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Friends of the Mansfield Library

NEWSLETTER



OFFICERS & EDITORS

Anne Greineder
President & Editor

Sarah Accorsi
Treasurer

Leslie Turner
Secretary

Book Sale!

Saturday, April 2nd
9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday, April 3rd
9:00am - 3:00pm



Help Needed For Set Up & Clean Up of the Book Sale

Thursday, March 31st 9:00am - 3:00pm

Friday, April 1st 9:00am - Finish

CLEAN UP: Sunday, April 3rd 3:00pm

CONTACT US

To change your home or e-mail address or to send a book review or other communication, the e-mail address for the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Mansfield Library is: FriendsOfTheMansfieldLibrary@hotmail.com.

We use this address for library related business only and ask that you do the same. We also do not share our members' e-mail addresses or use them for any other purposes.

If you currently receive the newsletter by regular mail and prefer to receive it by e-mail, send a request to this address.

Serendipity and the Book Sales

Serendipity: "A former name for Ceylon, or Sri Lanka, Serendip." "A word coined by Horace Walpole, in his fairy tale (1754) The Three Princes of Serendip, the heroes of which were always making discoveries by accident and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of." – *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary*.

During many years of helping out with the book sales of the Friends of the Mansfield Library, it never surprised me to come upon so many instances of serendipity. One of the best examples in a fairly recent sale involved an Indian gentleman who found a complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica (I forget which year and edition). He came over to me and asked how much the set would cost. There was no price listed, so I asked one of the other volunteers. He said, "Oh, make it ten dollars for the complete set." The buyer was jubilant. He called his wife over, and with her their twin sons, about 8 or 9 years of age. Then he explained how wonderful this purchase was. When he was a boy himself in India he learned his English and countless subjects by reading the Encyclopedia Britannica. Now, he went on, with even more enthusiasm, his twin boys would be able to do the same, reading through the different volumes of Britannica. Then, he shook my hand and expressed his gratitude for this discovery and the book sale.

For me, this was probably one of the highlights of serendipity, but there were many others as well. It certainly seemed that every book sale produced, inevitably, "happy and unexpected discoveries by accident." Many were quiet moments of appreciation, but some generated shouts of "Eureka" or "look what I found." Older kids, exploring the books in the children's section, would find stories they remember from a few years back, and now would add them, quite by accident to their collections.

Saturdays, as the first days of the sales, always produced the larger crowds and the greater buzz of excitement. But Sundays, too, might yield some interesting comments and observations. On one particularly quiet Sunday, a number of years ago, I ran into an acquaintance as she browsed the tables. We exchanged greetings, and she began to ask me some questions about the end of the sale. She wanted to know what would happen to all the books remaining as the sale ended that day at 3:00p.m. I told her that the clean-up crew would distribute the books to many places: nearby towns, nursing homes, prison libraries, and some to be shipped overseas to developing countries. She expressed relief, and began to fill with tears. I asked her why she wondered about that. She told me that she was afraid that the leftover books would be burned and that fear horrified her, especially because she had just discovered, serendipitously, a book she always wanted.

Our book sales help to generate continued usage; that we all know. But often, and surprisingly, the book sales seem to specialize in the delights of looking for one thing and finding another. There are not many places or situations where you can "expect" serendipity.

– Hal Abramson



September and January Book Sale Results

The September 2015 sale made \$7,635.86 and the January mini non-fiction sale made \$2,315.00. Thank you to all who contributed to these sales: Sarah Accorsi, Pat Biggs, Jane Ann Bobbitt, Rajeev Bonsal, Mike Boscarino, Larry Bowman, Ann Charters, Donna Clouette, Rachel D’Antonio, Andrea Epling, Mary Feathers, Diane Gamache, Sharry Goldman, Anne Greineder, Jeanne Haas, Ros Hall, Marla Hauslaib, Debra Hultgren, Careen Jennings, Marietta Johnson, Ayla Kardestuncer, Barbara Katz, Carol Kegler, Rita Kinstler, Mollie Kirouac, Alice Kolega, Karen Lank, N.M. Lerman, Ava Little, Zoe and Gerald Leibowitz, Ruth McLaughlin, Pat McMullin, Jason McMullin, Rosemary Marcellino, Adrienne Mark, Susan Meisler, Annette Murphy, Bill Peters, Ann Phillips, Carol Phillips, Dennis Pierce, Rita Pollack, Howard Raphaelson, Meg Reich, Lynn Reichel, Tove Rosado, Nancy Rucker, Jean Sawicki, Richard Schimmelpfeng, Julia Sherman, Judy Spencer, David Stone, Leslie Turner, Betty Wexler, Karen Wyatt, Shengli Zhou.

Thank you to Bruce Goldman for his delicious bread for the volunteers’ lunch. Thanks also to the town maintenance department and to Mike Balkus and the rest of the library staff and to book movers Joel Accorsi, Alex Fikiet, Liam Goode, and Ben Phipps. We are especially thankful to Boy Scout Troop 56 and to all who helped with the clean-up and whose names may not have been recorded in the chaos of the clean-up.

Expenditures FY 7/2014 – 6/2015

After each book sale, the Friends donates most of the proceeds to the library. The money goes into an account that is used throughout the year for expenses outside the normal library budget. The library made the following expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 2015:

Library programs and program supplies	\$8,828.85
Children’s garden	\$2,132.82
Library Express Station	\$3,331.08
Large print books	\$4,638.90
Library of America Books	\$255.37
Modern Scholar/Great Courses Audio	\$929.95
Ancestry database	\$1,175.00
Marigold the guinea pig	\$315.78
Total	\$21,607.75

We consider it money well spent.



BOOK REVIEWS ALWAYS NEEDED

Send short, handwritten
(*neatly*) or typed reviews to:

Anne Greineder
16 Holly Drive
Storrs, CT 06268

OR:

FriendsOfTheMansfieldLibrary@
hotmail.com



Friends of the Mansfield Library
54 Warrenville Road
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Return Service Requested

Membership dues now run from October to September for everyone. If you have not renewed yet, you can do so using the form to the right. As you fill out the form, please consider contributing to the Friends of the Mansfield Library Endowment Fund. Since its inception in 1999 we have received through stocks, donations, the Book Sale (\$1,000 has been deposited from almost all book sales since 1999) and interest on the Fund where it resides - over \$122,000. Contributing to this fund gives you an opportunity to support the Mansfield Library's mission of offering the highest quality of library services to the community.

FRIENDS AND EDITORS

Anne Greineder, President & Editor
Sarah Accorsi, Treasurer

**MEMBERSHIP REQUEST FORM
for the Friends of the Mansfield Library**

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

I would like to receive the Friends of the Mansfield Library newsletter by e-mail

Enclosed is \$5.00 per address for dues and a tax deductible contribution of _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Mansfield Library, Inc., and mail to:
Sarah Accorsi, 284 Storrs Road, Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

If you would like to make a separate contribution to the Endowment Fund, make your check payable to: THE FRIENDS OF THE MANSFIELD LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND and send it also to the above address.

Thank You!