

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

Where is the Little Mermaid Now?

Fall Book Sale On the Town Green

Preview for Friends Members
Thursday, 9/30 5pm—7pm

General Sale:

Thursday, 9/30 7pm—9 pm
Friday, 10/1 9am—7pm
Saturday, 10/2 9am—7pm
Sunday, 10/3 12noon—3pm
(Fill a bag on Sunday \$10)



Find us on Facebook for news, updates, pictures, membership renewals, and more!

[facebook.com/JBMLfriends](https://www.facebook.com/JBMLfriends)

Who isn't captivated by legends of mermaids in the open water or even along the shoreline of Branford? Some folks even gravitate to coffee with a mermaid logo!

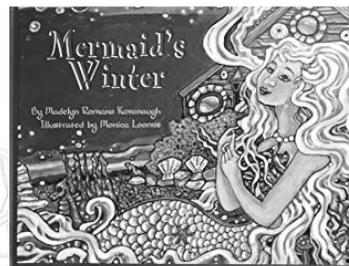
Madelyn Kavanaugh is the author of two children's picture books, *Mermaid Tears* and *Mermaid's Winter*. She resides in the Brockett's Point area of town near the beach that she frequently explored with her three children. She describes the path to the beach as a path to another world. They would collect sea glass and other beach ephemera on hot summer days. Her writings were inspired by Mermaid Island, one of the basalt rock islands with a tower on it off the coast of Branford.



Madelyn's books focus on tales of whimsy and childhood naiveté submerged in fantasy. *Mermaid Tears* takes the reader down a path with an old woman and her dog who meet visiting children. They celebrate the magic of the summer together. *Mermaid's Winter* guides the reader along the same path during a change of seasons to discover a mermaid's house at the bottom of the sea.

The two books are richly embellished with artwork by Monica Loomis, a graphic artist who graduated from the Rhode Island School of Art & Design. Her detailed renderings of sea life and bejeweled creatures enhance Kavanaugh's words and one's imagination.

Kavanaugh donated 300 children's books to the Branford Early Learning Center as well as other preschools in town. She has participated in book readings in various settings in addition to volunteering in Branford's elementary schools. Her books are available for purchase at P S Fine Stationers, Domestic Possessions, and Stony Creek Marketplace. They can also be obtained through the Black-

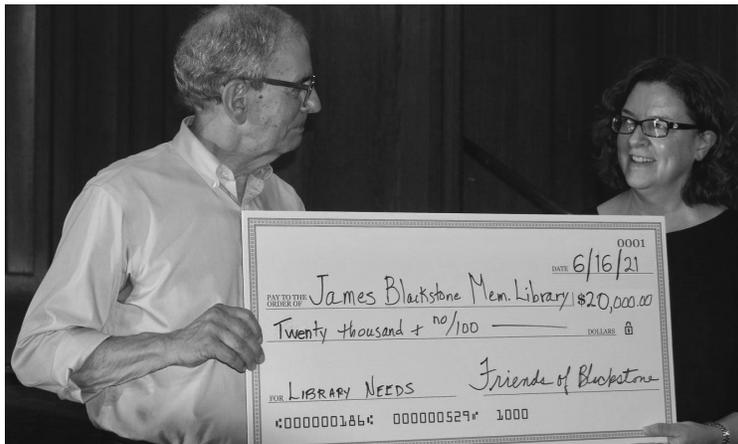


stone Library reservation system for loan.

Madelyn was born in New Haven and graduated from East Haven High School. She had no formal career but was a stay-at-home mom. In her spare time, she enjoys crafts and swimming. She has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild with another on its way. Her pride and joy is Missy, a 4-year-old rescue dog. She wrote *Mermaid Tears* at the age of 87 and is currently 93 years of age. Long live mermaids!

Alpha Coiro
Publicity Chairperson

Annual Meeting June 2021



Annual Meeting June 2021

Those who were able to join the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library for the June 15 annual business meeting followed by a time of fellowship to celebrate our volunteers were delighted to be in the newly renovated Blackstone Library auditorium and the beautiful new Cosgrove terrace.

Members and volunteers in attendance at the annual meeting were updated on the successful year they so generously helped to make happen in which over \$82,000 was contributed to enrich library programs for adults and children in our community.

Board members who were honored by receiving recognition for their multiple years of service were Paula Harrington, Hatsie Mahoney and Gerry Reider.

Due to in-person gathering restrictions last year Terry Twigg, Don Mitchell and LouAnn Carocari were lifted up with gratitude and praise for their long-term service and dedicated responsibilities under past president Helen Wong.

At the reception, attendees, making up some 60 in number, were entertained by Alex Lew, Yale School of Music

2nd year graduate student, playing acoustical guitar featuring Spanish classical and baroque selections.

In keeping with our theme, Everything Apricot, and the Blackstone Library's safe and healthy environment, the Friends' membership committee, made up of Paula Harrington, Callista Stoddard, Mary Hally and Judy Stebbins, chair, elected to serve a mix of Mediterranean and Mid-eastern cuisine in Bento boxes along with an apricot filled celebratory cake and selected apricot spirits. A good time was had by all.

Judy Stebbins
Membership Chair

Thank you to our Spring Sale Volunteers!

Steve Ahern
Barbara Barrett
Jeff Barrett
Leslie Becker
Al Bertoline
Frank Carrano
Ellen Carucci
Jon Clark
Alpha Coiro
Beth Dock
Frank Drago
Micky Fazzino
Joe Genua
Jonathan Grande
Paula Grimm
Laurel Griso
Fran Gwinnell
Moirra Healey
Rita Hennessey
Theresa Hofmeister
Karen Jensen
Barbara Johnson
Peggy Krause
Andy McKirdy
Pat Mooney
John Mooney
Evy Moulton
Linda Murray
Erin O'Brien
Karen Osborn
Jean Pogwizd
Geri Reider
Jeff Rowan
Paul Rowan
Sue Rowan
Pam Roy
Maryetta Russell
John Smith
Andrea Schieckel
Judy Stebbins
Diane Whalen
Helen Wong
Cathy Young

Book Sale Returns to Town Green

The tent sale on the Branford Town Green returns this fall. The Friends of Blackstone Library will be hosting a Fall Book Sale under the tent offering gently used books beginning with special preview hours (5PM to 7PM) for Friends' members on Thursday, September 30th, concluding with our popular "\$10 Fill a Bag" sale on Sunday October 3rd from noon to 3 PM. Masks are strongly recommended.

Our volunteers continue to work very hard to make our sale event even better this year. We have been spending time to better organize our selections for even more pleasant shopping.

Are you a Boston Fan or a

New York fan? Our improved sports categories will help you find your team easily. Are you interested in healthy cooking, grilling, basking? Our cookbook section is further sorted into sub-categories to only help you find the perfect recipes and entertainment ideas for your family and guests. Do you like to crochet? Interested in sheet music? Or are you just curious of what we've put aside in our 'weird and unusual' collection.

Books are priced from \$0.50 to \$3.00 and other pricing on specialty books. Our 'mini-books' are also back by popular demand for you to find just the right bargain to keep and enjoy or to share with a friend.

Enjoy your summer, continue to stay safe, and please mark your calendar for this fall.

Joe Genua
2021 Book Sale Chairperson



Photo by Diane Puchalski



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

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From the President

Board of Directors 2021—2022:

Alfred Bertoline, President
Barbara Barrett, Vice President
Jonathan Grande, Treasurer
Judy Stebbins, Membership Chair
Ellen Carucci, Secretary
Alpha Coiro
Robert DiGioia
Jonathan Clark
Joe Genua
Mary Hally
Andy McKirdy
Pam Roy
John Smith
Callista Stoddard
Carol Titcomb
Helen Wong

Karen Jensen, Library Director
Member Ex-Officio

Happy Summer everyone! It's summertime; and along with the good weather, we usher in the optimism of the start of a new fiscal year for the Friends of the Blackstone Library. Our library is open and thriving as it continues to deliver its incredible services and impact to our Branford community. It is also the library's 125th Anniversary year, and we look forward to helping in any way we can to celebrate this special event.

Much of our optimism comes from our book sale returning to the Branford green in September.

The book sale is not only a grand community event, but

it also provides the funding to help support the various programs and activities at the library. This year's "wish list" requested by the library totaled \$33,600 targeted to the following areas:

Children's & Family Programs and materials: 23%

Adult & Family Programs and materials: 63%

Staff/Professional Development 14%
100%

Producing the Annual Tent Sale on the green is a tremendous, all-volunteer effort. It

is becoming a year-round activity including planning, collection of books, sorting, storing, moving thousands of books from storage to the green, setting up the tent and books for display, staffing the actual sale days, and wrapping it up and vacating the green after it is done. Thank you to those Friends members and volunteers who have helped and are reaching out for new volunteers to help us in the future.

Please consider helping the Blackstone Library thrive for another 125 years. Contact us with inquiries, and thoughts: Friends@blackstonelibrary.org.

*Alfred Bertoline
President*