

# Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

## Arts & Letters from the Thimble Islands



### Win Naming Rights In the Renovated Library

Raffle tickets are currently on sale in support of the library renovation. The tickets cost \$20 each—the grand prize is naming rights to the Upper Rotunda art gallery.

Tickets are available at [blackstonelibrary.org](http://blackstonelibrary.org) and at the library Reference Desk.

This issue brings us to the world of caricature, cartooning, and satire through the works of Garry Trudeau who was born on July 21, 1948, in New York as Garretson Beekman Trudeau.

Trudeau's most notable work has been the comic strip, *Doonesbury*, which appears in almost 1400 newspaper publications. It was initiated in 1970 and is a cartoon comparable in humor to Saturday Night Live. The strip features 24 human and humanized characters from all walks of life ranging from Rev. Scot Sloan to artist, J.J., and her father Michael J. Doonesbury. The strip is politically charged and has included parodies on Dan Quayle and Donald Trump. Find more at [doonesbury.washingtonpost.com](http://doonesbury.washingtonpost.com) or read your local daily paper.

Trudeau has expanded his portfolio beyond the comic strip and in 1988, he wrote and co-produced, along with director Robert Altman, "Tanner '88," a satiric look at that year's presidential election campaign.

An animated film and Broadway musical have been patterned after *Doonesbury*. He is also creator of Amazon's

new political satire series, "Alpha House," which stars John Goodman.

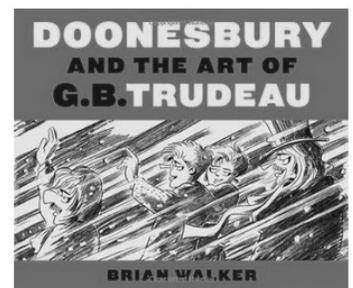
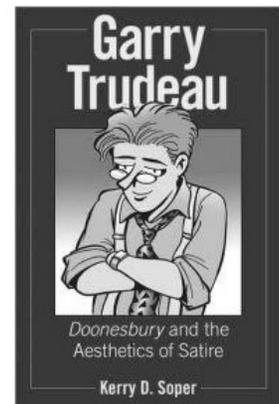
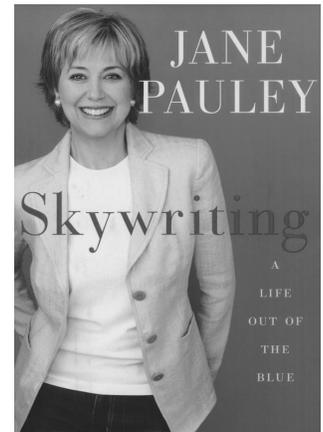
Trudeau attended Yale University, where he received his B.A. and an M.F.A. in graphic design. He is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards recognizing his work on wounded warriors and several television broadcasting tributes.

He and wife, Jane Pauley, purchased a home in 1981 on Governor's Island, part of the Thimble Islands.

Pauley is a veteran journalist, having co-hosted the Today Show on NBC from 1976-1989 and co-anchored Dateline from 1992-2003. She is also the recipient of many Emmy Awards. She is an author in her own right, penning her memoir "Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue", in which she publicly acknowledges her struggle with bipolar disorder.

Pauley married cartoonist Garry Trudeau on June 14, 1980; they have three children and two grandchildren.

by Alpha Coiro



# The Book Sale is Coming!!

## September 27 — 30

**Preview Night is Thursday, September 27, from 5pm — 7pm**, so be sure to send in your dues by September 20 in order to make sure you're on the Members' list. We will accept payment at the door, but that evening is always very hectic so please have pity and pay in advance! Thank you!

Sale dates are as follows:

Preview Night, 9/27: 5-7pm  
Thursday, 9/27: 7pm-12 mid  
day, 9/28: 8am—12 mid  
Saturday, 9/29: 8am—12 mid  
Sunday, 9/30: 12noon—3pm

Sunday is the immensely popular Bag Day: Bag provided for \$10 for as many books as you can fit inside it.

**Got Books?** Drop off your donations at the library today, so they can be sorted and included in the sale.

**Want to help?** The Book Sale is our biggest fundraiser, and as everyone who has ever participated knows, working at the sale is probably the most fun you can (legally) have on the Green.

**A. Set-Up on Wednesday, September 26:** Books will need to be unpacked and arranged on the tables. With more than 70,000 volumes, the more volunteers we have, the better!

**B. Working the Sale Days:** Staff the checkout tables in 3-hour shifts. We also need 'floaters' in the tent to help

folks find what they're looking for and tidy up the tables.

**C. Breakdown & Clean Up.** The sale ends at 3pm Sunday, but the work doesn't. Consolidate the leftover books and cover them for the night. On Monday, the books are crated up for transfer.

Interested in volunteering? Send us a message at [fbmlvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:fbmlvolunteers@gmail.com)

Volunteers are also needed to distribute posters and flyers to the following towns: Milford, Orange, West Haven, North Haven, Hamden, North Branford, Guilford, Madison, Clinton, Westbrook, Deep River, Essex, Haddam & East Haddam.



### Renovation Update

Our capital campaign has reached \$700,000 toward its \$800,000 goal, and the project went out to bid in June.

Groundbreaking and construction is expected in September, with the new entry enclosed by winter.

The library is selling raffle tickets to raise funds for the renovation. The cost is \$20 each and they are available through the library website and at the Reference Desk.

The library will remain open through the six phases of the renovation, which is expected to last for one year.



Marie Crowley and Alexine Wallace are two members of the original sorting group.



Book Sorters at the River Run location. Photos by Ellen Wagner



# The Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

I loved to read. I would eat up books from the local library sometimes taking out as many as five at a time. My family was concerned because my vision wasn't good to begin with, and the reading might adversely affect what vision I had. I, on the other hand was of the philosophy, "Read while you can." When I began to have difficulty enjoying my past time of reading, I confided to my doctor about my distress. He, not being able to reverse the diminishing loss of vision, said, "We'll have to get some talking books for you." I was astounded when I found out what he meant. There was an organized program that produced books that were read aloud. True, at that time the system relied on vinyl discs, but it was bringing books to life that I had previ-

ously thought could only be accessed from a printed bound book. When the computer became a normal part of our existence the system also changed to produce books on a cartridge in a machine that was so simple to operate, that even I could operate it. And, I am computer challenged! The talking book program is a product of the National Library System which is a part of the Library of Congress. Each state has an outlet for the "talking books" and ours in Connecticut is located in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. The acronym, or initials are how it is referred to by people in the know. It is the LBPH, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The vast collection of the LBPH has thousands of books, new and old. "If you do not have the

vision to read print or are physically challenged to the degree you cannot access your local library, you may be eligible for the program with the consent of your pertinent physician. To obtain an application call 800-842-4516.

by Al Daniels



Photo by Diane Puchalski

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## Looking for your next great read?

Library staff are always available to provide suggestions to enhance your reading experience. They maintain a large collection of pamphlets, located on the wall to the right of the New Fiction area. These reading lists are prepared for several genres, including *Beach Reads*, *Chick Lit*, *Gentle Reads*, *Good Humor*, *International Thrillers*, *Read-Alikes*, *Scandinavian Mysteries*, and much, much more! Pick up a list on your next visit, or find it on the library website at [blackstonelibrary.org](http://blackstonelibrary.org)

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## News From the Friends History Project

The project is off and running. We are currently reviewing Minutes of Board Meetings, Marble Columns, Pictures and other media dating back to the beginning. This will take the bulk of this first year of the project.

FACT: Thirty years ago.....the first book sale netted \$400.00. Look for more news and pictures as we share our progress to you the members.

We are happy to report that we have a list of the founding members of the Friends of the Library. Alexine Wallace was one of the founding members of the Friends and remained active until two years ago. She was a major person in the book sorting area for many years. She has already provided a write up of her early experiences. This month she celebrated an important birthday and we wish her the best! Also, thanks Alexine for all you have done for the Friends and the Library. Not only did you make

major contributions to the growth of the book sale but you leave a lasting legacy.

**FLASH!!** If you have any pictures, newspaper articles, or other relevant documents, please let us borrow them so that we can make copies for the history project. You may drop them off at the Reference Desk marked History Project, Attention Polly Fitz.

Polly Fitz and Betsy Klarman  
Co-chairs  
History Project

**Special thanks to all who helped make this, and past issues of Marble Columns possible:** Barbara Barrett, Alpha Coiro, Al Daniels, Mary Hally, Peggy Krause, Hatsie Mahoney, Diane Puchalski, Pam Roy, Terry Twigg and Ellen Wagner.



**Friends of the James Blackstone  
Memorial Library**  
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Karen Jensen, Library Director  
Member Ex-Officio

## From the Desk of Mary Hally

It's almost fall and preparation for the annual book sale has begun. Members of the committee have started making calls seeking volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer during the days leading up to the sale.

On Saturday, September 22 we need volunteers to load the tractor trailers at our Harrison Ave sorting facility. On Monday & Tuesday volunteers are needed to set up the tables, lights, and signage and to load the books from the River Run sorting facility. Wednesday over 200 tables will be filled with all the books, and on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday volunteers are needed for

Cafe Blackstone, counters, cashiers and floaters. Sunday at 3:00 the breakdown starts to prepare for shipment of leftover books to our reseller. All of this takes over 850 volunteer hours to make the sale a success. To volunteer, send an email to:  
**[fbmlvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:fbmlvolunteers@gmail.com)**

This year the Trinity Church Fair will be sharing the Green with us again. On Friday night there will be food and Hogwarts Happenings with a scavenger hunt, photo booth and mini Quidditch Games. On Saturday the Fair kicks off at 7:30 in the morning with all you can eat blueberry pancakes, and tents filled with baked goods, jewelry, kid's

games, a silent auction, can goods labyrinth and tag sale items. There will also be exhibitors from the Yale Peabody Museum, Friends of Outer Island, the Boy Scouts, Shoreline Greenway Trails and M.P. Rice Hose Company #2. This weekend has much to offer and shouldn't be missed.

*M.H.*