

Bookends

Latest News from the Friends of the Libraries

New Director of our Libraries

Laura Horn has been named the new Director of our Farmington library system, to replace Jay Johnston, who has retired. Laura has been on the staff of the library for nine years; she served first as Teen Librarian, then as Director of Information Services, and for the past 18 months has been the Assistant Director.

Laura was born in Hartford, grew up in Manchester, received her Bachelor's degree at UConn in 2004, worked at UConn and then Essex Partners in Boston, went back to school and earned a Master's degree in Library Science at Simmons in 2010, then came to the Farmington Library in the Teen Dept. while Sarah Morgan was on maternity leave. When asked what attracted her to libraries, she replied that she knew soon after graduation from UConn that she did not want to work for a company that made money from people's ill fortunes but wanted to be involved with a non-profit that helps people. She likes the challenge of changes and new developments, and libraries are undergoing great alterations in their service to the public.

What is special about Farmington? She thinks it is a community with a passion for its rich history, with residents who feel connected to their town and have pride in it; and it is a diverse community where 25% of people speak a language other than English at home. When asked about who and what are important to the success of the library, she said that



her most important asset is the staff and the most important opinions are those expressed by the members of the community.

As for her long-term goals, she hopes to form more relationships with people in our town and says she wants to do whatever the community needs to make the libraries a safe place to learn, explore and share ideas, preserve the past and prepare for the future. She takes her leadership seriously, and she says to all of you, "Talk to me; tell me what you want. I cannot promise to accommodate your desires, but I can promise to listen to everyone."

So the next time you see her, talk to her!

2019 Book Sale in April

The big annual used book sale, conducted by the Friends in the Community Room of the main library, will be held this year during the first week of April. The room will be filled with tables bursting with good-quality used books and other items for your pleasure.

Preparations will start Monday, April 1, and the sale dates and hours will be as follows:

Thursday, April 4: preview sale, 9:15 to 10am (\$10 admission then),
followed by the regular sale, 10am to 9pm (free admission)

Friday, April 5: sale, 9am to 5pm

Saturday, April 6: sale, 9am to 2pm, closed briefly, then reopen for
the giant bag sale, 2:30pm to 5pm, with our bags filled by you for \$7 each

This year donations have slowed down a bit, so we are still accepting books for the sale. In addition to printed books, we will sell audio-visual items such as CDs & DVDs, books on CD, puzzles, and games. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them to either library by the 25th of March. Please make sure that your books are clean, fairly new, and not so far out-of-date that they are useless. Our dumpster space is limited, so please tear off the covers and recycle your obsolete and tattered items at your own home.

We are still in need of volunteers to help with the sale chores - moving books to community room, preparation in the room, and/or working at the sale. There will be a sign-up sheet at the main library, and you are encouraged to sign up if you are a new volunteer. We all have a lot of fun doing this sale, but it takes over 100 volunteers to do it properly. and we always like to welcome new "bookies".

Remember that this is our major fund-raising event of the year; and all profits will go to the library. Please come and shop for bargains – where else can you buy 4 books for \$10 or so and not have to wait for them to be shipped to you, or get 10 books for your children for less than \$20? All that imagination-provoking literature, and you will be helping your community at the same time – we look forward to seeing you there.

This year, on Saturday of the sale, we will also have a bake sale, in the lobby, featuring the usual homemade goodies. So come that day and shop for food for both body and soul!

Did You Know?

You probably have heard of famous Connecticut authors like Wally Lamb, but did you know that we have quite a number of little-known local authors? Check out the little bookcase that is in the main library, upstairs, all the way west past the business area (just keep walking). Its shelves hold books by local authors—we found works by scribes like Carol Shmurak, John Caruso, and Forrest Wright there..... Yeah for you all!

Statistics for the Year, July 2017- June 2018

The library publishes an annual report showing all kinds of statistics for the fiscal year. Here are some of the highlights of this past year, particularly as they relate to how your Friends membership donations and profits from the book sales have been spent.

Library visitors for the year = 223,747; Website visits = 103,461
Items checked out = 314,120; Questions answered = 39,870

Numbers of Programs

(almost all sponsored by the Friends, who gave \$31,350 toward them):
806 Children's, 153 Teen, 241 Adult, & 59 Maker Space

Also 10 Garmany concerts, funded by grants from the Hartford Foundation

Attendees at main library programs = 20,416

Attendees at Barney Library programs = 5,448

Summer reading program participation: 334 teens & 985 younger children

Museum passes used 466 times (Friends gave the money for these)

Downloaded e-books = 10,514; downloaded audiobooks = 6,021

Room reservations = 4,540; Passports processed = 542

(The Friends also gave \$6,000 for general budget purposes)

Other Staff Retirements

In addition to the retirement of Jay Johnston, there have been two other long-term members of the staff who left at the end of the year. Steve McMahon, the maintenance man extraordinaire, who has taken wonderful care of our buildings for many many years, has left to enjoy some deserved leisure time. The Friends could always count on Steve to show up during our activities and do whatever needed to be done to make sure that we could function successfully, to open up or close the building during extra hours of book sales, and to help with the disposal of trash or recyclables. His good humor and easy-going nature made it a pleasure to work with him. We will miss him and wish him a happy, healthy retired life.

The other newly-retired staff member is Jane Maciel of the Children's Department. If you walk into that area, you will immediately be influenced by her work, as she is the graphic artist who painted the wall murals, decorated the children's program room, and designed many of the displays there. Her generosity in sharing her talent is very much appreciated by the Friends working committee; we will miss her and wish her well too.

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, March 3, 1:30pm

“Ukulele for Everyone”

Sunday, March 10, 2pm

“Irish Step Dancing”

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30pm

”Circle of Security Parenting”; start of a 4-week course

Wednesday, March 20, 7pm

Family fort night, in the J Program Room

Sunday, March 24, 1:30pm

The Kerry Boys, in the Garmany music series

and

Sunday, March 31, 1-4pm

The 6th Annual Maker Fair —

bigger and better than ever, with more activities
for older folks than last year.

Come and have fun in our Maker space.

For program details and to register, check the Web site, www.farmingtonlibraries.org,
or call 860-673-6791.