Are You Ready for the Holiday Basket Sale?

Last year’s basket sale was a huge success, raising over $1,000 for our library. We are very excited to hold the sale again this year, with a different twist. We’re participating in the Branford Town Center Merchant’s Sip & Shop on Wednesday, December 6 from 5—8pm! Come to the library auditorium and enjoy prosecco and sweets, while you shop the best selection of holiday baskets put together by Friends members. You can then continue your holiday shopping along Main Street where participating merchants will offer more refreshments and special deals.

Any baskets not sold on Wednesday evening will be on sale in the library throughout December 7—10.

We need your help to make this happen! We are looking for Friends to work as cashiers on Wednesday evening, and throughout the rest of the sale in 2-3 hour shifts.

We are also looking for donations of baskets of various sizes and shapes—you can drop them off at the library at anytime before December 1.

Many items will be needed to fill the baskets; use your imagination and creativity, or use these suggestions...think theme!

For example:

- Holiday Baskets: Chanukah, Christmas, and New Year’s
- Food Baskets - NON perishable items only! Consider tools, serving pieces, or table linens.
- Oils and Vinegars
- Pastas and Sauces
- Soup, Stew, Chili
- Baking Supplies and Implements
- Gourmet Spices
- Jams, Jellies, Preserves
- Chocolates, Candies
- Beverage Baskets: wine, cocktails, champagne, teas, coffees, cocoa, and glasses, mugs, napkins
- Gluten-Free & Vegetarian
- Kitchen Supplies
- Table Top
- Décor, Candles, Ornaments
- Kits\DIY\Crafts
- Toiletries, Spa Items
- Children’s Items: Toys, Puzzles, Art Supplies, Winter Gear\Clothing
- Bird Fancier Baskets
- Entertainment Items: Music, Films
- Gardeners’ Supplies

The list goes on and on! Please bring your items to the circulation desk at the library, labeled with your name and approximate value. With your participation, this project will be a success!

To volunteer, contact:

Pam Roy at 203-488-9569 or: proy817@aol.com

Hatsie Mahoney
203-481-4100 hatsiemahoney@yahoo.com

Or friends@blackstonelibrary.org
Book Sale 2017: Thank You!

Continuing the upward trend, this year’s book sale grossed the highest ever, bringing in over $60,000 for the library. We can look forward to another year of funding lectures, concerts, museum passes, children’s programs, and so many other ‘wish list extras,’ and we couldn’t have done it without you.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU
To Jon Clark’s “sherpas,” the sorters and couriers who work all year long to make sure our sale is recognized as one of the best sources for high quality used books.

THANK YOU
Ralph Paolella from Cherry Hill Glass and everyone at Branford Building Supply as they pulled us out of the jam on Saturday.

THANK YOU
To the extraordinary Children’s Section team.

THANK YOU
To the many Branford High School students, especially the Horizons Program, who unpacked, set up, worked the sale, and helped with breakdown. Special thanks to their teachers, too—Donna Roy, Stephanie Natalino, Maura Sullivan, Sal Zarro, Vicky Climie, Rich Biondi, Wendy Nylen, Michael Griffin, Kevin Connell & Gary Gravina.

THANK YOU
To Wendy Cowles and the Branford Food Pantry for use of the conveyor belt.

THANK YOU
To the Branford Police Department, for escorting the trailer to the site and escorting the forklift from Branford Building Supply to and from the site.

And as always,

THANK YOU
To all the Friends who volunteered their time and energy to bring the sale to life. Words aren’t enough to express our appreciation for your hard work.

We are so fortunate to live in such a generous community.

Trivia Night

The Friends held their first ever Trivia Night on Thursday, June 8th at Pompeo’s Restaurant on the Branford hill.

The Trivia Night consisted of 5 rounds of questions in various categories designed to make people think, invite them to eat and drink, and enjoy a good night out with friends and family. Rounds were 10 questions each.

The inaugural event was a delightful 2 hours of fun where participants were able to show off their knowledge. It was so popular, we hope to organize another trivia night soon!

The First Place winners of the Trivia Contest Night were THE PARRISH FARMERS: Karen Seligson, Alex Seligson, Alpha Coiro, Betsy Klarman, Terry Twigg, Dr. Ray Seligson
Program Highlights Winter 2017

Programs with an ** require registration. Call us at 203.488.1441 ext 318, or visit our website: www.blackstonelibrary.org

Hatha Yoga
Mondays @ 5:15 - 6:30 pm
Yoga teacher Helen Lespier leads an ongoing hatha yoga class every Monday evening. Free and open to all ages.

Vegan for the Holidays
November 11 @ 2pm
Be the life of the party with these delectable gourmet vegan treats that make entertaining easy. Chef Mary Lawrence, owner of Well on Wheels, will prepare appetizers that pop with color, sizzle with spices, and taste as good as they look. Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Uncover Branford**
November 11 @ 10:30 am
Get up, get out and uncover Branford! We’re bringing you and your neighbors together to share your favorite Branford places and stories. Then, plan a group outing to a special spot! As you go out into the community to explore and uncover new places, you’ll make new friends, have lots of fun, and discover the hidden gems of Branford.

Annual Loeb Lecture:
Protecting Plum Island**
November 19 @ 2:00 pm
Chris Cryder, Special Projects Coordinator for Save the Sound, will speak and show new imagery of Plum Island. Chris has been working for Save the Sound for the past 9 years and is currently the outreach coordinator for the Preserve Plum Island Coalition. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Connecticut Rock ’n’ Roll w/ Author Tony Renzoni**
December 2 @ 2:00 pm
Branford author Tony Renzoni will be here to discuss his new book Connecticut Rock ’n’ Roll.

Music Makers Holiday Concert
December 10 @ 2 - 3:15 pm
Join the Music Makers for a celebration of the holiday season with a short sing-a-long to follow! Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

For a full program listing, visit our website at www.blackstonelibrary.org

Renovation Update

The Blackstone Library presented an update on the plans and funding of the renovation project to the Branford RTM on September 13. Since the RTM approved funding for the design development phase of the project, the library worked with Silver Petruccelli and Associates to complete that phase. The design received preliminary approval from the Town Center Revitalization and Review Board in March. Downes Construction has worked with the architect and library to prepare a detailed estimate of $4,942,826 for the project, based on a start date in Spring of 2018. In addition, a necessary upgrade for the library elevator and the previously approved roof repair will be included in the project.

The Capital Campaign Committee has raised over $600,000 in pledges and commitments from nearly 500 community members, the Branford Community Foundation and Friends of the Blackstone Library. We anticipate reaching our goal of $800,000 prior to beginning construction. Combined with the State of CT grant of $1,000,000, the library’s contribution represents 35% of the total cost of the project.

The library hopes to request approval for project funding from the Town in early 2018. We are deeply grateful for the Friends donation of $25,000, as well as financial support from individual members.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Winners

The first place winner was “If You Give a Pig a Pancake” created by students in the Special Ed Life Skills Class at Branford High School. Chelsea Quagliano, Masha Mastnonni and Max Puong treated their class to sweets with a gift certificate provided by Sweets on Main. All of the entries were very creative! A huge thank you all entrants.
Friends in the News

Callista Stoddard was interviewed by Pam Johnson for The Sound’s Person of the Week column on September 21.

“Being involved in Branford has been a way of life for Callista and her siblings, following the footsteps of their mom, Betsy Klarman.”

“Giving back to the community, in all honesty, it’s like a family tradition. My mother was one of the founders of the Community Dining Room, and created the home delivery program through the dining room to get meals to people, because she saw that need.”

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Callista is the office administrator for the non-profit adult day care center, Orchard House, in Short Beach. Callista joined the Friends executive board as Treasurer in 2010.

“To me, community is everything. That’s what I love about Branford. I’ve worked on fundraising committees for people in need, and the way people in this town respond is amazing; they’re inspirational. People really step up in the town of Branford.”

“Part of the Friends mission statement is to support and promote the use of the library. If there is something they need, if it’s within our power to accomplish it, we do. It’s a great collaboration.”

The Friends help the library to be “more than a library just lending books. These days it’s a resource center. I’m so impressed with all the programs they run.”

Thank you, Callista!!