



March 2026
Notes from the Bookworks Issue III



*You are receiving this newsletter as a member of the Friends.
Please share it with your friends who love their library, too.*

A Note from the President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our new members and thanks to our sustaining members for your ongoing support. I hope we will see you at our next big book sale this month, but you can always shop at the Book Nook.

So what exactly is the “BookNook”? And where is it?

It's a collection of used books for sale at very low prices (\$3 max), on the second floor of the Russell Library.

Take the stairs directly from the lobby, turn right, again you'll find the BookNook. Try it! You're almost certain to find a book you'd like to read!

*Sandy Becker,
President of the Friends*

*** SPRING BOOK SALE ***

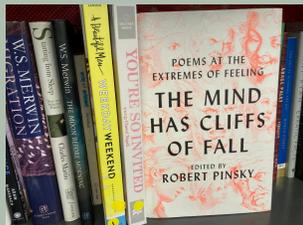
Friday & Saturday

March 27 & 28

during library hours

FEATURED COLLECTION: MODERN POETRY

a large selection of like-new books



A privilege of membership is the
MEMBERS' BOOK SALE PREVIEW
Thursday, March 26, 6:30-7:00 PM

Check out the **BOOK NOOK**, always open!
our permanent bookshop on the 2nd floor, with new titles weekly.

Did You Know?

FAMILY AND CHILDRENS PROGRAMS

that the Friends help make possible



A Conversation with Amy Slowik, Head of Youth and Family Learning at Russell Library

The Youth & Family Learning department, which includes babies through young adults plus caregivers - half of whom are grandparents, has become extremely busy and popular. At least one youth and family program runs each weekday, and we usually have two on Saturdays. Last year, 13,761 youth attended the 472 programs. Some of our most popular programs are Science Saturday and petting zoos. STEM programs like these are so popular that we've had to add extra sessions to some of them.

One newest big success is Chess Club for all ages, which includes many kids and families. Funding from the Friends helped to buy the chess boards. Supplies for fun math programs like this Saturday's 3/14 "Pi(e) Party" are funded by the Friends, too.

Besides programs and fun, the library is a good place for study for middle- and high-schoolers plus college students, as well as a resource for learning life skills, independent study and college prep. Many Wesleyan and other college students tell us they love to study at Russell Library.

Childrens and youth books are in high demand, and circulation is growing as fast as space and resources allow. Young patrons are able to check out unlimited books at a time, which is rarely possible at school libraries. We have multimedia book formats like Tonies and Yotos that make reading fun and help 'reluctant' readers.

How does Russell Library manage to deliver so much? The library has, (not only funding from the Friends, from grants, and from the overall budget,) but a secret weapon..... the library staff. Many are former educators, and were involved in early learning and children's programming before coming to Russell Library. They are a very resourceful and creative team.

This week, we found out that Russell Library has made the top five finalists for Connecticut Magazine's Best Cultural Attraction for Families/Best of Connecticut contest for this year. Voting begins March 30th: stay tuned for the link.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- What is your favorite book you have ever found at a Friends book sale?
- Or what is the funniest book you found at a Friends book sale?
- Or what is the most unusual book you have found at a Friends book sale?

Let us know, and we will include it (with photo, if you have one) in the next newsletter....

Email Us! friendsatrussell@gmail.com

Want to support the library? Join the Friends!

As one librarian said recently, "Thank you, Friends! You cover the costs of all of our programming - for children, young adults, and everyone else!". If you'd like to help, join the Friends of Russell Library today.

CLICK HERE TO START!

Your membership helps us to fund library concerts, museum passes, children's activities, and much more.

**JOIN THE
FRIENDS**

**CONTACT/
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WEBSITE**

Make a donation to the Friends of Russell Library

The Friends of Russell Library is a 501 (c) 3 organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of applicable law.

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of Russell Library
123 Broad St., Middletown CT 0645

You may also may leave your check with a library staff member.
Thank you!



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