



# MPL NEWS

## July 2023

Library CLOSED Saturday,  
July 1st - Tuesday, July 4th in  
observance of Independence Day.  
We open again at 10:00 AM on  
Wednesday, July 5th.

### Events and Happenings at Middletown Public Library

#### From the Director's Laptop

Did you know that Wednesday, June 21, 2023, was the summer solstice? It's a special day because it is the longest day of the year and the official start of summer. It was also a special day for me as I officially submitted my resignation giving 30 days notice. This should not come as a surprise because last December I wrote about my decision to leave. Since then the Library Board has searched for my replacement. I'm pleased to announce that I am passing the torch to Kimberly Usselman who will be onsite full-time in July. Below is an announcement from Sarah Mullen, Board Chair. I know that everyone is excited about the MPL's future as am I.

I'll sign off by saying thank you for everything. I've really enjoyed my time in Middletown. I wish you all the best. Be sure to enjoy summer and take time to visit the MPL.

Theresa

Theresa Coish is the outgoing Director of Middletown Public Library  
She is currently reading, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

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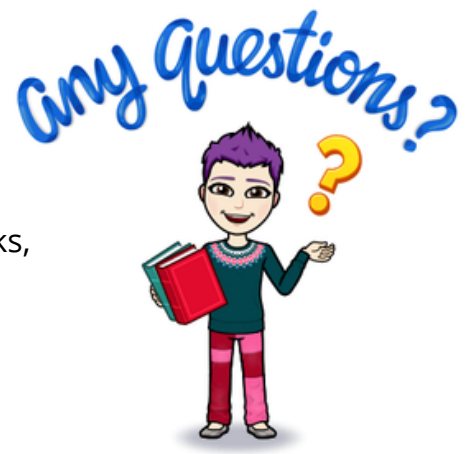
Dear Middletown Public Library Community,

On behalf of the Director's Search Committee, I am delighted to share that Kimberly Usselman (she/hers) will become Middletown Public Library's new Library Director effective July 6, 2023. Our outgoing Director, Theresa Coish, has generously offered her time in the coming weeks to help onboard Kim and ensure a smooth transition for the Library.

As Library Director, Kim will be responsible for all operations of the Library, and for the development, implementation, and continual improvement of programs that respond effectively to the needs of the Middletown community. Kim will manage all Library resources, personnel, and facilities; develop and monitor the budget in collaboration with Town administration and the Town Council; work closely with the Board of Trustees on long range planning and policy development; and plan and implement overall library goals and objectives. Kim will also represent the library and community interests throughout the design and construction of a new library building - a once in a generation opportunity for the library and the Town.

Kim currently serves as the Library Director at the Holbrook Public Library in Massachusetts after spending 15 years in children's services across Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. She also currently holds the position of Immediate Past President on the New England Library Association Executive Board. Kim received her Master's degree in Library Science from North Carolina Central University and her bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. Her past experience includes several different book award committees, including being the founder and

first chair of the RI Middle School Book Award Committee. In Holbrook, Kim has prioritized community outreach initiatives including working with a local Eagle Scout to install a permanent StoryWalk at the town playground, and collaborating with staff on getting a grant and then designing a Book Bike to bring to local events. Outside of libraries, she is slightly obsessed with Dungeons and Dragons, Harry Potter, Starbucks, her cat Bellatrix, attending and planning conferences, Robert's Rules of Order, and purple hair. Kim is excited to join the Middletown team and work with the staff, board, and community on imagining and designing a library of the future!



The Search Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to all staff, friends, and trustees who engaged with our director candidates throughout the search process. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Theresa for her outstanding tenure and for her willingness to stay on and partner with Kim during her initial onboarding. We will be in touch with opportunities for the MPL community to connect with Kim as she assumes the Director role; in the meantime, please join me in welcoming Kim to Middletown!

Sincerely,  
Sarah Mullen, Ed.D.  
Chairperson, Middletown Public Library

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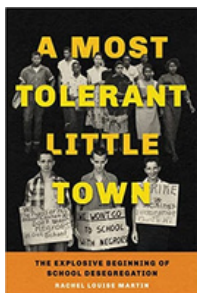


### June 20, 2023

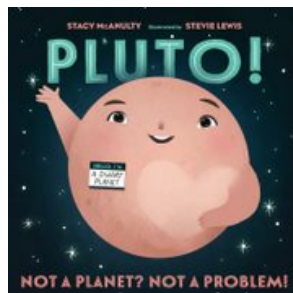
Rep. Alex Finkleman presented a RI Legislative grant check to Sarah Mullen, Library Board Chair that will fund the MPL's podcasting program. Looking on are the Library Trustees, Holly Johnson, Ruth Donohue, Anna Anton, Joan DeFinis, William Jones, and Robert Crump, as well as outgoing Library Director, Theresa Coish and incoming Library Director, Kimberly Usselman.

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## What's New at the Library



### New Adult Books



### New Children's Books



### New Teen Books

# MPL's Summer Reading Program!

**Open to all Youth,  
Teens, and Adults!**  
Create your Beanstack  
account today to  
register for the Library's  
Reading Challenges!



Weekly and Grand  
Prize Raffles  
*for each age group!*

GO TO full details  
and to register

*MPL's Summer Reading Program  
generously made possible through:*



Office of  
Library &  
Information  
Services

The Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS), an office within the Department of Administration, is the state library agency for Rhode Island. OLIS strengthens, connects and empowers libraries to advance knowledge, connect communities, and enrich the lives of all Rhode Islanders



INSTITUTE of  
Museum and Library  
SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. IMLS advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities.



**MIDDLETOWN**  
Rhode Island

The Town of  
Middletown

 **SUMMER  
READING IS REWARDING**  
YOUTHS  
WAYS TO EARN A REWARD

- 1** GO ON OUR STORYWALK = EARN A PRIZE
- 2** RECORD YOUR MINUTES UNTIL YOU REACH A BADGE= EARN A FREE BOOK AND A CHANCE TO WIN A GIFT CARD
- 3** TELL US ABOUT A BOOK YOU LIKED EARN AN COUPON FOR ICECREAM
- 4** WRITE A REVIEW EARN TICKETS TO A GULLS GAME

**Redeem on Tues.  
Thur. & Sat. Afternoons**



# CHILDREN



Ruth Donahue

## MUSIC



to  
Shake  
Your  
Sillies Out

10:30  
Wednesdays  
in July



For Young Children

## Story Walk



Book 1. Korean – Magic Candy 6/3-6/17

Book 2. Ukraine- Glory to Ukraine! 6/17 – 6/24

Book 3. Mexico – Call Me Tree 6/24 – 7/8

Book 4. China – Chinese Kite Festival 7/8-7/22

Book 5. France- Bear in Sunshine 7/22- 8/5

Book 6. Republic of Armenian - Fairy Tales About Friendship 8/5 -8/12



# TWEENS & TEENS



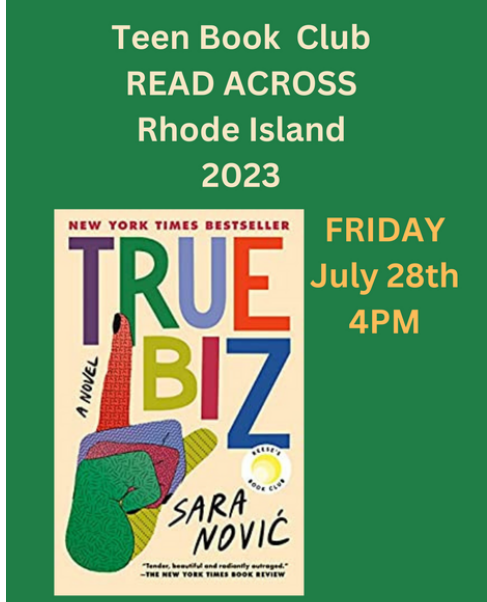
## Open Art Studio

Every Monday  
3pm - 5pm  
in the  
Youth Services Room



## WAR OF THE WORLD RADIO PLAY TEENS

JULY 15  
2-3PM



## Teen Book Club READ ACROSS Rhode Island 2023

FRIDAY  
July 28th  
4PM

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  
**TRUE BIZ**  
A NOVEL  
SARA NOVIĆ  
"Tender, beautiful and radiantly outraged."  
—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

Check out our full calendar of events [HERE](#)

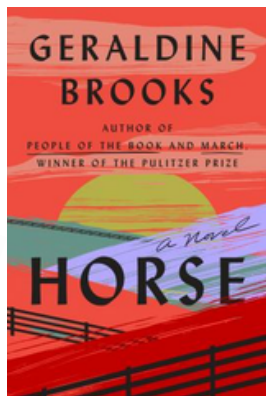
# MPL's Adult Programming

## Adult Book Club

3:30pm in our community meeting room

**Monday,  
July 10th**

*We'll be  
discussing*



Horse



Get your  
print, audio  
or digital  
copies today!



The Four Winds



**Monday,  
August 7th**

*We'll be  
discussing*



We hope you can join us! Click [HERE](#) to register.

## Adult Writer's Club

**Thursdays, July 13th & 27th  
at 5:00pm**

ALL writing styles and  
ALL experience levels are welcome!

**We hope you  
can join us!**

Click [HERE](#) to  
register.



## Adult Poetry Club

**Wednesdays, July 5th & 19th  
at 5:00pm**

In this club, we come together to share our love  
for words, inspire each other, and grow as poets.

**We hope you  
can join us!**

Click [HERE](#) to  
register.



## Genealogy Club

**Monday, July 31st at 5:00pm**

***Find Your Voice By Exploring Your Past***

Learn to use Ancestry.com, create a book of your  
family history, and make a family tree poster!

**We hope you  
can join us!**

Click [HERE](#) to  
register.



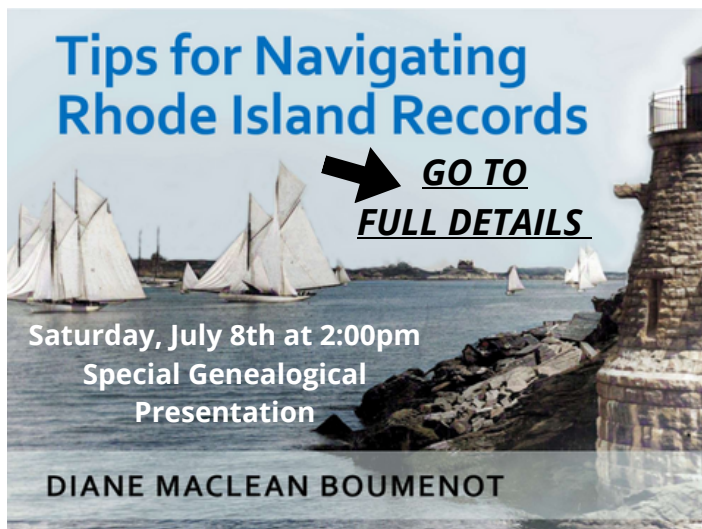
## **Tips for Navigating Rhode Island Records**



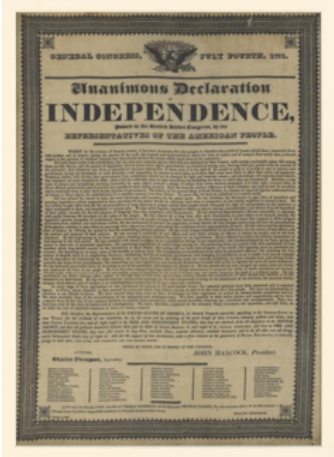
**GO TO  
FULL DETAILS**

**Saturday, July 8th at 2:00pm  
Special Genealogical  
Presentation**

**DIANE MACLEAN BOUMENOT**







View the digital collection  
Today in History - July 4  
courtesy of  
The Library of Congress.

RI SUMMER MEALS

Available on the App Store

Healthy Kids. Healthy Communities. Healthy Rhode Island.  
Niños Saludables. Comunidades Saludables. Un Rhode Island Saludable.

**FREE SUMMER MEALS**  
FOR TEENS AND KIDS  
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
CALL 211 FOR LOCATIONS

**COMIDA DE VERANO GRATIS**  
PARA JOVENES Y NIÑOS  
EN TU VECINDARIO  
LLAMA AL 211 PARA LOCALIDADES

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. USDA es un empleador y proveedor con igualdad de oportunidades.

(click on image above to learn more!)

## The Friends Corner



## Book Sale

The Friends of the  
Middletown Library  
Bookstore will be  
holding a sale from  
**July 6 to July 22.**

Everything in the store will be 50% off,  
excluding collectible books. Stop by and pick  
up something for yourself or for gifts.

The winner of the garden basket  
celebrating the 15th anniversary of  
the Friends Bookstore, Ana Thibault,  
is pictured here with Lois Murray,  
Bookstore manager.



Don't forget to join the Friends of the Middletown Library. Applications are in the library  
and the bookstore, or email [FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com).

## Connect with us!



Middletown Public Library  
700 West Main Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
401-846-1573  
[middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com)  
[middletownpubliclibraryri.org](http://middletownpubliclibraryri.org)

**Library Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday 10 am - 7 pm  
Friday - 10 am - 5 pm  
Saturday - 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday\* - 12 pm - 5 pm  
\*Sunday hours begin on the Sunday following Labor Day  
and end on the Sunday before Memorial Day  
Library closed on Sundays preceding Monday Holidays