

Autumn Leaves

As the autumn leaves drift earthward and the weather takes on an unaccustomed chill, I find myself taking refuge in the leaves of a book. Like most of us, I've had much more time to read of late, but, for once, I'm not complaining! And like so many of us, I find myself cooking - and eating - more, as well, which brings me to the first recommended read.

Although there is a plentiful supply of timely biographies available, avoiding politics I recommend *The Man Who Ate Too Much* by John Birdsall. This appetizing read documents the life of James Beard, a fascinating man and author of some of my Go To cookbooks. Beard's life, rich with diverse and varied dreams, experiences, and friendships, contributes to his emergence as a continental epicure who believed in the importance of American cuisine. As Birdsall so aptly writes, Beard's name lives on as an arbiter of excellence in the world of culinary achievement.

Another seasonally inspired recommendation is *The Simplicity of Cider* by Amy E. Reichert. In this, a talented, young cider-maker struggles not only to pursue her craft, but also to preserve her business and family's orchard while predatory realtors hover like vultures. Will help come from an unexpected quarter? Settle down for a cozy read under your favorite throw with a steaming, aromatic cuppa and find out!

If you're a fan of, or even new to Magical Realism, try *Once Upon A River* by Diane Setterfield. Set in a small town along the Thames, a girl, already pronounced dead, comes back to life at the local inn. Three families claim a relationship to her. As the mystery unfolds, the details and secrets of these individuals are revealed. Captivating, and sure to quickly pass the ever lengthening hours of darkness.

Perhaps you're familiar with David Attenborough, the acclaimed natural historian. His

A Life On Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future is a personal favorite. Timeless, this engrossing work will take you through any season. The award winning broadcaster offers us a lifetime of wisdom, and, most importantly, a Hopeful vision for the future.

Who Done It? That's exactly what Deborah must discover in *High Country Fall* by Margaret Maron. Portrayals of obsessive leaf peepers in a charming, post card perfect small town in North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains are embarrassingly humorous and apt for our area, as well. In the midst of this, Deborah, working as a substitute judge, must determine the cause of an unexpected death.

As we progress from one season to yet another, as a full time book lover I wish you good health, coziness, and lots of books to open your imagination! Read on!

Hatsie Mahoney

Writers are being sought for *Marble Columns*. Must be able to write a complete paragraph. (Don't laugh). May need to attend Board meetings to take notes for articles. Willing and able adults considered. Contact Alpha or Hatsie at **friends @blackstonelibrary.org**



In Memoriam

Remembering Alexine Evelyn Wallace 1918-2020

I first met Alexine in 2014 and soon became one of her many friends. We met and corresponded often. In her last letter dated April 17, 2020, she stated that she was confined to the house due to shingles and the pandemic. She counted among her blessings to have her daugh-

ter Nancy Wallace, who writes and illustrates children's books, and son-in-law Peter Banks. Both took excellent care of her. Alexine was one of the original members of the book sorters group and a charter member of the Friends with card #1.

She lived her life always loving, giving, caring, and supporting others. She was warm, vivacious, and fun and

will be deeply missed by those who knew her.

Helen Wong

Remembering Susan Schultz 1948-2020

Sue was born in Hartford, CT, grew up in Wallingford, CT, and spent most of her life in Branford, where she raised her family. She volunteered at the Friends Book Sale doing sales and publicity.

FRIENDS FOR ANOTHER YEAR

The Friends of the Blackstone Library concluded its fiscal year with the induction of novice and experienced 2020–2021 board members who include: Alfred Bertoline, President; Barbara Barrett, Vice President; Jonathan Grande, Treasurer; Judy Stebbins, Assistant Treasurer & Membership Chair; Ellen Carucci, Secretary; Alpha Coiro, Publicity chair/co-editor Marble Columns; Jonathan Clark, Book Inventory chair; Joe Genua, Book Sale chair; Paula Harrington; Hatsie Mahoney, Program chair/co-editor Marble Columns; Andy McKirdy, Scholarship chair; Pam Roy, John Smith, Finance chair; Callista Stoddard, Historical chair; Helen Wong, Nominating chair; and Mary Hally, immediate past president. Karen Jensen, Library Director, is an ex-officio member.

A Conversation with Jenna Anthony

(Jenna is this year's recipient of the Friends Professional Development Scholarship Award.)

What are your title and responsibilities at Blackstone?

I'm a Reference Assistant and Program Coordinator helping patrons with more complicated issues like genealogy, technology and more in-depth research. I also assemble our Reader's Advisory pamphlets and provide monthly updating with new titles and graphics. As Program Coordinator I plan the adult events at the library, coordinating the calendar and publicity schedule. When the pandemic temporarily closed the library we started virtual programming and shifted our social media presence into overdrive. It's been amazing to discover that we can serve our community in new ways.

Describe your education?

I graduated from Branford High School and received a BA with a focus on 20th century American history from Stonehill College. I am pursuing a Master's in Information and Library Science at San Jose State University online.

How will you use the award?

Toward paying off my last round of courses! Like any good millennial, I have plenty of student debt from my undergraduate degree, so I've tried not to take any loans for my Master's. I'm currently enrolled in my final two courses: Grant Writing and Program Evaluation.

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

Ideally, here at Blackstone with lots of new skills and increasing responsibilities. I started as a volunteer in the YS department when I was 14, stayed through high school and worked as a Circulation Assistant once I finished college.

Describe your favorite thing about the Blackstone Library.

This library really feels like home to me. It's a beautiful building of course, and I love my coworkers and our patrons are the best around, all that comes together to create a feeling of being where I'm supposed to be.

I was a painfully shy kid and traditional childhood activities--soccer, ballet, camp--were hard for me. I never felt



like I fit in. My mom finally took me to the library to volunteer because I loved books so much. I learned how to be confident here, how to talk to people and express myself in a place where I felt valued.

How has COVID impacted your career plans?

The pandemic has driven home to me, and everyone in the field, just how important libraries are. Covid has 100% shaken out any complacency in librarianship. It has changed the way I think about my career and the kind of impact I can have on the community. The world is changing and libraries are still here providing essential services and important information. Working through a pandemic has taught me the value of creative thinking and flexibility.