



Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library Member Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2009

Branford, CT 06405

Board of Directors of the
Friends of the
James Blackstone
Memorial Library

OFFICERS

Polly Fitz, President
Harriet White, Secretary
Joan Ahern, Treasurer
Mary Russo,
Assistant Treasurer
Richmond Browne,
Immediate Past President
Alice Lambert,
President Emerita

MEMBERS

Irene Ayres
Carol Fitzgerald
Mary Hally
Beverly Madeska
Audrey Nelson
Geri Reider
Donna Roy
Terry Twigg

Terry Twigg, Editor
Newsletter mailed to members
of the Friends with
Marble Columns, JBML's
newsletter; also available
online at:
[www.blackstone.lioninc.org/
htm](http://www.blackstone.lioninc.org/htm)

**Book
Sale**

Sept. 25, 26, 27
Details on pg. 4

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

We welcome these talented new board members to the Friends and look forward to their leadership!

Fred Biamonte

After a distinguished career in the field of organization behavior, both in the business sector and in higher education, Fred moved on to his next venture. His lifelong passion and interest in art led him to further study in docent programs and research into the lives and works of painters. His psychological biographies are a fascinating blend of the artist and the artist's work. He is in demand



as a speaker and has served as a consultant to several groups, including the Friends, was instrumental in the loan of the portrait of Ella Wheeler Wilcox to the New Britain Museum of American Art, and has helped to shape the development of a lecture series soon to be implemented at the James Blackstone Memorial Library.

Tom Perrone

Tom is president/founder of the New England Consulting Group of Guilford. He assists clients with unique solutions for estate, financial and business succession planning as well as Medicaid planning for retirees. His firm provides investments, life insurance and employee health benefits and pension plans. His hallmark is a long-term relationship with every client. He has won many awards for his work and has been president of the New Haven Life Underwriters. His interest in philanthropy comes from work on other boards and a long involvement with the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven.



Letter from the President of the Friends

Dear Friends,

Whew! This has been a busy year for our volunteers and our board leaders. It is halfway through my term of office with many more items on our agenda. I want to extend my personal thanks to our members AND to the board members who have worked with me, taken on new tasks and generally extended themselves. No one leads alone.

It is hard to believe the book sale is around the corner, but here it comes. Check out the dates and our new book sale preview article in this newsletter. There will be some surprises at the preview and on Saturday.

Many of our volunteers get to know Beverly Madeska, a board member, because so often she is the person making the phone calls asking for help. She has a special talent of communicating on behalf of the Friends, and that's only part of what she does. She is also an Interfaith volunteer, works professionally as a fund raiser and helps other groups with fund raising for the greater good. She loves travel, theatre, and generally finding new adventures in life. She'll be calling and I know you will answer!

We have some new fund raising ideas in store for this year. Our next newsletter will unveil those projects.

It has been a wonderful year.

Polly Fitz, President

THE FRIENDS 21st ANNUAL MEETING

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library was held on June 2 in the library auditorium. After the business segment of the meeting was completed, President Polly Fitz turned to other matters:

Carl Nawrocki, President of the Friends of Connecticut Libraries presented greetings and brief comments from the state organization.

In lieu of the monetary gift usually given at the Annual Meeting, the Friends took a stand on another type of gift, literally. This year's gift is the sorely needed new carpeting for the auditorium. The handsome new carpet is just what this elegant room deserves. We hope it will serve well for many years.

Another highlight was the honoring of the founding members of the Friends. We were pleased that so many of the original group were able to attend, twenty-one years after they set the Friends in motion. Alice Lambert, President Emerita introduced the original members honored present, but we have included the complete list:

Dr. Robert & Laura Adamson, Marjorene Ainley, Joan Armstrong, Alice Batrow, Joan Berdick, Jane Bouley, Brian & Karen Festa, Ruth Fredericks, Jeanne Hyatt, Alice Ludlow Lambert, Herbert & Vivian Lewis, Pat McGrath (Mrs. Bill), Betty & Roy Mount, Karen Osborn, Margo Sweeney, Michael Sykes, and Alexine Wallace.

Upon conclusion of business, President Fitz introduced Fred Biamonte, PhD. His presentation was titled *Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Lily Martin Spencer: the portrait and the painter* which was of special interest to the membership. The presentation continued with an interactive dialogue with the speaker and attendees.

Special thanks to the annual meeting committee: Berclee Cameron, Carol Fitzgerald, Cynthia Feldman, Geri Reider, Kathy Rieger, Polly Fitz, chair.



Annual meeting of the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library on June 2, 2009 in the library auditorium.

LIBRARY TOUR

As part of National Library Week, the Friends sponsored architectural tours of the library on April 19. The tours featured a booklet prepared by Jane Bouley, Town Historian, and Jason Neely, reference librarian. The tours were well attended and enthusiastically reviewed. Branford residents are very much aware that our library is an architectural jewel, and have asked that the tours be offered again. We are planning to offer the tour during next year's Library Week

GOODBYE TO A GOOD FRIEND

We regret to announce that Dick Sullivan has resigned his position as Vice President of the Friends. Dick and his late wife Lee were both active and very valued members of the Friends for many years. We will miss him, both as a team member and as a good friend. Dick, we wish you the very best in your new home in Ridgefield, and we look forward to seeing you at the dedication of Lee's memorial garden in the coming year.

ASK NOT WHAT THE ANNUAL BOOK SALE CAN DO FOR YOU ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE BOOK SALE

Yes, you're excited by the prospect of the first-ever Members' Preview Night for the Book Sale, and yes, it's summer and you're concentrating on your tan, your garden, or your golf game. But, while you're having fun, September 24th and the Book Sale are drawing ever nearer, and we need volunteers! Come down to the Volunteer Center any Friday or Saturday morning to help sort books. If you can't do that, sign up to help set up under the tent, or to work one or more days of the sale. It's fun, and you'll meet lots of other book lovers. We also need volunteers to help for the Preview Night on the 24th. Call any Board Member or leave your name with the Library staff.

In addition to volunteers, we need books. *We need books.* WE NEED BOOKS! You know you have at least a bagful of not-going-to-read-again, kids-outgrew, or let's-face-it-never-going-to-get-around-to-reading scattered throughout your house. Put them in the car, *today*, to drop off next time you're downtown.

You don't have to wait until a Saturday to donate; there is a drop-off bin outside the Volunteer Center at 30 Harrison

Avenue. And please, remind your friends and neighbors to do the same. Last year we had one and a half truckloads of books; this year we're aiming for two. Let's set another record.



SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE BOOK SALE . . .

BUT THE PRICES ARE THE SAME!!!!

The Annual Book Sale starts with Preview Night on September 24th from 5-8 pm for Friends members and dealers only. Friends members will get in free and dealers will be charged \$15.00. Tell people they can join the Friends that evening or, better yet, obtain a membership form from the Library Friends Wall on the lower level and send it in advance. The Book Sale opens to the general public on Friday at 9 am. The hours are Friday 9 am—8 pm., Saturday 9 am—6 pm, and Sunday noon to 2 pm.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thanks to the continuing generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able once again to award gift certificates to one lucky member, drawn from the names of all members who joined or renewed by May 27th. This year's winner was Maureen DaRos.

If you haven't yet renewed, please send it in as soon as possible.

REMEMBER: ANYONE WHO WANTS TO ENJOY THE MEMBERS' PREVIEW NIGHT WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN ON THE SPOT.