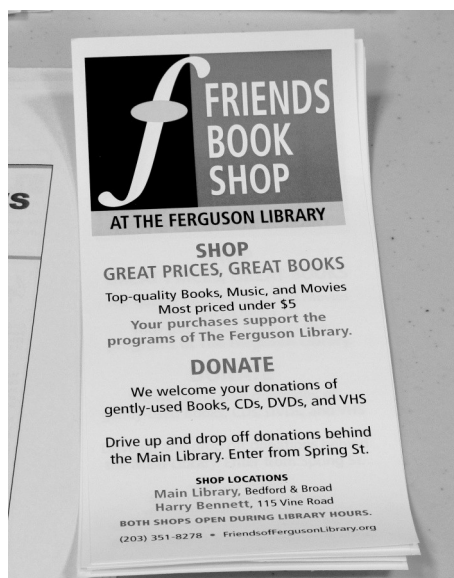


Ann Sexton of the Friends of the Ferguson Library accepts the group award from outgoing FOCL president Carl Nawrocki.

Group Award Municipalities Over 25,000 Friends of the Ferguson Library, Stamford

The Friends of the Ferguson Library has been going strong since 1979, providing innovative programs and services that benefit the library and the Stamford community.

The engine that runs the Friends is the book shop. With locations at the Main Library and Harry Bennett Branch, it sells used books and is the only used and independent book store in



Stamford. With a paid manager and a team of 70 volunteers, the book shop earned \$200,000 for the library in 2011. Allowing library staff to browse the shops and select books for the library's collection amounts to an in-kind donation of about \$15,000 a year.

Beyond the book shop, the Friends generously supported the library's spring fundraiser with a

"Our Friends' mission is to help our library serve as many Stamford residents as possible" — Ann Sexton

\$10,000 sponsorship and made several other gifts during the year, totaling more than \$140,000. This year they have pledged \$25,000 for their spring event, A Novel Affair.

In 2011, the Friends launched a new author series program. The event raised \$4,000,

but more importantly, generated excitement about the Ferguson. The library is developing a reputation as a venue for top flight author programs.

They sponsor several beloved programs, including the annual Stamford Literary Competition and the Books for Babies program that gives a book to every new baby born at Stamford Hospital. In generously underwriting all the library's programming, the Friends of Ferguson's energy and commitment has been a cornerstone of the Ferguson's success over the years.

FOCUSED PROJECT



Arthur Meyers, director of the Russell Library, shows the magazine rack that the Friends of his library use to offer free books

Municipalities Over 25,000 Friends of Russell Library, Middletown

(Continued on page 3)

Awards, continued

(Continued from page 2)

In October 2009, to commemorate National Friends of Libraries Week, the Friends of the Russell Library began a new project — Read While You Ride. They placed an unused magazine rack in the waiting room of the Middletown Area Transit Station, where riders gather for buses throughout the day.

A sign invites riders to take the books and a sticker on each notes:

Read While You Ride!

Enjoy This Book From

The Friends of Russell Library

In the first hour, three books were taken! The rack was refilled several days later, and about 20 books have been taken each week since then. The Friends made no assumptions about the

"We just felt it was important to reach bus riders" — Arthur Meyers

interests of the riders, so the result has been a wonderfully diverse array of books. Special requests for children's and cook-books have been met. Some bus riders contribute their own books to the display.

At one end of the display are brochures on library services. Friends members place the sticker on the books and deliver two bags of books to the bus station every two to three weeks.



Nancy Winter is given an individual award from outgoing FOCL president Carl Nawrocki.

It is a much-appreciated service to people who may not usually come to the library.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Municipalities Less
Than 10,000**

**Nancy Winter – Burlington,
CT**

In the words of her colleagues, Nancy Winter is an enthusiastic and vibrant member of their Library Friends, the Burlington Library Association. She provides the spark every organization needs to be a successful part of the community. She has been an active member of the Friends board and has

served as secretary and vice president.

Her crème de la crème is the annual homemade pie sale in October. She starts organizing volunteer pie bakers every year at the annual town Tavern Day celebration in September. By October she has about 70 pies do-

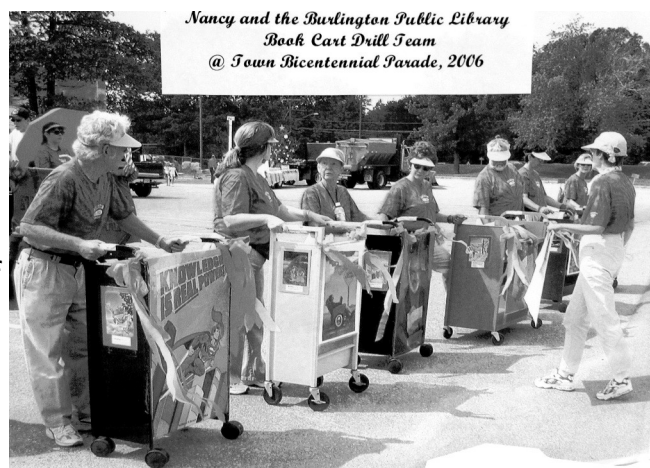
"I'd like you to come out and see [what a great library we can be] when we are given just 1% of the budget" — Nancy Winter

nated. She has built it a reputation as the best pie sale.

In February, she executes a successful February Black Forest bake sale celebrating Valentine's Day and Washington's birthday. Everything is decorated in a professional manner with the flair of Martha Stewart. She has raised more than \$8,000 dollars for their organization.

Along another line, she organized a book cart drill team of

(Continued on page 4)



*Nancy and the Burlington Public Library
Book Cart Drill Team
@ Town Bicentennial Parade, 2006*

Awards, continued

(Continued from page 3)

library staff and volunteers for the town's bicentennial parade in 2006, costumes, rhymes and all. Her skill in organizing and executing knows no bounds.

Nancy proudly represents the Burlington Public Library whether she is speaking at a town gathering, attending a library event or helping at a Friends fundraiser. She is endlessly thinking about the future of library service in her town. Her contributions have guided the Friends through many exciting years.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Over 25,000 Betsy Ellery – Joan Pacheco Enfield Public Library

The Enfield Friends of the Library is entering its 10th year. It started with 12 members and now has 225.

While all Friends groups had to start up at one point, this effort is unique because it was accomplished primarily by two people, Betsy Ellery and Joan Pacheco.

While nurturing the group along, they established the used

"We would like to thank all our volunteers, without whom we would not be here today" — Betsy Ellery

book sale. For the first six years of the group's existence, they alternated as president and vice



Betsy Ellery and Joan Pacheco were awarded individual awards for their efforts, which include a contract with the Enfield Minimum Security Facility to have inmates handle boxes of books.

president and since then have focused on chairing the book sale.

The first few years of the book sale were filled with challenges, none too large or too small for Betsy and Joan to face head on and overcome. Borrowed tables and volunteers to carry hundreds of boxed books to the sale site have given way to rentals and a contract with the Enfield Minimum

Security Facility to have inmates handle boxes. The number of Friends involved in the sale has risen to more than 50. This yearly project has prospered, with more than \$85,000 raised. The book sale at the Enfield Library is one of the most celebrated events in town and one of the largest used book sales in northern Connecticut. People come by the hundreds to browse and buy at bargain prices.

The Town of Enfield, in appreciation of their leadership and commitment to the

community, executed a proclamation for Betsy and Joan on May 21.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Between 15,000 and 25,000 Priscilla Sperry, Guilford

This nomination started with a wonderful description of Priscilla Sperry as follows:

(Continued on page 5)



Priscilla Sperry was honored with an individual achievement award, which she receives from outgoing FOCL President Carl Nawrocki.

Books and baked goods are sold, musicians entertain and customers come from all over the state and beyond. One favorite attraction is the children's tent. For more than 25 years, Priscilla has presided over this popular destination. Her expertise and extraordinary knowledge of children's litera-

ture, as well as her enthusiasm for helping children as well as parents and caregivers have enriched the sale.

Books are sorted in a manner that makes it easy to browse and find your special selection.

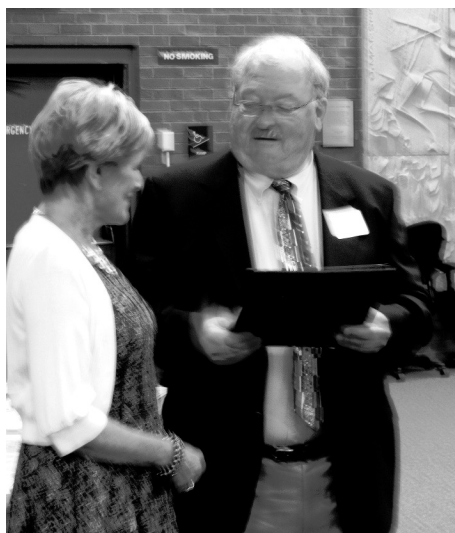
Awards, continued

(Continued from page 4)

Some people love books and reading. Some people love children and encouraging them to read. Some are willing to donate much time to causes they love. Priscilla Sperry combines all three of these qualities into one being.

For more than 25 years, she has donated time and expertise in many ways to the Guilford Free Library. She has served on the Guilford Library Association Board of Directors as a member and president. She has served as secretary and president of the Friends of the Library.

Her greatest service has been to the Friends Book and Bake Sale, the major fundraiser. The book sale is an annual three-day event on the Library grounds.



Judy Knight, called the "unsung hero" of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library, receives an award from Carl Nawrocki

Priscilla served as a school librarian and after her retirement was able to devote more time to cultivating the children's collection. She and her colleagues sort all year long. All of these efforts result in increasing book sale profits. Priscilla has been called the "doyenne" of children's books and "it is impossible to imagine our book sale without her" says Jane Marshall, book sale co-chair.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Between 15,000 and 25,000

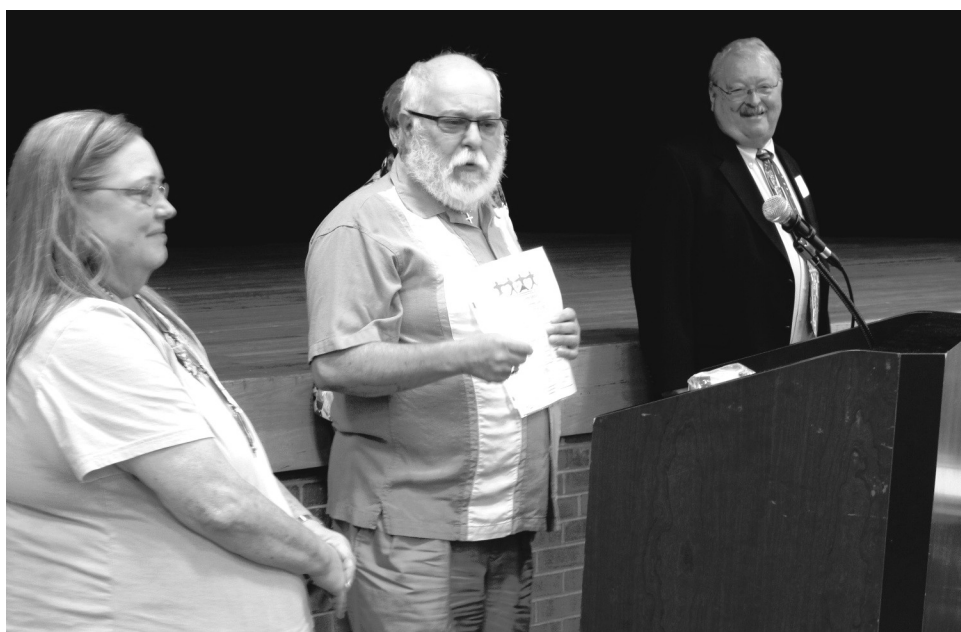
Judy Knight – Simsbury, CT

Judy Knight is described as unsung hero, and many times she is told, "I don't know how I would have done this without you."

As the publicity chair of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library, Judy is responsible for publicizing programs and events, no small task given the magnitude of programs and events that the Friends sponsor.

In addition, Judy implemented and manages the Friends' new email communications program and continuously sends bright, creative and enticing email communications to a large membership in support of Friends programs and events. She also sends information about community, government and municipal meetings and proceedings that may affect the library and the Friends.

Judy performs all of her functions consistently, effectively and without complaint. But, what makes her special is her willingness to help in other positions when needed.



Awards continued

Sue Wright and Phil Desjardins accept the Special Achievement Award for the Friends of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library.

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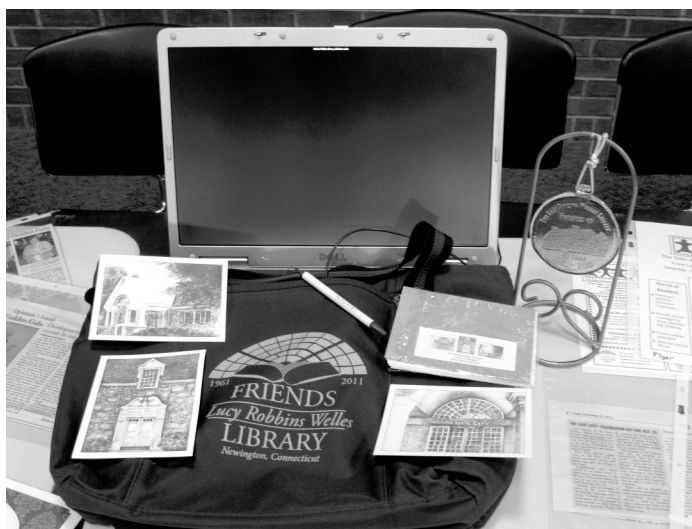
When the board lost its editor for the Friends publication, the Doorway, Judy stepped in and, working together with the president, published the next edition.

Organizing, editing and distributing the Doorway is one of the largest tasks of the Friends board.

Similarly, when other board members have found themselves in need of assistance, she has rolled up her sleeves to pitch in! Judy Knight has been a go-to person over the years in so many ways, and she goes about her tasks quietly and without demand.

Special Achievement Award Friends of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library Newington

The Friends of Lucy Robbins Welles Library celebrated the library's 50th anniversary from September 2010-October 2011. The purpose of their celebration year



was to do community building and education although they had considered using the celebration as a major fundraising campaign.

The Friends group decided to connect both within their group, to each other, and to educate the community about the Friends and their work.

A new logo was designed that combined their current logo with

additional touches highlighting the 50th anniversary. A brochure was created to invite people to be part of the yearlong events celebrating the 50 years of service to the library. Also, the brochure highlighted the history of the

Friends.

Anniversary souvenirs were sold to finance the celebrations and activities. Examples of the souvenirs were note cards, a deluxe book bag, and a handcrafted, pressed glass suncatcher. They started with a kick-off at the town's Water Fall Festival. Four major activities were a wine and cheese social, a Golden Gala and

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Awards, continued

(Continued from page 6)

Silent Auction, an ice cream social, and a Big Hug of the library at We Love Lucy.

Other smaller activities took place at other Friends events. These included a “Tellabration” (a storytelling event) and a 50th anniversary float in the Memorial Day parade.

Throughout the year, committee chairs changed and activities were re-planned and consolidated.

The Friends not only celebrated their achievements and service, but recruited new members, developed good working relationships with other community groups and sparked awareness of the library and the Friends.

Celebrate, continued

(Continued from Page 1)

president, Polly Fitz of Branford; secretary, Sue Harkness of Ashford; and treasurer, Peggy Brissette of Stonington.

Of his four years as president, Carl Nawrocki said, “It’s been a lot of work, but a lot of fun.” Although leaving office, he will remain on the board.

Nawrocki summed up the group’s achievements of the past year adding, “For a small group we really accomplished a lot.”

FOCL is in its 32nd year and includes more than 100 local Friends groups.



Wine, at top, and chocolates, above, were just some of the many items offered in the teacup raffle. At left, Mary Engels of the FOCL board helps with the raffle.

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.

The **Friends of the Guilford Library** sponsored the program "Why I Left the Amish." Guest speaker Saloma Miller Furlong spoke of her moving memoir that stirred the literary world for almost a year. When Furlong's father died, she returned to the community she had left 24 years earlier, bringing back memories of a painful childhood spent in the shadow of mental illness in one of the most intriguing and misunderstood communities in the world.

Friends of the Farmington Library

funded teen programs based on their teen advisory group's suggestions. The programs included a Wii

Archery Tournament, "The Hunger Games" Jeopardy, and "The Hunger Games" Cornucopia Challenge, in advance of the release of the film. "The Hunger Games" is based on Hartford native Suzanne Collins' acclaimed novel.

The **Friends of the Brookfield Library** has generously provided their library with the Mango online language learning program, which includes 40 foreign language courses and 16 English-as-a

-second language courses. Two versions of Mango are available to Brookfield residents with library cards: Mango Basic for beginners and Mango Complete for a deeper understanding of the language and culture.

The Friends also bought six courses on DVD from Great Courses. Each course is composed of a series of half-hour lectures. The courses include "Everyday Guide to Spirits and Cocktails," "Optimizing Brain Fitness," "Understanding Investments," "World War II: A Military and Social History," "The Joy of Science," and "Physics and Our Universe." The library owns other Great Courses, as well.

In August, the Friends sponsored the Sunset Concert: Great American Folk Song Revival with Caroline Doctorow, singer-



songwriter. She performed folk music of the early '60's, including works by Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Donovan

and others, as well as her own compositions, and was accompanied by fiddler Gary Oleyar.

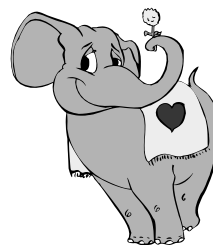
The **Friends of the Ridgefield Library** introduced the Book

Buddy in July at both Ballard Park and the Ridgefield Recreation Center. A pilot program, the Book Buddy is a cart of free reading material for all ages. Participants pick a book, read it while in the park or recreation center and return it when they are done.

The **Friends of the Bethel Library** is sponsoring an appearance by Edgar Allan Poe giving his side of the story of his life. Dramatized by actor Campbell Harmon, Poe will correct inaccuracies, made by a biographer who was a literary rival, that have shaped what we think we know about him. (Sept. 25, 7-8:30 pm, registration required)

The Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library

in Stonington organizes and runs the annual Mystic & Noank Library Fair, which brings together many segments of the community. This year the fair in-

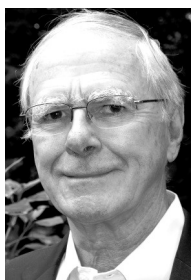


cluded the Friends book sale, bake sale and white elephant sale; a silent auction with donations from 100 or so local merchants and businesses; the Mystic Garden Club plant sale; kids' activi-

(Continued on page 9)

Meet the New President of FOCL — Paul McIlvaine

Here are a few facts about the new president of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries, Paul M. McIlvaine.



Paul
McIlvaine

Hails from: Lehigh, PA, a town of about 6,500 about 80 miles north of Philadelphia

Home: Brookfield

Spouse: Betsy McIlvaine

Occupation: Retired corporate research library manager

Interests: Choral singing (member of three choral groups in the Danbury area), travel, kayaking, sailing, photography

Library background: Managed the research library for a Swiss chemical company. Member of Friends of the Brookfield Public Library and Friends of the Danbury Public Library (president twice)

FOCL: 2005 to present. Vice president, 2010-2012; committees: membership chair, 2006-2009; policy and development chair, 2010-2012; web site committee chair, 2010; budget and finance committee, 2010-2012. Liaison assignments: Advisory Committee for Library Policy & Development, 2008-2012 and member of their subcommittee on e-books, 2011-2012

Vision: The public lending library is a uniquely American phenomenon dating to Benjamin Franklin and the Library Company of Philadelphia in 1731. The tradition continues, and today a strong public or community library defines a strong community. FOCL's role is to support local friends groups in their efforts to strengthen and enrich their respective local libraries. I am fortunate to have highly resourceful colleagues on the FOCL board who are dedicated to library enrichment through our member friends groups. The board will continue to support our member groups through training, visits, grants and technology.

Friends, continued

(Continued from page 8)

ties overseen by three Girl Scout troops; and food including chowder, hot dogs and fudge. Peggy Brissette, a long-time member of the Friends (and FOCL's treasurer) made sure all the pieces came together as the fair chairperson.

The **Friends of the Ferguson Library** in Stamford presented two events in their spring author series. The first was an evening with authors Jane Green "Another Piece of My Heart," Julie Otsuka "The Buddha in the Attic," and



Charlotte Rogan "The Lifeboat," which began with a wine reception and concluded with book signings. The second also included a wine reception and book signing and was with bestselling author Adriana Trigiani discussing her book "The Shoemaker's Wife," a rich epic of love and family, war and loss, and risk and destiny. It was drawn from her own grandparents' story of passion and perseverance.

The **Friends of the Fairfield Public Library** presented Jour-

neys, a juried show of Connecticut artists, in the Bruce S. Kershner Art Gallery. Artists visually represented an actual, metaphorical, or spiritual journey that they experienced. The show was inspired by the book "The Watch That Ends the Night: Voices From the Titanic," by Allan Wolf, the library's One Book/One Town selection.

The Friends also held a Ladies' Literary Luncheon with guest speaker Elin Hilderbrand, best-selling author of 11 books including "Silver Girl," "The Island," "Barefoot" and the recently released "Summerland." Proceeds benefited the library.

FOCL Was Busy Last Year With Programs, Better Resources

The year began in June 2011 with the Friends of Connecticut Libraries annual meeting at the South Windsor Public Library.

We honored seven groups and individuals for their outstanding. Our guest speaker, State Archeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, educated and entertained in telling of a Civil War mystery that he helped solve.

The rest of the year, board members were very busy supporting the 115 member Friends groups. FOCL's mission is to provide education, training, resources and advocacy for our members and last year's efforts demonstrated how FOCL tries to meet the goals set forth in our mission statement. Here is what we accomplished.

Education and Training

In November, our annual Fall Conference was held at Central Connecticut University. Discussion topics included insurance, reinventing your Friends group, trends in fundraising, and fundraising other than used book sales. Nearly 80 members attended, despite a storm.

Boot Camp was held this spring at the University of Hartford. Boot Camp provides a

setting where experts and newer friends can hold informal discussions on topics of common interest. The program started with discussion of marketing techniques followed by working sessions on web sites, communications in small town and communications with groups with large memberships.

Board members also visited and offered advice to groups from libraries in Ansonia, Coventry, Cromwell, Hartford, Oakdale and Sprague throughout the year.

The Resources for Friends section of our web page was updated throughout the year with useful topics for Friends groups.

Resources

The FOCL directory and used book calendar were revised and placed on the FOCL web site — www.foclib.org. Having the directory and calendar online allows our members to update their information throughout the year.

FOCL lead the efforts to revise the roles and responsibilities guidelines for how the State Library, FOCL, the Association of Connecticut Libraries (ACLB) and the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) work together. All the organizations approved them.

The board wrote and distributed three issues of FOCL Point. The newsletter contains more information about this year's events.

The FOCL board held a day-long retreat where our mission statement and core value were developed and adopted.

Advocacy

FOCL worked with other library stakeholders to help preserve the State Library budget.

FOCL members participated in a panel discussion — "Trustees and Friends Working Together" — at the fall conference of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards.

Board members also participated in a panel discussion titled "Whose Job Is It, Anyway?" at the annual CLA Conference. The board created a liaison position to the CLA Legislative Committee to help better co-ordinate our statewide advocacy. FOCL maintained liaisons with CLA, ACLB, State Library Board and the Advisory Committee of Library Planning and Development.

FOCL maintained membership in the Association of Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. ALTAFF is national library support non-profit.

Renew Your Membership Today

September is Friends of Connecticut Libraries membership renewal month.

Why not be one of the first to renew your membership for the 2012/2013 year by filling out the new renewal form online at www.foclib.org? Then drop your check in the mail, and your group is current for another year.

Each group will be receiving a paper form in the mail (do watch for it in your Friends mailbox) if you prefer the more traditional renewal method. Either way, we look forward to another great year with our Friends.

Renewal deadline is Oct. 19, so don't delay.

Van Wormer, continued

(Continued from page 1)

libraries – a grandmother who was a librarian in Texas.

Her own background is also in publishing and writing. She worked at Doubleday & Co. with Jackie Onassis and went on to write 13 novels including the Sally Harrington mystery series and the Alexandra Chronicles romance series.

But she did not speak at the annual meeting about her own books. Instead the Connecticut native talked about the effect electronic books – also called e-books or digital books – are having on the publishing industry.

“Libraries are under assault whether you know it or not” — Laura Van Wormer

ing industry.

After finding that it took a long time to get royalties and that authors got only about 25% of what a book made, she formed her own e-book publishing company to change that – Author & Company. She also found that her rights to books she had written were available to her only through electronic publishing.

Her first client was actress Betty White. When the company is paid back for publishing, White will get 75% of the profits. Van Wormer is also working with Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, on a

book. That has been tied up by legal problems and is expected to be available in two years.

The e-book publishing industry is very much in flux now, Van Wormer said.

“Everybody is fighting for the money.”

And publishers are not making it easy for libraries either. “Libraries are under assault whether you know it or not,” she said. “Libraries are completely vulnerable.”

Harper Collins will let a library lend an e-book 26 times before it “implodes.” Random House has tripled the cost for libraries to buy their digital books.

People wonder why there aren’t more e-books in libraries, Van Wormer said, but “with terms like this, who can afford it.”

The industry also has to evolve in another way so that electronic books can be more like physical books. “We need to orchestrate a way so that we can loan our e-books to others,” Van Wormer said.

Van Wormer predicted that physical books will never disappear. However, she thinks that mass market paperbacks will because e-books will fill that role.

She urged readers to look at any e-books they get carefully, saying they are copy edited in countries where English is not the first language. Her company uses retired English teachers in Colorado to proof-read, although she said she would like to bring jobs to Connecticut.

“It’s important to reclaim our American culture.”

While working to set up her e-book publishing company, Van Wormer said she won’t be writing her own books. So readers who want to find out what murder anchorwoman Sally Harrington will stumble upon next will just have to be patient.

Find Latest Book Sale Details on FOCL Site

If you are looking for accurate, complete and up-to-date information on book sales across the state, be sure to check out the FOCL website at www.foclib.org. Click on the Book Sale & Events Calendar link on the right.

Sales are listed by town as well as by dates and include times and

locations. A new feature is a link that provides a printable map of the sale site. It’s so easy for those potential buyers to find you!

Don’t forget to fill in all your correct book sale information (including street address) on your membership renewal form so that your book sale will be listed accurately on the FOCL site.





Friends of
Connecticut
Libraries

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Newsletter edited
and designed by
Marjorie Ruschau

FOCL's Fall Conference Will Focus on Members, E-books

FOCL will hold its Annual Fall Conference at Central Connecticut State University, in New Britain on Saturday, Nov. 10. The program will focus on two questions we hear most frequently from you, our membership:

How do we recruit and retain new active members?

How will e-books impact our used book sales?

First up is Dr. Tim Cole, who returns to the conference to discuss how new active membership can help foster the changes needed to meet future challenges. He will build on a presentation given at the 2009 Conference titled, "Welcoming New Members to Your Friends Group." This presentation asked why we want new members and how receptive we are to them.

After a buffet lunch, the program will shift its focus to e-books and their impact on libraries and used book sales. We have three engaging speakers who will give their perspective on e-books and then take questions. The speakers are:

Kendall Wiggin – Connecticut state librarian. Wiggin is in a unique position to see what is happening with e-books at the state and national levels and what the trends are saying.

James Benn – noted author. Benn is a member of the Lyme Library Board and has worked many a used book sale there. He will discuss how an author views the various media available to reach his audience and what it means for physical books.

Ernest DiMattia Jr. – president of the Ferguson Library in Stamford. He chairs a statewide committee that is examining the effect of e-books on the library community. The Ferguson Library Friends operate two used book stores that provide significant funding for the library.

Additional details about the conference will be available on our web site – www.foclib.org – and in the mail by early September. Attendees have given our past conferences high marks for content and presenters. Please plan to have someone from your Friends group attend.