

Spring 2025
Volume 48 Issue 2

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library



Save the Date! Friends Fall Book Sale 2025

Thursday, September 18
through

Sunday, September 21

New Location

Foote Park
12 Melrose Place
Branford
(next to Indian Neck School)

JBML Friends Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 19

5:00 p.m.

JBML Auditorium
All current members
are welcome.

RSVP REQUIRED

(See enclosed insert for details.)

Become A Friends Member!

Not currently a Friends
member? Want to join?
Annual memberships
start as low as \$10.

You can join online at <http://www.blackstonelibrary.org/friends> or pick up a membership form at the library.

Friends Spring Warehouse Sale - Another Success!

Friends hosted another successful book sale on Saturday, May 3rd. Our team of volunteers began early Friday afternoon preparing our warehouse. Direction signs were up by 8:00 am on Saturday and eager shoppers were waiting in line 30 minutes before we opened to stock up on their reading. With over 5,000 books on the tables, our shoppers perused and purchased. One customer, Sofia said, "I'm excited, I can check off a bunch of books from my romance reading list". Books offered for sale were fiction, literature, and children's books along with DVDs and audio books, puzzles and a special collection of boating books. Readers of all ages came with lists of their favorite authors and genres, many left with not only what they wanted but with books by authors they haven't read. A happy customer said, "why not, it's only \$3." As volunteers who love what we do, it was heartwarming to see children picking out books and even sitting on the floor reading their new purchases. Our readers delighted in their choices and prices and how they will have happy times over the summer working through their books. Thank you to all of our volunteers, and to our community for your support. Remember, you can refill your 'To Be Read' stack at our fall sale at Foote Park September 18th to the 21st. Also save the date for a pop-up sale on Saturday, June 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the warehouse, that will offer a collection of world history, literature and some biography books donated from a college professor.



Friends Annual Meeting and Guest Speaker

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 19th, in the JBML Auditorium at 5:00 p.m. In addition to our business meeting we are planning a presentation by local author, Victoria Molta. Victoria has written a moving memoir, *Lost Before I Could See*, about her life growing up with mental illness. Victoria tells her story of courage and determination to treat her illness and strive for a fulfilled and happy life. Come and join us for what is sure to be a moving presentation and discussion of resilience, compassion and bravery. Friends will have a few copies of her book for giveaways to a lucky group of members!

Membership Renewals Are Due!

Look at the upper right corner of your mailing label. If it reads "EXP 2025-06-30" your membership renewal is due on July 1, 2025. (If it reads "EXP 2026-06-30" your membership is **not** due for renewal) Enclosed is a renewal form and mailing envelope or you can renew online at www.blackstonelibrary.org/friends. Your membership allows you early entrance to our Fall Book Sale and an invitation to our Annual Meeting in June. Additional donations to our **Raise the Tent campaign** are also greatly appreciated. Have friends who love our Library? Pass along our link for them to join. Membership starts for as little as \$10 for Seniors. Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Friends Sponsored Programs at Blackstone

ADULTS:

- **Art Workshop: Mandala Tote Bags**—Tuesday, 6/10 @ 5:30 pm -7:30 pm
Join nature artist, Denise Smith, to create your own canvas tote bag decorated with a mandala stencil and words of affirmation. Registration required.
- **The Afro-Semitic Experience Concert**—Monday, 6/16 @ 6:00 pm -7:30 pm
Celebrate Juneteenth with this one-of-a-kind group that blends jazz, gospel and world music to honor themes of liberation, community and social justice. Registration required.
- **Creativebug Workshop**—Thursdays, 6/21, 7/17, 8/21 @ 6:00 pm -7:30 pm
Join Blackstone's own Stephanie and Jared for a crafty evening. Registration required.
- **Your Edible Landscape**—Wednesday, 7/23 @ 6:00 pm -7:00 pm
Learn about the plants in your own backyard with 3 Foragers! Registration required.
- **Fishing in CT**—Saturday, 8/16 @ 2:00 -3:00 pm
Learn all about fishing techniques with Dylan Napoleone. This lecture will contain information specifically geared for Connecticut fishing. Registration required.
- **Third Thursday Movie Matinee: Thursdays, 10:00 am -12:00 pm**
June 12: *Sullivan's Travels* (1941)
July 17: *To Have and Have Not* (1944)
August 21: *Suspicion* (1941)
- **Saturday Cinema: Saturdays, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
June 28: *A Complete Unknown* (2024, R)
July 26: *Gladiators II* (2024, R)
August 30: *Juror #2* (2024, PG-13)
- **Best Seller Book Club: Saturdays, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm**
June 28: *My Name is Emilia del Valle* by Isabel Allende
July 26: *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* by Kristin Harmel
August 30: *The Woman in Suite 11* by Ruth Ware

KIDS:

- **Homeschool Meetup**, once a month on Mondays 6/9, 7/14, 8/11 @ 2:00 pm -3:00 pm
- **Friday snacks and a film for all ages**, Fridays @ 2:00 pm
June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22
- **Family Bingo for all ages**, Wednesday 7/25 @ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- **Summer Family Take-N-Makes**, once a month on last Wednesdays 6/25, 7/30, 8/27 @ 9:00 am to 8:00 pm (*drop-in event*)
- **Sand Art** for ages 3 and up, Wednesday 6/30 @ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- **Science Saturdays with Cool-ology** for Grades K-4, 1st Saturday of the month @ 10:00 am -11:00 am, 7/5 (Avian Adventures), 8/2 (Minute to Win it Physics)
- **Story Walk** - a Progressive Book Reading for all ages. On display on the library grounds 7/7 to 8/3 (*drop-in event*)
- **Decorate a Kindness Shell** for ages 3 & up, Tuesday 7/8 @ 9:00am - 8:00pm (*drop in event*)
- **Party with a Snow Princess** for ages 3 & up, Saturday 7/19 @ 2:00 pm -3:00 pm
- **Author Visit with Jules Bakes** for ages 8-12, Tuesday 7/22 @ 3:30 pm
- **Beads, Bracelets and Keychains** for Grades 3-6, Monday 8/12 @ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- **Ready Set Kindergarten!** Saturday 8/16 @ 10:30 am - 11:15 am

TEENS:

- **Teen Crafternoons** - Mondays 6/23, 7/7 & 7/28 @ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
- **Teen Tech Take-Apart** - Thursday 7/24 @ 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
- **The Ultimate Potato Chip Taste Test** - Wednesday 7/30 @ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- **Teen Take-N-Makes** -Beach Themed Pudding Cup, Monday 8/4 @ 9am-8pm (*drop in event*)
Check the Library website for a detailed description and the most up-to-date information at www.blackstonelibrary.org. Some programs require pre-registration, others are drop in events.

THANK
YOU!

Thank you to all of you who participated in our Leadership Survey. Your insights are appreciated and helpful to the future planning of Friends.



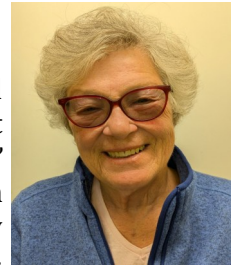
**Looking for a book?
No need to wait for a sale!**

On the 2nd floor of the Blackstone Library affordably priced books can be found on the **Friends Book Sale Cart** in the main floor rotunda during Library operating hours—adult fiction, children's books and a shelf that changes genres periodically.

Friends—Volunteer Spotlight

When passing by the Friends of JBML, if you see a shiny new red SUV parked on Thompson Road, it means that Ann Davis is in our warehouse scanning books. A volunteer for five years, she started with picking up book donations, then curated literature and she co-chaired the Fall Book Sale of 2023.

Born in the UK, Ann's family moved to Ontario, Canada – where she lived from the age of two through veterinary school. She moved back to England to work as a vet at a small animal clinic, and then returned to Canada to earn a PHD in Immunology in Toronto. She then spent six years doing post-doctorate studies in Houston, Texas learning to make “designer” mice. The 90's brought Ann to Connecticut to work at Bayer Pharmaceuticals in West Haven looking for new drug targets for diabetes. Post Bayer, she worked at the Central Veterinary Hospital Emergency Clinic on State St. and at the Veterinary Associates of Westville. She returned to Canada for seven years to take care of elderly parents and, while there, she found personal satisfaction in volunteering at “St. John's Kitchen” – a soup kitchen where both the clients and volunteers pitched in to do the work. Ann found that she liked to “feed people –both physically and mentally”, which led to her volunteering at The Sunrise Café (sunrisecafenewhaven.org). The Sunrise Cafe serves free breakfast to a hungry crowd from a menu of choices five days a week at 57 Olive St. in New Haven.



Interested in combining two of her volunteer activities, Ann sorts through the discarded books of Friends (duplicates or books in poor condition) each week and takes them to a mobile library cart at Sunrise Café. She then talks to the guests and listens to suggestions for what they would like to read and recommends some of her favorite books. The most popular requests are Fiction, Biography, Self-help, Bibles, Science Fiction, Sports as well as Black History.

When not involved in good works projects, Ann enjoys her 110 lb. Lab “Otis”, gardening, reading, swimming and sailing in LI Sound. When asked what she admired most about Friends, her response was “the flexibility in the activities and scheduling and the energy levels of both Barbara and Joe!”

Thank you, Ann, for all you do for Friends!

Friends of JBML Expands Their Reach to Kenya

Friends has recently begun to support American Friends of Kenya (AFK) - located in Wethersfield, CT by providing donated books that cannot be used in our sales or are left over from our sales. Two Friends' Volunteers, Louisa Coraluzzi, and Penny Peterson, coordinate with AFK volunteers to set aside the types of books wanted. When AFK has collected enough books to fill a tractor trailer (which is approximately once a year), the books are shipped by AFK to leaders to some of the poorest regions of Kenya, providing them with resources and training materials. Every leader is responsible for creating or expanding community and school libraries and spreading a love of reading throughout their communities. Since 2004, AFK has shipped over 500,000 books to Kenya, with most coming from communities and school libraries in CT, Friends' book sales, and special book drives. AFK also collects other donated materials like shelving, furniture, and other library materials.

A primary focus of the community and school libraries is fostering book clubs. AFK sends “book club kits” with at least 10 copies per title and information on how to organize and facilitate book club discussions for various age groups. This is a milestone for Kenya. Book clubs were virtually unheard of before the formation of AFK. AFK has been a major force in library development in Kenya, and CT libraries and librarians have been at the forefront. At Friends we are happy to support AFK and grateful to Louisa and Penny for their leadership in coordinating our support. AFK allows the Friends of JBML to be true to our mission of providing affordable books to all our communities here and abroad.



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From the President

It's been a busy time for Friends. After collaborating with the town of Branford for several months to find a location for our annual fall sale, due to the Green being unavailable this year, I'm thrilled to announce that our Fall Book Sale will be held at Foote Park from September 18th to 21st. It will be the same wonderful sale and same tent – just in a different setting. A big shout-out to Perry Maresca from the town for all his help in making this happen!

Thanks to our incredibly generous community, who continue to donate wonderful books for our sale every year. While there are some books we can't use in our sale – duplicate copies, poor condition, or too outdated – we work hard to find suitable homes for as many of these books as possible with other non-profits that can make use of them. Read to Grow, Sunrise Café, and American Friends of Kenya are a few organizations we are working with. Our goal is to have as few books as possible ending up at the Transfer Station.

I also want to extend a sincere thank you to our Friends members for your generous



support- it truly makes a difference in what we can provide to the Library. Speaking of Friends Membership, renewal time is right around the corner, so please see the included renewal form.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th at 5pm. Although the library will be closed for Juneteenth, it will open for our meeting in the auditorium and the reading room. See the invitation included in this issue and don't forget to RSVP.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our incredible, hardworking, and committed volunteers. Without each and every one of you, what Friends does for the library wouldn't be possible. THANK YOU!!!!

Barbara

President—Friends of JBML