

# Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

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## ***CaddyStacks at Blackstone Thanksgiving Weekend November 24—27***

The Blackstone Library Board of Trustees presents the second annual CaddyStacks.

The event will take place on Friday and Saturday from 10am-4pm, and Sunday from 1pm-4pm, where the library will be transformed into an 18-hole mini golf course for the enjoyment of the community (and will still be open for regular business!).

In addition to daytime play, on Saturday evening there will be a special adults-only event, **The 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Party**, which includes the opportunity to play the entire 18-hole course, enjoy wide, beer and appetizers, and a silent auction/prize drawing.

Tickets on sale at the library or on our website.

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## Introducing our New President

Although a native New Yorker, I have lived and worked in Branford for most of my life and am proud to call it home. Recently retired from a 42 year teaching career and from working in a book store, I sought a focus for my energies. A confirmed bibliophile with a long rela-

tionship to the Blackstone Library, what better choice than The Friends? I am excited and honored to be the president of The Friends and am dedicated to doing all I can to support our library's role as a key asset to our community and to facilitate moving ahead into the future.

I ask and depend on your help to achieve all we can in order to support our wonderful library, the James Blackstone Memorial Library.

Yours in partnership,

Hatsie Mahoney

## Book Sale October 13—16

**Mark your calendars: this year's sale will be a few weeks later than in past years.** Preview Night is Thursday, October 13, so be sure to send in your dues by October 7 in order to make sure you're on the Members' list. We will (reluctantly) accept payment at the door, but that evening is always very hectic so please have pity and pay in advance! Thank you!

Sale dates are as follows:

Friday, 10/14: 9am—8pm  
Saturday, 10/15: 9am—8pm  
Sunday, 10/16: 12noon—5pm

Sunday is the immensely popular Bag Day: for \$10 you'll receive a generously-sized bag (2 bags after 3pm) and as many books as you can fit inside it.

Café Blackstone will return, selling hot dogs, coffee and those delightfully decadent

brownies and cakes.

**Got Books?** Drop off your donations at the library today, so they can be sorted and included in the sale.

**Want to help?** The Book Sale is our biggest fundraiser, and as everyone who has ever participated knows, working at the sale is probably the most fun you can (legally) have on the Green.

**A. Set-Up on Wednesday, October 12:** Books will need to be unpacked and arranged on the tables. With more than 70,000 volumes, the more volunteers we have, the better!

**B. Working the Sale Days:** Staff the checkout tables in 3-hour shifts. We also need 'floaters' in the tent to help folks find what they're looking for and tidy up the tables.

**C. Breakdown & Clean Up.** The sale ends at 5pm Sunday, but the work doesn't. Consolidate the leftover books and cover them for the night. On Monday, the books are crated up for transfer.

Please sign up online by 10/7 at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com). Click on "Find a Sign Up" and type [jbmlfriends@gmail.com](mailto:jbmlfriends@gmail.com).

For those who miss the cutoff date for online sign-up, or just don't want to use the online option, contact Hatsie Mahoney by phone or email: [jbmlfriends@gmail.com](mailto:jbmlfriends@gmail.com). We'll be calling volunteers—but don't wait to be called.

We're planning training sessions for new volunteers and veterans alike, so don't hesitate to sign up—you'll know what you're doing!

# Volunteer Opportunities: Your Chance to Contribute

If you've been a member of the Friends for a while, but haven't gotten involved, now is the time to do more. We need volunteers in all of the following areas:

**Book Sale**—This is more like a big party than working! You can help with set up; check-out; Cafe Blackstone; floating (directing folks to the right category; tidying messy tables; helping carry purchases); and takedown.

You can sign up online at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com). Click on "Find a Sign Up" and type [jbmlfriends@gmail.com](mailto:jbmlfriends@gmail.com). Then choose the job and time that work best for you. (You can also drop us a note at [jbmlfriends@gmail.com](mailto:jbmlfriends@gmail.com), or leave a note at the Library.

**Fundraising Committee**— While the book sale contin-

ues to be a huge success, we are looking for members to help us plan future events to raise additional funds and awareness for our library. All those interested in taking an active part in future Blackstone friends of the Library fundraisers please contact Alpha Coiro, Friends Vice President, at 203.503.1829 or [alphabetty1@att.net](mailto:alphabetty1@att.net). We are in search of innovative people and those that are able to execute ideas to lend a hand. No experience required.

**Donate a Christmas basket**— We want this year's sale to out-earn past years' sales, and to do that, we need lots of inventory. Dream up a theme basket, or donate individual items and let our crew combine them. If you're creative, volunteer to be part of the crew! We'll also need people to staff the

sale. Dates and details haven't been set yet, but start thinking about your donation now, and watch for further information.

## **Online Book Sale**

**Committee**— Many Friends groups are raising substantial amounts through online sales. By selling online, we can reach markets for books that typically go unsold at the Book Sale—for example, textbooks. We'd like to tap those markets, but need some extra hands. You don't need to make a full-time commitment; whatever time you can spare will be welcome.

To sign up, please email us at [jbmlfriends@gmail.com](mailto:jbmlfriends@gmail.com) or leave a note at the library. Please be sure to include your contact information. Thank you!

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## **Generous Donation Supports Yoga Program**

Our thanks to John Riley and Sallie T. Gouverneur, who generously donated \$1000 each to the Friends. Their gift will allow us to continue to offer the very popular Hatha Yoga program that meets every Monday evening from 5:15-6:15 pm in the auditorium. All are welcome to this free program.

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## Your Support Makes a Better Library

At our Annual Meeting in June, we presented to the Library a check in the amount of \$5,000 in memory of Fred Biamonte, a long time Board Member who left a lasting legacy of excellence in the Arts series, which he managed from its inception.

Throughout the year, the Friends also funded many other programs, pieces of equipment, and additions to the collection. Items of note include a new 3D scanner to complement the equipment in our mobile Maker Lab.

In addition to special equipment, funds raised by the Friends support the children's summer reading program, including special events like the Jon Cap Magic and Balloon Show, MAD SCIENCE Body Basics, Waterworks by the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, and more.

Friends supplement our materials budget, allowing us to enhance our fiction, non-fiction and children's collections and purchase multiple copies of best selling books for our book club sets.

The Friends also continue to fund over 20 museum passes which provide discounted or free admission to local museums.

Friends generously support professional development for our library staff. With your support, staff have attended the annual CT Library Association conference, New England Library Association conference, and many workshops and webinars sponsored by the State Library.

Thank you Friends!

# Program Highlights Fall 2016

*Programs with an \* require registration. Please register by calling 203.488.1441 ext 318, or through the website: [www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org)*

## **Bestseller Book Club\***

*Saturdays @ 3—4 pm*  
September 24: *Patient H.M.* by Luke Dittrich; October 29: *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead; November 26: *Today Will Be Different* by Maria Semple. Books available at the library.

## **Washboard Slim and the Bluelights**

*September 25 @ 2 PM*  
The music the Bluelights perform is at the very root of traditional American popular music. A typical Bluelights performance might include original music, early jazz, blues, swing, standards, jug band, gospel, pop music from the turn of the century, and roots rock 'n' roll. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

## **The Art of Edgar Degas**

*October 16 @ 2 PM*  
This event will be held in memory of Blackstone Library Friend, Fred Biamonte. Joy Pepe is professor emerita of the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts and is currently teaching Art History at Central Connecticut State University and a Museum and Exhibition Practices course at the University of Hartford. Joy will speak about the art of Edgar Degas. Degas was a French artist famous for his paintings, sculptures, prints, and drawings. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

## **A Supernatural Evening with Trance Medium Chrystyne McGrath\***

*October 25 @ 6:30—7:30 PM*  
Ever wonder about the difference between ghosts and spirits? Hear about Chrystyne's experiences with ghosts, spirits, clearings of homes and businesses around Connecticut. Bring your photos, objects and questions to this fun event!

## **Surfin' USA: Blue Meanies Celebrate the Beach Boys**

*November 13 @ 2 PM*  
The Blue Meanies is one of the most popular tribute bands on the East Coast. The New York/New Jersey-based band has been performing together since 1984 and are renowned for energetic and fun shows. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

## **Branford High Music Makers**

*December 11 @ 2 PM*  
Holiday Concert. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

## **The Purple Heart Battalion: The Story of the Japanese American Nisei and Their Fight for Citizenship**

*November 15 @ 6:30 PM*  
The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was all Nisei (second generation Japanese Americans), distinguishing themselves in fierce combat in World War II. Presented by Col. (ret) Richard Young, Connecticut Army National Guard. Refreshments will be served.

## **Cake Decorating 101\***

*November 19 @ 2—4 PM*  
Learn to decorate beautiful cakes just in time for the holidays with certified cake decorator Janet Holland! She'll show you the Wilton method of cake decorating, basic buttercream icing and piping techniques, tinting icing, using a decorating bag, and more. Limited space.

## **TECH CLASSES**

### **Intro to 3D Printing\***

*September 20 @ 6—8 PM or October 8 @ 2—4 PM*  
Learn the basics of 3D modeling and create your own 3D files for printing with instructor Jim Davis. For all ages.

### **Intermediate 3D Printing\***

*September 27 @ 6—8 PM or October 18 @ 6—8 PM*  
Instructor Jim Davis will walk you through more advanced concepts of 3D modeling to design and 3D print your very own creations. For all ages.

### **Computer & Email Basics\***

*October 6 @ 2—3:30 PM*  
This class introduces first-time computer users to common computer terms and features. Attendees will also get the opportunity to create an email account with Google. Feel free to bring your own laptop or use one of ours. No prior experience with computers is necessary.

### **Intro to Arduino\***

*October 11 @ 6—8 PM*  
Learn how to use a computer microchip to control simple electrical elements, like LEDs, buzzers, motors, and more.

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## **Annual John Loeb**

### **Lecture\*:**

#### **Teddy Roosevelt—Mind, Body and Spirit**

*September 18 @ 2 PM*  
Actor and author Ted Zalewski brings one of America's greatest presidents to life. Combining history, drama and fun, Mr. Zalewski gives voice to many of Roosevelt's own words, writings, and beliefs. Cowboy, soldier, naturalist, historian, father, statesman and winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, Theodore Roosevelt lived a life that inspires us still. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the John Loeb Lecture Fund.*

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**For a full program listing, visit our website at [www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org)**



**Friends of the James Blackstone  
Memorial Library**  
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Branford, CT 06405

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## Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I hope this change of season finds you refreshed and exhilarated. After years of teaching school, I always view autumn as a new beginning, and I'm excited by the prospect of the many opportunities we will have to support the JBML. I hope you will join me!

This will be a very important time for The Friends because there is much to be done. In addition to the many benefits The Friends make possible, it is a critical time for fundraising to aid the coming renovation. Your creativity, energy, and dedication are fundamental in helping the JBML maintain its position as an

essential asset to our community. Your participation is more crucial than ever.

First, remember to renew your membership in The Friends, and please encourage others to aid in our support. Please donate your books, and then your time, to make this year's book sale, October 13 – 17, the most successful ever. Enlist the aid of family and friends for the set up on the green October 12<sup>th</sup>; as my father always said, "Many hands make work light!"

As you will read in this issue, there are many opportunities for you to participate in Friends' undertakings. Your creativity and ingenuity will

be invaluable in generating new ideas for activities and fundraising opportunities. For example, please turn your talents and connections to the Holiday Basket initiative.

The success of The Friends in supporting JBML depends on you, its members. There are so many rewarding opportunities for you to participate! I anticipate a very active and fulfilling year for us all. I'm looking forward to working with you; together, we can accomplish the goal of ensuring the continued pivotal role of the JBML to this community.

*—Hatsie Mahoney*