

March 2017

# Bookends

## The Big Annual Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Library will fill the Community Room of the main library with good used books and hold the big annual sale on **April 6, 7, & 8** this year. The beginning of the sale, the pre-sale with \$10 admission, will go from 9:30am to 11am on Thursday, April 6. After 11am, admission will be free for the rest of the sale. Hours of the regular sale are: 11am to 9pm Thursday; 9am to 5pm on Friday, April 7; and 9am to 2pm on Saturday, April 8. Then the famous bag sale will run from 3 to 5pm on Saturday, with books selling at \$6 per grocery bag.

We depend upon you to come and find lots of good reads for yourself, your family, friends, neighbors, and to use as gifts during the year. Many of us find this the perfect opportunity to buy a number of books for our grandchildren—you can get five or six for the price of one at a book store. So please do find a spare hour or two to come and pick out some bargains!

## Book Sales & What We Do with Leftover Books

The Friends would like to thank all of you in our community for your continued support through donations to the book sales and purchases of used books. We raise at least \$25,000 per year from our spring and fall sales plus sales via the Book Nook.

Yes, there are leftovers! What do we do with them? We have formed many partnerships with local charities, plus statewide and international organizations. Books are donated to Westwoods Upper Elementary School for their bookstore, Camp Courant's 500-600 summer campers, after-school programs in Hartford, Winding Trails, several state prisons and correctional facilities, overseas charities in Kenya, and hospital & social services waiting rooms. We are grateful to the volunteers in those organizations for their efforts to promote literacy, and we are happy that our community is a part of that team effort.

Farmington Friends have also organized a state-wide consortium with other Friends book sale committees, meeting quarterly in our library. Not only do we share ideas to improve and energize our sales, we also share books. It is interesting that different genres of books sell better at different libraries - so we swap books with each other. For example, Southington Friends have given us dozens of cookbooks, plus children's books in Polish for our Polish story hour group; and in turn, we give Southington popular hardcover fiction by contemporary authors, which sell better there than here. It's a mutual win-win situation.

Volunteers are still needed to work at our April sale. If you would like to help out, please contact Linda Chapron at [lchapron64@gmail.com](mailto:lchapron64@gmail.com), or sign up at the circulation desk at the main library. Books may be donated at either library during open hours, and tax donation letters are available upon request.

## Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Construction of the Barney Library & Unionville's Carnegie Library

The library will hold a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the construction of two buildings: the Barney Library, in the beginning the main library of Farmington Village and now our branch, and the Carnegie Library in Unionville, for many years the West End Library and now the home of the Unionville Museum.

In 1917 D. Newton Barney hired Stephen Lawrence to design the Village building; construction started, to be completed in 1918, with dedication held in November of that year. The classic design elements of the building mirror several architectural features found in the nearby First Church meetinghouse and the Porter Memorial. The original library has been expanded, and it was completely renovated and modernized in 2010-2011. It still serves the east end of town as the Barney Branch Library.

Almost simultaneously, in 1917 the West End Library Association moved into its new "gift to the people of Unionville" from Andrew Carnegie, a library designed by Edward Tilton and built on School Street by Richard F. Jones. This little architectural gem is one of the few remaining unadulterated Carnegie Libraries in New England.

These two buildings were to serve the residents of our two villages separately for about 50 years; after the two associations merged, the West End library became the branch. It moved into larger quarters, the former Methodist Church Sunday School building, for a few years, then was closed in 1983, when the new main library opened at Monteith Drive; at that time the Barney became the branch library.

The 100th anniversary will be celebrated by the following special event:

### **The Platinum Dinner & Dance**

Friday, April 28, at 6PM; at the Farmington Club, 162 Town Farm Road, featuring music of the '60s and '70s by the Sharades.

Tickets are \$75 each, available at both libraries, or to reserve tickets, call the main library at 860-673-6791.

## **Other Coming Events**

Remainder of the month of March—a sale of gardening books in the Book Nook.

Sunday, March 26, 1-4PM; the Maker Fair, with hands-on activities such as 3D printing, coding, soldering, animation, knitting, etc.

April 20—a Garmany music series concert, "The Lost Acres".

May 11—a Garmany music series concert, Muriel Anderson's "Wanderlust" String Band

May 18—the Lewis Walpole Lecture, "The Land without Music: Satirizing Song in Eighteenth-Century England"

Friday & Saturday, June 2 & 3 - Friends Bazaar, with sales of art, books, and baked goods.

## User Groups

The library has a very active schedule of its own programs, held in the Community Room, two board rooms, children's program rooms, and the Hoppin Gallery of the branch. These spaces are also used by many different groups that meet here on a regular basis. In past issues of this newsletter, we have featured the Book Circle and rug-hooking group. Other user groups reflect the diversity of our community and its interests. If you check the library's calendar, you will find the following on the schedule:

- The Chess Club
- The Girl Scouts
- The mystery book group
- English as a Second Language (ESL), the instructional group
- The knitting group
- The Farmington Woods book discussion group
- Toastmasters International
- The Charter Oak Photo Society
- The Farmington YSB
- The Robotics Booster Club board of directors
- The Nutmeg Symphony board of directors
- The LaLeche League
- Several Maker Space instructional groups

The teen department of the library is also a daily meeting place for many high school students after school, when that space comes alive with the buzz of their conversation & high energy.

If you would like to use any space in the library for your group meetings, it is as simple as just calling the library at 860-673-6791 and reserving some space.

## New Head of Children's Department

The Children's Dept. lost its leader in December, when Sarah Morgan left to become the new Director of the East Hartford Library. We wish Sarah good luck with her new responsibilities. She will be missed for her deep commitment to early childhood education and her innovative programs in that field.

The new head of the department has been named; she is Anna Eisen, who comes to us from the Hartford Library. As the new Children's Librarian, she wants to spend her first few months getting to know her staff and the community, especially the regular users of children's services. Anna has inherited a highly-regarded department, is well-aware of that reputation, and wants to continue the legacy. We welcome her, wish her well, and will continue to support the department's efforts to promote literacy for the children of Farmington.

Friends of the Farmington Libraries  
6 Monteith Drive  
Farmington, CT 06032  
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## Sale of E.B. White book

The Friends continually receive donations of used books, and occasionally a very special book is given to us. That was the case when about two years ago we received a copy of a rare early E.B. White book, “Less Than Nothing—or the Life and Times of Sterling Finney”.

We don’t know who the donor of this book was, so we can only recognize that person by offering this public story. The book was appraised at a price far above our usual asking prices at our used book sales, so it was taken to the Swann Gallery in New York for one of their book auctions. There were no bidders at the first auction; however, it was put up for auction again in November and sold for \$1,600. We have never done this with a donated book before, but this unusual book led us to a new experience in the rarified world of sales to serious book collectors. The proceeds of the sale will of course be spent on something to benefit the library, and we are very grateful to the donor.

So we offer this public and heartfelt “**Thank You**” to our anonymous benefactor, whoever you are!