

Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

Scarecrows on the Green



Friends of JBML were pleased to participate in the Branford Garden Club's recent "Scarecrows on the Green" event. Our creative display offered a bin from which folks could pick out a favorite kid's book or two for free! One of the Friends' missions is to promote and facilitate a love of reading amongst the children of Branford and surrounding communities.

Together We Turned the Page on Another Great Fall Sale!

The tent was up. The tables were filled with books. The weather was great. If you build it, will they come? Yes. And boy did you come. And buy. The 2025 Friends Fall Book Sale was by all accounts a huge success, our best year, raising over \$78,000. To all of you who volunteered, sponsored and purchased, thank you.

We honor and congratulate you for helping to make this one of Branford's cherished annual events. Our volunteers work year-round collecting donated books, sorting, preparing for this one weekend. We couldn't be more proud of all those who volunteer their time and effort to make it all come together and we are thrilled to be part of the excitement of the weekend watching and helping our community with their purchases. Truly a town celebration of books and our library.



We also wish to extend a huge shout out to our wonderful "Raise the Tent" sponsors who helped to alleviate the many costs associated with this event. Thank you to the many town offices and officials, who worked with us to keep our event on the Branford Green. We are grateful for everyone's support! See you next year at the 2026- Fall Book Sale, scheduled for September 17th - 20th, 2026!

Friends Holiday Basket Sale - December 11th through 14th

Friends is once again bringing the spirit of the season to our community with our much loved Holiday Basket Sale! Each beautifully arranged basket is filled with thoughtful treats, cozy surprises, and festive cheer - perfect for gifting to family, friends, teachers, and even yourself. Every basket is generously donated by local businesses, organizations, Friends, and JBML supporters, making this event a true community tradition. Enter our raffles to win prizes at our sale. Also, you can buy raffle tickets at our table on December 11th in front of BACA on Main Street during the Town's Sip and Stroll. Winners will be selected on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 pm. Best of all, every dollar raised goes directly to support the Friends of JBML and their mission to enhance and enrich our town's library's programs and resources. When you purchase a basket, you're not only finding the perfect holiday gift - you're also giving back to the heart of our community. Stop by the library during the sale to browse, buy, and share in the holiday spirit!



Enjoy opening night **Thursday, December 11th: 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm**
(With music 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm and refreshments 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Shopping hours continue:

Friday, December 12th: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday, December 13th: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 14th: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



Upcoming Friends Sponsored Programs at Blackstone

ADULTS:

- **Saturday Cinema: Saturdays, 2 - 4 pm**
December 27: *Superman* (2025, PG-13, 129 mins.)
January 31: *Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale* (2025, PG, 124 mins.)
February 28: *The Roses* (2025, R, 121 mins.)
- **Third Thursday Movie Matinee Thursday, 10am - 12pm**
December 18: *Bell, Book and Candle* (1958, 96 mins.)
January 15: *His Girl Friday* (1940, 92 mins.)
February 19: *Sunset Boulevard* (1950, 110 mins.)
- **Best Sellers Book Club**
December: No Meeting
January 31: *Queen Esther* by John Irving
February 28: *Evelyn in Transit* by David Guterson
- **Crafts & Laughs Art Workshop Thursdays, 6 - 7:30 pm**, Registration required
December 18, January 15, February 19
- **Fireside Chat with Local Author: Katie Tietjen Saturday, December 6 @ 1 - 2 pm**
- **Winter Inspired Sea Glass Ornaments Workshop Tuesday, December 30 @ 5:30 - 7 pm**
Registration required
- **Beyond Intermission. Thriving in Your Third Act Thursdays, January 8 thru January 29 2 - 4 pm**
Registration required
- **Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament Saturday, January 17 @ 2:30 - 4:30 pm** Registration required
- **Turkish Coffee Tasting Saturday, January 24 @ 2 - 4 pm** Registration required
- **Connecticut Wineries with "Nutmeg Nose" Wednesday, February 11 @ 6 - 7 pm**
Registration required
- **Legacy of a Wealthy Slave Saturday, February 14 @ 2 - 3:30 pm** Registration required



KIDS:

- **Kids Cookie Decorating Wednesday, December 17 @ 4 - 4:45pm**
- **Noon Year's Eve Storytime for ages 0-5 Wednesday, December 31 @ 11:30 am - 12:00 pm**
- **Homeschool Meetup - Once a month on Mondays | December 8, January 12, February 9 @ 2 - 3pm**
- **Winter Family Take-N-Makes - Once a month on last Wednesdays | December 31, January 28, February 25 @ 9am to 8pm. Drop-in event.**
- **Snacks and a Film: How to Train Your Dragon (2025) for all ages Friday, January 2 @ 2pm**
- **STEM Challenge: Build a Bridge Thursday, January 15 @ 4 - 4:15 pm**
- **Valentine's Candy Slime for Grades 2-5 Wednesday, February 5 @ 4 - 4:45 pm**
- **Science Saturdays with Cool-ology for Grades K-4 1st Saturday of the month @ 10 - 11 am**
February 7: Leonardo's STEAM Challenge
- **Black Inventors Who Made the Stuff Around Us Saturday, February 21 @ 10 - 11am (Grades K-4)**

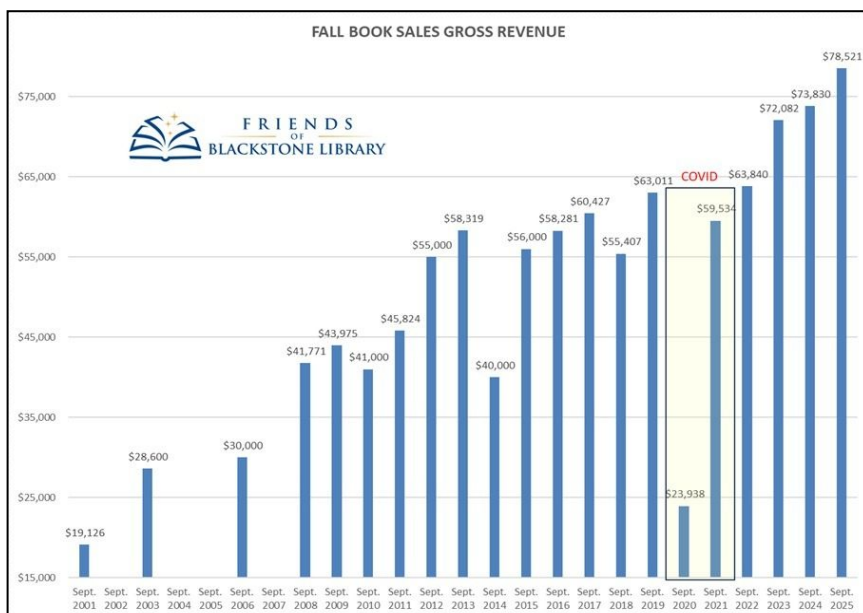
TEENS:

- **Kitchen Creations: Candy Sushi: Thursday, December 11 @ 3:30 - 4:30 pm**
- **Snacks and a Film: Hamilton: Monday, December 29 @ 1:30 - 4 pm**
- **Collage Journals: Monday, January 5 @ 3:30 - 4:30 pm**
- **Kitchen Creations: Melting Snowman Cookies: Wednesday, February 4 @ 4 - 4:45 pm**

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

25 Years of Growing Together: From \$19K to \$78K—Thanks to You!

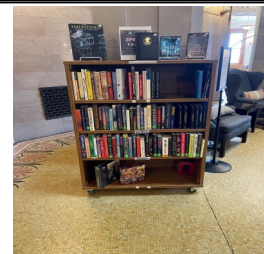
Our success with our book sales is a true community effort. We have committed volunteers who work all year to make this event happen. We have sponsors who are instrumental in supporting our 'Raise the Tent' campaigns and we have you, our members and our community of shoppers who understand the value of being able to shop for books that are affordably priced across a multitude of interests. Thank you for your support and commitment and please tell your friends about us. Anyone can be a Friends Member for as little as \$10 a year. Membership at : <https://blackstonelibrary.org/support-the-library/friends-of-the-library/>



Discover Hidden Treasures on Our Book Carts!



Did you know that the Friends of the Library keeps two year-round book carts stocked with gently used books—one for adults and one for children? You'll find great used books for a few dollars, with different selections added regularly. Whether you're looking for a cookbook, a bedtime story for your child or a book to take on vacation, our carts offer something for everyone.



Each season brings a new theme—mysteries and memoirs, holiday themes, cozy reads for winter, spring adventures and summer favorites for the whole family. Every purchase directly supports our Library's programs and services, so you can feel good knowing your next great find helps strengthen our community. Be sure to check the carts often—you never know what treasures you'll discover!

Help Friends Turn the Page!

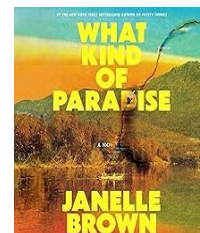
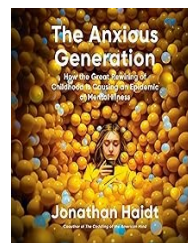
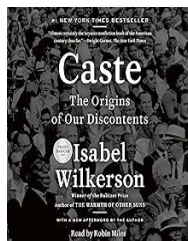
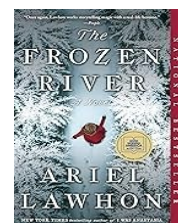
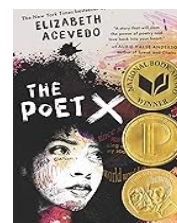


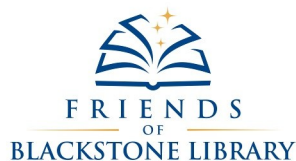
"Marble Columns"

We are looking for a volunteer to join our team to help reimagine how we share our Friends news.

If interested, please contact friends@blackstonelibrary.org

What are Friends reading?





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From the President

Thank you so much for your incredible generosity and boundless enthusiasm for our 2025 Fall Book Sale on the Branford Green this September. The event was a tremendous success, raising over \$78,000 at the sale.

This was all possible due to the abundance of book donations and the tireless efforts of our dedicated volunteers, who spent the year picking up, sorting, and preparing the books. Please see the enclosed insert of the names of our volunteers who make what we do possible.

Of course, we also owe a huge thank you to all the shoppers who discovered so many treasures under the tent.

We are deeply grateful to our wonderful business and individual sponsors who helped us “Raise the Tent.” A special acknowledgment goes to Walmart, our Title Sponsor for the third consecutive year. In addition to their financial support, Maria and her team of associates went above and beyond to help set up for the sale.

All proceeds from the event, after expenses, are donated to the Blackstone Library to support enrichment programs, activities, and materials for our community.

Don't forget to check-out the list of programs that Friends is sponsoring from December through



February. It looks like a great selection.

In closing, as the holiday season approaches, we invite you to support and shop at our Holiday Basket Sale at the Library from December 11–14.

With heartfelt thanks,

Barbara

Barbara Barrett, President
friends@blackstonelibrary.org