

Spring 2024
Volume 47 Issue 2

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

Successful Spring Warehouse Sale

The Friends' annual Spring Sale was held at our new warehouse on Saturday May 4th. As this was a small sale, only fiction, mass market paperbacks, puzzles and children's books were available as well as a special section of cookbooks. Customers started lining up early and by the time we opened at 9 am, there were over 30 people waiting to snap up the bargains. The weather was great and sales were brisk, with a steady stream of shoppers throughout the day. Many families came to explore the Children's section, and the trays of books were constantly restocked to keep up with the demand. Being able to restock was one advantage of having the sale in our warehouse. Another was being able to check the shelves on request for specific authors or titles, and the customers seemed to appreciate this personal service. During the five hours of the sale, we estimated we sold between 1,500—2,000 books. A very successful sale! Thank you to all our shoppers and volunteers. Now, full steam ahead to the Fall Sale in September!



Rave On! The Music of Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison



Sunday, April 21st our Blackstone Library was alive with the band RAVE ON! Back by popular demand, the duo of Chris Roselle and Mike Guarangna featured songs from Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison. Over 120 attendees clapped their hands, sang along and even danced in the aisle, to the songs from early Rock N' Roll. Chris and Mike dazzled us with Pretty Woman, Only the Lonely, Twist and Shout, and You Got It, for over an hour. Chris began playing guitar at the age of 12 and Mike first learned to play guitar at the age of 4. Lucky for us, both continued to have a career in music. Chris and Mike have an impressive resume of gigs along with recording credentials with many national and local acts. It was truly a wonderful afternoon of nostalgia and fun. RAVE ON! proves the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, and early Rock n' Roll is timeless!

Friends Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 18
5:30 p.m. in
Library Auditorium

All current members are welcome!

See enclosed invitation

Membership Renewal

Look at the upper right corner of your mailing label. If it reads, "EXP 2024-06-30", your membership renewal is due on July 1, 2024. Enclosed is a renewal form and mailing envelope or you can renew online at www.blackstonelibrary.org/friends. Your membership allows you early entrance to our Fall Book Sale on Thursday, September 19th at 5:00 p.m., and an invitation to our Annual meeting in June. We would greatly appreciate any additional donation to support our **Raise the Tent campaign** for our Fall Book Sale. Have friends who love our library? Invite them to join by passing along our link. Membership starts for as little as \$10 for Seniors. Thank you for your support!

Save the Date!

Fall Book Sale on Branford Green
Thursday, September 19th thru Sunday, the 22nd



Upcoming Friends Sponsored Programs at Blackstone

Adults:

- **Shoreline Jazz Quintet: Celebrating the Music of Pat Metheny, Saturday, June 22 @ 1-2 pm**
Enjoy the music of iconic jazz guitarist Pat Metheny performed by the Shoreline Jazz Quintet.
- **Intro to Pilates, Saturdays, June 29-July 27 @10-11am**
Learn the basics of Pilates from certified instructor Cindy Kondziela. Please bring a yoga mat to class.
- **Summer Foraging with the Three Foragers, Wednesday, July 17@ 6:30 -7:30 pm**
Learn to identify, sustainably harvest, and prepare the wild foods of summer, from beach plums to invasive wineberries.
- **Back to Bacharach & Beyond, Saturday, August 3 @ 2-3:30 pm**
Take a journey through Burt Bacharach's greatest songs with some surprises.
- **Best Seller Book Club - Saturday June 29, July 27, and August 31st**

Keep up the great work!

Saturday Cinema

Join us for Saturday Cinema @ 2 pm and see a highly-rated movie on our big screen in the auditorium.

- **June 29:** Wonka (2023, PG)
- **July 27:** Argylle (2024, PG-13)
- **August 31:** Bob Marley: One Love (2024, PG-13)

Wonderful community events!

Kids:

- **Science Saturdays with Cool-ology for Grades K-4, Saturday, June 1 @ 10am to 11am .**
- **Decorate a Kindness Shell for ages 3 and up, Tuesday, June 25 @ 9am to 8pm**
- **Sand Art for ages 3 and up, Wednesday, June 26 @ 3:30 to 4:30**
- **Beads, Bracelets and Keychains for grades 3-5, Wednesday, July 31 @ 3:30 to 4:30**
- **Homeschool Meetup, Once a month on Mondays | June 10, July 8, August 12 @ 2pm to 3pm**
- **Summer Family Take-N-Makes, Once a month on Last Wednesdays | June 26, July 31, August 28 @ 9am to 8pm**
- **Family Bingo for all ages, Wednesday, August 7 @ 3:30pm to 4:30pm**
- **StoryWalk®: a Progressive Book Reading for All Ages, On display on the grounds of the Blackstone Library, July 8 - August 5**

Teens:

- **Teen Take N Makes: Mini Masterpieces, Monday, June 24 @ 9am to 8pm**
- **DIY Secret Garden in a Tin, Thursday, June 27 @ 3:30-4:30pm**
- **The Ultimate Potato Chip Taste Test, Thursday, July 11 @ 3pm to 4pm**
- **Teen Take N Makes: Pudding Flower Pot, Monday, July 29 @ 9am to 8pm**
- **Snacks and a Film: Mean Girls, Friday, August 16 @ 2pm**

We love all that you do!

Check the Library website for a detailed description and the most up-to-date information at www.blackstonelibrary.org. Some programs require pre-registration while others are drop-in events.

Oops! We forgot to mention...

Many thanks to all of those who donated items, cash and baskets for our Holiday Gift Basket Sale this past December. We offered 104 gift baskets and 5 raffle items. Many baskets were sold on the first day as our sale has grown in popularity over the past few years. Thank you, we raised close to \$5,000!

Friends—Volunteer Spotlight

Each issue a special volunteer is recognized for their contribution to Friends.

Linda Milici, MD



Linda Milici, MD came to Friends after retiring in 2020 from a career as a Radiologist. She spent 27 years with the Branford office of Radiology Group PC in 2001. Originally from Indiana, Linda came to Connecticut for her residency at Hartford Hospital. She continues to be a proud alumna of Indiana University and their School of Medicine. Fortunately for

us, Linda has called Connecticut home for forty years.

As a Friends volunteer, Linda helps with sorting our book donations for Science and Nature as well as Health and Medicine. She also donates her time posting our Amazon online book sales and serves as Secretary on the Friends of JBML Board of Directors, recording meetings each month. She continues to be impressed with the dedication of our volunteers and the hard work of the leadership provided by our President, Barbara Barrett. Linda loves to be around books and feels her work is gratifying. She is proud to be a part of the circular economy and all the benefits it provides to our environment.

Along with AJ, her spouse of 41 years, Linda has seen much of Europe and the US. Future trips on their agenda include Africa followed by Antarctica next February. Happily, they are expecting their first grandchild very soon. They are looking forward to many trips in the Philadelphia area to spend time with their growing family.

Linda also finds time to play Pickleball and is learning Mahjong, as well as pursuing home sewing projects and DIY home renovations. She epitomizes the retiree who doesn't translate the word "retire" to mean "slow down".

Thank you for all you do and Happy Travels!

Looking for Books!

Friends cannot do what we do without your donated books.

Donation bins are located behind the Blackstone Library and at 30 Harrison Ave in Branford.

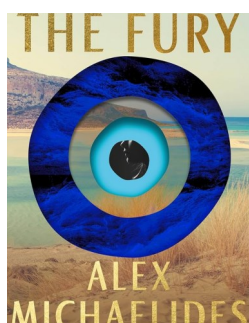
Have too much to drop off?

We pick up!



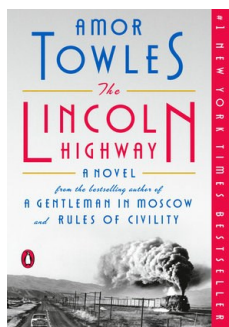
Call the library or e-mail us at: friends@blackstonelibrary.org

Book Recommendations from Your "Friends"



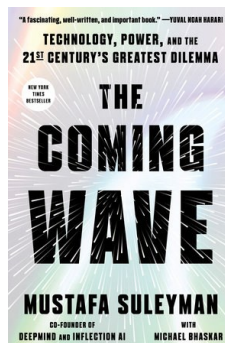
A great locked room mystery, that takes place on a private Greek island owned by a reclusive movie star and her celebrity friends. Michaelides delivers another thriller with an unreliable narrator that is a perfect read for the beach!

Recommended by
Jeanne Hayes



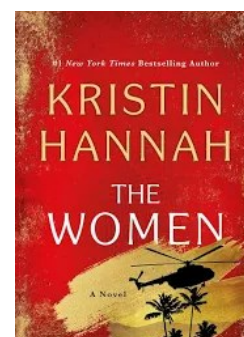
A coming of age story for 18 year old Emmett and his 10 year old brother, Billy. Set in Nebraska during the early fifties, the two set off on an adventure to California. They are joined by two stowaways and the trip begins a great story and takes the reader on an enjoyable journey as they all find their way.

Recommended by
Jon Bloom



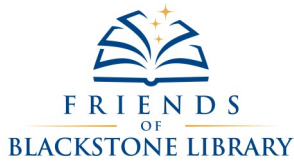
If you want to better understand Artificial Intelligence, other technological advances, and how they might impact society, then this is the book for you. Many dimensions are explored from technical to economic to political impacts. A well-written book that is a must read.

Recommended by
Joe Genua



This is the story of a woman who joins the Army Nursing Corps during the Vietnam War. These women experienced the fear and horror of the battlefield. There have been many stories told about the war in Vietnam but none from the perspective of these remarkable women.

Recommended by
Pat Bourne



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**Articles contributed
by:**

Jeanne Hayes
Jane Kenealy
Nancy Reynolds

From the President

Thank you to everyone who came out to shop the Spring Book Sale on May 4th. With your support, we had sales over \$3,000. I hope it provided just a little book relief until our Large Tent Sale on the Branford Green in September. The volunteers did a great job of transfiguring the new warehouse into a space that was comfortable and roomy to host this Spring Sale.

Please don't miss the postcard invitation included in this mailing for the Friends Annual Meeting on June 18th at 5:30 PM in the Library auditorium for all current members. Aside from the Friends business meeting and a

presentation of a special gift to the Library, we will be having a very interesting presentation from vintage book dealer and long time Friends volunteer, Curt Wendler. This will be followed by light refreshments. Hope you can join us, and please do not forget to RSVP to friends@blackstonelibrary.org.

I am sure you have seen reference to our 'Raise the Tent' campaign. 2023 was our first year fundraising to offset the rental costs of the large tent used at the Fall Sale along with the hundreds of tables needed. Working with businesses



and individuals, last year we raised over \$8,800 for these items. This year the rental cost of the tent and tables is well over \$10,000, so again we have launched the 'Raise the Tent' campaign. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated. This will help us to continue support the library with enrichment programs, materials and services for our Branford community. Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara

Barbara Barrett, President
friends@blackstonelibrary.org