



Friends of the Mansfield Library

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2
May 2024

Book Sale



This will be an indoor sale in the auditorium!

Saturday, June 8th 9am - 4pm
Sunday, June 9th 9am - 3pm

DONATION DAYS

Our next book donation day will be on Saturday, June 1 from 9am-noon in the auditorium. We accept used books, DVDs, CDS, puzzles, and games in good condition.

We cannot accept video or audio tapes, records, magazines, or moldy/dusty books. In order to have time to process the many donations we receive, we must limit quantities to two (reasonably sized) boxes or bags per household.

We schedule donation days on the first Saturday of the month. A week before each donation day, we send out an email request for volunteers to help accept, sort and store the donations. The response has been wonderful – sometimes we have enough volunteers within hours of the email going out. If you would like to help but we already have enough volunteers on a particular date, respond anyway, we never turn away help and we're always happy to meet our members. You can also email before the request goes out and let us know you're willing to help before we ask!

Help Needed for the Book Sale

We will be setting up the sale on Friday, June 7. There is a program in the auditorium in the morning so we will be starting at 1pm and will need all the help we can get in order to finish by 5pm. If you can spare some time that day to help we'd love to have our regular helpers and hopefully some new faces (and hands). No lifting is required, but if you are able to lift we will certainly take advantage of that! Anyone who volunteers can purchase up to 10 regular priced books that day.

We also need help cleaning up after the sale at 3pm on Sunday. This is a much faster process and usually takes about an hour if we have a lot of help. This also does not require lifting unless you are able.

Cashiers are needed on both days. We schedule 4- hour shifts with 2 people at each of 2 stations, so you never have to work alone. No experience is necessary and all books are priced at 50 cents or \$1.00 or multiples thereof, so no complex math is required. Email Anne at FriendsoftheMansfieldLibrary@gmail.com if you would like to cashier or would like to work on Saturday putting out new books.

Together We Make a Difference

Since our founding in 1973, the Friends of the Mansfield Public Library has been able to provide significant financial support to the library and fund unique programs to benefit all patrons of our library. Over the years, hundreds of volunteers have organized and coordinated countless book sales, giving thousands of community members the opportunity to support our library by donating, and purchasing, books, CDs, DVDs and more.

The funds that we have raised have helped sponsor special projects and programs, and secured library materials that are outside the library's annual budget.

In the past, we have paid for Adirondack chairs for the lawn, the covered area in the playground, the vegetable garden, the ice cream social, as well as adult and child craft programs. More recently, we have supported the library's:

1. New seed library, which was launched earlier this spring.
2. Registration in the Passport to CT Libraries program, designed to encourage residents to visit libraries across the state.
3. Supplies for the Take Your Child to the Library Day.
4. New children's activities, including a new fun rug and vehicles.
5. A magnetic poetry wall to encourage patrons to celebrate National Poetry Month.
6. The recent community survey to collect feedback and new ideas.
7. A new toy library that will launch in September.

The Board of the Friends, and the entire staff of our library want to extend our thanks to you for everything you do to strengthen our library and make it such a vital community resource.

– Matt Hamill



A History of the Mansfield Public Library

Portions of the following article were originally published in this newsletter in 2007 and were taken from a lecture by Jan Scottron. We thought new members would find it interesting and long-time members might enjoy a reminder.

Before there was a Mansfield Public Library there was at least one private library association in town. There is mention in the town records in 1795 of the Social Library Society of North Mansfield.

The association charged a subscriber fee that allowed members to borrow one book at a time, which was to “be returned four times a year, on the third Mondays of December, March, June and September, at or before 2 o’clock,” according to the articles of the library. Overdue books were charged one eighth of the value of the book and six pence for every week it remained delinquent. It is speculated by Jan Scottron, who researched the history of the town library back in 1967 for a talk at the Mansfield Historical Society, that there were most likely at least four libraries in town in the early 1800’s. These would have been associated with the four churches in town as they were the meeting places and would have had available space for books.

It wasn’t until more than 100 years later that Mansfield Center Library was organized in 1907. This library was housed in the parlor of the Mansfield Center Church, which was located on what is now the southwest corner of Storrs Road and Browns Road. The library later moved across Browns Road to the conference room above the Mansfield Center School. The town owned the school, but the church owned the conference room. Plays, lectures, and even “athletic exercises” were held in this space. Two of the books owned by the library at this time were “Dumb Animals” and “National Prohibition”. In 1909, Miss Elsie Marsh was appointed librarian for an annual salary of \$20. In 1910 the association took a giant step towards permanency and voted to buy paper and envelopes with the heading “Mansfield Center Library Association” thereon.

In 1911 the association petitioned the town to accept the library under the condition that it be free to all residents. The town accepted and the library was to “receive books from the state in an amount equal to that raised by the library, up to \$100.” Three years later, it was suggested at a public meeting that the library expand its scope and provide books to outlying villages. The villages embraced the plan and soon found someone in each community who was willing to take charge of a “branch library”, usually in a home but sometimes in a store. The service was eventually enlarged and included the villages of Mansfield Hollow, Spring Hill, Conantville, Wormwood Hill, Mansfield Depot, Merrow and Chestnut Hill. At one time Mansfield Center Library had more branches than any other library in the state.

In 1925 the library purchased for \$1, the school building it occupied. The old building was demolished and a new one built with funds donated by town residents. The building, now a private residence, still stands on the northwest corner of Storrs Road and Browns Road.

In 1972 the library became a department of the town when the association turned its assets over to the town. In 1974 the library moved to its present location in the former Buchanan school. In 2001 the library was renovated again with an additional 4,912 square foot addition and renovation of the 8,834 square feet of the existing library.

Many additional building changes have transformed the look of the library, but the more dramatic changes have been with the services the library provides. It is no longer a place to only check out books or do homework. Now, if you would like to borrow a laptop or other high-tech device, use a metal detector, download an eBook, borrow tools or baking pans, go to an adult or children’s program the library provides these opportunities to you. It also provides internet access to all through free broadband. How do the Friends of the Mansfield Library fit into this picture? We raise funds to support programs in the library and help the library patrons learn, grow and develop new interests.

– Anne Greineder and Rosemary Marcellino

February Book Sale Results

The February book sale made \$6,082, prompting us to reinstate a winter sale. Thank you to all who helped set up, restock, cashier, and clean up. Special thanks to book movers Liam Goode, Heidi Levin and Sawyer Smith, and to staff of the Mansfield Maintenance Department: Mary Combs, Alan Ducharme, Peter Dickinson, and especially Mike Balkus for help with the set up. Thank you to members of Boy Scout Troup 56 who came to help with the clean up in spite of having returned earlier that day from a winter campout. A book sale requires a lot of effort from a lot of people and we are always appreciative of our workers:

Mike Accorsi, Sarah Accorsi, AEPi sorority: Olivia Cassidy, Lenie Urbina, Neeley Heilman, Rajeev Bansal, Diane Benson, Pat Biggs, Sterling and Eric Bobbitt, Chuck Brome, Sabina Chen, Alma and Ken Cordner, Rachel D’Antonio, Alicia Ducharme, John Fikiet, JoAnn Goodwin, Matt Hamill, Sonya Harvel, Jan Hilton, Careen Jennings, Roland Johnson, Mary Kinsella Shaw, Rita Kinstler, Hannah Larson, Jerry and Zoe Leibowitz, Susan Lund, Rosemary Marcellino, Marie McCain, Pat McMullan, Susan Meisler, Bronwyn Mott, Cynthia Myers, Richard Pfau, Aris Roane, Yeraldine Rodriguez, Linda Roy, Barbara Scott, Julia Sherman, David Spencer, Judy Spencer, Leslie Turner, Chris Walsh-Brahoney, Michele and Abbie Varga, Liz Vitullo, Keith Wilson



Friends of the Mansfield Library
54 Warrentown 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 \$200,000. 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
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!