



Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

Member Newsletter

Next Meeting Dates

- August 20
- September 17
- October 15
- November 19 ***

7:30 PM in the Ehlers Meeting Room of the library ***November meeting will be in the Board Room on the main floor.

ALL WELCOME!

Subject to cancellation one week prior. Check at the Circulation Desk for information.

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President's Message by Lorraine Riedel

Dear Friends,

We have had an extremely exhilarating year so far, alive with numerous events – fund raisers, social and entertaining – and some changes.

We all felt sad when Rob Simon left to become the director of the Canton Library. But soon after, we got the happy news that Margaret Borchers was named permanent director of the library. I can think of no one better suited or more welcome to the Friends and the library staff alike to become Rob's successor. I look forward to working with her and know we all wish her success in her new position.

On behalf of all of us, I welcome two new additions to our library staff. Lorna Rhyins is the new Adult Services librarian and Adrienne Wiegart is the new director of the children's library.

In June we elected our officers for 2008/2009. If you look at the back of this newsletter you will see two changes. Adria Pearlman has assumed the office of vice president which was vacated by me in order to become your president. Have no fear; Beth Ulman remains a Friend. She decided to relinquish the role of president in order to

devote even more attention to our annual book sale. We all appreciate the time and effort Beth gave us during her tenure as president, and sincerely thank her for everything she has accomplished. I shall try to fill the vacancy created by her departure and ask for your patience and indulgence as I learn to do so.

More changes to our committee chairpersons are that Barb Upton has agreed to take over the daunting task of putting together this newsletter temporarily while Cathy Kurzbacher is unable to do so. Joining her in a new position is Lou Wallis as editor/proof-reader. So if this article sounds good and everything is spelled rite (oops, I mean correctly), you can give all of the credit to him. Terry Scott will be in charge of selling our Entertainment Books, which will soon be available for purchase. We are all grateful for the extra time and effort these Friends are willing to contribute.

Thanks also to Jeff Lawrence for organizing our new and flourishing chess club for young people. The club had been meeting every Saturday in the activity rooms next to the Children's Library, but is currently on summer vacation – it will resume in September. I have peeked

in on occasion during my Saturday visits to the library, and parents and children alike seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely.

Two additional positions (one new and one old) need to be filled. We seek a Publicity Chairman, and someone to coordinate our area at the St. Peter's Apple Festival in September – sort of a two day mini book sale. If you are interested in either position please contact me.

Our annual book sale underwent two changes this year – the days it was held as well as its location (our fourth in five years) – but one thing stayed the same – the results. Once again, the sale was an enormous success. Everyone agrees, I think, that the Masuk High School cafeteria is the ideal location and we plan to hold the sale there again next year as long as Mother Nature is kind to us and there are not too many snow days. We can be proud that our revenue this year exceeded \$17,500, which surpassed last year's by well over \$2,000.

We accomplished this not only thanks to our new location, or to the large, impressive selection of books, but because of the generous efforts of many people. I speak not only of

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

the many people who moved books, set up the sale, worked as cashiers and roamers at the sale, and those who helped to clean after the sale. I speak not only of the local restaurants who donated food for the volunteers or the volunteers who picked up the food and resisted the temptation to eat it on the way back to Masuk. And I speak not only of the Friends who sorted and boxed and moved books during the year. I am also speaking of the family members who had to endure many hardships as a result!

I must give special thanks to Karen Cardi and Beth Ulman without whom this sale would not have been as well planned, organized, and executed as it was. Thank you both for all of your hard work. We could not have done this without your inspiration and guidance.

Speaking of hard working Friends, our group was recently recognized by the Friends of Connecticut Libraries. As my first official task as your president I accepted, for all of us, FOCL's 2008 Friends Group Award. To find out more about this award please see Margaret's article about the event. We plan to place the award in the library for everyone to see, so please keep an eye out for it on your next visit.

We have enjoyed several social events recently, which were well-attended. On May 3 we unveiled our bookshelf quilt at a reception attended by several authors whose names appear on the quilt. Some authors arrived with copies of their books which they graciously offered to personalize for us. Linda Devlin, of Linda's Story Time Books, also offered books for sale.

We also enjoyed the first two installments of our Friends of the Library Concert Series. Thanks to Adria Pearlman for her hard work and perseverance in securing these marvelous artists for our enjoyment. Please see Adria's article about these concerts.

On a final note, I would like to invite you all to attend our monthly meetings. This provides the perfect opportunity to offer your opinion on our past endeavors and to make suggestions for our future pursuits.

I look forward to seeing you all soon and often,

Lorraine

You can reach Lorraine at littleonelar@earthlink.net or call 261-8753 or 913-3877

Friends Concert Series Begins by Adria Pearlman

This May saw the inaugural event in the 2008/2009 Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library Concert series.

Our first offering featured Leo Meyer, who sang a diverse program of songs. He was accompanied at the piano by Charles Wade.

In June we were privileged to have pianist Donald Alfano perform an outstanding program of classical pieces.

Our audiences thoroughly enjoyed both concerts. The receptions following the performances gave the audience and the artists a chance to meet each other while served light refreshments.

We much appreciate and thank those who helped cater the event, including Big Y, Trader Joe's and Jennie's Pizza and Catering. Their generous support served to make these concerts a success.

Adria Pearlman, our vice president, is coordinating the concert series and is in the process of lining up performers and sponsors for the rest of the concert season. We still welcome help with other important tasks to make the remainder of our season successful.

- Artists need to be lined up and sponsorship secured.
- Promotional publicity needs to be done
- At each concert we must do the "setting up" before the event and the "taking down" at the end of it.



We look forward to providing a variety of music as our gift to the public and are pleased to be able to use such an excellent facility as the Ehlers Meeting Room, and our new grand piano.

August 2008

Upcoming Events at the Library

The library hosts a wide range of FREE activities for all members of the family. Call the Circulation Desk at 452-2850 to register for programs. Ask for the Children’s Room to learn more about Children’s programs. For a listing of exciting upcoming activities and events for children, teens, and adults, visit the library’s website at www.ewml.org and click on the main Calendar for a general explanation or the calendars of each of the individual areas for a more detailed explanation of the program.

Date	Time	Event
August 12	2 P.M.	Flow Circus
August 12	7 P.M.	Movie Night
August 18	10 A. M.	Connecticut Piecemakers quilting group
August 20	7:30 P.M.	Friends of the EWML meeting
August 21	2 P.M.	Movie Matinee
August 26	6 P.M.	EWML Book Group
September 17	7:30 P.M.	Friends of the EWML meeting
October 15	7:30 P.M.	Friends of the EWML meeting
November 19	7:30 P.M.	Friends of the EWML meeting

**August 12:
Flow Circus**
A one-man variety show incorporating juggling, magic, physical comedy and improvisation. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library. For all ages.

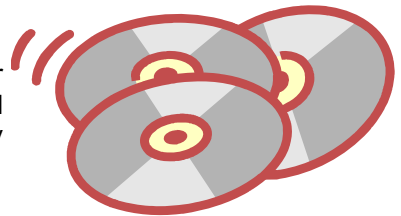
News in the Teen Department by Lorna Rhyins

As the new Adult Services Librarian here at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, I am impressed with the beautiful Teen Department. This is a place where young people will love to spend time. The area is set apart, so 7th-12th graders can relax and have quiet conversation or surf the web on one of four computers. Our online research collection includes many useful paid databases like PrepMe, an SAT practice site. Comfortable diner-style booth seating makes for a great place to read or play one of many board games. There is a broad selection of books and audio books, and the department is conveniently located for browsing near the movies and music. Everything is clean and well-lit and most importantly, there’s plenty of space to add to the collection!

I am looking forward to working with the friendly staff here and to making some exciting new additions. We’re already off to a great start with a generous donation from the Friends of the Library that will provide for dynamic events in the fall season.

Also, thanks to funding from the Monroe Women’s Club, a brand new magazine section is coming. The list of popular Teen titles, which includes *ESPN*, *Teen Cosmo*, and *Mad Magazine*, will cater to both boys and girls with various interests. Patrons will be able to browse the most recent edition or check out older copies. Watch for the Teen ‘Zine sign announcing their arrival!

In the music department, teens will be happy to know that Rap CDs now have their own labeled section located near the back of the stairs. Akon, KanYe West, and Common are finally represented! If patrons don’t see their favorite on the shelf, they are welcome to suggest new purchases to the librarian on duty.



Finally, October 12th -18th is Teen Read Week. Kids are invited to look for something to read on our themed *Books with Bite* display. If they don’t find something there, they can check out our popular new Graphic Novels shelf, or just pick something that catches their eye from the regular collection. Now that we have a full staff again, keep an eye on the web page for all the news and events that will be coming up for teens!

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

Annual Friends Book Sale by Beth Ulman

The Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library once again broke the previous year's record book sale revenues by raising \$17,500 at last week's annual book sale at Masuk High School in Monroe. All proceeds benefit the library. Masuk High School, a new location for the sale, proved to be ideal for its size, ample parking, air conditioning and easy access. The Friends estimated 35,000 items available at the start of the sale 9 am Saturday.

As in the past, the book sale ran for five days, Saturday through Wednesday, with discounted books on Monday and Tuesday and free books on Wednesday. All books and media were donated by individuals and businesses. New toys, donated by Joggen Your Noggin, an educational toy store in Monroe, were also sold at deep discounts. Creative Music Center of Monroe donated brand-new sheet music.

Many local businesses supported the book sale. Pepper Street Self Storage provides a storage unit for the huge amount of books stored year-round by the Friends. Taylor Rental Center and Jensen's Auto & Tire gave discounts on table and truck rentals. Local stores and restaurants contributed food for the many volunteers who helped. Thank you to Jennie's Pizzeria, Vazzy's Osteria, Last Drop Coffee Shop, Panino's, Dunkin' Donuts (Rte. 25), McDonald's Restaurant of Monroe, Subway, American Pie, Sal's Family Restaurant, Country Pizza, and BJ's.

Volunteers are the heart of our book sale. Masuk High School students, St. Jude Youth Group, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other students and residents dedicated to the library and community service helped set up and organize the sale. There are too many to name individually, but

they should know we are deeply grateful for their help.

A special thank you goes to Girl Scout Troop 4066, which provided lunch and snacks for customers.

Thank you also to Art Baker & Chris Nowacki, Director and Assistant Director of Public Works, and Steve Wolf, the Town's custodian, for their help moving books before the sale and throughout the year.

The Friends are already gearing up for next year's book sale. Donations can be dropped off at the library or in the Friends' collection shed in the back parking lot behind the police station. Volunteers to help sort and move books are welcome year-round. Please call the library if you would like to become involved.



August 2008

Library Director's Column by Margaret Borchers

We have two new staff members starting in July and I hope you will all stop by soon to meet them. Lorna Rhyins is our new Adult Services Librarian and she comes to us after having worked at the Bethel Public Library. Lorna is a pro at the Reference Desk and she is also excited about getting started with some new programming with our Teens.

Adrienne Wiegert recently moved to Connecticut and she is our new Children's Services Librarian. She is leaving a position as a corporate customer service librarian to come to Monroe, and she has experience in Youth Services at the Park Forest Public Library in Illinois. I am sure she will bring many new and exciting ideas to our Children's Department. Together, our top three positions in the library are new (for myself, what's old becomes new as I move to the top floor). With our tried and true staff behind us, I see some exciting times coming to the library.

Have you seen Wowbrary? It's a free email alert that showcases the

library's newest items each week. The alert features the latest bestsellers, movies, music CDs, audio books, children's titles, and nonfiction books purchases by the library. The page changes each Wednesday and is updated automatically by drawing information on the library's newest acquisitions from the library catalog. To sign up for this new service see the library webpage for instructions. If you don't want a weekly email alert, you can always see the Wowbrary page by clicking on the link on the library homepage. Take a look at Wowbrary! It's like walking into a book and DVD store and having a shelf of new items right in front of you.

You might also be interested in a new service offered by Bibliomation to our web catalog called LibraryThing. It provides three new features that help readers find books. **Tags** – are like subject headings, but they are based on the terms readers have tagged to books they have read. By clicking on any one of these tags, this will bring up a screen

with other titles that have been tagged with this same work.

Other Editions in our Network – These are other editions of the same title, and they may include additional formats, like a book on CD.

Similar Titles in our Network – This is a great readers' advisory tool. These suggested titles should have something in common with the title the patron is currently viewing in the web catalog. For instance, Margaret Atwood's *The Robber Bride* might bring up a suggestion for the reader to check out Margaret Drabble's *The Radiant Way* because both books deal with friendship between women.

Try this out by going the library web catalog and searching for a title to a book you know well. Notice the **Tags** and try clicking on one, then look for **Similar Titles**. For more information on LibraryThing, or to catalog your own collection of books, look at their website: <http://www.librarything.com/>

Our Friends are the Best!

The Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library received the 2008 Friends Group Award from the Friends of Connecticut Libraries on June 14, 2008 at the Plainville Public Library. Lorraine Riedel, President of EWML Friends, accepted the award and spoke on behalf of all of our Monroe members, highlighting their achievements and thanking the Friends of Connecticut Libraries for this well deserved honor.

The Friends of Connecticut Libraries now has as members over one hundred active Friends of the Library organizations as well as many individual Friends. Based in Middletown, FOCL supports and helps coordinate activities of local Friends groups, thereby stimulating good library service state-wide and enriching the cultural opportunities available to the people of Connecticut.

And just what have our Friends been up to deserve this award? Those of you who know Rob Simon, know that he can tell a good story, so with his permission; I have included his nomination letter below. This nomination letter was written right before Rob left Monroe to take the position of Library Director in Canton, CT.

(Continued on page 6)

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

NOMINATION FOR A 2008 FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

FRIENDS GROUP AWARD

FRIENDS OF THE EDITH WHEELER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (MONROE)

The Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library in Monroe love their library with a passionate devotion, and it is my honor to nominate these priceless volunteers for a Friends of Connecticut Libraries *Friends Group Award*.

The Town of Monroe had been considering ways to expand or replace its undersized 1972 public library building since the mid-1980s, but a number of referendums on the issue had gone down to defeat. In 2003, however, the Library Board of Trustees had in hand a seven hundred fifty thousand dollar bequest from the estate of the late Edith S. Wheeler (herself an active Friends of the Library member) and a five hundred thousand dollar Connecticut State Library construction grant. With such impressive “seed money” already gathered, town officials finally agreed to consider erecting a properly-sized, well-appointed new library facility.

The proposition to build the new library passed with virtually no opposition at a town meeting on September 29, 2003, upon a vote of 204 to 7. Soon after, Monroe’s Town Council and Board of Finance challenged the library, through its Friends group, to raise one hundred thousand dollars to fund upgrades and enhancements to the approved design. Town officials clearly wanted to test the devotion of The Friends, to make them put their energy where their mouths were!

Without any fundraising expertise to aid them, our Friends group dived into their challenge immediately. They sponsored a series of events small and large to raise money. They held booksales and bakesales. They hosted a visit by Daisy the Pig at which children and parents paid an admission fee to see the Library Director kiss Daisy – *almost* on the mouth. They sponsored a local acting troop (that included one of our own Town Council members) to produce three showings of the play *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the local middle school, with all proceeds going to their building fund. They sold commemorative bricks for the two walkways of the new building (four hundred and eight bricks were sold) and offered pins designed to look like the new library in exchange for substantial donations. They also organized *Dance Your Heart Out For the Library*, a Valentine’s Day 2006 dinner-dance at a local restaurant at which attendance was in the hundreds. *Dance Your Heart Out* also included a silent auction of many wonderful and expensive items and services donated by local merchants, and substantial money was raised as a result. Lastly, the Friends got out their nicest stationery and wrote letters of appeal to local citizens with financial means and thereby brought in some wonderfully generous donations. The Friends were challenged by Town Hall to raise one hundred thousand dollars in all. When the dust settled, they had actually raised a total of just over three hundred thousand dollars, and everyone – especially the Town Council and the Board of Finance – was amazed. Our Friends meant it: they loved their library and they were willing to prove it!

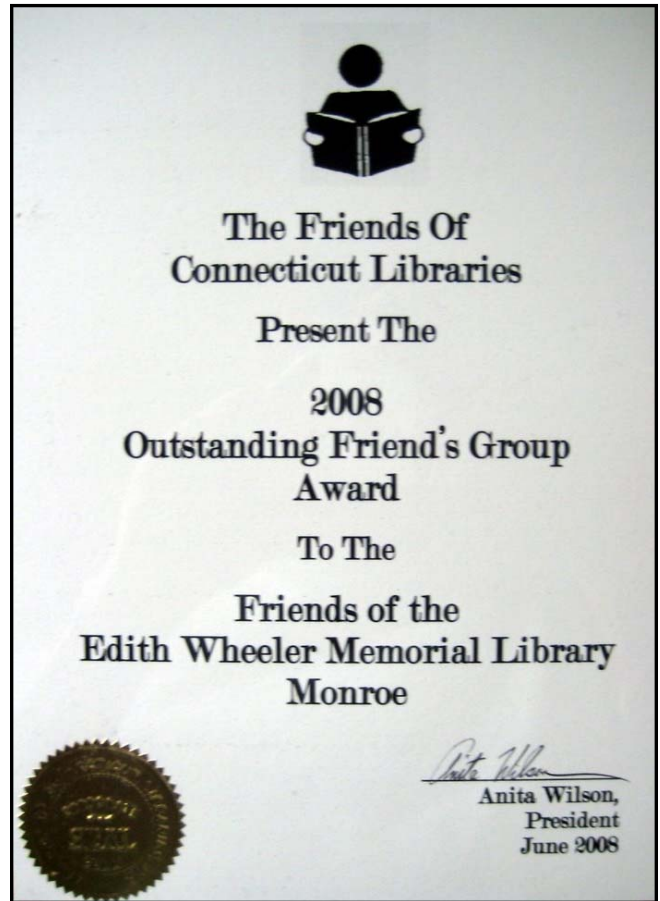
Since January 1, 2007, when the new building was declared officially “finished”, the Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library has donated approximately two hundred sixty thousand dollars toward the furnishing and equipping of the new structure, which was dedicated on Sunday, March 4, 2007. The list of items our Friends have purchased as a result of their fundraising efforts is a long one. It includes:

- The Adult Department circulation and reference desks
- 53 computer workstations – all the PCs for both patrons and staff
- 16 printers – all the printers for both patrons and staff
- a multimedia projector and an excellent sound system for the 150-seat meeting room
- appliances for both the meeting room kitchen and the staff room kitchen
- a baby grand piano for the meeting room, to be used for programs and musical recitals
- 150 chairs and 6 folding tables for the meeting room
- enhancements to the Adult Department reference room, such as a handsome barrel ceiling
- a Board Room with a seating capacity of 15 that is used as a small meeting room, complete with a long conference table and 12 comfortable chairs
- directional signs and stack signage throughout the two levels
- a community notice bulletin board for the front lobby, separate bulletin boards to publicize library and Friends activities, and a bulletin board for every staff office

some of the landscaping for the library lawn
furnishings and equipment for the craft room in
the Children's Department
a bicycle rack for use by library visitors

Nor is the spending over! Even with our building open now for over a year, The Friends continue to buy us things that make the new library more beautiful and more convenient. They are currently in the process of donating more tables for our large meeting room, more wall clocks and coat racks for staff use, foam blocks for the pre-school area of the Children's Department, a large coat rack for the main meeting room, coffee urns for use in programs, umbrella stands, and a laptop for the library to use at its own programs. The laptop will allow us to make better use of the excellent sound system the Friends bought for us! The group also donated, as a first anniversary gift to the new building, fifteen thousand dollars for new books and audiovisual items to make our good collection even better. (They already buy us most of our 20 cultural site passes.) The list never seems to stop.

The Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library is a small but mighty band! Our library is infinitely better able to meet the needs and interests of our community thanks to the hard work and generous gifts of this extraordinary group of individuals who do indeed love their library with all their hearts.
Submitted by: Robert Simon



Adria Pearlman, Lorraine Riedel (holding award), Margaret Borchers and Robert Simon



Entertainment 2009 Book Sale

The Friends of The Edith Wheeler Memorial Library with Library Staff will sell Entertainment 2009 books beginning Friday August 15, 2008. The sale will continue through December 31, 2008.

The books are packed with money-saving coupons for dining out, travel, entertainment, shopping and much more. Books are available for Fairfield County and for New Haven County at a fundraising price of \$25.00 per copy.

You'll not only save money with the Entertainment 2009 book, you'll help us reach our fundraising goal. Proceeds benefit the library.

Books can be purchased at the Adult Circulation Desk located on the first floor of the library.

Start saving today! Entertainment Books make great gifts! Please support the needs of the library.

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

Notes from Nancy Zorena, Monroe Historical Society President

A recent e-mail that I received noted a billion seconds ago it was the year 1959—a special year for the Town of Monroe. That was when the Monroe Historical Society was incorporated. In the past fifty years the Society has acquired, restored, and maintained three historic properties, amassed a collection of Monroe artifacts, and provided educational opportunities for both children and adults. All this has been made possible by volunteers - friends and members who have supported the Society both physically and financially.

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, the Society is busy planning special programs and events for the entire community. If you have any suggestions or would like to help in any way, please call one of the Board members and let them know or e-mail the Society at monroehistsoc@aol.com. We really need your support as we prepare to celebrate our 50th.

We are always looking for members who would be willing to take on important responsibilities by helping to keep the schoolhouse, meetinghouse and/or homestead in good shape for future generations, help with the archives and resources in the history room, and/or take an active part in the planning of programs. Any time or expertise you can offer would be very much appreciated whether for one event or project or on an ongoing basis.

History Room at EWML is open all summer on Thursdays from 3-5.

VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

When we began moving some of our most precious artifacts to the history room at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, one of our members, Angie Valentino, contacted Nancy to ask how she could help. Angie brought some of her friends to help too. Almost weekly



Volunteers researching and planning the memorial garden.

since the spring of 2007, Angie, Lois Doherty, Marion Lindsley and Mary Mc Dermott have spent hours helping us archive the Burr sisters' letters, our photo collection, books and files. Angie Valentino and

Lois Doherty have also joined our Board of Directors. In addition we have been fortunate to have the help of Masuk student volunteers who help us catalog the book collection and have recently been copying the Burr diaries.

Masuk students archiving a Fannie Burr diary from 1893



BURR PAINTINGS

Did you know the Society has a number of original paintings by Fannie and Jennie Burr hanging in the history room at EWML? Recently, Don Wagner, a relative of the Burr sisters, gave us a portrait of Jennie Burr as a small child which was painted by her sister Fannie. It is being framed with a grant from the Monroe Women's Club who recently presented a check to the Society at their annual gift giving event to town organizations and libraries. The paintings may be viewed even if the history room at EWML is closed.

Please support the Monroe Women's Club's activities including their annual craft show at Masuk High School in November. They make many important things possible in our town.

Society sponsored Dates to Remember!

September 12-13	2-7 Friday	<i>Textile Sale</i> at Beardsley Homestead 31 Great Ring; 8-3, Saturday
September 20	1-2:30 pm	Phil Jones' " <i>Can you Guess the Object</i> " at EWML
October 1	7-8:30pm	John Babina's <i>Radio Show</i> at EWML (Park in rear)

August 2008

Dedication of the David Merrill Mural, the William J. Ehlers Meeting Room and The Marie P. Lederer Childrens' Department

On Sunday, April 6th, The Historical Society and The Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library hosted a triple celebration for the dedication of The David Merrill Mural, The William J. Ehlers Meeting Room and The Marie P. Lederer Children's Department. The turnout was overwhelming and truly demonstrated the importance of our library to the town. It is the heart of Monroe.

The number of generous volunteers who gave their time providing delicious food for the buffet or helping in the set up and clean up of the event was greatly appreciated. Their contributions added to the success of the afternoon; it was a town wide effort which was evident by the warm feelings expressed by all that attended.

We would like to thank The Monroe Women's Club, The Historical Society and The Friends of the Library for their generosity. Thank you to Abbey Taylor, pianist, and the Masuk High School strings students under the direction of Lisa Homan. Thank you to all who helped with the hands-on children's activities especially Masuk volunteers and Monroe Girl Scout Troop 4423. A special thank you goes out to the exceptional library staff. Besides their dedication in providing the highest standards in library service, they never fail to give even more of themselves when called upon. We are very lucky to have them.

We also received substantial donations from the Rotary Club and Bullshead Printers for the mural key brochures and from Elm Street Butchers for a large platter of food.

Thank you to Ed Coffey, Monroe's town historian for his research for the mural key.

Again, thank you to everyone for your help.

Nancy Zorena, Judy Standerford, Julia Tobin, and Irna Gomez

Friends Board Members

President: Lorraine Riedel
Email: littleonelar@earthlink.net
Vice President: Adria Pearlman
Secretary: Anita Papp
Co-Treasurers: Henry Knoth & Katie Young
Membership Chair: Anita Papp
Museum/Attraction Coordinator: Richard Riedel
Book Sale Chairman: Beth Ulman

Photos from April 6 Dedication

Mike Beno, photographer



Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Inc.

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203-452-2850

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Membership form: **Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Inc.**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Annual Membership Dues:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50— \$99 Contributor/Free book bag! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100+ Benefactor/Get a Wheeler Pin! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ Other |

I would like to be an active Friend.

Please contact me about:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Book Sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> General |

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Inc.

Enclose your check with this form and bring or mail to:

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Inc., 733 Monroe Tpke, Monroe, CT 06468
(Contributions are tax-deductible.)