

# Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

## Bouley is her Name and History is her Fame



### Win Naming Rights In the Renovated Library

For just \$20, you could be the winner to claim naming rights to the library's second floor Rotunda Gallery space. In the remodeled library, the second floor Rotunda Gallery will feature rotating exhibits of local art. With the best view of the murals decorating the dome, this area is one of the most architecturally significant spaces in the library.

Naming rights are a way to honor someone special or give your family a lasting legacy. By purchasing raffle tickets, you support your library and improve your chance to hold the winning ticket.

Tickets are on sale until February 1 at [blackstonelibrary.org](http://blackstonelibrary.org) and at the library Reference Desk.

This issue salutes rooted Branford author and resident, Jane Peterson Bouley of Short Beach.

As a young adult she began to pursue the genealogy of her family, which has roots in Branford and Guilford. Described by some as "a walking encyclopedia of Branford," Jane Peterson Bouley credits her fascination with genealogy and local history to her paternal grandmother: "As a child, my grandmother encouraged my interest in family history. She would take me to the cemetery in Guilford, where I found several stones of my ancestors." From that point she expanded her exploration to include Branford ancestry.

After graduating from Branford High School and Quinnipiac University, Jane worked at the Hospital of St. Raphael for 32 years in the Respiratory Care Department and is now retired. She is the mother of two sons and has three grandsons.

Her research led to the development of databases on various aspects of Branford history, primarily its people, buildings and shoreline communities. Over the years, she has focused her research on primary material and resources with an emphasis on the

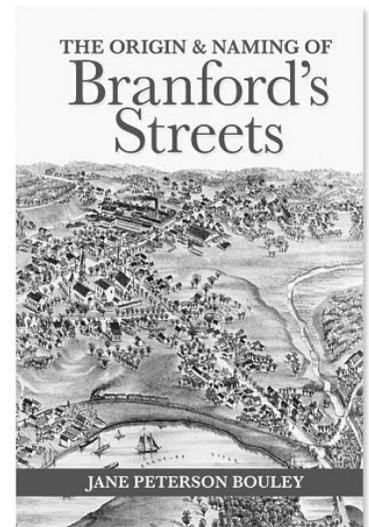
nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In 1985, Jane was appointed as Branford's Town Historian. As such, she has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours to the study of Branford's history including articles, transcriptions, compiling resources, and presenting over 30 different lectures on Branford history.

She is the author of *The Origin & Naming of Branford's Streets*, *The Civil War Soldiers of Branford, Connecticut*, *Mill Plain Cemetery*, *Stony Creek Cemetery*, *The Stony Creek Theatre*, and co-author of *The Supply Pond* and *Damascus Cemetery*. These books can be obtained at the James Blackstone Memorial Library and [janebouley.com](http://janebouley.com).

She has served on and chaired many town committees and is often called upon as a resource for Branford events.

Jane is a recipient of an Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of Historical Societies and was inducted into the Branford Education Hall of Fame in 1999. Jane has been keynote speaker at many events and book signings. The Branford Land Trust recently welcomed Jane for a



special presentation in November on "Changes in the Land," based on her observations from the colonial period to the present.

She is well-known in many circles of Branford and is a household word at the Blackstone Library. She adds that "All should come look at the wonderful resources in history and genealogy at the Blackstone Library. Many surprising discoveries await you."

If you are a published author residing in Branford or know of one who would like to be considered for this column, please contact me through Messenger at <https://www.facebook.com/JBMLfriends/inbox>.

Alpha Coiro

# The Baton is Passed

It has been said that there is a time for all things. This year, following another triumphant book sale on the town green, Matt and Mary Hally, the forces behind the enormous undertaking, have announced their retirement from the Tent Sale. The indefatigable Hallys have devoted super human energy and dedication to the always successful Tent Sale. Their drive, know how, and resources have made the Tent Sale a financial success and community event year after year.

There are no words to adequately praise or thank them, and they are certainly irreplaceable. The Friends will rely on their continued support - they will certainly be missed!

Stepping up to work for continued Tent Sale success is Friends' board member Joe Genua. Welcome Joe! Joe and all of the board members are aware of the impossibly big shoes that must be filled, and we welcome any and all

help. To all of you who have always participated in the tent sale, we look for your continued support. For all of you who would like to become involved, now is the time. Please know that your input and assistance are most welcome. Organizational meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at 4:30 at the Volunteer Services Center.

Our profound Thanks and Best Wishes to the Hallys, and welcome to Joe Genua!

*Hatsie Mahoney*



## Renovation Update

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 6th to officially kick off the project. Over the next few weeks, equipment will begin to arrive in our parking lot and the Youth Services Department will move into the auditorium.

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



*Photos of the 2018 Book Sale by Diane Puchalski*

# The Friends Have Been Busy

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, The Friends have accomplished a great deal in the past few months. The board and many, many volunteers have given tirelessly of themselves.

Our online book sales continue to grow and become ever more profitable. Spearheaded by Barb Barrett and Joe Genua, assisted by Pam Roy, books which would not be included in the tent sale are sold online for a distinct profit. Text books, for example, were previously not accepted at our drop off boxes, but are now welcomed for lucrative online sales. Barb, Joe, and Pam have worked tirelessly on this project, which requires 24/7 attention. Continued expansion will require more help. Please consider becoming a member of the online sales crew!

Our On the Green book sale, known as the Tent Sale, led by the indefatigable Matt and Mary Hally, was again a tremendous success. Despite inclement weather, herculean effort from the Hallys, board members, and countless volunteers moved and staged over 70,000 volumes and manned the sale for a profit of over \$55,000 dollars. Neither torrential rain nor mud could dampen the efforts of all those who helped! The Thank You list is nearly endless, and for fear of omitting a most deserving individual or organization I will refrain from specific names, but rest assured an undertaking of such scope could not be possible without

the help of many. Thanks to everyone who donates volumes at our drop off points. Thanks to the transporters of those books and the sorters who work every day throughout the year to prepare for the tent sale. Thanks to all who procure and set up the tents and tables and books to make the sale physically possible. Thanks to the sellers, the buyers, the supporters of the incredible Tent Sale. You all know the scope of the undertaking - imagine how many dedicated individuals, businesses, and organizations it takes to make it all possible!

The Friends continued their community outreach by participating in the Halloween Light the Night. Decorated and costumed in Halloween themed attire, accompanied by spooky music and sound effects, three board witches, (members) Alpha Coiro, Paula Harrington, and Hatsie Mahoney set up in front of the library at dusk to dispense treats to children of all ages. It was a rewarding experience and supported the library's role as an iconic center of the community. The little ones' eyes were round with awe at the sight of our magnificent building lighted against the backdrop of the night sky. The three benevolent witches had just as much fun as the trick or treaters!

The most recent Friends' activity was the annual Holiday Basket Sale, another rousing success. Pam Roy and Barb Barrett, the forces behind the



*Barbara Barrett & Pam Roy*

sale, report a record breaking year with over 70 beautiful and alluring baskets to tempt the buyers, raising over \$2,000 dollars. Many, many thanks to all who donated items and baskets, to all who assembled baskets on the glittery, ribbon strewn balcony workshop, to all who sold, and to all who shopped. The festive Holiday Basket sale, timed in conjunction with the town wide Sip and Shop, was not only a profitable fund raiser but also another example of the Friends outreach to the Branford community.

The Friends have been busy, indeed. Fund raising, supporting our magnificent library, bringing people together...there isn't much we can't or won't do! Please join us in our efforts; there are countless ways you can help. Never underestimate what you can contribute! Time, imagination, a useful skillset, please give of yourself to support the efforts of The Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library.

*Hatsie Mahoney*



*Alpha Coiro and Paula Harrington*





**Friends of the James Blackstone  
Memorial Library**

758 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 117

*Return Service Requested*

## In Remembrance

### Board of Directors 2018-2019:

Mary Hally, President  
Al Bertoline, Vice President  
Callista Stoddard, Treasurer  
Paula Harrington,  
Assistant Treasurer  
& Membership Chair  
Don Mitchell, Secretary  
Barbara Barrett & Joe Genua  
Alpha Coiro  
Jonathan Clark  
Matt Hally  
Hatsie Mahoney  
Pam Roy  
John Smith  
Terry Twigg  
Helen Wong

Karen Jensen, Library Director  
Member Ex-Officio

The skies over Branford lost one of its shining stars with the passing of Betsy Klarman. Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Quinn Klarman died Tuesday October 23, 2018 at Connecticut Hospice. Beloved wife of 57 years to the late Stuart T. Klarman, Betsy was born May 9, 1937, in New Haven, a daughter of the late John C. and Elizabeth "Betty" Sykes Quinn. A lifelong resident of Branford, she was a graduate of Branford High School, Class of 1955 and the University of Connecticut, Class of 1959. She taught English at Branford High School.

She is survived by her brother, sister, and five children. After raising her family, Betsy co-founded the Branford Soup Cellar, which began serving one hot meal a week

to those in need in 1985. In 2000 the Branford Soup Cellar evolved into the Branford Community Dining Room, which now serves hot meals to the hungry 365 days a year. In addition, Betsy instituted the Home Delivery Program which delivers meals to the homebound.

Betsy was an active member and past president of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library. Part of her legacy to her daughters, Callista and Kristine, is her commitment to the value of the library. She was a familiar face at the annual book sale on the green setting up books and selling food, as now are her daughters serving in various capacities.

Betsy was a productive and



animated contributor to many library functions. During the past year or so she attended the Trivia Night fundraiser for the library at Pompeo's Restaurant. Her team, named the "Parrish Farmers," won the competition. I can still recall her big grin, smiling from ear to ear, as she accepted her award with pride. And that's how I'll remember Betsy Klarman with that infectious smile.

*Alpha Coiro*