



Vol. XXXVI, No. 3
September 2022

Friends of the Mansfield Library NEWSLETTER



BOOK SALE



- **Saturday, October 1st 9am-4pm**
- **Sunday, October 2nd 9am-3pm**

*Help needed to set up on Friday, September 30th
from 9am-1pm and clean up on Sunday at 3pm*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The annual meeting marks the end of our fiscal year on September 30th. Please consider renewing your membership in the Friends. Your \$10 dues allow us to continue to hold our book sales to support the many programs and materials that make the Mansfield

Public Library a wonderful community resource.

WAYS TO RENEW:

By credit card on our website at friendsmansfieldct.org

By check using the form on the back of this newsletter.

By check or cash using the form on the back, deposit in the payment box at the library

Thank you for your support!

Annual Meeting



The Friends will hold its annual meeting on Friday, October 14th at 7pm in the Buchanan Auditorium. There will be a brief business meeting followed by our guest speaker, Betsy Pittman. Betsy is an archivist at the Dodd Center at UConn and will speak about preserving family documents and photos. The meeting will be held in-person but there will be a virtual option. Due to Covid concerns, food will not be served. There will be a give-away of themed gift baskets.

Please join us as we endeavor to revive the spirit and comradery of past annual meetings that had begun to dwindle and then disappeared in the past two years. As always, admission is free but please RSVP, either by email to: friendsofthemansfieldlibrary@gmail.com or by U.S. mail using the form on the back of this newsletter. Indicate if you will attend in person or virtually.

Book Review

The Mistress of the Art of Death by Arianna Franklin

Mistress of the Art of Death by Arianna Franklin is an intriguing mystery about a female forensic doctor—who must keep her gender secret—as she searches for a killer. Vesuvia Adelia Rachel Ortese Aguilar has been summoned from Sicily to England by King Henry II to find the villain responsible for the murder of several children. Set in 12th century England, the novel offers insights about the social and political landscape. The struggle for power between Church and State is interwoven with the plot. The author uses language reflecting the time period to immerse her readers. The cast of colorful characters includes a Moorish bodyguard, a Jewish investigator, a host of knights who have returned from the Crusades, a corrupt prioress, a perceptive urchin and a smelly dog. It's not all intrigue; there is romance too. The murderer is uncovered but the door is opened to the next book in her series, **The Serpents Tale**. What adventures will she encounter?!

Mystery Settings

These pandemic years have, for many of us, curtailed our urges for travel and adventure. But not for reading! TV pales, the internet disappoints, gardening is seasonal, and how many homemade loaves and pickles can one household consume?

But reading? We can dig deep in vicarious escape, and we do. Mysteries have always provided adventure for the more sedentary among us, and mysteries in exotic and interesting settings might soothe our restless sighs. Here are a few suggestions:

The Coroner's Lunch, first in a series by Colin Cotterill. Set in 1970's newly communist nation of People's Republic of Laos, it features a 70-something protagonist who unwillingly becomes the state coroner. Delightfully irreverent, great characters, fascinating setting. Cotterill also wrote a series set in Thailand.

Cold Storage Alaska: Set in a very small, very remote, very down-on-its-luck town in Alaska, the setting and especially the characters make up for a so-so plot. By John Straley, who also wrote **The Woman Who Married a Bear**, set in Sitka.

The Honjin Murders by Seishi Yokomizo, who wrote several mysteries in Japanese, modeled after western detective fiction. A least four have been translated, of which this is the first. I found the pace slow, but the cultural setting carried it.

Soho Press, Inc. features a Passport to Crime series that focuses on mainly foreign or unusual settings—worth checking out for further suggestions!

Ice Cream Social



The event was well attended and included library director Leslie McDonough and Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth.



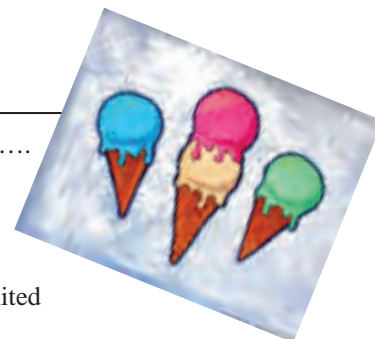
The Friends distributed children's books at the ice cream social.



ICE CREAM TRIVIA

If you enjoyed the library's ice cream social you might want to know that...

- It takes 12 pounds of milk to produce one gallon of ice cream.
- It takes about 50 licks to finish a scoop of ice cream.
- The average American eats 45.8 pints of ice cream a year.
- The country that consumes the most ice cream is—you guessed it—the United States. In second and third place are Australia and Norway.
- The most popular flavor is vanilla, then chocolate.
- Ice cream headaches or "brain freeze" is the result of the nerve endings in the roof of your mouth sending a message to your brain about the loss of heat.



Fun With Words

According to WordGenius.com, the Japanese language contains some one-of-a-kind words that can't be translated exactly into English. Below are some we would like to adopt.

Wabi-sabi – Think of this fun rhyming expression as the Japanese equivalent to Robert Frost's poem "Nothing Gold can Stay". It means accepting imperfection as a natural part of life – including the eventual decay and end of everything. It's also considered an aesthetic point of view, like admiring a raw wood table for a giant knot in the center instead of discarding it.

Tsundoku – This refers to the habit of buying books, never reading them, and then letting your unread pile continually grow.

Boketto – In English, we refer to someone as having a far-eyed or glassy-eyed look while gazing vacantly into the distance – almost like daydreaming. The Japanese have a succinct word for that: boketto

Ozappa – If you don't sweat the small stuff and tend to be chill no matter what life throws at you, a Japanese speaker might say you're ozappa.

JUNE 2022 BOOK SALE

The June sale made \$5,688. We had perfect weather and lots of hardworking volunteers. Thank you to all who helped set up, restock, cashier and clean up. Thanks also to workers from the Town Maintenance department without whom we couldn't move all those books. We are grateful to the library staff for their patience and cooperation. A book sale requires a lot of effort from a lot of people and we are always appreciative and sometimes a little surprised that it all goes so smoothly.



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

Return Service Requested

**FRIENDS OF THE MANSFIELD
LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, October 14, 2022
Buchanan Auditorium
7:00pm

Please RSVP by October 7 to:
Friendsofthemansfieldlibrary@
gmail.com

or fill out the form below and mail to:
Friends of the Mansfield Library
54 Warrenville Rd
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Name _____
Phone _____ # attending ____
In Person ____
Virtually ____
E-mail _____

FRIENDS AND EDITORS

Anne Greineder, President & Editor
Sarah Accorsi, Treasurer
Leslie Turner, Secretary

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 \$10.00 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!