

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library



Spotlight on Branford Author *Payne Proposes Pathos & Prophecy*



Jen Payne

Sensitivity to the environment and responsibility to the earth continue in Branford as exhibited by author, Jen Payne. She has been motivated by those life moments that move us most — love and loss, joy and disappointment, milestones and turning points. The skill of her authorship has been reflected in her poetry, creative non-fiction, flash fiction, and essay. Jen has pursued human relationships with nature and creativity, and how these offer the clearest path to finding balance in our often chaotic world.

Her talent lies not only in her writing which is usually accompanied by her own photography and artwork. As both a graphic designer and writer, Jen believes that partnering visuals and words

stratify the intentions of her work and makes the communication more palpable.

Under the aegis of Three Chairs Publishing, Jen has published four books: LOOK UP! Musings on the Nature of Mindfulness, Evidence of Flossing: What We Leave Behind, FLOSSING, and the poetry chapbook Waiting Out the Storm. Her latest book, Water Under the Bridge: A Sort-of Love Story, is due out this spring. All of these except for Water under the Bridge are in the stacks at the Blackstone.

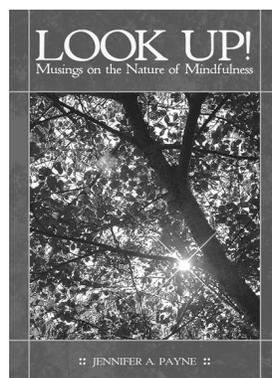
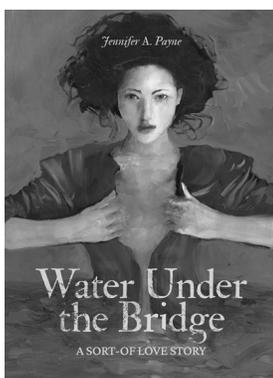
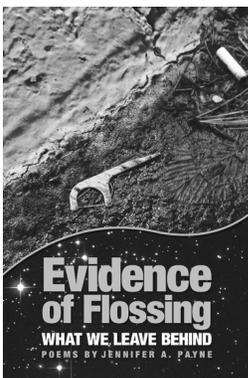
Payne's writing has been published in numerous publications including the international anthology Coffee Poems: Reflections on Life with Coffee, the Guilford Poets Guild 20th Anniversary An-

thology, and in The Perch, a publication by the Yale Program for Recovery & Community Health.

Jen is the owner of Words by Jen, a graphic design and creative services company founded in 1993, based in Branford, Connecticut. She is a member of the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, the Connecticut Poetry Society, Guilford Arts Center, and the Guilford Poets Guild.

She is also a vital member of the Branford Land Trust working behind the scenes as a contributing editor to its newsletter, creating and maintaining its website, and coordinating publicity for the organization.

-Alpha Coiro



Many Thanks to all who Volunteered & Donated to our Holiday Basket Sale

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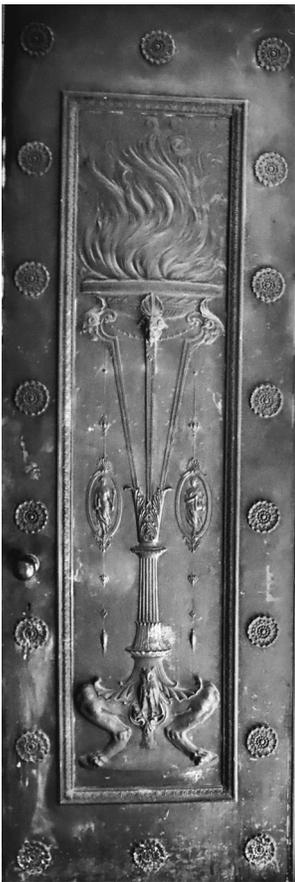
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*What and where
in the Library?*

*Photo by Diane
Puchalski*



Photo by Diane Puchalski

A Message from our Membership Chair

Join us and become a member of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library. Your membership will help the Friends of the Library continue our ability to sponsor programs and special events throughout the year, host the popular September book sale and be an advocate for the needs of the library. Without support from generous individuals like you, we simply would not be able to continue to deliver quality

support to the Blackstone Library and Branford.

Additional benefits as a member include receiving the quarterly Marble Columns as well as early entrance into the annual September book sale on the Thursday evening from 5pm-7pm.

Membership levels are as follows:

- Senior (60+) \$10.00
- Student: \$10.00
- Individual: \$15.00
- Family: \$20.00
- Sustaining: \$25.00
- Benefactor: \$50.00

Thank you again to all who will be renewing their membership and thanks in advance to those of you who are joining for the first time. In doing so you will help expand the horizons of all who use our Blackstone Library.

-Jonathan Grande

Beauty in the Eye of Beholders

One cannot look upon the James Blackstone Memorial Library and not recognize it as a work of art. Friends, townsfolk, and complete strangers have all marveled at its majesty, stateliness, and grace. I never tire of its iconic beauty and agree that it does, indeed, adorn our town. You may have noticed and wondered about another piece of artwork in the Blackstone's setting, a sculpture by Jonathan Waters, a local Connecticut artist.

Located on the lawn of the Blackstone is a free standing, three dimensional sculpture that draws one's attention. At once large enough to be imposing, it is airy and open to the light. Its spatial quality evolves and morphs as the viewer moves and changes perspective. Even the fluctu-

ating light and time of day bring new dimension to the sculpture. Waters has said, "There's something about the shift between the two and three dimensional that I can't let go of...Like, what's that doorway and what's on the other side?" Waters, who earlier worked with famed minimalists, employs materials such as steel, wood, lead, and coal. His sculpture activates the space around the artwork. Viewing the sculpture, one recognizes the interplay of shapes, lines, curves, and contours. Scott Gargan, reviewing Waters' FAC exhibition, wrote that, "Waters' goal is to create a sense of harmony through the intentional use of contrast." To my mind he has succeeded; I find the straight hard lines balanced and softened by the spherical

curves to be satisfying and aesthetically pleasing. As the weather becomes more inviting, I urge you to take the time to examine Jonathan Waters' sculpture and experience the total effect as you circle his work and stand or sit, experimenting with perspective.

While spring determinedly supplants winter, the greatest artist of all wields her vibrant pallet and once again fills our world with glorious colour. While Mother Nature works her artistry, be sure to open yourself to beauty; you'll find it everywhere. Let yourself hungrily drink in the joyous sights provided for us by nature and man. Marvel at the creative spirit and be inspired. Beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder.

-Hatsie Mahoney

Spring Book Sale Saturday, May 16

At the time of publication, the Spring Book Sale scheduled for May 16 on the Town Green was on. Updates will be posted on the Library website.

All of us at **Marble Columns** wish you good health during this challenging period and hope you are able to use your additional time at home to enjoy more literature--both new and old favorites!



Photo by Diane Puchalski



**Friends of the James Blackstone
Memorial Library**

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Branford, CT 06405

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Service During Covid-19

While our building is closed, we are actively and creatively working behind the scenes to fulfill our mission to *provide essential access to information, resources and unique shared experiences to help ensure Branford is an educated and enriched community.*

#BlackstoneAtHome

We're all in this together.
Let's explore from home.

We're on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. You can also visit our website for updates at www.blackstonelibrary.org

purchasing additional copies of Overdrive ebooks for which Blackstone patrons will have priority, and increasing the monthly limit for HOOPLA and Kanopy – resources sponsored in part by you, our Friends of the Library. We continue to order and catalog new books so that our collection will be current when we reopen.

We are also exploring ways to connect with you via zoom and social media.

We miss you and hope that we'll be back soon. In the meantime, we hope that you and yours stay healthy and safe.

*-Karen Jensen,
Library Director*

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You may continue to contact us by phone at **203.488.1441** and email. We have extended all expiring library cards until June 1st and no books are due back to the library until we reopen.

Our reference staff are available at **extension 318** to help with all your questions, and are taking phone appointments for tech help.

On the digital front, we are

