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.

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

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.

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:

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.

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.
Youth Services Spotlight

**CHILDREN**

**Music to Shake Your Sillies Out**

Ruth Donahue

10:30 Wednesdays in July For Young Children

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**Story Walk**


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


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

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**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

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**Teen Book Club**

READ ACROSS Rhode Island 2023

FRIDAY July 28th 4PM

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

TRUE BIZ

SARA NOVIC

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Check out our full calendar of events [HERE](#)
Adult Writer's Club

Thursday, 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

Wednesday, 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.

MPL's Adult Programming

Adult Book Club
3:30pm in our community meeting room

Monday, July 10th
We'll be discussing

Horse

Monday, August 7th
We'll be discussing

The Four Winds

Get your print, audio or digital copies today!

We hope you can join us! Click HERE to register.

Tips for Navigating Rhode Island Records
Saturday, July 8th at 2:00pm
Special Genealogical Presentation
DIANE MACLEAN BOUMENOT

GO TO FULL DETAILS
View the digital collection
*Today in History – July 4*
courtesy of
The Library of Congress.

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.

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).

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

Connect with us!

[Facebook](#)  [Instagram](#)

Middletown Public Library
700 West Main Road
Middletown, RI 02842
401-846-1573
middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com
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.