

# Marble Columns



Newsletter of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

**Spring Sale at the  
Friends Warehouse**  
20 Thompson Road  
Saturday, May 2, 2026  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Booksale of Adult  
Fiction, Civil War  
and History Books  
Children's, Young Adult,  
Teens, plus DVD's  
and even puzzles  
for all ages  
**AT BARGAIN PRICES!**

## SAVE THE DATE!

JBML Friends  
Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, June 16, 2026  
5:00 p.m.  
JBML Auditorium  
*All current members are welcome!*

## SAVE THE DATES!



2026 Friends Annual  
Fall Book Sale  
Thursday, September 17th  
through  
Sunday, September 20th

*Look for new location to  
be announced soon.*

## Spring Clean Your Shelves - Then Refill Them!

Mark your calendar and bring a friend! Our one-day Spring Sale is coming in May (see box on the left), and it's shaping up to be a fun one! Whether you're looking for your next great read, a movie night pick, or a new jigsaw puzzle to tackle, you'll find plenty of treasures to browse.

This sale will feature a wide variety of adult fiction including mass market paperbacks, and Civil War and history books, along with books for children, young adults and teens as well as DVDs and puzzles for all ages—all at bargain prices. It's the perfect chance to stock up for summer reading, rainy-day entertainment, or gifts to share. Don't forget to bring your children and grandchildren, there will be plenty of finds for them. DVD's for only \$1.00 and a special offer 25 DVDs for \$10.00. We are planning to include plenty of Disney titles for the kids as well as many movie titles for adults!

Best of all, every purchase supports our library. Proceeds from the sale help fund programs, materials, and services that benefit the entire community. Stop by, explore, and enjoy the thrill of finding something unexpected—all while supporting a cause you care about. We hope to see you there!

## A Basketful of Thanks!



Our sincerest thanks go out to everyone who contributed to our **Holiday Basket Sale**, which was truly a wonderful success. Thanks to the generosity and creativity of our community, **more than 140 beautiful baskets** were offered for sale and purchased—an incredible show of support for our library. A special thank you to our committee members—Donna Mazzucco, Sandra Brockett, Billie Cohen, Helen Murphy and Barbara Barrett for all their planning, organization, and execu-

tion. To everyone else who helped assemble baskets, to those who purchased them, to the volunteers who helped behind the scenes, this event would not have been possible without you. Your generosity not only made the sale a festive highlight of the holiday season, but also helped raise over \$7,000 in vital funds that support library programs and services throughout the year. We are so grateful for this amazing community and for all you do to support our library. Thank you for helping make the holidays—and our library—brighter!



## Upcoming Friends Sponsored Programs at Blackstone

### **ADULTS:**

- **Tackling the Depths: Boating Strategies, Finding Spots, and Bottom Bait Fishing in Long Island Sound**  
Thursday, March 12 @ 6:00pm to 7:30pm (*Registration required*)
- **Whim 'n Rhythm A Cappella Concert**  
Sunday, March 29 @ 2:00pm to 3:00pm
- **Echoes Across Horizons: American Voices in Classical Piano**  
Saturday, April 18 @ 2:00pm to 3:30pm
- **Tunes and Tales from Connecticut**  
Sunday, May 3 @ 1:30pm to 2:30pm
- **Third Thursday Movie Matinee** Thursdays 10am to 12:00pm  
**March 19:** *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946, 104 minutes)  
**April:** No movie  
**May 15:** *The Thin Man* (1934, 93 minutes)
- **Saturday Cinema** Saturdays 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
**March 28:** *Wicked: For Good* (2025, PG, 137 mins.)  
**April 19:** No movie  
**May 21:** *Hamnet* (2025, PG-13, 126 minutes)
- **Best Sellers Book Club**  
**March 28:** *The Astral Library* by Kate Quinn  
**April 25:** *Lake Effect* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney  
**May 30:** *American Fantasy* by Emma Straub



### **KIDS:**

- **Sensory Friendly Storytime** - This event was designed with neurodivergent individuals in mind and all abilities are welcome. Saturdays @ 10:00am - 10:30am | March 21, April 18, May 16
- **Science Saturdays with Cool-ology for Grades K-4**  
1st Saturday of the month @ 10am to 11am | April 4, May 2
- **Kid Craft: Shrinky Dinks!**  
Wednesday, April 8 @ 4:00pm - 4:45pm
- **Homeschool Meetup**  
Once a month on Mondays | March 9, April 13, May 11 @ 2:00pm to 3:00pm
- **Poppi's Planet Family Show** - An interactive performance lesson with music, dance and puppetry.  
Friday, March 13 @ 3:00pm - 3:45pm (an extra special event)
- **Spring Family Take-N-Makes**  
Once a month on last Wednesdays | March 25, April 29, May 27 @ 9:00am to 8:00pm
- **Snacks and a Film: Zootopia 2 (2025) for all ages**  
Wednesday, May 20 @ 2:00pm

### **TEENS:**

- **Pizza and Board Games**  
Tuesdays @ 5:30pm to 6:30pm | March 10, April 14, May 12
- **DIY Mini Library in a Tin**  
Wednesday, March 25 @ 3:30pm to 4:30pm
- **Personalized Book Box for grades 5-12**  
Register by 4/6 to pick up a box the week of 4/13/26
- **Food Explorers: Homemade Pasta**  
Wednesday, April 15 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- **The Ultimate Orea Taste Test**  
Monday, May 4 @ 4:00pm - 4:45pm



*Important: Check the Library website for a detailed description and the most up-to-date information at [www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org). Some programs require pre-registration while others are drop-in events.*

## Blackstone Library's Children's Room - Where Learning is Fun

This is the first in a series highlighting all that Blackstone Library offers for children and teens. Step into the Children's Room and you're welcomed with a whimsical mural painted by Guilford artist Brooke Sheldon, setting the tone for imagination and the joy of reading. The play area invites exploration, with a dollhouse, sensory panels, and a train table. These hands-on spaces encourage curiosity, creativity, and social interaction.

The book collections grow right along with the children beginning with board books and picture books for the very youngest readers, then on to early readers (including graphic novels!) and chapter books for upper elementary and middle school students. There's even a collection of "Literacy Backpacks," each centered on a theme and filled with books, puzzles, and activities that families can check out and enjoy together at home.

One of the most popular offerings for the children are Blackstone's 30-minute Storytimes. Offered four times a week, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, every session blends stories, songs, finger plays, and movement. While storytime is lively and fun, it's also carefully planned. Singing slows down language to help children hear and learn words. Finger plays build fine motor skills. Scarves and wooden rhythm sticks support pre-writing skills and playful "freeze" commands that help develop impulse control. Each session ends with marching and dancing that work large motor skills—all while everyone is smiling.

Libraries truly are wonderful places - where else can children spend a morning playing, reading, singing, dancing, for free? The Children's Storytimes are where many young patrons first discover that learning is joyful, welcoming and fun. Thanks to Friends support, we continue to help children discover that learning and libraries are places of joy.

## Beyond the Book Sale: Our Online Treasure Hunt

Since mid- 2017, we've run a small but successful online book business through Amazon and eBay, just like many other Friends organizations. We match textbooks, first editions, special collections, academic titles, unusual DVDs, and unique finds with readers on the next street over or across the country. About 1% of our donated books are listed online, but these become treasures for the right online buyer.

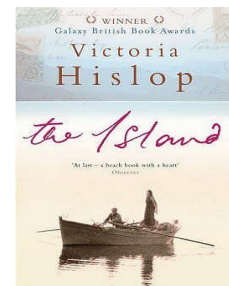
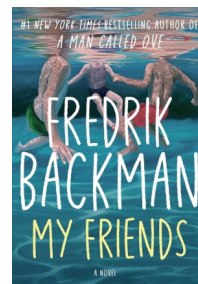
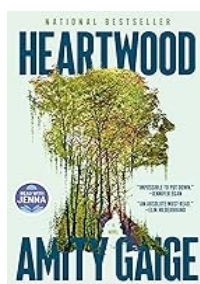
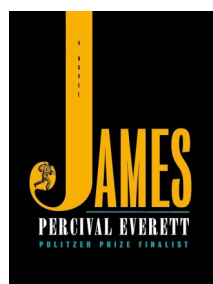
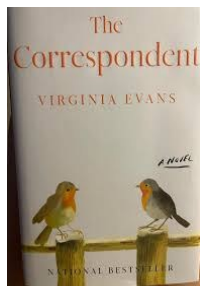
Behind the scenes, more than 15 dedicated volunteers scan, research, list, pack, and ship items six days a week. Their efforts turn these books into meaningful support for the library. After covering shipping and online fees, the money raised helps pay for warehouse rent and operating costs. This program quietly but powerfully supports our mission to enrich the Blackstone Library and our community through programs, materials and activities. You can access our Amazon storefront through our Friends page off of the Blackstone Library website. On eBay you can search by subject. Happy Book Hunting!

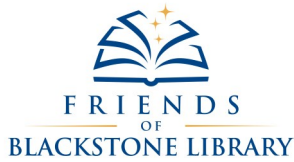


## What are Friends reading?



Check out the Friends Quick Picks for your next great read!





758 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 117

*Return Service Requested*

### Board of Directors 2025 - 2026

Barbara Barrett, President  
Linda Milici, Vice President  
Donna Mazzucco, Secretary  
Jonathan Grande, Treasurer

Stan Abramowitz  
Jon Bloom  
Sandra Brockett  
Bob Deschamps  
Joe Genua  
Jeanne Hayes  
Jane Kenealy

Katy McNicol,  
Library Director  
Member Ex-Officio

### Contributing Editors

Stan Abramowitz  
Barbara Barrett  
Pat Bourn  
Jeanne Hayes  
Donna Mazzucco  
Susan Stackpole

## From the President

Dear Friends,

What a fantastic year we've had together! Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, our Friends Holiday Basket Sale in December was a resounding success. Whether you donated, volunteered, shopped, or simply cheered us on at the library, you played a vital role in making 2025 a year to remember. We truly couldn't have done it without you.

Our beloved library is so much more than a home for books—it's the beating heart of our community. Step inside on any given day and you'll find a vibrant tapestry of activity: friends puzzling over a jigsaw, a lively fiber arts group, book clubs deep in discussion, musical performances, and thought-provoking lectures. Children's laughter fills the air during story time, while curious minds explore the playroom. And of course, there's always someone discovering their next great read on the Friends Quik Picks shelf. Everywhere you look, friendships are blossoming and new connections are being made.



Your support for Friends makes all of this possible. Our mission is simple but powerful: to enrich our library with programs, activities, and materials that inspire and unite us. Every dollar raised—after expenses—goes directly toward these efforts, in close partnership with our library team.

So, whether you're browsing our Friends book carts, joining us at the Spring or Fall book sales, or shopping at the Holiday Basket Sale, volunteering your time, or supporting us as a member or donor, you are helping our library and community thrive, grow, and be inspired. We wouldn't have it any other way.

With sincere appreciation,  
*Barbara*  
Barbara Barrett  
President-Friends of JBML  
[friends@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:friends@blackstonelibrary.org)