

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

Friends Support Mini-Golf!

Don't Forget!

Spring Book Sale

May 12-13
(Fri /Sat)

Hardcover, Paperback, Large Print
Fiction
Children's Books
and Puzzles
ONLY

May 12th Friday
Noon to 6 p

May 13th Saturday
9 a—3 p

Friends Warehouse
59 School Ground
Road Unit 4

Once again, our library offered another fun-filled opportunity for the Branford patrons of all ages while hosting a mini golf event held on April 29-30. Rounds of golf were available in daytime family friendly hours as well as at the "after hours" event for adults that included a silent auction with delicious food and graciously donated beverages. The Friends of the Blackstone Memorial Library made a grand splash in the Rotunda with our appearance at hole #11 using a nautical theme complete with boat and pier design! It was cleverly created by our very own Friends' member, Lucia

Bloom. Special thanks also to volunteer Bob Deschamps for the construction of the boat and for his help with setting up our hole at the event. Mini golf was well attended over the course of the weekend, and it exposed our organization to some out-of-town guests, as well as the loyal patrons of our beautiful library. In years past, the Friends has provided many experiences that enhance the local library's mission, and this was a great time for us to support them once more by hosting #11 and providing a central piece of artwork to enjoy as patrons passed through the Rotunda (even

if not playing the game while there). Future opportunities to be one of our artistic helpers with the Friends are available and we encourage you to contact us if you'd like more information about volunteering in this special way.



Lucia Bloom & Bob Deschamps

Information on Your Membership Renewal

Look at the upper right-hand corner of your mailing label. If it reads EXP 2023-06-30, your Friends membership renewal is due July 1, 2023. Enclosed in this mailing is a form and return envelope to renew your membership.

You can help us continue to do great things for our Library by renewing your Friends membership. Not only does your membership help to make possible the excellent children, teen and adult programs, it also provides discount museum passes, streaming services, staff continuing education and so much more! Membership starts for as little as \$10 for seniors and students.

As a bonus, members that are current are allowed early entrance shopping at our annual Book Sale on the Branford Green scheduled this year for Thursday, September 14th at 5pm.

The Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit organization supporting the library through a variety of fundraising activities. Your Friends membership helps us reach our objectives to support the library and enrich our community. Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Friends Sponsored Programs

Surplus Warehouse Sale Held

A special sale was held at our warehouse on March 25th offering Art and Philosophy books. Over the winter we realized that we had a surplus of these beautiful books. Faced with this dilemma, our volunteers were creative and offered these books for sale at our bargain prices of \$3 and under. Not only did we raise over \$2,000 to donate to our library, we were able to showcase our newly designed warehouse. We thank all our shoppers who came to our sale to browse, purchase, or simply say hi.

Adults:

Special Events

- **Carnaby Street Duo** - Sunday May 21st - 2pm -a 1960s musical experience from the British Invasion
- **Secrets of a Mockingbird** - The secret life of Harper Lee 6/24 2-3pm with Prudence Wright Holmes. She has appeared in numerous movies (Sister Act, etc.) and Broadway productions.

On-Going

- **Adult Game Night** - 6/2, 7/7 9/1 6-9pm
- **Best Seller Book Club** (on-line) 3:30—4:30 pm
5/27 ***The London Séance Society*** by Sarah Penner.
6/24 ***The Half Moon*** by Mary Beth Keane
7/29 ***Beware the Woman*** by Megan Abbott
8/26 ***The Beach at Summerly*** by Beatriz Williams

Kids/Teens

- **Collage Journals** - 5/17 3:30-4:30pm Grades 5-12
- **Super Science Saturdays** - with Cool-ology - MAY 6TH K-4
- **Take-N-Makes** - MAY 31st K-4

FOR ALL

- **Saturday Cinema** - 5/27 Tar (R) 2-4pm, 7/29 & 8/26 2-4pm
- **Check out the Museum Passes**

Pre-registration required for all programs/events. [Blackstonelibrary.org/events](https://blackstonelibrary.org/events). Check the Library website for the most up-to-date information at blackstonelibrary.org.

Meet the 2023 Friends Scholarship Recipient, Alondra Lopez

Alondra Lopez was born in California, raised in Arizona, received her undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania and her master's in teaching in New York. In 2020 Lopez moved to Connecticut and said there was always a constant in her life wherever she lived. "In each state one thing has remained the same; I've had a library card and have found comfort and consistency in public libraries. My parents fostered a love of reading and taught my sisters and I that literacy is opportunity, and this is something I have taken to heart.", shared Lopez.

Lopez was selected to receive the Friends scholarship because of her dedication to continue her studies and get a master's in library and information Science (MLIS) along with her past work as a teacher and her current part-time work at the James Blackstone Memorial Library. This scholarship from the Friends will help to allow her to complete her studies and graduate in December of 2023.

Lopez discussed what this scholarship means to her. "For me, it's the acknowledgement and the contribution of 'we want more library professionals.' I received a great undergrad scholarship because I came from a low-income background and it also helps that my family was born in Mexico and I am a woman of color so knowing that my workplace was willing to support me when I hadn't been here for that long, it's the inclusivity. Even if the Friends had decided to give me five dollars, even that recognition, that acknowledgement that 'you are a part of the community, we see you, we know what you are doing.'"



Friends—Volunteer Spotlight

Each issue a special volunteer is recognized for their contribution to Friends.



Jane Bouley

This month we are celebrating Jane Bouley, our History, Art, Vintage and all round go-to Friends' volunteer.

Jane moved to Branford when she was eight years' old and has fond memories of being taken to visit all the historical places by her grandmother who wanted

to pass on her own love of history.

Fast forward to the present where Jane is the Branford Town Historian and regularly asked to give talks and presentations on local history. She has also written several books on the subject including "The Civil War Soldiers of Branford, Connecticut" and "The Origin and Naming of Branford's Streets". It's no surprise therefore that she was asked to sort the History section as a volunteer for the Friends at their book warehouse as well as helping to corral all the Vintage books ready for review. During a review of subject sorters last year, however, we discovered that Jane is also very passionate about art. When she retired, she had finally had the time to indulge her interest in art

and by visiting galleries and special exhibitions, she built up a wealth of knowledge that she now applies to the sorting of the Art section. Did we also say she sorts the Coffee Table books and in her spare time is working on the manuscript of a new book?

Jane has been associated with the Friends for many years. She was one of the earliest members and spent several years serving on the Board. She started volunteering in the early days of the Fall Book Sale when asked for help by a friend and has not stopped helping ever since. We are so thankful for her knowledge and experience, and her willingness to share them with us all.

Thank you, Jane for EVERYTHING that you do!

SAVE THE DATE



**Fall Book Sale on the
Branford Green
Sept 14th
Thursday
Friends Early Admission
5 pm—7 pm**

**Continuing
Sept 15th—17th**

Got Book Donations?

The main source of our fundraising is from our book sales. This could not be possible without your generous book donations. We have two collection locations; in the rear Library parking lot, and at 30 Harrison Avenue.

Our volunteers pick up every day. If you have too many books to drop off, we can also arrange a house pickup. Please call the library to make an arrangement or email us at: friends@blackstonelibrary.org. We accept books and audiovisual material, but we cannot accept items that are in poor condition.

**Mark your calendar:
Annual Meeting
June 20th**

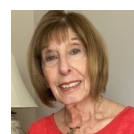
Why Do You Volunteer For The Friends?



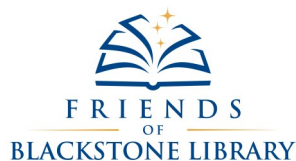
Jon Bloom: "Why not? As a lifelong avid reader, I feel that supporting the Library is most important. As a Friends member, I have found a simple but effective way of spreading the news. Besides, it's fun and the Friends' volunteers are now a great group of new friends."



Theresa Hofmeister: "Because of the work we do, the Library is able to offer programming, activities, and opportunities that enrich the lives of our community. That's important to me and why I volunteer for Friends."



Phyllis Kaletsky: "I enjoy being surrounded by books and by wonderful people who love books. I am pleased to know that funds raised by Friends' volunteers provide the Library with programs and materials which go beyond the Library's budget."



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From the President

The calendar says it is spring...but is it? The weather has been a little crazy. But it seems to be settling down and it certainly is beautiful with all the flowering trees and plants along with the colorful tulips and bright green lawns. If it is spring, then it must be time for the Friends Spring Book Sale. It will be held at the Friends warehouse at 59 School Ground Road Unit 4 on May 12th Friday (12pm – 6 pm) and on Saturday May 13th (9 am – 3 pm). Books being offered are a wide variety of children's books, and adult hardcover, trade, mass mar-

ket and large print fiction plus a large assortment of jigsaw puzzles. A good opportunity to pick up some books for the kids for summer break and some beach reads for the warm and sunny days ahead.

The Friends Annual Meeting is Tuesday June 20th in the Library auditorium at 5:30 pm. It will be an informative evening along with a talk by Jane Bouley on James and Timothy Blackstone. Look for your invitation coming soon.

We can not accomplish



what we do for the library without the support of our members. Enclosed you will find the annual renewal for the upcoming year. Thank you for your support.

Also enclosed is an appeal to help us offset the rising expenses to host the book sale on the Green. Any help you can provide is much appreciated.

Enjoy your summer reading.

Barbara Barrett, President
friends@blackstonelibrary.org