

Summer 2025
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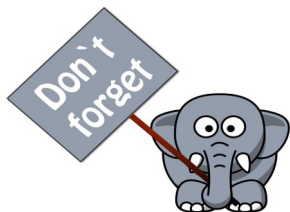
Marble Columns

✦✦✦ Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

Save-the-Date! Annual Holiday Basket Sale

Thursday, December 11, 2025
through
Sunday, December 14th, 2025

*(Begin accepting
donations October 15, 2025)*



**...to renew your Friends
membership for early entry
into our Book Sale!**

www.blackstonelibrary.org/friends

WE'RE BACK! Fall Book Sale is on BRANFORD GREEN SEPTEMBER 18TH - 21ST

Our long-standing tradition of our Annual Fall Book Sale, will now be on the Branford Green. Despite the current construction, our Town Selectmen approved our application and we are thrilled to be able to once again host our sale on our lovely town green.

Mark your calendars to shop early. Membership allows you early entry on Thursday, September 18th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. before our sale opens to the general public. This gives you the opportunity to shop your favorite authors, buy DVD's and fill your bags with books for you, your family and friends at affordable prices. Not only will you find great deals, but we continue to have an array of books for everyone of all ages.

You will find an assortment of books in fiction, nonfiction, academic, poetry, sheet music, children's, YA, puzzles, DVD's audio books, and if you can't find what you're looking for, there will be one of our volunteers to help you find it. Most of our prices range from 50 cents to \$3.00 with a few higher priced items and on Sundays, shoppers can "fill-a bag" of books for \$10! We look forward to seeing you on the beautiful BRANFORD GREEN.

See enclosed map for book categories and tent layout. Check out www.blackstonelibrary.org/friends for more information on Friends, the Book Sale and membership.

Friends Presents to Blackstone Largest Gift-to-Date

At our recent annual meeting on Thursday, June 19th at the James Blackstone Memorial Library (JBML), Friend's President, Barbara Barrett had the pleasure of presenting Director, Katy McNichol with an \$80,000 check from Friends. Our largest gift to-date, Friends had a banner year with our fundraising. Our various avenues of revenue, Fall Book Sale, Holiday Basket Sale, and Spring Warehouse Sales as well as on-line sales contributed to our success. Additionally, our grant providers and community sponsors rounded out our team efforts. Director of the JBML, Katy McNichol, gratefully accepted our gift and spent a few minutes telling the audience about the essential services that Friends efforts provide for

our community. They are varied and many: children and young adult activities, movies for families, and a selection of book clubs as well as educational instruction for all ages.

Friends ratified two new board members; Jonathan Bloom and Stan Abramowitz were elected and welcomed. (See photo of Friends Board members at right.) With over 100 attendees, Barbara thanked all of our volunteers, members, and community supporters, as well as the entire staff of the library for their commitment and support to Friends. Our annual meeting ended with a book discussion, *Lost Before I Could See*, led by Friend's member and volunteer, January Welks, with local author, Victoria Molta.

Victoria's memoir details her life's journey of strength, hope, and redemption. It was a wonderful and frank discussion of her life that showcases the power of resilience.

Thank you for taking the time to attend our meeting and look forward to seeing you next year.



Upcoming Friends Sponsored Programs at Blackstone

ADULTS:

- **Saturday Cinema: Saturdays, 2-4 pm**
October 25: *Sinners* (2025, R, 137 mins.)
November 29: *Thunderbolts* (2025, PG-13, 127 mins.)
- **Third Thursday Movie Matinee, Thursdays 10 am – 12pm**
September 18: *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1952, 96 mins.)
October 16: *The Innocents* (1961, 99 mins.)
November 20: *Jane Eyre* (1944, 97 mins.)
- **Best Sellers Book Club, Saturdays 3:30 - 4:30 pm**
September 27: *The River is Waiting* by Wally Lamb
October 25: *The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown
November 29: *Remain* by Nicholas Sparks & M. Night Shyamalan
- **Crafts & Laughs Art Workshop, Thursdays 6–7:30 pm** Registration required
September 18, October 16, November 20
- **Sinter: Emergence from the Rocks at the End of Choice**
Saturday, September 20 @ 2–3:30 pm Registration required
- **The Synergismus Duo Concert**, Sunday, September 28 @ 2–3 pm Registration required
- **Banned Together Documentary Screening**, Sunday, October 5 @ 1:30–3:30 pm Registration required
- **Classical Guitar Concert with Neal Fitzpatrick**, Saturday, October 18 @ 2–3 pm Registration required
- **An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe**, Wednesday, October 22 @ 6–7 pm Registration required
- **Wesleyan Spirits A Cappella Concert**, Sunday, October 26 @ 2–3 pm Registration required
- **Rave On Duo Concert**, Sunday, November 23 @ 2–3 pm Registration required
- **Thimble Island Saxophone Quartet Seasonal Holiday Concert**, Sunday, Nov 30 @ 2–3:15 pm
Registration required

Wonderful community events!

KIDS:

- **Annual Halloween Parade** - Friday, October 31 @ 10 – 10:30am. Drop-in event
- **Science Saturdays with Cool-ology for Grades K-4** - Saturday, Oct 4 & Nov 15 @ 10–11 am
- **Kid Craft: Shrinky Dinks!** - Tuesday, November 11 @ 4:00–4:45pm
- **Homeschool Meetup** - Once a month on Mondays | September 8, October 6, November 10 @ 2-3pm
- **FALL Family Take-N-Makes** - Once a month on Last Wednesdays | September 24, October 29, November 26 @ 9am to 8pm. Drop-in event.

ALL AGES:

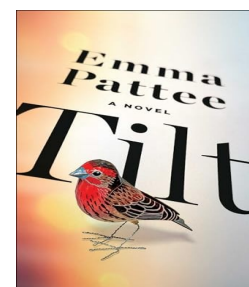
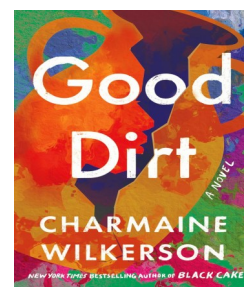
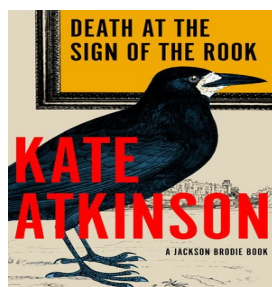
- **Snacks and a Film: Hocus Pocus 2 (2022) for all ages** - Wednesday, October 29 @ 2pm

TEENS:

- **Teen Take and Makes: Pencil Snack Bags** - Monday, September 22 @ 9am to 8pm. Drop-in
- **The Ultimate Pumpkin Spice Taste Test** - Thursday, November 5 @ 3:30-4:30pm
- **Personalized Book Box for grades 5-12** - Register by 11/10 to pick up a box the week of 11/17/25

Check the Library website for a detailed description and the most up-to-date information.

What
Are
Friends
Reading?



Friends—Volunteer Spotlight



Kathryn Genda's decision to spend a year volunteering between her Yale graduation and the start of three years of graduate studies has proven to be a very productive one for the Friends of the JBML. "Kat" has been a welcome addition to the volunteer corps, picking up book donations and cleaning and sorting books in the warehouse several days a week.

Originally from Chappaqua, NY, Kat is the middle daughter in a family that moved to Branford only three years ago. While in high school she participated in a mock trial club, which probably started an interest in becoming a lawyer. Known as "a detail oriented, opinionated, pernicious child" – she obviously has traits required to excel at lawyering!

A history major at Yale, she found herself in the unfortunate position of starting Freshman year in 2020, just as everything shut down due to Covid. Spending the first two weeks in a solitary room, having only Zoom classes, the future looked bleak.

Taking finals online and being tested for Covid constantly thru Junior year took stamina and a positive attitude.

Things looked up when she was selected to intern at the USDA's office in Washington DC and then spent a summer study program in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The program opened her eyes to her comfort level related to human suffering and the desire to find legal justice for underserved human beings.

During her upcoming law school studies starting this fall at George Washington University in DC, her major interest will be International Human Rights Law. (She already has a DC apartment and hopes to spend a year studying abroad).

As all the Genda family members are athletic - competing in basketball, soccer, and softball - and if the healing progress on a torn ACL allows, Kat is looking forward to joining a "Volo Team" in DC involving several sports: softball, kickball and bowling, as well as continuing her involvement in volunteer work.

We wish her well in pursuing a satisfying life balance which includes public service. We are so thankful that her love of reading led her to the Friends!

June Warehouse Sale - Another Successful Pop-Up Sale

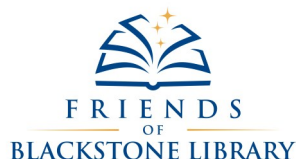
The Friends of the JBML received a large donation of history and literature books from a college professor this past winter. There were approximately 2,500 mostly European history books of which our volunteers weeded and sorted. We were left with almost too many to leave for the fall book sale. What to do? A pop up book sale!

With the help of our team of volunteers, we organized a book sale for Saturday, June 28. After lots of sorting, moving bins and pallets, setting up tables, marketing, putting up signs highlighting the sale and directions; boom, we were ready.

Saturday morning, a bit rainy, but with clearer skies predicted for later on, we were thrilled to see people lined up at 8:00 a.m. for a 9:00 a.m. opening! At first, the dealers who rely on book sales like these for their own business, began their search. A little later on, shoppers looking at books for their own reading pleasure started arriving. By 10:30, shopping was at its peak. After the lunch hour, while the traffic slowed down, there were still people shopping right up till closing time at 2:00 p.m. What was heartening to hear was the positive feedback with comments about the good organization, the ease of shopping, searching, and having volunteers there to help us out. A great experience for those looking to purchase books!



We are very proud of this organization of volunteers, who donate their time and do such a wonderful job to support the programs of the library. Again, thanks to all who make this happen. We are grateful for their time and efforts!



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Susan Stackpole

From the President

As the oppressive heat dome continues to linger over Connecticut, I hope that by the time you read this, the heat and humidity have subsided and there is a hint of fall in the air.

With the first trace of fall-like temperatures and the appearance of mums in stores, it must mean that the Annual Fall Book Sale is right around the corner. I am pleased to announce that we will be back on the Branford Green under the tent from September 18th to 21st. The book sale team and all the volunteers have worked hard all year and thanks to our community for all the wonderful donations, we are planning to have one of the best and largest sales ever. It is more than a book sale - it's a beloved community event - so mark your calen-

dars and don't miss out. Remember, being a current Friends member allows you to shop when the sale first opens at 5 PM on Thursday, September 18th. We have continued to work on ways to improve the sale so everyone can shop and enjoy the experience.

I want to thank all our Friends members who support our mission. Our membership numbers are at an all-time high. Like all of you, I strongly believe in the value of libraries and what they offer to their communities with life-long learning and enrichment opportunities. Libraries are among the most trusted institutions in America. Earlier this year, the federal government moved to cut off its modest but effective support for libraries with the elimination of the Institute of



Museum and Library Services (IMLS) - the only source of federal funding for our nation's 125,000 libraries. Federal funds granted through IMLS help support statewide library programs, resources and services.

To find our more, please visit (www.ala.org/showup) or (<http://www.ala.org/showup>). I hope to see you all at the Book Sale - please stop by and say hello.

Barbara

Barbara Barrett, President
friends@blackstonelibrary.org

