

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

Best-Ever Book Sale!

The Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library would like to genuinely thank the local community, our friends, neighbors, book lovers, our volunteers, and the all-important weather gods for making our 2021 Fall Book Sale so successful. After a one-year absence, the Fall Book Sale was back on the Branford Green better than ever. At the conclusion of the 4-day book sale, just under \$60,000 was raised. Even further improvements were made to the tent shopping area providing wider aisles with more room to wander while browsing the over 50,000 books and audio/visual materials. Everything in the sale was better sorted, categorized with enhanced signage to provide even easier shopping. We hope our improved map helped you find what you were looking for quickly. Our volunteers



Pat Mooney, Evelyn Moulton, Theresa Hofmeister

also had fun alphabetizing fiction. We hope that was worth the effort. The sale was only made possible by our team of hard-working volunteers who all year long prepared for the sale, caring for every detail to ensure a pleasurable, seamless, and fun experience for all shoppers. It was wonderful to see the crowds shopping, feeling

the energy and excitement, and hearing the laughter from under the tent under the bright beautiful fall sky. Proceeds from our sale support the James Blackstone Memorial Library and the outstanding job they do providing community enrichment through library programs, access to museum passes, and additional library materials among other items. Donations are already being collected and planning work has started for the Fall of 2022 Book Sale under the tent. Can't wait until next year? Why not volunteer and join in on the fun? Or to share your experiences or thoughts on the book sale, send us an email at friends@blackstonelibrary.org Thank you!!!



SCARECROWS ON THE GREEN

Don't miss the Friends' entry into the Branford Garden Club's (BGC) 11th annual Scarecrows on the Green. As part of our display, we are giving away free books, as long as supplies last. This event coordinated by the BGC raises funds that help beautify Branford, including the flower baskets on the Green, flowers, wreaths and holiday decorations at the library, and the daffodil project.

The scarecrows will be on the green through Halloween.



Leslie Becker, Barbara Barrett, Pam Roy

Barbara Barrett

Lee's Memorial Garden

Lee's Garden is hidden in a small half-circle tucked between a walk leading from Cedar Street to the Library. Dedicated by the Friends of the Library in 2010, the garden is a memorial to Leocadia "Lee" Sullivan, a longtime volunteer.

The garden features specimen trees supplemented with various annual flowers.

Recently, Friends Andy McKirdy, Al Bertoline, Barbara Barrett and Joe Genua joined Library Director Karen Jensen in weeding the garden and planted daffodil bulbs.

During COVID, Barbara, Joe and Karen planted daffodil bulbs.



Andy McKirdy, Al Bertoline, Joe Genua and Barbara Barrett.

This beautiful garden provides a peaceful place on the Library's spectacular grounds. If you would like to volunteer

to keep it looking its best, please contact:

friends@blackstonelibrary.org

Thank you to all who helped make our book sale a success!

Steve Ahern, Susan Barnes, Jeff Barrett, Barbara Barrett, Leslie Becker, Al Bertoline, Dottie Bjork, Michelle Blank, Lucia Bloom, John Bloom, Jane Bouley, Cecilia Bratton, Kent Brown, Janet Bury, Gene Bussman, Ellen Carucci, Jon Clark, Alpha Coiro, Nancy D'Amico, Ann Davis, Frank Drago, Rossellen East, Betty Eckert, Frederick Eckert, Micky Fazzino, Billy Ferraro, Joe Genua, Jon Grande, Laurel Griso, Fran Gwinell, Joan Hall, Paula Harrington, Moira Healy, John Heerdt, Lisa Heerdt, Theresa Hofmeister, Karen Jensen, Barbara Johnson, Cheryl Kaiden, Mary-Rita Killelea, Kris Klarman, Janice Kochanowski, Peggy Krause, Carrie Lankin, Beth Law, Lois Lehr, Hatsie Mahoney, Andy McKirdy, AJ Millici, Linda Millici, Don Mitchell, John Mooney, Pat Mooney, Evelyn Moulton, Della Neal, Laura Noe, Meg Normand, Sara Normand,

continued...

Annual Holiday Basket Sale

Save the Dates!

December 2 — 5—8pm
December 3 — 9am—5pm
December 4 — 9am—12noon

Each year the Friends' Holiday Basket Sale brings a fun shopping experience and a way to raise funds for the library.

We are looking for donations to help make the sale a success — sponsor a basket and create a bucket of fun, a basket of wishes, or an experience to remember!

Suggestions for baskets :

Gifts for Services:

- Cleaning
- Handyman

- Babysitting
- Plowing/Shoveling
- Airport Transportation

Be Creative:

- Local Art
- Birdhouses
- Teacher Gifts
- New Year's Basket
- Kids Craft Basket
- House or Pet Portraits
- 12 Days of Christmas
- 8 Nights of Hanukkah

Food Gifts:

- Chili for Superbowl
- Dinner Delivered
- Tray of Lasagna
- Baked Goods

Please bring your donations to the desk in the new lobby



of the Library no later than **Monday, November 15.**

Questions? Contact Judy Stebbins at 203.507.8107 or rjstebbins2@msn.com, or Callista stoddard at 203.824.2350

Thank you for all of your support for this special project.

Judy Stebbins
& Callista Stoddard

Fall/Winter Programs

Living Life to the Fullest**

November 1 @ 6:30- 7:30 pm

You have one life to live. Take a step out of your comfort zone and live it to the fullest. Nancy Butler helps you to find a new way of thinking and a new way of approaching your senior years.

Drop-in Tech Session

November 4 @ 2 - 4:00 pm

Confused about your new iPhone or iPad? Need help formatting a Word document? Drop in to get your tech questions answered. First come, first served. Sessions will be limited to 15 minutes per person.

Writer's Law School

November 6 @ 2 - 3:00 pm

Learn to navigate the challenging realm of copyright law from attorney and author Jodé Millman. In this work-

shop designed for writers, we'll cover the basics of copyrights, trademarks, and key provisions of publishing contracts so that you'll understand the fine print without having a law degree.

Witness Stones Project**

November 10 @ 6:30- 8:00 pm

Learn how the Witness Stones Project in Guilford is restoring the history and honoring the humanity and contributions of enslaved individuals who helped build our communities through research, education, and civic engagement. Presented by Branford Historical Society.

Civic Journalism

November 21 @ 2 - 3:30 pm

Presented by the Branford Forum, a community organization that brings nationally

renowned figures to the Shoreline.

Best Seller Book Club**

November 27 @ 3:30- 4:30 pm

Have you ever thought about joining a book club? It's a fun way to get connected, make new friends, and read more books! This month we're reading *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller. Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Meet Ainissa Ramirez

Award-Winning author of

The Alchemy of Us

December 11 @ 2 - 3:00 pm

Meet Dr. Ramirez and hear the colorful stories behind society-shaping inventions. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

An Introduction to Opera

December 19 @ 2 - 3:30 pm

Presented by the Branford Forum.

Thank you to all who helped make our book sale a success!

Nancy Orlando, Karen Osborn, Kathy Oxsalida, Jim Parsons, Jean Pogwidz, Mary Ellen Reale, Geri Reider, Joseph Riccio, Arla Rosmarin, Matt Roth, Jeff Rowan, Susan Rowan, Pam Roy, Bill Ryan, Deirdre Santora, Andrea Schieckel, Dave Schurk, John Smith, Lila Starkie, Judy Stebbins, Alex Stein, Jill Thomas, Neil Titcomb, Malaine Trecocke, Terry Twigg, Andy Wagner, Ellen Wagner, January Welks, Curt Wendler, Diane Whalen, Nikki Whang, Ed Williams, Jean Williams, Helen Wong, Sal Zarva

Special Thanks to:

BACA, Branford Building Supply, DC Hall, Gunneson Flooring, James Blackstone Memorial Library, Project More, Students and Staff from the Atlas Program, Tractor Supply, Tyco, Van Wilgen's

In Memoriam—Carol Titcomb

Friend and board member Carol Titcomb passed away September 21, 2021. Carol loved her family, her friends and music. After moving with her family to Branford in 1987, she taught elementary music at the John B. Sliney School and later moved to the Walsh Intermediate School to teach both band and classroom music until her retirement in 2017. She was an active member of the First Congregational Church of Branford, leading the youth handbell choirs and playing in the adult handbell choir. During summers, Carol enjoyed sailing with her husband Neil and family. Over the years



Carol at the 2019 book sale with Geri Reider and Al Bertoline.

they sailed to Cape Cod, further up the coast to Maine and after retirement enjoyed a 7-month long sailing trip to Florida.

Carol was also an active member of the book sale committee and we will miss her dearly.



**Friends of the
James Blackstone Library**
758 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

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John Smith
Callista Stoddard
Helen Wong

Karen Jensen, Library Director
Member Ex-Officio

From the President

Happy Fall everyone!

Hopefully, everybody is smiling after the Book Sale on the Green. What a fantastic event. Not only did we raise significant amounts for the library, but it was such a fun event to attend. The weather was delightful; the selection and organization of the books were superb; the volunteers were helpful and happy to be there; and it seemed the whole town stopped by at some point during the weekend to say hello to their friends, neighbors and even strangers. It was a festive time for our Branford community to once again be under the tent buying books in support of the library. I was

so proud to be there and be part of the Friends.

Another special part of the Book Sale is that we made new Friends, growing our membership by several new members. Adding new friends to our group makes us much more dynamic due to the talents, skills and creativity that always accompany a growth in membership. Welcome to our new members; we are glad you are here; and please give us your comments, volunteer where you can, and help us become the best we can be.

A couple of fun activities are planned for the next few weeks. First is our entry to



“Scarecrows on the Green.” We have created a very frightful character and if you do not scare easily, please check it out.

The second is our holiday basket creation and sale. This is an important fund-raising event for the library and always one of artistic excellence. Please help us make the event a success. Please email us at friends@blackstonelibrary.org if you would like to volunteer, or have comments, ideas, or other input. We welcome your communication and involvement.

Alfred Bertoline, President