



## **WILTON LIBRARY**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Wilton Library Celebrates an Exciting Year of Growth with New Programs and Initiatives *Library hosts 131st Annual Meeting for Friends***

Wilton, Conn. – June 23, 2026 – Wilton Library Association (WLA) was proud to host its 131st Annual Meeting for Friends on the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2026. This brief business meeting included the election of officers, a celebration of those retiring from the WLA Board of Trustees, and a presentation of awards for the Library’s outstanding Staff Person of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. The meeting concluded with a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Lynda Yankaskas, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

In her introductory remarks, Carol Johnson, President of Wilton Library Association, thanked the staff, patrons, donors, and volunteers for all of their myriad contributions that make the Library “the intellectual and cultural center” of Wilton. She also praised their commitment to “embrace and live our library’s mission and vision...to inform, enrich, connect, and inspire our community.”

In her remarks regarding the fiscal year 2025-2026, Treasurer Penny Maxwell stated that the Library has managed finances “responsibly and carefully, ensuring that every contribution – whether large or small – has been used wisely” and thanked the Town of Wilton for supporting the Library’s operating budget that covers its day-to-day functioning. She also thanked donors for their support throughout the year. “We hosted

a very successful spring fundraiser and are pleased with the results of our other fundraising efforts through the Annual Appeal,” she said.

Caroline Mandler, Executive Director of Wilton Library, began her remarks by expressing her appreciation “to all of our donors for your generosity which allows us to expand our programs and collections, and to our dedicated volunteers, who support us in so many ways.” Mandler also shared several highlights from the past year. She noted that the Library emphasized community engagement throughout the year, serving as a strong, active partner with many local organizations including the Wilton Youth Council, Wilton Pride, Wilton Public Schools, Wilton Social Services, the Riverbrook Regional YMCA, and many more - working with them “to create a sense of belonging in Wilton.” She said that together, the Library and organizations are now running many programs that have become annual and highly anticipated community events, including the Volunteer Fair, the Community Cultural Celebration, and the biggest ever 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilton Pride festival. She also shared progress in the Library’s facilities objective, including a new HVAC system, renovated courtyard, and upcoming plans to improve the Children’s Library.

Mandler stated that The Brubeck’s Collection’s online presence continues to grow exponentially, with nearly 4 million social media post views in over 100 countries. She also shared that as Wilton grows, the Library continues to see amazing growth, such as a 5% increase in digital circulation, a 12% increase in library visits, a 15% increase in program attendance and study room use, and a 20% increase in computer use.

Mandler also reflected on the first year of the Library’s partnership with ASML, which provides multi-year funding as well as volunteer support for a variety of new initiatives that will enhance the Library’s ability to serve as Wilton’s cultural and intellectual center. With ASML’s support, the Library launched several new and exciting programs and services including the ASML Author Series, the Human Library, a monthly Goldbas music program, a Bloomberg Terminal, One-on-One Tech Help, and Wilton’s first ever JazzFest with an all-star lineup coming in August. Mandler closed by expressing her gratitude to the “incredible” Library staff for their hard work across all of these new initiatives.

Each year, the Library acknowledges a Staff Person of the Year. In her remarks, Caroline Mandler announced that Jennifer Walker was selected for her efforts as part of

the Materials Management and Teen Departments. Mandler praised Jennifer for her reliability, gracious personality, and creativity, describing her as “thoughtful, kind, and a pleasure to work with.” Mandler also noted that Jennifer has been a champion of the Human Library event since 2017, and was the driving force to re-introduce the event annually because “she strongly believes that the library is the right place to foster understanding and connection.”

Carol Johnson announced the selection of Volunteer of the Year, which went to the dedicated members of the Art Committee. She shared that “for many years they have thoughtfully curated and hung artwork that our patrons love to see and experience while visiting” and commended them for being a “fun, creative bunch who are always willing to help.”

During the business meeting, attendees elected Stephanie Johns-Clark, President; Carol Johnson, Vice President; Andrew Purcell, Secretary; and Penny Maxwell, Treasurer for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

Current trustees nominated and approved to serve continuing terms on the board are Robin Clune, Stephanie Johns-Clark, Carol Johnson, Sara Sclafani, and Sara Zawoiski.

Two new trustees nominated and approved to serve on the Board are David Mellars and Colleen Schirf.

One retiring trustee, Joseph Magnano, was honored with a book that was purchased for the Library’s collection. The book will carry a bookplate acknowledging his service as a trustee.

The meeting included a presentation by special guest speaker, Dr. Lynda Yankaskas, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. She led an informative history presentation on the relationship between libraries, social status, and democracy from the era of the Revolution to the twentieth century.

#### About Wilton Library

For more than 131 years, Wilton Library has served as the cultural and intellectual center of Wilton with the mission to inform, enrich, connect, and inspire our community. Wilton Library is honored to be recognized with state and national awards. The library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center. For more information, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call (203) 762-3950.

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06/23/26

(continued below)



Pictured (L-R) Wilton Library Board of Trustees: Colleen Schirf, David Mellars, Penny Maxwell, Daniel Darst, Carol Johnson, Stephanie Johns-Clark, Robin Clune, Sara Zawoiski, Mark Kaduboski, Jennifer Kendra, Marty Avallone  
Photo by Justin Baiad Photography



Pictured – Caroline Mandler, WLA Executive Director  
Photo by Justin Baiad Photography