

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

Letter from the President

Our Downton Abbey high tea in January was sold out, with over 120 people attending. Kandie Carle was outstanding, even circulating among the guests and helping with our basket raffle. With ticket sales, and proceeds from the basket raffle, the event raised \$2,103 for library programs and materials. Thanks to all who contributed to our success.

We are also sincerely grateful for memorial donations we have received in the past few months in memory of Mary Donadio and Dorothy Blackstone.

Thank you also to Terence Elton and Betsy McMahon for



their generous year-end contribution to the Friends.

Pictured: Frazier Bronson, Jessica Strassburg, Helen Wong, Karen Jensen, Molly Klarman

—Helen Wong

Coming This Summer...

Roll Up Your Sleeves at the Branford Festival

Once again, the Friends will be staffing the Italian Ice booth at the Branford Festival. This year's event will take place on June 19, 20 and 21. It's a fun way to catch up with friends while supporting Library programs. To sign up, send us a note at jbmlfriends@gmail.com.

We'll also have a sign-up sheet at the Annual Meeting.

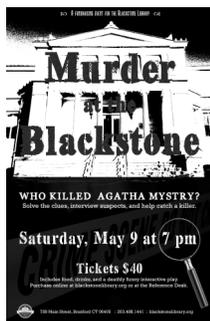
Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library will be held on Tuesday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. Please join us as we briefly review the year, elect new board members, and mark the occasion with a gift to the library. Enjoy drinks and finger foods while you share your ideas with the board on how to make the Friends an even bigger and better supporter of our wonderful library, and maybe find

a niche for your own unique talents. New Friends and new board members are always welcome!

Fairy Gardens by the Branford Garden Club

From June 5—13, the library grounds will be transformed into a magical fairy land. Members of the garden club will present their own unique designs for our tiny friends. There is no charge to view the exhibit.



Murder at Blackstone

The Blackstone Board of Trustees is hosting a deadly fun event on Saturday, May 9 from 7—10pm.

Solve the clues, interview suspects, and help catch a killer!

Tickets are \$40 and include food, drinks and a deathly funny interactive play.

Tickets are available now online at blackstonelibrary.org, and in the library.

Watch for your membership renewal envelopes, coming to your mailbox in May. Remember, members get first pick of our fabulous Book Sale inventory!

James Blackstone Visits Downton Abbey

As Helen noted in her President's Letter, the Downton Abbey Tea Party was a great success. It netted \$2,103, all of which will go right back into library programs. Equally important, the sell-out crowd of 120 thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and many asked if it would become an annual event.

THANK YOU to Karen Jensen and the library staff for the design and printing of the flyers and tickets, and for your help in selling tickets.

THANK YOU to Bill and Laurie Van Wilgen and the Van Wilgen Garden Center for the generous loan of decorative potted plants. AND Judy

Stebbins for all her work in decorating the Library.

THANK YOU to all the Friends who lent teacups, serving plates, tablecloths and silver, and worked so hard to make this a success:

Cecilia Bratten, Therese Bratten, Linda Breslin, Frazier Bronson, Lisa Cabral, LouAnn Carocari, Alpha Coiro, Susan Craig, Stephanie Evans-Ariker, Phyllis Fitzpatrick, Carol Hanby, Lee Heckendors, Tim Holick, Pam Johnson, Kris Klarman, Eunice Lasala, Cecilia Poskus, Katherine Prishwalko, Gerri Reider, Sue Rowan, Donna Roy, Juliana Roy, Pam Roy, Al Russell,

Cathy Russo, Judy Stebbins, Callista Stoddard, Keith and Kathy Suhoza, Helen Wong. THANK YOU to everyone who contributed items for the Basket Sale:

Barbara Barrett, Patricia Broughal, Judith Burke, LouAnn Carocari, Frances Calzetta, Jan Day, Linda DeLaurentis, Phyllis Fitzpatrick, Alberta Gambardella, Bernadette Garino, Paula Grimm, Paula Harrington, Karen Jensen, Mary McCarthy, Andy McKirdy, Lorie Nicholas, Addie Raucci, Laura Richling, Pam Roy, Lis Smith, Jean Sunny, Helen Wong.

Your annual Friends membership for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 is due soon. Watch for membership renewal envelopes, coming to your mailbox in May. Remember, members get first pick of our fabulous Book Sale inventory in September!



Board of Directors: New Members Needed

Some members of our Board of Directors have resigned, some have asked to be relieved of jobs they've performed conscientiously for several years, and some have

accepted different responsibilities, leaving their old positions unfilled. If you're interested in becoming more involved, please contact any board member, come to any

board meeting (first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 at the library) or talk to us at the Annual Meeting. Whatever your skills, there is a place for you among the Friends.

Program Highlights Spring 2015

The Music of the Beach Boys

Sunday, April 19 @ 2—3 PM
The Beach Meanies are one of the most popular and versatile tribute bands on the East Coast. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Be an Ingredient Detective

Tuesday, April 21 @ 6—7 PM
Unlock the mystery of ingredients known as fragrance, PEGs, GMOs, SLS, DMDM, CEA, DEA, and phthalates. Learn how to choose the safest sunscreen, cleaning products, and cosmetics. With Mary Cavaliere, Wellness & Green Living Coach.

Writing Mystery Novels

Saturday, April 25 10:30 AM
Join Michael Draper for a discussion of writing mysteries and his latest novel *Three Strikes and You're Dead*.

Michael will talk about his research process, and as a cancer survivor, the therapeutic value of writing.

Shakespeare and Star Trek

Tuesday, April 28 @ 7—8 PM
Explore Shakespeare's cosmic connections in this lively and entertaining talk. Presented by Rob Nelson, Asst. Professor of Developmental English at Housatonic CC.

Healing With Poetry & Prose

May 2, 9, 16, 23 @ 10 AM
Amy J. Barry, leads this workshop in writing poetry and short prose followed by discussion about what we read and write, to facilitate healing through loss or transition. Writing experience is not required. Registration a must.

Music in the Movies

Sunday, May 10 @ 2—3 PM
Nicole Biamonte, Associate Professor of Music Theory at McGill University, looks at the ways music is used in film soundtracks. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Saturday Cinema

Saturday, May 23 @ 1—3 PM
We'll be showing the hot new releases you've been dying to get your hands on.

Book to Art Club

Saturday, May 30 @ 3:00 PM
We'll discuss *Dead Wake* by Erik Larsen and work on a related project. Books are available at the library; art materials provided. Or, bring your own project inspired by the book. Registration a must.

Annual John Loeb Lecture—For the Sake of the Country: Female Civil War Spies

Tuesday, June 30th 7 PM

Learn about four extraordinary Union and Confederate spies who risked all for the sake of their country.

Presented by Matthew Bartlett, a 2013 graduate of American Military University with a Master's in Military History with a specialization in the American Civil War. A historian and lecturer, Matthew and his wife belong to the 14th CT CVI, Company F.

John Loeb was an active member of the Friends for many years, until his death in 2014. In honor of his work for the library and in celebration of his 90th birthday, in 2009, his friends donated a sum of money to the library. The proceeds of this gift have funded the Loeb Lecture every year since then. Each lecture is a warm and personal remembrance of our friend.

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

Trustees Plan Library Renovation

The Library's current strategic plan states our goal that "the Library will be a warm and welcoming place which offers a variety of spaces for learning, reading and gathering."

To that end, the plan identified a strategy to evolve the physical space which includes the following:

- Undertake an architectural review to determine methods to reconfigure and redesign current spaces within the library to best meet community needs.
- Develop a facilities plan that includes strategies for

general improvement, building restoration (where needed), and reconfiguration efforts.

Included among the community needs to be better met are:

- A better location of the children's area—all in one room
- The amount of space for the children's area
- Expanded meeting room space
- A café
- Expanded internet access areas

- Program areas just for young adults

The architectural review was conducted in mid-2013 by the architectural firm of Arbonies King Vlock, PC., in extensive consultation with trustees, staff and stakeholders of the library. The resulting plan calls for extensive renovation and a modest modification to the rear of the building to provide an enhanced entryway while continuing to preserve the architectural integrity of the library.

More information is available on the library's website.



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

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Book Donations Chair
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Karen Jensen, Library Director
Member Ex-Officio

Peter Borgemeister 1920—2014

Peter Borgemeister, an active Friend of the library, passed away last March, 2014. Among his many accomplishments was his leadership in woodland and wetlands conservation and his work in helping to found the Branford Land Trust, which acquired several large parcels of land, including Beacon Hill. He was a lifelong birdwatcher, hiker and had the longest active membership in the New Haven Bird Club—49 years. Peter was also a very active volunteer on the Friends' book sale committee.

We recently learned that Peter left \$17,000 to the James Blackstone Memorial Library in his will. His gift will be set aside for future building enhancements. His

daughter, Alison Walck, visited in December to donate a painting by Julie Zickefoose, which is currently hanging in our reference room. She also brought a book by the artist, who is also a well-known naturalist, *Letters from Eden: A year at home, in the woods*. We are very appreciative of the gift from this man who was dedicated to the stewardship of public places.

If you have made a donation to the library in your will, or if you are interested in doing so, we would like to know—please contact Karen Jensen, library director, at 203.488.1441, ext 312 or kjensen@blackstonelibrary.org



Alison Walck and Karen Jensen