

Mission: To inspire lifelong learning and discovery in a welcoming place with exceptional resources, programs and services.



Vision: To be the community's vibrant hub for engagement, discovery and creativity.

## From the Director

My first eight months in Old Lyme have been both exciting and productive. It's been such a pleasure meeting so many of you and learning more about our Library and the community.



I'm pleased to report that the Library Trustees, Staff, and I have been hard at work this Spring, working to improve library services and planning for the future. Here are the two projects we're most eager to share with you:

### Expanded Hours

You asked, and we listened! The top two requests in our most recent survey were for increased hours and improved collections. We're pleased to announce that the Library will be increasing our operating hours by 19% this Spring.

**Starting Monday, June 5, our new hours will be:**

**Monday–Thursday 9am–7pm**

**Friday–Saturday 9am–5pm**

These changes will not require an increase in the budget. There is much more we'd like to do in the future, including improving our collections and further expanding our hours, but these improvements will require additional funding. In the meantime, we hope the new hours will make it easier for you to visit the Library as a regular part of your week.



### Library Renewal Project

Prior to my arrival last September, the Library Trustees and Staff embarked on Phase II of a long-term library renewal project to reevaluate and reimagine Library facilities and services for the future.

In this phase, expected to conclude this Fall, we are working to identify how our facility and use of Library space can be redesigned to align with our new vision and to better serve the community. To help facilitate this process, we have hired Lerner, Ladds, and Bartels (LLB Architects) to develop a conceptual design of what our renewed library can be.

As we develop design options we will be asking many questions. For example:

- ⇒ Does our current allocation of space reflect our service priorities and needs?
- ⇒ Is there opportunity to increase the amount of space available to the public?

- ⇒ Can a new design allow us to provide new and better services?
- ⇒ Does our use of space promote staff efficiency and productivity?
- ⇒ Can a new design make it easier for our patrons to access and explore Library materials?
- ⇒ How can we make the space warmer and more inviting to our patrons?
- ⇒ Can we improve our energy efficiency, reduce facility costs, and better ensure the Library's long-term sustainability?
- ⇒ How might the design highlight the historic character of the building and further contribute to the beauty and appeal of the Lyme Street district?

In the weeks and months ahead we will continue to share our progress with the community and welcome any ideas you may have. For more information or to share your feedback, please contact me at 860.434.1684 x110 or [khuffman@oldlyme.lioninc.org](mailto:khuffman@oldlyme.lioninc.org).

–Katie Huffman

## INTRODUCING YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIAN NIKE DESIS

Young Adult Librarian Nike Desis grew up in Rye, NY, and graduated from Kenyon College in Ohio. After several years of travel, including a stint in Philadelphia where she was a founding member of the FLUXspace art collective, she settled in New London and worked on Young Adult programming at the New London Public Library.

Nike joined the Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library staff in October 2016 and has been running some very dynamic programs including a Graphic Novel Book Club, and an Anime Club which explores Japanese-style animation and culture. Activities have included make your own sushi, emoji magnets, and carved stamps.

She says, "Young Adults are such a great audience. They are open to so many things, but are also self-directed."

The Demigod Duelers Book Club, based on the Percy Jackson series, has been especially popular with the Middle School age group. The "Duelers" chose whether they wanted to represent the Roman "Camp Jupiter" or the Greek "Camp Half-Blood", then Nike

taught them how to screenprint their own T-shirts for each camp. Volunteers Brianna (8th Grade) and Ryan (12th Grade) were on hand to assist with these activities. In later sessions, the kids made puppets and discussed themes from the novels.



Nike often draws on her art experience to create innovative YA programming. She is an active member of SPARK Makerspace in New London. SPARK's resources and community are dedicated to providing low-cost and no-cost learning opportunities which build resourcefulness and confidence, with an emphasis on giving and receiving support. It's not just about making things, but also making things happen.

Asked how she sees the Library's role in the lives of young adults,

Nike says, "The Library is an educational and creative space that is different than a classroom, for example. I hope it's a place where they can have some freedom to stretch, delve into the things that interest them, and to try out new

ideas. I want them to have fun, and to explore in a creative way."

Upcoming events for Young Adults include the start of the Summer Reading Program; a three-session Cyanotype art course with Aly Maderson-Quinlog; and the possibility of having the kids build a 3D Printer and other engineering projects. Based on feedback from the "Demigod Duelers", there is also strong interest in a Harry Potter-themed book club next Fall.

—Michaëlle Pearson

## REMEMBERING FRANK KNEEDLER (1931–2016), BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

Frank Kneedler was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1998-2002. He served as Chair of the Finance Committee, and for two years as President after retiring as Deputy Director of the Mystic Seaport Museum. Mr. Kneedler brought a wealth of knowledge and experience regarding nonprofit financial management, personnel, public relations and policy development. These skills informed his decisions and actions when it came to the Library's expanding role in the community. During this time, the Library benefited greatly from the strong growth of the Endowment due to market forces and increased donor contributions, the implementation of more technology for the public and greater patron participation in Library services and programs. Frank is remembered for guiding with a thoughtful and steady hand while applying liberal doses of prudence, wisdom and humor in all his Library and community relations. —Mary Fiorelli

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO AT THE LIBRARY

This summer, we have reading initiatives and activities for all ages. Check out our online calendar at [oldlyme.lioninc.org/events](http://oldlyme.lioninc.org/events) for the most up-to-date listings and to register for our programs.

### Summer Reading Initiatives

**For Kids & Teens:** Kids and Teens are invited to log their reading time to earn prizes. Participants will receive a prize after reading 250, 500, and 1,000 minutes. Keep track of your reading online or stop by the Library for a paper log. Registration begins Friday, June 16.

**For Adults:** Adults are invited to join the fun this summer! Pick up a Book Bingo card starting Friday, June 16 and get reading. Bingo winners will receive a small prize and be entered in a grand prize drawing. More ambitious readers can go for a blackout to receive an additional prize.

### Events for Kids

**Build A Better World: SUMMER FIESTA!**

Friday, June 16, 5pm–7pm

**Build A Better Garden: Farming Adventures!**

Tuesday, June 20, 10:30am–12pm

**Phoebe's Browse & Build Block Party**

Wednesdays, June 21–August 16, 10am–12pm

**Build A Better Body: Work Out with Baby!**

Thursday, July 13, 10:30am–11am

**Build A Better Community: Building Bridges!**

Tuesday, July 18, 10:30am–12pm

**Build A Better World: Save the Honeybees!**

Wednesday, July 19, 4pm–5pm

**Finale Party: Build A Better Sandwich!**

Friday, August 18, 3pm–5pm

**Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month at the Carousel**

Thursday, August 31, 6pm–7pm

**Sweet Beats Family Music Program**

Wednesday, September 13, 5:30pm–6:30pm

**Toddler Time Tuesdays (Recommended for ages 2-5)**

Tuesdays, July 18–August 15, 10:30am–11am

**Baby Time Thursdays (Recommended for ages 0-2)**

Thursdays, July 20–August 17, 10:30am–11am.

**Special thanks to Goldman Sachs, Burdick Oil, and the Friends of the Library for sponsoring these events!**

### Events for Young Adults/Teens

**Henna!**

Tuesday, July 10, 3pm–4:15pm

**Solar Powered: A Cyanotype Making and Narrative Building Workshop**

Tuesday, July 18; Thursday, July 20; Monday, July 24; 2pm–5pm

**Virtual Reality**

Wednesday, July 19, 3pm–4pm

**Build a Better World with Books!**

Tuesdays, July 25 and August 15, 4pm–5pm

**Read and Tell Over the Campfire**

Thursday, August 10, 3pm–4pm

**Finale Party: Build A Better Sandwich!**

Friday, August 18, 3pm–5pm

### Special Events

**Founder's Day Celebration**

Wednesday, June 28, 7pm

Adults are invited to join us for an evening cocktail reception celebrating the Library's history and art.

**Old Lyme Midsummer Festival**

Saturday, July 29, 10am–4pm

All ages are invited to visit the Library lawn and see what we have going on during Old Lyme's annual Midsummer Festival. Check our website for the full schedule of events and activities.

### PHOEBE'S BOOKCELLAR

Please visit Phoebe's BookCellar on Wednesdays and Saturdays for some incredible bargains on thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and Audiobooks. We have large collections of Fiction, Non-Fiction, Childrens', History, and Biography as well as Rare and Collectible books.

The BookCellar is entirely volunteer run and all proceeds benefit the Library.

Look for us on the lower level of the Library on Wednesdays 10am–6pm and Saturdays 10am–2pm.

You can help the Library by volunteering, donating your unwanted gently used books, including textbooks less than 3 years old, and by shopping at Old Lyme's only bookstore! Visit our new satellite location at the Scoop Shop in South Lyme.



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## Matching Funds Available—Donate Today!

The Library needs to raise an additional \$30,000 by June 30th to meet our current fiscal year fundraising goal.



Hamilton Point Investments and an anonymous donor have generously offered \$12,500 in matching funds to

help us meet our goal. Thanks to David Kelsey and Matt Sharp, co-founders and Managing Principals of Hamilton Point Investments, **any gifts made by June 30th will be increased by 50%.**

Where else can you receive a 50% return on your investment along with the satisfaction of knowing you're making a difference to those in your community?

Donating is easy! Visit [oldlyme.lioninc.org/giving](http://oldlyme.lioninc.org/giving) to give online or mail a check to OL-PGN at 2 Library Lane, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

**POSTAL PATRON**  
**Old Lyme, CT 06371**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT: BEING A TRUSTEE

Old Lyme has a robust public life, where people readily offer their ideas and energy to serve the community. I and my colleagues serve our community as OL-PGN Trustees—but what exactly is the role of a Trustee? Is there special expertise required to be one?

No special expertise is required to be a Trustee—we come from many backgrounds and are not library experts—but we do commit the time and energy to help us achieve our ambitious goals. As Trustees we take on many responsibilities:

- ↪ We advocate for the Library by pursuing opportunities to meet and speak with community groups and town leaders and by bringing a knowledge of the community's needs and interests to inform board decisions.
- ↪ We manage and gain approval of the annual budget and select auditors for our financial records.
- ↪ We seek out opportunities to strengthen our endowment and earn grants to support our vision, while also working to maintain town financial support.

↪ We plan for the future of the Library by developing long-range objectives and plans for the growth and development of the Library.

↪ We review the overall effectiveness of the Library to ensure the community is satisfied with Library services and the Library is meeting its goals.

↪ We establish limited policies concerning issues such as financial investments, facilities, and staffing.

↪ We appoint a Library Director to manage day-to-day operations and evaluate the Director to ensure the Library operates in the best interest of our community.

We meet monthly (usually the 2nd Tuesday, in the evening) and various board committees also meet according to their own schedules. I enjoy working with the wonderful people on the Board and we have fun at our meetings. We have a lot going on, and the Library's future looks very bright! Maybe you'd like to help shape our future—as a Trustee. If so, contact Library Director Katie Huffman at 860.434.1684x110.

—Alan Poirier

Stay current with our program schedules and events at [oldlyme.lioninc.org](http://oldlyme.lioninc.org)