



Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

Member Newsletter

Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, June 24
- July, no meeting
- August, no meeting
- Wednesday, Sept. 16
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, Nov. 18
- December, no meeting

7:30 PM in the Ehlers Meeting Room of the library

ALL WELCOME!

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

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Friends Board Members

President: Lorraine Riedel
Email: littleonelar@earthlink.net

Vice President: Adria Pearlman

Secretary: Anita Papp

Co-Treasurers:
John Fuller & Henry Knoth

Membership Chair: Anita Papp

Museum/Attraction Coordinator:
Richard Riedel

Book Sale Chair: Karen Cardi

President's Message by Lorraine Riedel

Happy summer and happy New Year!

It may not be January, but June 1st marks the beginning of the Friends' fiscal year. I find it difficult to believe that it has been a whole year since I became your president. I suppose the old adage is true – time does fly when you are having fun. I have to admit, it has been a fun year. I can think of several other adjectives that would apply, but yes, it has also been fun and I look forward to the coming year with eager anticipation.

While the past year may not have been as exciting as previous years (How often do we get to open a new library or purchase a piano?), there were a few occurrences that stand out and help to make the past year memorable. Please allow me to reminisce.

We welcomed two fabulously creative and energetic ladies, Lorna Rhyins and Adrienne Wilson, to our library staff. Their ingenuity, resourcefulness, charm, and sense of humor have made them both wonderful additions to our already stellar staff. Be sure to check out the upcoming events section of this newsletter to find out about some of the electrifying programs they have lined up for us this summer.

Although they might not have been as "grand" as a piano, we did make a few modest purchases including two MP3 players, a puppet theater, a picnic table, and yes, even a vacuum cleaner to name a few.

We had another successful book sale, which was relocated to Masuk High School, with our revenue exceeding \$17,500. Another pleasant surprise has been the increase in popularity of our Wednesday book sales. Our patrons

seem to enjoy shopping at this smaller, more frequently held venue which provides them with a continually changing source of new reading material. At this time I would like to thank my small, dedicated, hard working team of sorters and movers without whom neither one of our book sales would be possible – Barbara Waite, John Fuller, Luis Posada, Julie Tobin, Mappy and Pamela Kask, and the rest of you whose names elude me right now (please forgive me). An especially big thank you to our "captain," Karen Cardi, who organizes, inspires, and motivates us. If you are interested in sorting or moving books, please get in touch with Karen (445-1082).

Speaking of book sales, this year's annual sale will take place again at Masuk High School from July 11 through July 15 with set-up days on July 8, 9, and 10. We are still looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the sale. Please contact Karen Cardi if you would like to help in any way. Remember, no commitment is too small and no task is too insignificant! There are lots of things that need to be done and if we all unite, together we can make this year's sale a success.

During the past year, the Friends received three unsolicited donations - two from the Werth Family Foundation and the other from Ocean Partners USA, Inc. - which have been put to good use sponsoring various events and purchasing greatly needed items for the library.

Our well attended concert series continues to be an outstanding source of entertainment for the town, offering

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library

a wide variety of talent that appeals to a broad spectrum of people. While it is currently on hiatus for the summer, be on the lookout for our exciting fall and spring programs which will include performances by the Clarinet Quartet of the U.S. Military Band, musicians on the faculty of Creative Music and Arts, and a return visit by the ever popular Chris Coogan.

I am sure that many of you have had occasion to stop and admire our wonderful mural of Monroe outside the Children's Room and noticed the many cracks that have developed, possibly as a result of the building settling. The Monroe Historical Society decided that these cracks needed to be fixed and along with the help of the mural's creator, David Merrill, devised a plan that will hopefully alleviate this problem. Unfortunately, this solution comes with a high price tag attached to it (What does not these days?). A group is being formed that will attempt to raise the \$2,000 needed to complete the initial test phase of this lengthy project – repairing two of the cracks to determine if this plan is viable. The Library Board has given us permission to place collection containers at each of the two circulation desks at the library and

other locations around town. If you would like to make a contribution to this worthwhile cause, you may either place your donation in one of these containers or send us a check made out to the Monroe Historical Society, who has graciously agreed to hold the money until our goal has been met. If you would like to join this group you may contact either Nancy Zorena (261-8554) or me. We would also welcome any suggestions you might have to make this endeavor a success.

On Friday, June 26 (rain date June 29), the library will kick off their children's and teen's summer reading programs with Chalk It Up, an event which will run from 1:00 - 8:00 P.M. with many exciting activities throughout the day. The Friends has agreed to provide refreshments for these hungry, thirsty participants. Now we are looking to you, our generous, talented members, for donations of finger foods that we can sell at this event – such as cookies, brownies, or small muffins or cup cakes. If you have any questions about what you should make, please contact Barbara Waite (268-9765). Donations should be dropped off at the children's library either the afternoon before or the morning of the event. Since the library does not open

on Fridays until 1 P.M., you will have to knock on one of the windows on the right side of the rear entrance and someone will let you in. To make arrangements for your drop-off, you can contact the children's librarian, Adrienne Wilson (452-2850). Thank you for your help.

As you can see, the Friends is always keeping busy. If you have any ideas for new ventures and are not sure about how to bring them to our attention, please consider attending one of our meetings. We would welcome any suggestions you might have as well as your input on those projects we are already considering. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can stop by at one of our Wednesday book sales – I am usually there between noon and 2 P.M. You can get a sneak peak at some of the books that will be available at the July sale and purchase anything that might strike your fancy.

I look forward to seeing you,

Lorraine

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

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 register for Children's programs. [For a complete listing and description of exciting upcoming activities and events for children, teens, and adults visit the library's website at \[www.ewml.org\]\(http://www.ewml.org\).](#) 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.

SPRING GARDENING SERIES

June 9 (6:30 to 8:00 P.M.): The Dos & Don'ts of Do-It-Yourself Landscaping

Andrew Brodtman and Barry Bonin, co-owners of Twombly Nursery, will discuss the various aspects of landscaping and answer any questions you may have.

June 15 (6:00 to 7:00 P.M.): Grow Your Own...Organically

Bill Deusing, Executive Director of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (NOFA), will explain organic methods anyone can use and why growing your own food is important.

June 23 (6:00 to 7:30 P.M.): Backyard Composting

Master Gardener, Donna Katsuranis, will lecture on the "whys" and "hows" and the "dos" and "don'ts" of composting. Learn about the benefits of composting for your garden, your lawn, and the earth.

LUNCH AND A MOVIE—Bring a lunch and enjoy an old movie Cabaret style on July 22 and August 19 from noon until the movie is over. The movie on July 22 will be "Some Like It Hot."

Chalk It Up – Summer Reading Kick Off Program

June 26 (rain date June 29) (1:00 to 8:00 P.M.)

Some of the activities planned for the day are sidewalk chalk decorating, puppet making, stilt walking, a T-shirt decorating contest, and even a magic show with Dan Bowen. Some of these activities require pre-registration!

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAMS - 2009

(For information on regular library programming, such as R.E.A.D. to Gracie, please call 203-452-2850)

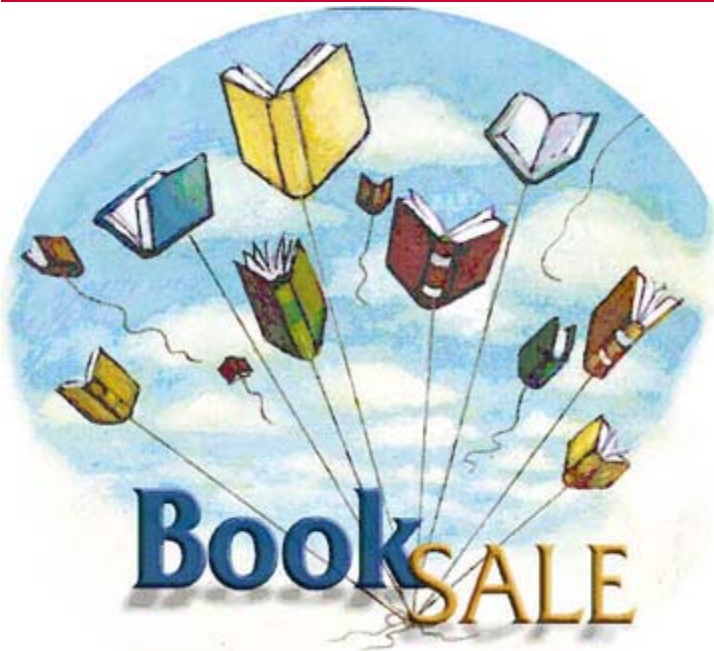
June 29 (10:30 A.M.) Let's Create and Celebrate!

Come and enjoy the musical stylings of Gigi and Granny Fann.

June 30 Creative Dramatics: Drama for Kids

The Great Kapok Tree – Ages 8 and up (1:00 P.M.)
The Magical Toy Shop – ages 4 – 7 (2:30 P.M.)

(continued on page 7)



July 11 – 15, 2009

Masuk High School Cafeteria

10 am – 6 pm Saturday thru Tuesday

10 am—1 pm Wednesday

Saturday, July 11: Early Birds 9 am – 10 am: \$10 Admission

Saturday – Wednesday: Free Admission

Monday & Tuesday, July 13 – 14: SALE prices in effect

Wednesday, July 15: ALL books are FREE

The sale features over 25,000 quality books of fiction and nonfiction for both adults and children, and you may choose books sorted into over 90 categories. This event also features audio/video items, puzzles and games.

If you wish to donate books, audio/video items, complete puzzles and games for the sale, you may do so during regular library hours. Donations may also be placed in the "after hours" shed located in the farthest rear parking lot behind Town Hall and the Police station.

Proceeds from the book sale will fund purchase of items and support programs for the library that are not included in the Town's annual budget. In past years, sales have funded the library's extensive children's programs, museum pass program and the purchase of books and audio-visual items.

You can get additional information or volunteer your services by calling the library at 452-2850.

Congratulations to Bill Ehlers!

Bill Ehlers, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, was honored by the Rotary Club of Monroe on June 7, 2009 at its annual "Service Above Self Breakfast". Bill was one of three people honored who exemplifies the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self". Other awards were in Education, awarded to Carl Bodnar; and Business, awarded to Paul Moyses.

Bill Ehlers has been involved with our library for over 20 years, and played a significant role in obtaining the new building named in honor of Edith Wheeler. Living in Monroe since 1968, Bill has been a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader, served on the school bus committee, and has been involved with flag football. He served with Habitat for Humanity in Mexico, and he volunteers at St. Stephens Church. He loves boating, golf, and reading (of course!).

Thank you Bill, for your service to the community and especially to the library!

Update from the Adult and Teen Departments ~ Lorna Rhyns

Things have been busy in the Adult and Teen departments since the last newsletter. We have planned for an entertaining summer and made some important additions to our web page.

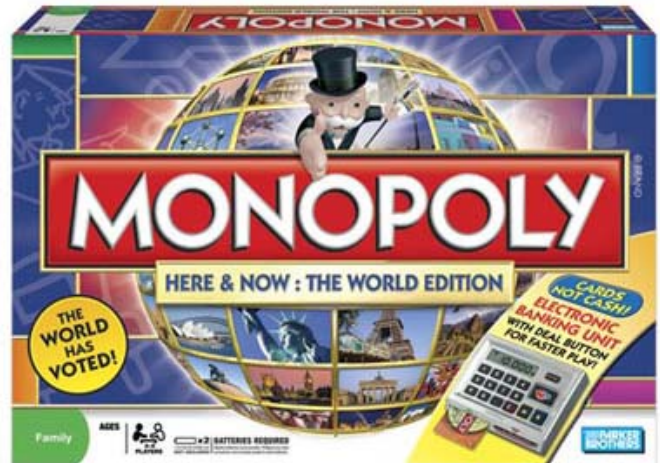
In the Teen Department, the theme for this year's summer reading program is *Express Yourself!* Kids going into 7th through 12th grade can sign up when the season begins at the library's June 26th *Chalk It Up!* kickoff party. This will be a day filled with events for all ages. Teens can make a reservation ahead of time to color in a block of the library's sidewalk or participate in a timed T-shirt decorating contest. T-shirts will be displayed in the Teen Space all summer for patrons to vote on their favorite. A dedicated group of students has been practicing hard to learn balloon tying so they can run a booth for the younger children during the party. They will be making animals and hats using their newly learned twisting techniques. The Friends are generously providing refreshments for the kickoff.

During the months of July and August, there will be weekly summer reading raffle drawings for gift certificates to area businesses. One grand prize winner at our End of Summer "After Hours" party will win a ride to the first day of school with friends in a stretch limousine!

Programs all summer long give teens a chance to express themselves both verbally and artistically. Nutmeg Book Critics will discuss which of this year's nominees they think should win this prestigious Connecticut book award. There will be three great days of Wii competition in July and an opportunity to decorate a stylish beach tote every Tuesday and Thursday while supplies last. Check out our Teen Summer Brochure for other fabulous programs in the *Express Yourself!* theme.

When young people drop by during the summer, they can also spend time playing one of our new board games. Checkers and Scrabble sets have always been popular pastimes in the diner booth area, so we thought we would give young people a chance to play more of their favorite games. The collection now includes Battleship, Mancala,

Stratego, Connect 4, Monopoly, and a host of others. Be sure to try out this new collection.



For adults, the summer offers a June gardening program series. Some of the area's greenest thumbs will be here to help you make your yard a healthier and more beautiful place. The owners of Twombly Nursery will be talking about *The Dos and Don'ts of Do-It-Yourself Landscaping* with a "bring a photo of your yard" assistance session at the end. In other events, patrons can learn about easy organic gardening and backyard composting.

In addition to programming, patrons should be aware of a couple of important new items on the library website. A Job Resources page has been added in response to the current economic downturn. This is a one-stop location for patrons to access unemployment assistance and training opportunities; support groups; resume and interviewing assistance; job listings; and more. If you are out of a job, looking for a different job, or just interested in seeing what is out there, it is worth taking a look at this excellent page.

Finally, we're very excited about our new Constant Contact connection for all ages. Patrons can now sign up to receive attractive e-mails that keep them in touch with their favorite events at the library. To join the list just go to our homepage, fill in your e-mail address in the box on the top right and click go. The registration process includes an opportunity to select special areas of interest, so patrons can choose which events they are notified of. You'll be included in the very next communication!

Be Creative @Your Library, the 2009 Summer Reading Program for Monroe!

The 2009 Summer Reading Program "Be Creative" will start Friday, June 26 at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library at its all-day event called "Chalk It Up"! At the event and anytime after, preschoolers and children through grade 6 may register for the summer reading program. Once signed up, participants keep track of their reading on a log that the library provides. For every hour of reading, the library will give participants a prize! Prizes will also reward readers who read the most, and all participants who complete the program and accomplish their reading goal at summer's end will be entered for a Grand Prize Drawing.

Adrienne Wilson, Children Services Librarian, enthusiastic about this year's program, says "Encouraging reading is so important, and the community library's summer programs should be fun, uplifting, and really get kids involved. We've created a nice combination of great family programs, interesting age specific programs, and some new story time programs. We're also doing reading incentives and prizes, which we haven't done in a while. Many businesses in Monroe are generously helping to sponsor our program this year and we are so grateful for that. Overall, I can't wait to get going, and I know it's going to be a very fun summer!"

Chalk It Up!

When was the last time you got crazy with a box of sidewalk chalk? The Edith Wheeler Memorial Library and The Monroe Arts Council are inviting everyone to let out their inner child at a fun, family event that will jump start the library's "Be Creative" Summer Reading Program. Our "Chalk It Up" event is Friday, June 26 from 1:00-8:00 PM. Children's Services Librarian, Adrienne Wilson, announces that "We're inviting families, children, teens, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles-whoever, to sign up for a piece of sidewalk that surrounds our library! Participants can come anytime between 1:00 and 6:30

PM that day to decorate their slab of cement. We are asking that participants register for this event so we can have the slabs labeled and ready so that everyone will know where to go. "Chalk It Up" is free! We just ask that people bring their own chalk and decorate the cement in the theme of "favorite book". The Friends of the Library have volunteered to host a refreshment table, and there will also be balloon twisting, stilt-walking lessons, crafts, and story times. At 6:30 PM, the Monroe Arts Council has volunteered to do the official judging of the slabs. While the Council reviews the art work, everyone is invited to the Library's Community Room for a magic show starting at 7:00 PM. Winners will be announced after the magic show at 8:00 PM and prizes will be awarded! Adrienne adds "What a great opportunity to mingle with the community, see friends and family and kick off the summer reading program!"

To register for your slab of library cement, call 203-452-2850! You can sign up under one of the following categories: Parent/child ages 3-7, Kids ages 7-10, Tweens ages 11-13, Teens ages 14-18 and Family. The family category is for large groups with mixed ages. Please sign up soon; there are a limited number of slabs!



COMPUTER CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

(By appointment)

Whether you are looking to set up a free e-mail account or would like to learn how to use the library catalog, these sessions will help you improve your computer literacy.

WEDNESDAY BOOK SALES

Friends' Room (10 A. M. - 3 P. M.)

Are you looking for a good book for yourself or for a friend? Do you need a book to take on vacation or to read at the beach? Stop by and visit us while we sort books for our July book sale - we welcome the distraction. While you are there, you can also pick up a book bag, a magnet, note cards, or some Book Bucks.

Clarinet Quartet of the U.S. Military Band Concert

Sunday, October 18 - 2:00 P.M. Enjoy a free concert and refreshments - what could be better?

MUSEUM PASSES

We have several passes for outdoor museums that may be enjoyed on a beautiful summer day. These passes, available for a two day loan period on a first come, first served basis, provide free or discounted admissions to numerous cultural attractions. A list of the passes available can be found at the library's website at www.ewml.org

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please remember to do so. Next to our book sales, this is our largest source of income!

If you are not sure if you need to renew, you can contact Anita Papp (268-2234 or arpapp@earthlink.net).

"THE ROAD TAKEN...THE MERRITT PARKWAY"

Saturday, September 12, from 1 - 2:30 P.M., we will host a screening of Lisa Seidenberg's film, "The Road Taken...The Merritt Parkway." Make plans to attend and discover the historical connection between the Wheeler family and the Parkway.

BE CREATIVE

You are invited to "Be Creative," at the summer reading kick off program on June 26.

PREMIER DESIGNS JEWELRY LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

The Friends will host a party some time in October. Be on the look out for the exact time and date.

CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBED GARDENERS!

We would like to make the rear of the library look as nice as the front! Donate a plan to help us accomplish this. Note: all plans must be approved by the library board.

HELP SAVE THE MURAL!

Be on the lookout for collection containers at the library and around town.

NEW BOARD GAMES FOR TEENS

The diner-style booths in the Teen Space are the perfect place to play a board game with friends - especially on a rainy summer day. The games are located on the shelf with Teen Audio books.

Tuesdays: June 30 – August 11 (6:30 P.M.) Pajama Story Times

Come dressed for bed and enjoy an evening of songs and stories while you snack on milk and cookies – for children ages 3– 6 and their families.

Tots and Tunes (10:30 A.M.) – Ages 0-3 and a parent or caregiver

A new kind of story time will be held on various dates.

Mommy & Me Yoga (10:30 – 11:30 A.M.) Ages 2-5 and a parent or caregiver Wednesdays in July – registration required

Creative Art Classes – hosted by All About Art

Various ages and dates – registration required

Crafting With Katya Various ages and dates - registration required

July 9 (10:30 A.M.) I Spy – A Digital Camera Workshop for Kids

Lead by professional photographer and teacher, Craig Norton. Registration is required – grades 1 – 6.

Kids Knit – Back for the summer!

Various projects, ages and dates - registration required

July 14 (6:30 – 8:00 P.M.) Author Visit: Elise Broach

Registration is required for the book discussion, but not for story time or book signing.

July 14 – 16 (1:00 to 3:00 P.M.) Wii Love Summer Reading

Compete for prizes while you play Wii games – grades K – 2 and 3 – 6.

July 17 (1:30 P.M.) The Life of Beethoven

Learn about the life of one of the greatest composers of all time while you listen to his music. A family show, this play is designed for ages 5 +.

July 20 (2:00 P.M.) Hand Me Down Parade

An original children's sing-a-long, lead by Tara B., with a go-green twist geared for children age 2 and up and their families.

July 21 (2:00 P.M.) Bubblemania A family show (geared for ages 5 and up) loaded with visual comedy, quick wit, big band swing music and the untamed, often unbelievable qualities and beauty of spherical liquids.

July 23 (Various ages and times) Be Creative and Invent!

The Children's Museum inspires participants to try their hand at inventing their own machine and see how well it works! Registration is required.

July 31 Howl At the Moon With a Wild Thing Toon (2:00 P.M.)

Singer, songwriter, Tom Sieling, performs an interactive, humorous show for the entire family using a variety of instruments.

August 5 (6:30 P.M.) Lego Design Contest Please register in one of the three age groups (3-6, 7-10, 11-13) ahead of time.

August 6 (2:00 P.M.) Trash to Tunes Waring weaves fun fascinating tales of the origin of music in this family show geared for ages 5 and up.

August 7 (1:30 P.M.) Old Fashioned Ice Cream – Registration Required Learn how ice cream is made, its history, and how to make it with a hand cranked ice cream maker from Nancy Zorena (Monroe Historical Society).

August 10 (10:30 A.M.) Lionhart Puppets: The Reluctant Dragon

A family show geared for ages 4 and up.

August 12 (6:00 P.M.) End of Summer Reading Picnic and Magic Show Bring your picnic dinners to this family event on the Town Green and enjoy the music of "A String Quartet" as you dine (donations benefiting the library book account), free Rita's Italian Ices for dessert, and a performance by Danny Magic.

SPECIAL TEEN SUMMER PROGRAMS – 2009

Nutmeg Book Critics: 4 Mondays in July and August (1:00 – 2:00 P.M.)

Join in a lively discussion about how you want to run things. Come to as many meetings as you can and enjoy our refreshments.

Jazzy Beach Totes: Tuesdays & Thursdays (12:00 to 4:00 P.M.)

June 30 – August 6 Decorate your beach tote any way you want with supplies provided by the library. There is a limit of one bag per patron for the summer.

July 10 (1:00 – 2:30 P.M.) Stylin' Duct Tape Wallets

Create a colorful duct tape wallet so you can carry your cash in style. Be sure to sign up ahead of time. Refreshments will be served.

July 14 – 16 (3:30 to 5:00 P.M.) Thrii Days of Wii

Compete for prizes during one or all thrii days. Different games will run each day on a big screen digital projector with theater sound. Refreshments will be served.

July 29 (rain date, July 30) (3:30 – 5:00 P.M.) Shadow-Print Shirts

Design an awesome T-shirt that expresses your style using a bleach spray. Bring a solid, dark colored T-shirt to decorate with objects provided by the library or bring your own. Please sign up ahead of time.

End of Summer Reading Express Yourself "After Hours" Party

August 7 (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.) There will be a scavenger hunt, charades, prizes, and plenty of pizza. Be sure to sign up so there will be enough food for everyone!

Notes from Nancy Zorena, Monroe Historical Society President

Many of you have seen and admired the wonderful "Our Town" mural in the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library. You may also have noticed that the mural has developed cracks, probably as a result of the building settling. These cracks need to be fixed, and a plan to alleviate the problem has been devised with David Merrill, the mural's creator. This solution comes with a price tag attached. The Monroe Historical Society is helping to raise the \$2,000 needed to complete the



initial test phase of this lengthy project – to repair two of the cracks to confirm that the proposed plan is viable. Your assistance is needed, and we hope that many of you will make a contribution to this worthwhile cause. You may send a check made out to the Monroe Historical Society, to our address, Box 212, Monroe, CT 06468, with a notation "Mural". We will place donation jars in the library at the book checkout counters towards the end of June. Of course, we also would welcome any suggestions you may have to make this endeavor a success.

Friends of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Inc.

733 Monroe Turnpike
Monroe, CT 06468
203-452-2850

Non-Profit Org.
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Monroe CT 06468

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Annual Membership Dues:

- \$10 Senior
- \$15 Individual
- \$25 Family
- \$50— \$99 Contributor/Free book bag!
- \$100+ Benefactor/Get a Wheeler Pin!
- \$ Other

I would like to be an active Friend.

Please contact me about:

- Fundraising
- Membership Drive
- Annual Book Sale
- 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.)