



## The James Blackstone Memorial Library 2020—2021

With the renovation complete, the library began work on the repair of the rear roof. That work was complete by February, 2021.

The impact from the COVID-19 pandemic affected library services throughout the year. While the library was able to re-open its building to the public by June of 2020, all programs were offered through the Zoom platform. Providing programs through Zoom eliminated a barrier for those who are physically unable to come to the library. It also allowed more participation by people from farther away, whose perspectives and experience often provided further enrichment to programs. The online format also allowed access to presenters for which in-person costs would have been prohibitive.

The library marked 125 years on June 17, 2021, which launched a year-long celebration with monthly facts, programs tied to the library’s history and commemorative library cards. A community celebration is planned for June, 2022 to cap the year.

Strategic planning continued throughout the year. 6 staff worked with Innovation Builders, to develop their skills for interviewing members of the public, and interpreting the resulting data. Staff interviewed 71 community members, and data was also collected from nearly 400 survey responses. A strategic framework and activation plan will be developed in the upcoming year.

The Board of Trustees’ Development Committee hosted its first virtual experiences auction in spring of 2021 which raised \$4,775 toward the library’s operating budget. The annual appeal exceeded its goal, earning \$69,000 for library operations.

Staff continued to serve the public with virtual programs and contactless pickup service, which was so popular that we will continue the service even after the pandemic ends. The Library remained closed on Sundays – the funds budgeted for these

hours were used to purchase a self-checkout station and more access to online materials.

In September, 2020, the Board of Trustees recognized that overdue fines present a barrier to library use and do not serve the mission of the library, thus resolving to eliminate them permanently.

The Friends of the Library were unable to hold their annual sale on the green in the fall. However, in a testament to the group’s creativity, ingenuity, and sheer determination, they were able to hold a series of smaller sales in their warehouse in the fall and spring. The proceeds from these sales allowed the Friends to provide the library with their annual gift which supported increased access to ebooks, streaming films and audio materials.

Of the total circulation, 43,497 was virtual, making up almost 30% of the total materials circulation.

The Board of Trustees amended the library’s operating budget at the beginning of the year to account for a 0% funding increase. Throughout the year, the library was fortunate to receive a PPP loan which helped to meet operational expenses.

### 2020-2021 Statistics

Registered Cardholders	8,643
Material Circulated (Physical/Online)	148,307
Reference Questions	4,356
Children’s & Teen Program Attendance	2,600
Adult Program Attendance	6,642

### Library Materials

Books, CDs, Audiobooks, DVDs	62,749
Newspapers/Periodical Subscriptions*	59
Overdrive Digital collection**	22,282
Total Collection	85,090

Karen Jensen  
Library Director

\*Does not include Overdrive magazines/periodicals  
\*\*Does not include access to over 500,000 HOPLA titles

**James Blackstone Memorial Library  
Board of Trustees 2020-2021**

Beth Law, President  
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Jack Thompson  
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Jeff Vailette, *ex. Officio*

**Library Staff**

Karen Jensen, Library Director	Patricia Bussman, Cataloging
Carly Lemire, Associate Librarian for Youth Services	Erin Byrne, Access Services
Katy McNicol, Associate Librarian for Development & Outreach	Carol Capezzone, Youth Services
Kathy Oxsalida, Business Manager	Moira Healey, Access Services
Deirdre Santora, Associate Librarian for Access Services	Allison Horton, Access Services
Deborah Trofatter, Associate Librarian for Technology and Reference Services	Sandre Johnson, Access Services
Jenna Anthony, Reference Assistant	Anne Killheffer, Reference Librarian
Barbara Barrett, Access Services	Christina Kondziela, Reference Librarian
	Mary Lockery, Youth Services
	Sarah Mallory, Teen Services
	Angela Meikle, Access Services
	Frank Zdunek, Maintenance

**Friends of the Library Officers 2020 - 2021**

Al Bertoline, President  
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Ellen Carucci, Secretary  
Jonathan Grande, Treasurer  
Judy Stebbins, Membership

# 2021 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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Branford Community Foundation		Dr. Harry W. Blair & Dr. Barbara A. Shailor	

## ELLA WHEELER WILCOX GUILD

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Maryann Amore	Donald & Catherine Delano	Cheryl MacLachlan & Fred Gorelick	Abigail & Michael Scholl
Esterina Anderson	Cynthia Rose Feldman	Anthony & Linda Milici	Frank & Barbara Sciuilli
Patricia C. Andriole	Carol & Tom Gagliardi	Mr. & Mrs. Donald F. Patenaude	Harriet D. Spear
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Sandra & Ronald Baldwin	Emily Howard	Joseph Regan	Carolyn Wells & Frank White
Faith Wilcox Barrington	Larry & Lucie Iannotti	Gail Rosen	Jack Belkin & Margaret Wolfe
Rita Berkson	Nina Adams & Moreson Kaplan	Amy L. Rosen	Michael B. Hopkins & Jacqueline C. Wolff
Cheryl Kaiden & Michael Calter	Susan Bender & Al Klevatorick	Chad & Pamela Roy	John & Ruth Zenie
Darlene M. Cassella	Hedda Kopf		

## OLIVER DENNETT GROVER LEAGUE

Anonymous	Howard & Patricia Dugan	Janice Kochanowski & Robert Jackson	Ronald & Susan Miller	Musa L. Speranza, in memory of Ada & Paul Speranza
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Bertan & Jill Akin	Robert W. & Dorothy J. Gill	Gerlinde Kehlenbach	Sally Neale	Carol Tobin
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Andrew DeVito	Elizabeth Hyde		Truman Sherk	
David & Mary Dong			David & Pamela Snetro	

The 2020 Leadership Circle reflects donations made to the library from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.