

The Librarian

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Fall/Winter 2016 Issue

SUMMER READING RECAP 2016

*By Maris Frey,
Director of Youth Services*

This was the tenth summer we have used our Summer Reading Store and Basket Raffle.

While it is always wonderful to talk about how many young people are involved in our program (711 this year) and how many of them actually participate, the most interesting statistic to me is this: Compared to my first year doing this (2007), the number of our youngest participants (entering Kindergarten and younger) has increased 25%, the middle group (entering Grades 1 – 5) has increased 50% and the oldest group (entering Grade 6 and older) has increased 100%! So it appears that our readers are sticking with us as they grow up!

Our Ice Cream finale celebration brought over 175 children and parents to the Library. Many thanks to Cathy Taylor and Grace Murray for coordinating all things ice cream! Many thanks to all the helpers who made this possible and to the families who share their delightful children with us!

We are very grateful to the Dog Watch Café, whose generosity has supported our summer performers and programs! We also offer our appreciation to all of the families and businesses who donated so generously. They truly are invaluable in making this program possible. Please remember to thank them for their support of our Summer reading Program. Bank Square Books, Bess Eaton Donuts, Big Y, BJ's Wholesale Club, The Cooked Goose, Dairy Queen, Fun Company, Barbara



Summer Reading Finale Celebration

Groshans, the Hatton Family, the Kelly Family, the Leslie Buck Memorial Fund, Lis Bake Shop, McQuade's Market, Mel's Downtown Creamery, Mystical Toys, NEST, Nigrelli Jewelers, Mystic Luxury Cinemas, Stonington Marina, Stonington Pizza Palace, Stop & Shop, Subway, Taylor's Sports, the Torres Family, Walmart, the Wanta Family and Yellow House – thanks for all you did!

A grant from a Family Foundation gave us the opportunity to offer programming to children registered in summer camps at the COMO, Stonington Human Services and the Mystic Y. Additionally, we were thrilled to provide new free books at all these locations for the children to bring home! Great to expand literacy efforts into our community! The Read and Feed program contributed more than 25 boxes of food items to our community food bank at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center this summer. Weekly Specials helped ensure that the PNC received

needed items, while the children enjoyed the chance to earn double rewards! We also were able to send 13 boxes of gently used children's books to New Haven Reads, which is a leader in providing literacy support to those most in need in the New Haven community. This effort was spearheaded by Janet Hatton.

Our Teen Volunteers really help make this program possible and we thank Hazel Allik, Vanessa Benjamin, Emma Boudreaux, Kali Cheetham, Matthew Cheetham, Haley Delmonaco, Piper Doyle, Sophia Fernholz, Nicholas Ferreira, Sadie Fox, Audrey Fuller, Nathan Garrett, Phoenix Glaza, Katherine Glenn, Katie Johnstone, Lauren Kehrle, Mia Lewandowski, Tori LoPresto, Angel McClurg, Sandy McGugan, Brenna McNeil, Hannah Mentz, Celia Moffitt, Chloe Morehouse, Bryn Morgan, Lucas Morrison, Emma O'Keefe, Madison Rea, Sean Raymond, Joe Sasso, Marissa Sasso, Ava Schrage, Corinne Steeno, Kayla Taylor, Ciara Torruella, Massa Traboulsi, Zeina

Traboulsi, Chase Williams, Owen Williams and Desiree Zaharie. These 40 TVs earned 433 community service hours this summer!

My three favorite moments from this summer:

The unchecked delight on the face of the young man who won the watch – I would have given almost anything to have captured that moment in a picture.

The young girl who congratulated her brother on winning a prize, since she had won once herself.

The young gentleman (because there is no other word that describes him so well), who read 30 hours this summer, but declined to redeem any of his Silver Dollars because he had won a prize last year.

Sometimes, it is difficult for me not to cry right in front of all of you, but rest assured, your children bring me tears of joy all the time!



Todd Brodeur's World Class Frisbee Show @ the COMO



Everyone loves Touch a Truck!



Scienctellers Program @ the Mystic Y Summer Camp

Bold = Adult Activities 📅 = Pre-registration Required. Please call.

SEPTEMBER

All month	Halloween Costume Drop Off (FREE shopping will be Oct. 3 – 15)
3 10:30 am	Junior Maker Space Building with LEGO® bricks
5	Labor Day – Library Closed
10 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space (Ages 6+)
11 5 pm	<i>Sunday Evening Lecture Series – Scott Bates discusses September 11th-Meaning for America Today? @ The La Grua Center</i>
13 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
14 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
15 11:00 am	<i>NEW Poetry Picnic – lunch and poetry reading group for seniors @ the Library</i>
17 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – LEGO® Bingo
20 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
21 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
24 10:30 am	Saturdays in Stonington - Apple Stamping
27 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
28 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)

OCTOBER

1 10:30 am	Junior Maker Space Building with LEGO® bricks
3-15	<i>Halloween Costume Swap or Drop Shopping</i>
4 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:30 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
5 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
6:30 pm	PJ Story Time
8 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space (Ages 6+)
9 5 pm	<i>Sunday Evening Lecture Series – George Bodenheimer discusses his book Every Town is a Sports Town @ The La Grua Center</i>
10	Columbus Day – Library Closed
11 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
12 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
15 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – <i>Make a Haunted Gingerbread House Family Workshop</i> – Space is limited – One per family 📅 Registration opens Sept. 30
18 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
19 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
5 – 7 pm	Coloring Party for Children and Teens
20 5:30 pm	<i>Thoughtful Thursday – Jean Baur discusses her book Joy Unleashed: The Story of Bella, the Unlikely Therapy Dog @ the Library</i>
22 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Play Dough Day
25 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
26 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
5 – 7 pm	<i>We Are Makers</i> – Sea Glass Tea Light Holders (Ages 7+) 📅
29 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington - Make a Halloween Craft



NOVEMBER

1 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies - 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
2 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
6:30 pm	PJ Story Time
5 10:30 am	Junior Maker Space Building with LEGO® bricks
6 5 pm	<i>Sunday Evening Lecture Series – Laura Jackson talks about The New One Room Schoolhouse: Using Digital Tools to Personalize Learning @ the Library</i>
8 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Baby – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
9 10:30 am	Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
11	Veterans Day – Library Closed
12 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space Ages 6+
14-19 12 – 5 pm	<i>Make A Plate Week</i> (All Ages) Cost- \$7.50 + 1 canned or dry good for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center – let’s remember our neighbors in need at this time of year!
15 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages Babies – 2)
11:45 am	Sandwich and Story (Ages 3 – 6)
16 10:30 am	Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
5 – 7 pm	Coloring Day for Children and Teens
17 5:30 pm	<i>Thoughtful Thursday – Rhona Heyl discusses The Road to Retirement @ the Library</i>
19 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington - Make a Plate
23	Thanksgiving Day Eve – Library closes @ 1pm
24	Thanksgiving – Library Closed
26 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Painting Day
30 5 – 7 pm	<i>We Are Makers</i> – Bath Fizzies (Makes a great gift!) (Ages 8+) 📅

DECEMBER

1	First day to sign up for our Winter Reading Challenge (Ages 7 & younger) - 50 To Grow On
3 11 – 1 pm	<i>A Visit with Santa</i> (Ages 8 & under) 📅 Registration opens November 14
7 6:30 pm	PJ Story Time
10 10:30 am	Minecraft Junior Maker Space (Ages 6+)
14 5 – 8 pm	Make a Gingerbread House Family Workshop – Space is limited – One per family 📅 Registration opens November 23
17 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Reindeer Story Time and make Magic Reindeer Food!
21 5 – 7 pm	Coloring Day for Children and Teens
24	Christmas Eve – Library Closed
26	Christmas Observed – Library Closed
28 5 – 7 pm	<i>We Are Makers</i> – Make your own play dough (Ages 5+)
31 10:30 am	Saturday in Stonington – Coloring
31	New Year’s Eve – Library closes @ 1pm



JANUARY

2	New Year’s Day Observed – Library Closed
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Bookworms

By Maris Frey, Director of Youth Services

As another school year begins, we are ready for an exciting season of new programs and the return of perennial favorites. We will continue our Drop In Read and Play story times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as well as Sandwich and Stories on Tuesdays at 11:45 am. These story times are designed to introduce and reinforce early literacy skills. Reading, talking, singing, writing and playing are the five practices that form the building blocks of early literacy skills. The Family Literacy Enrichment Program continues to offer four free Outreach story times to local pre-schools and daycare centers along with a rotating library of books.

Our Saturday in Stonington on Saturday mornings will vary with Junior Maker Space Building with LEGOS® the first Saturday of the month and Minecraft Junior Maker Space the second Saturday of the month. The Minecraft Saturday is for children ages 6 and older because the pieces are very small and present a choking hazard to younger children. Other weeks will be stories, activities or crafts.

We will begin collecting Halloween costumes for our Halloween Costume Swap or Drop in September. You can bring in a CLEAN costume on a hanger with the (approximate) size marked and we will have free shopping October 3 – 15. This is an opportunity to clean out closets and find a “new” costume for this season. All unclaimed costumes will be donated.

Beginning in October, PJ Story Times will be the first Wednesday of the month and we will offer Coloring for Children and Teens on the third Wednesday of the month. We will also continue *We Are Makers* Workshops on the last Wednesday evening of the month.

We will hold our Family Craft Workshop, *Decorate a Haunted Gingerbread House* on Saturday, Oct 15. There is limited space for this program and we offer one house per family. Registration will open on Sept. 30. Make a Plate Week will be the week before Thanksgiving and we will continue our partnership with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center by asking for a food donation for their holiday baskets.

Returning December program favorites will be A Visit with Santa, Make a Gingerbread House for Christmas and Reindeer Story Time with Magic Reindeer Food.



50 To Grow On, our early literacy initiative for children 7 and younger, will be back for a fourth year! The program will run December 1 – March 31. The Library will be collaborating with the schools in promoting this enormously popular Winter Reading Challenge, which focuses on developing a family “read aloud” culture.



Please check our website or calendar for age and registration requirements for programs.

The Library will be hosting the third graders for the annual *Look It Up* project, which is a partnership between the Rotaries of both of Mystic and the Stoningtons, the Leslie Buck Memorial Fund, and the Library. All the third graders tour the building, listen to a story, and participate in a scavenger hunt. They each receive their own dictionary and library card. This will require closing the Children’s Room briefly for a few mornings in the fall; please check our webpage for days and times.

Happy Autumn!



Stonington Free Library

Service to All – Young And Old, River to River

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Our Strategic Planning Update

By Mary Kelley, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so you can do something about it now.” The quote by Alan Lakein describes the essence of strategic planning and why organizations engage in it. The Stonington Free Library is no exception, and our own strategic planning process is now well under way. We have conducted an online survey and hosted a series of focus groups involving a cross section of our town, all to learn what the community wants and needs from us in the future. The response and support have been overwhelming and we are very grateful.

We are learning that doing things the way we’ve always done them is shortsighted and impractical in the face of a changing community. We are also learning that some of our practices transcend time and need to stay just as they are. From many of the more than 500 patrons who responded to our survey, we are learning we need to find ways to engage teens through various programming options. We have also learned that more than 90% of our respondents, regardless of age, consider our staff to be our greatest strength.

Focus groups were held over a three day span and enabled us to hear from a variety of stakeholders – groups ranged from parents with young children, to Library staff, to community leaders, and everyone in between. Many stressed the importance of creating partnerships within the community, and some of those are underway at the Library. Participants shared a desire to have greater access to the Library through the possible addition of hours or days. Still others asked us to find a way to create more meeting space the community could use. What became most clear, however, was that methods and approaches that worked well in the past will not be as effective in the future because our needs are rapidly changing.

Our next step involves creation of an actual plan, but before we do that, we will reach out to some additional constituents. This added discussion will further help the Board of Trustees to ensure the goals and objectives we identify are truly those of our community. Additional information on our strategic planning process will be shared in upcoming editions of the Librarian and in the e-Librarian. We are excited and energized by all the support we have received and look forward to the community’s continued involvement. As we heard throughout this process, we are a valuable community resource. The goal is to continue this collaboration that ensures we remain a vital part of Stonington.



POETRY PICNIC

In an effort to grow community awareness and cooperation, The Elms Retirement Residence of Westerly is collaborating with the Library to launch a *Poetry Picnic* for seniors in the surrounding Stonington and Westerly areas.

The Library will coordinate the selection of titles and host the event. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch to enjoy during the discussion. Coffee and tea will be provided. While the *Poetry Picnic* will feature selected poems, the event is not limited to poetry and is interactive with all participants encouraged to bring a poem or piece of writing to share.



The *Picnic* will be held quarterly at the Library on the third Thursday of selected months. The first group will meet September 15th from 11 am-12:30 pm. Our own Belinda de Kay will start off the series with her favorite poetry selections. Come enjoy a light lunch and share some great poetry!

TURKEY TRIP

We regret to report that due to the deteriorating political and security situation in Turkey at this time, the Library-supported trip to Turkey has been canceled. We thank Anne Fix, Equinox Travel and Holly Chase for their generous support of the Library in volunteering to offer this opportunity to the friends of Stonington Free Library. We hope stability returns quickly to this region of the world and that we may perhaps be able to offer this once-in-a-lifetime trip in the future.



ANNUAL APPEAL *thank you*

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who donated to the Annual Fund. We had another great fundraising year thanks to the generosity of those who believe in the value of the Library to the community. We rely on your donations for over 50% of our budget each year. Your support is critical to our success. Thank you.

A TRIP TO THE CLOISTERS

This past June the Library sponsored a once-in-a-lifetime private tour of the Cloisters — one of the world’s pre-eminent centers devoted to medieval culture — and there’s a bus load of awed patrons back in Stonington still eager to tell you about it.

The trip was organized by Stonington’s own C. Griffith Mann, who, as Curator in Charge for the Department of Medieval Art and the Cloisters at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (yes, that’s his official title), is in charge of the museum. The event consisted of two parts: first was Griff’s introductory lecture at the La Grua Center (June 12) describing the unique institution he oversees, then two days later (June 14) the bus trip to New York which included more of Griff’s background chat, followed by the docent-led tour itself, then a break for an al fresco lunch, and a final hour for private exploration back in the museum.

The Cloisters is a relatively small museum by New York standards, but it is a gem. The exhibits are breathtaking: the famous 15th Century Flemish *Hunt of the Unicorn tapestries* are displayed in their own specially designed room, as is Robert Campin’s dazzling *Annunciation* triptych. The Fuentidueña Apse is its own room.

The Cloisters themselves — open-air quadrangles originally designed for monkish reflection and still tended today by master gardeners — are nothing short of magical. As one patron put it, they’re so real they plunk you smack in the middle of the Middle Ages (presumably sometime between the Battle of Hastings and the Thomas A Becket unpleasantness).

A short walk to a light but elegant lunch at the nearby New Leaf Restaurant provided an opportunity to sample the manicured beauty of still another attraction-- Fort Tryon Park with its dramatic views of the Hudson River and Inwood. (Upper Manhattan can get really hilly. Wear comfortable shoes.)

The brief but intense exposure to medieval architecture (Romanesque and Gothic), painting (oil and watercolor), sculpture (wood, stone, metal) and incredible manuscripts (parchment), left many of the attendants eager to return for a second visit, a resolve made all the stronger by Griff Mann’s assurance that the Cloisters offers free parking.



31 enthusiastic adventurers climbed aboard the Cloisters Bus for an 8:15 am departure.



The group assembled outside the destination on a perfect day for visiting a unique museum.



The architecture, plantings, artworks, the total experience, were stunning.



Lunch was delicious, the surroundings were beautiful, conversation was charming.

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The Librarian

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