

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

THANK YOU

to all of our
volunteers that
helped to make
the 2022 Fall
Book Sale so
successful!!

Sue Addison
Jodi Amatulli
Susan Barnes
Barbara Barrett
Jeff Barrett
Catherine Beach
Leslie Becker
Ronnie Berman
Janet & Carole Bury
Al Bertoline
Lucia & John Bloom
Jane Bouley
Bob Boudreau
Sandra Brockett
Patricia & Eugene
Bussman
Jenn Cahill
Frank Carrano
Nora Cash
Jon Clark
Sue Connor
Nancy D'Amico
Ann Davis
Bob Deschamps
Mary Lou & Frank
Drago
Rosellen East
Micky Fazzino
Billy Ferraro
Joe Genua
Heather Gilbert
Joanne Giri

We've 'closed the book' on another successful Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the James Blackstone Library are pleased to announce that our 2022 Book Sale on the Branford Green set a record for sale proceeds of \$63,841. Even though the weather during the week of our setup was not ideal, it cleared as we opened and stayed nice throughout the weekend. The sale was well attended from local customers as well as visitors to our beautiful town. THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this special event possible. From the patrons who shopped, to the volunteers who work all

year, to the planners, to the many volunteers who helped setup or worked during the sale, and to those who came out at a moment's notice to help before, during, and after the sale as needed. We also cannot forget the people who donated many wonderful books throughout the year.

Even though the book sale is behind us, our volunteers have already begun planning, collecting, and sorting for next year's Spring and Fall Sale. Our warehouse is reorganized, and processes



have been improved. The fun never stops!

All net proceeds from our sale as well as other Friends' fund-raising activities are donated to the library to enhance and enrich our lives within our community. We thank you for your continued support to the Friends.



Holiday Basket Sale is Back

Mark your calendar for a fantastic shopping experience at the Blackstone Library on Dec 1-3, 2022. Come in for a great deal on themed baskets that make terrific gifts for family, friends, co-workers and just about everyone on your holiday list! We offer a variety of items at an affordable price, all placed in beautiful packages.

Sales start on the eve of "Sip, Shop & Stroll" in downtown Branford, on Thurs Dec. 1st from 5-8 pm. Sales will continue 9am-5pm Friday and Saturday (Dec 2-3), until all items are sold. Baskets start as low as \$5. There will be 4 special raffle items (tickets are 5 \$1 for \$5, or a \$5 ticket).

Basket themes include

items such as teacher's appreciation gifts, holiday themed gifts, specialty tea sets, paw-satively purr-fect pet gifts, and more!

Take home a unique gift for someone special this year!

There is still time to donate new or gift quality items for the sale. Drop off at main circulation desk until 11/21.

Thank you (continued)

Susan Godshell
Nancy Goldstein
Jon Grande
Paula Grimm
Joan Hall
Moiria Healey
Rosanne Hebert
Lisa Heerd
Theresa Hofmeister
Maureen Honan
Allison Horton
Louis Jin
Barbara Johnson
Armond Joncas
Cheryl Kaiden
Phyllis Kaletsky
Jane & Tony Kenealy
Christina Kondziela
Peggy Krause
Carrie Lakin
Hatsie Mahoney
Olivia Martz
Ines Matheny
Donna Mazzucco
Linda McCarthy
Andy McKirdy
Katy McNicol
Linda & AJ Milici
Don Mitchell
Susan Moher
Pat & John Mooney
Evy Moulton
Linda Murray
Della Neal
Laura Noe
Meg Normand
Sara Normand
Erin & Pat O'Brien
Nancy Orlando
Peg Piergrassi
Jessica Pretak

Upcoming Friends Sponsored Programs

From the monies that Friends raise from our book sale activity, funding programs at the Library for our community is an important focus. Check out the upcoming programs listed below. Visit the Blackstone Website for more details, additional programs and registration.

Upcoming Adult Programs

- * **Sunday, December 11th at 2 PM** - Branford High Music Makers Holiday Concert
- * **Sunday, January 29th at 2:00 PM** - A concert celebrating the music of jazz great Bill Evans performed by Dan Logo
- * **Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 PM**—Seven Wonders of the Universe. A virtual lecture by Joe Rao exploring the seven most remarkable objects in the universe.
- * **Sunday, March 5 at 2:00 PM** - Jolly Beggars celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Upcoming Children's and Young Adult Programs

- * **Make & Take for all ages** - Dec 7, Jan 11, & Feb 15
- * **Noon Years Eve Party** - Dec 31st at 11:30 AM for the little ones
- * **Relaxation Crafts** - Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15 at 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM for young adults
- * **Page to Paper** - Dec 17, Jan 21, Feb 18 at 2 -3 PM for elementary aged children

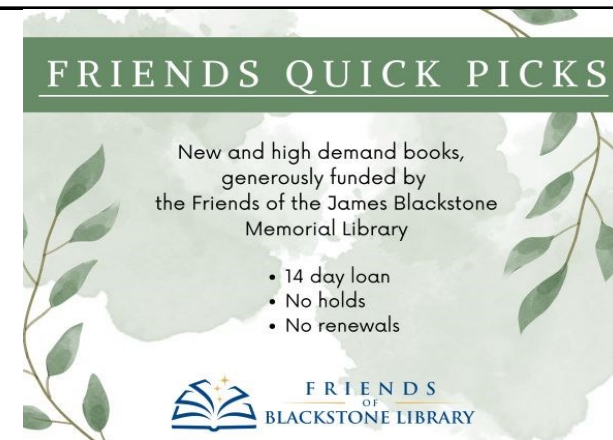
Be on the lookout for holiday cookie decorating as well as a ballet performance that are being scheduled.

Do you know about Friends Quick Picks?

A new offering is now available at the Blackstone Library to give you the benefit of getting a new book quicker. At its annual meeting in June 2022, the Friends donated \$5,000 to the library to fund a collection of best-selling books. These books are reserved for in person checkout only.

Fifty-five best sellers have been ordered to date, and the purchase of additional books will continue.

Friends Quick Picks have a 2-week loan period; cannot be placed on hold; and cannot be renewed. They are available in a special area at the library located



near the New Fiction. In browsing the catalog, you will find these books listed as "Branford/Blackstone Friends Quick Picks."

On your next visit to the library, be sure to check it out and, hopefully, find the latest books for your reading pleasure. We

hope you take advantage of this new benefit brought to you by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

If there are other services that you would like from the library that Friends could possibly provide, please email us.

Friends—Volunteer Spotlight

Each issue one special volunteer will be recognized for their contribution to Friends.

Andrea Schieckel

This month we are delighted to honor Andrea Schieckel! For over a decade Andrea has been a strong presence overseeing the children's book area of the Friends. Like many of our volunteers, Andrea's love of books and reading led her to the library following retirement. She taught English at Walsh Intermediate School for many years. So, it seemed the right decision to accept the Friend's request to take on the responsibility of coordinating the children's section of the annual Friends Book Sale in 2007. She and Anne Tartaglione reorganized the intake of books, established new categories and streamlined the pricing methods. They recruited a group of volunteers to join them sorting and pricing donated books for the sale each year. The result of their work was a

separate area under the tent exclusively for children and teens that delighted customers and increased revenue for the library. In 2011 Andrea and Anne received an award from the



Friends of Connecticut Libraries for their accomplishments – the Focused Project Award for that year.

The children's book area continues to be a favorite spot under the tent for people of all ages. Andrea and the team have continued to expand services separating over 60 favorite series for easy selection during sales, providing local day care centers with books for their students, as well as

donating books to the halfway houses in CT.

Another important interest for Andrea was volunteering for IRIS, the immigrant refugee service in New Haven. There, she taught English to new immigrants and assisted with their resettlement. She is married to Jon Clark, who was honored this year as a Friends board member and was coordinator of the adult section for many years. Andrea and Jon have three children and three grandchildren.

We are grateful for the time and effort Andrea has given to the Friends. Her preparations for the book sales – establishing the map for categories, signage, special displays and more resulted each year in a wonderful Children's Book Shop under the tent! She has been a most valued member of the Friends and a good friend to the many volunteers who have worked with her over the years.

**Thank you for being
a FRIEND!**

**Know someone that would like
to join?
friends@blackstonelibrary.org**

Thank you (continued)

Susan & Garry Radoulovitch
Mary Ellen Reale
Geri Reider
Arla Rosmarin
Matt Roth
Susan & Paul Rowan
Jeff Rowan
Pam Roy
Bill Ryan
Maryetta & Bob Russell
Theo Satrazemis
John Smith
Kent Smith
Adam Spilka
Phyllis Stackpole
Lila Starkie
Jill Thomas
Neil Titcomb
Jared Torello
Malaine Trecoske
Marge & Nick Vamvakis
Ron Viesti
Pat Vogel
January Welks
Curt Wendler
Sue Wharfe
Denise Whelan
Diane Whelan
Jean Williams
Cathy Young
and many others!

Out and About in Our Community.

Did you see the Friends' sponsored door at the BACA Painted Doors event? Or the Friends' scarecrow on the Green with free books for children? Did you visit the Friends and Library's "Trunk or Treat" at Sliney Field or at Town Hall Drive? We have more ideas to share the gift of reading, curiosity, and wonder. Please write to us if you have any ideas or comments at friends@blackstonelibrary.org. We'd like to hear from you!

One last shout out to some of our local businesses that supported our Book Sale behind the scenes - Branford Building Supplies, Gunneson Flooring Company, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, Tractor Supply Co., Ashley's Ice Cream, Sweets on Main, and Marco's Pizzeria.

THANK YOU!

**Check us out
on Facebook**





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From the President



Board of Directors 2022—2023

Barbara Barrett, President
Carrie Lakin, Vice-President
Jonathan Grande, Treasurer
Linda Milici, Secretary
Leslie Becker
Ann Davis
Joe Genua
Andy McKirdy
Jill Thomas
John Smith

Katy McNicol, Library Director
Member Ex-Officio

Phew!!! The weather for the 2022 Annual Fall Booksale was cool but pleasant and the sale was an outstanding success. We made more money than anytime in the past 35 years at a book sale!!!

Comments from many of our customers at the sale were extremely positive— they loved the organization, categories and the book selection.

All of this would not have been possible without the large number of volunteers that worked during the week of the book sale caring for every detail that needed to be done. In addition, the year-round volunteers get a huge for THANK YOU for working hundreds of hours prepar-

ing for the sale. A very special thank you to the co-chairs of the Book Sale (Ann Davis and Joe Genua) and the logistics lead— John Smith that coordinated it all.

A quote from Helen Keller says it very well “Alone, we can do so little, together we can do so much’.

However, there is no time for the weary. We have been busy already setting up for our Book Sales in 2023.

Aside from book sale work, Friends is also busily participating in community activities around Branford.

With the last two years of the pandemic behind us, Friends will be refocusing on the offering of programs that we can sponsor at the library. Coming up on 12/11 is the Music Makers holiday concert— always wildly popular with our patrons. Check out the other Friends sponsored programs listed inside. Email us with suggestions of programming that you would like to see that Friends might be able to sponsor here at the library.

Until the next time,
Barbara Barrett, President
friends@blackstonelibrary.org