



Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library Member Newsletter

Fall 2008

Branford , CT 06405

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Terry Twigg, Editor

A RECORD-BREAKING BOOK SALE

This year's book sale, held on September 19, 20 and 21, was our biggest and best yet. When the tent stakes were pulled up, the tables folded away, and the last weary workers finally sent home, the sale had posted receipts of \$41,270.50—an increase of about twenty-five percent over last year's record! That total doesn't include an additional 300 books, conservatively valued at \$6,000.00, hand-picked by the library staff the day before the sale and added to the library's shelves.



What does it take to generate that kind of success?

First, obviously, a *lot* of books, every last one donated by Friends and members of the community over the last year. Approximately thirty-five thousand books, packed into well over a thousand boxes, stacked onto forty pallets, loaded into—and then unloaded from—two forty-eight-foot-long tractor-trailers. To put it into perspective: consider the library at Alexandria, the most famous library of the ancient world, destroyed in the second or third century A.D. Its legendary collection has been estimated at the equivalent of twenty-five thousand modern books, which is quite a few less than were waiting under the tent when the sale opened on Friday morning.

Second, we were fortunate to receive generous support from several local businesses:

Matt and Mary Hally of Hally's Cleaning took on the gigantic task of organizing the move, set-up, and takedown.

Atlantic Trucking donated the use of its two trucks for the entire week

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Letter from the President of the Friends

Dear Friends of the Blackstone Library,

I was enjoying lunch at one of our local restaurants in late summer and one of the servers came up to my table and asked, "Are you the book lady?" I answered, "Well, yes I am." She told me that she had some bags of books and asked if I would take them since she did not know about our book drop, not being from Branford.

That's only a tiny part of the story of how the books came in to our Book Sale. The 35,000 books in the tent on book sale opening day have traveled an interesting route. Most books were brought to the Book Drop at the Volunteer Services Center, but volunteers also collected entire personal libraries as people downsized their homes, and when some folks were physically unable to bring the books to us. We also received approximately 10,000 books donated from an estate. Our wonderful book sorters, especially Geri Reider, at the Volunteer Center and the Branford Hills School assessed every one of these thousands of books for inclusion in our inventory.

Each book, each donor, and each volunteer is part of the larger story of our most successful book sale to date. I add my personal thanks to our business sponsors, to the leadership team responsible for the oversight of all activities, and to the more than 100 volunteers who made it possible. Of course, Mary and Matt Hally, the co-chairs of the event, get our special thanks.

We have already had our follow-up meeting and the planning for next year's sale has begun. We will continue to update you on the library programs supported with the funds throughout the year.

We're working on the Holiday Cookie Sale, plans for Library Week, and some new ideas for fund raising. Stay tuned . . . and thank you for your support!

Polly



Curt Wendler, Polly Fitz, First Selectman Unk DaRos, and Matt Hally prepare for the Friends Book Sale.

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of the sale.

Ace Trailer Leasing donated the use of a trailer for four weeks.

Branford Building Supplies donated the use of equipment to transport the books.

Autographix gave a preferred rate for their signs.

Staples saved and donated hundreds of sturdy boxes.

DC Hall Rental Service gave a preferred rate for the tent rental.



Finally, success on this scale could not have been accomplished without the extraordinary commitment of the volunteers. All those books had to be sorted, priced, and packed into boxes for storage and transport, and volunteer sorters worked every week from early spring until the week of the sale. Many of the sorters also pitched in for the three days it took to set up the sale in the tent. Eighty volunteers worked one or more three-hour shifts during the sale itself, at the cash registers or helping out on the floor. Energetic students from Branford High School helped clean up in record time on Sunday.

To all the people who participated —THANK YOU! To those who have not yet volunteered: Even if you have only a few hours to spare, please promise yourself you'll help out next year. You have only to walk into the library to see the impact of our fundraising on library programs and facilities. Book sale revenues funded the Summer Reading Program for children; the license that allows the library to show films; museum passes; and many adult programs. Our donations made the library eligible for matching gifts from the Connecticut Humanities Council and sent members of the library staff to continuing education classes. Our dollars provided books, DVDs, CDs, printers, the picnic table for summer lunches and the comfy arm chairs that invite visitors to sit down and read for a while. Our book sale helps to make the difference between a good library and a great one.

OUR THANKS TO:

Everyone named here contributed to the success of the book sale. (If your name is missing, please blame the editor, and be assured that the project organizers appreciated your hard work!) We are planning a "Volunteer Appreciation Reception" for all of you, and will let you know the date.

Bob and Gusta Abels, Philomena Acunzo, Bette Ahern, Joan Ahern, Alexis Ammerer, Ruthie Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Jenna Anthony, Joan Armstrong, Irene Ayres, Ann Ballard, Florence Barron, Rebecca Barron, Rosemary Booth, Peter Borgemeister, Jane Bouley, Lorraine Bray, Bill Brody, Harriet Brody, Judith Burke, Kathleen Burns, Bercee Cameron, Barbara Cangiano, Frances Canning, Michelle Caruthers, Barbara Carlson, Yohanna Casalini, Rita Castelot, Joanne Cleary, Marjorie Cowles, Marie Crowley, Nick Cuartas, Sreedevi Damodar, Charlotte D'Aniello, Mary Davis, Fran Dombrowski, Betty Eckert, Marie Esposito, Mickey and Joe Fazzino, Kathleen Feeney, Eileen Field, Em Fielding, Sue Fiskio, Al Fitz, Polly Fitz, Carol Fitzgerald, Florence Fortune, Betty Gallacher, Genevieve Goff, Gennett Grinnell, Matt and Mary Hally, Moira and David Hambleton, Paula Harrington, Bimmie Herget, Margaret Hofmeister, Marylou Iovene, Nancy Jakubiak, Joan Jenkins, Eunice Kaymen, Kay Kazmaier, Priscilla Kissick, Betsy Klarman, Nancy Knowlton, Alice Lambert, Eunice LaSala, Blake and Lois Lehr, Betty Lendler, Julie Lindberg, Patricia Liu, John Loeb, Nancy Lynch, Barbara Lyons, Bev Madeska, Mae Marinelli, Mary McCarthy, Dan McDonnell, Cathy and John McGuirk, Betty McMahan, Perdita Norwood, Florence and Jerry Osochowsky, Lucille Pascarella, Norcott Pemberton, Diane Provost, Rob Rabovsky, Susan Ramsby, Geri Reider, Ann Rice, Kathy Rieger, Rachel Rimm, Roberta Rowe, Donna Roy, Pat Russell, Mary Russo, Nina Salamon, Deirdre Santora, Terry Sattelberger, Maria Sciarini, Andrea Schieckel, Judy Selakoff, Judith Spehar, Dick Sullivan, Margo Sweeney, Mary Swift, Barbara Tamulevich, Anne Tartaglione, Marjorie Thompson, Faith Tingley, Betty Trapasso, Roberta Trotta, Alexine Wallace, Curt Wendler, Tom Wilson, Harriet White, Kim Zielinski.

HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE

The Annual Holiday Cookie Sale will be held in the lower level of the Blackstone Library on December 12, 13, and 14. We will also have a raffle of wonderful gift baskets.

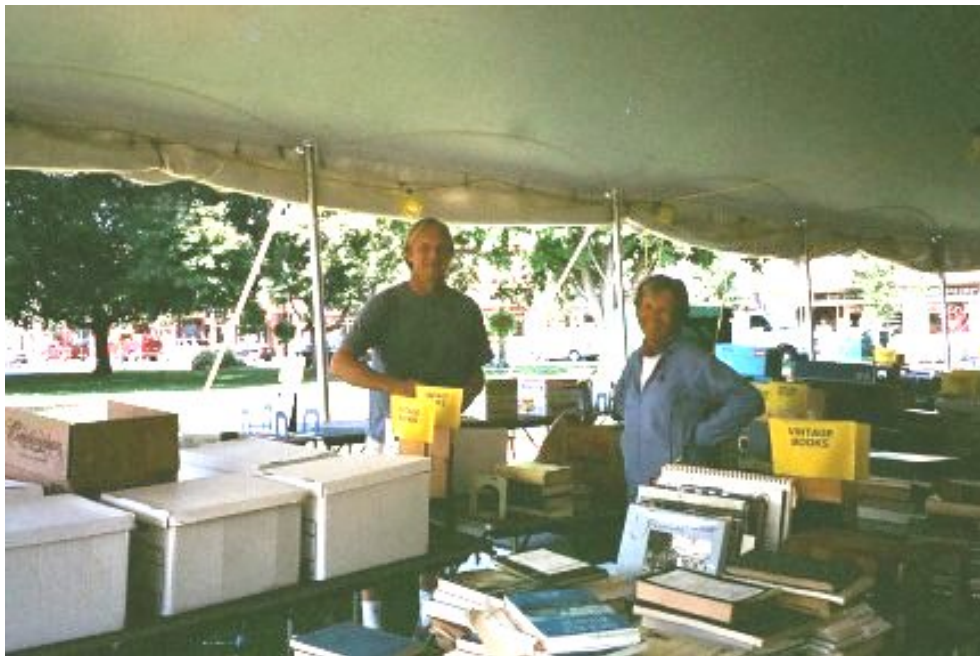
Lori Nicholas and Machalah Bracken, our co-chairs, are busy organizing this year's sale. We will be calling to ask for your help baking, assembling, or selling cookies. Our callers try to reach everyone who is interested in volunteering, but we know that a few people are missed each year. So, if you haven't heard from us by December 1st, let Lori know. You can call Lori at 315-6694 for more information.

And when you visit the library in December, plan to stop by the cookie sale. The only thing better than enjoying a good book, a homemade cookie and a glass of milk is knowing that every bite benefits library programs.



REMINDER

Please check your mailing label. If it does not show 08, you are not paid up to date. Dues (\$10.00 individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$5.00 for seniors or students), should be sent to Joan Ahern, 19 Lincoln Ave., Branford, CT 06405.



Books, books and more books under the big tent on the Branford Green.