



Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library Member Newsletter

Winter 2009

Branford , CT 06405

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Newsletter published quarterly
by the Friends of James
Blackstone Memorial Library
and James Blackstone Memorial
Library.

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Newsletter mailed to members
of the Friends with
Marble Columns, JBML's
newsletter; also available
online at:
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2009 BOOK SALE

Is it really possible that almost half a year has passed since last year's Book Sale? It has, and plans are already well under way for this year's event. We will be back under the giant tent on September 25, 26 and 27. Volunteers are already at work sorting children's books, and the general book sorting teams plan to begin their work in earnest in the middle of April.



Donated books may be left at any time in the book drop outside the Volunteer Center on Harrison Street. After the sorting teams begin meeting regularly on Friday and Saturday mornings, starting on April 15, you may also bring your donations inside. Books are sorted and stored in the lower level of the Volunteer Center, which may be reached from the side entrance facing the parking lot.

The Book Sale is our primary fundraiser, and it depends entirely on generous donations from our community. Please encourage your friends and family to think of the Library whenever they clean out their attics or basements, or simply need to make room on their shelves.

SWEET SUCCESS

The 2008 Holiday Cookie Sale was another record-breaker. Like the book sale, the cookie sale had its best year yet. Under the supervision of co-chairs Lorie Nicholas and Michalah Bracken, nearly one hundred volunteers each baked dozens of cookies. On December 11 the lower level reading room looked like an assembly line and smelled like your grandmother's kitchen, as boxes upon boxes of cookies were mixed to create plates of assorted cookies, all festively wrapped and tied with a bow. More volunteers alternated shifts selling the cookies over the next few days, together with raffle tickets for handsome plants

Continued on page 3

Letter from the President of the Friends

I was at a large gathering recently where one of our well known residents made the following remark: "Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring the Book Sale which is a true and great town event, but you support the library doing so." I pass those thanks to our members who have been supporting our many endeavors, and particularly the book sale. We are successful and the library benefits because of your generosity of spirit and time! **YOU KEEP OUR BOARD INSPIRED!**

We look forward to seeing you in April as we begin a next round of preparation for the book sale. Gerry Reider, chair of the book sorters, has been hard at work organizing and taking care of the books that have already been donated. Thanks to her efforts, we have a new book drop bin and improved systems for our book sale. Thanks to you Gerry! Please contact me if you can volunteer....we need more book sorters for Saturday. My email is goodtable@aol.com

Every organization needs to constantly improve to provide the best to our members and the library and to survive in the future. In that light, we have a series of committees that will commence working in March to examine our role and make recommendations to the board. We'll be sharing those ideas with you in the coming months, and you may expect to see some new programs. See you in the Spring!

Polly

A TOKEN OF THANKS

The First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, held at the Library on November 23rd offered a small but heartfelt thank-you to all the hardworking people who are, in so many ways, true Friends of the Library. Board members contributed the food, volunteers contributed the good cheer, and all of us enjoyed the novelty of a meeting that, for once, had no objective except a good time. It will be remembered as the first of a long tradition of annual events. More photographs of the party on page four.



Continued from page 1

donated by Shelley's, Van Wilgen's, and Cynthia's Flower Shop. When the last crumbs were gone, the sale had netted \$1,178.82 for library projects.

Thanks to all the people who baked cookies, packaged them, and staffed the sale tables. A number of people donated cookies without being asked and without leaving us their names; we are grateful, and would thank you individually if we could! As always, we try to keep track of participants, but in the crush of work we sometimes forget to write down the names of every volunteer. We apologize if your name is omitted, and hope you know that your contribution was appreciated.



Gusta Abels, Joan Ahern, Marjorie Ainley, Philomene Acunzo, Richard Armstead, Joan Armstrong, Irene Ayres, Michalah Bracken, Anne Bartlett, Teri Binkley, Dorothy Bjork, Jane Bouley, Donna Bozzuto, Lorraine Bray, Linda Breslin, Harriet Brody, Pat Broughal, Kathleen Burns, Becky Barron, Elizabeth Barnes, Fred and Nancy Biamante, Judith Burke, Mary Caldwell, Barbara Carlson, Angela Carrano, June Chittick, Joanne Cleary, Yolanda Cosenza, Laura Criscuolo, Marie Crowley, Marie Crouch, Charlotte D'Aniello, Ann Davis, Judith DeCaprio, Anne DeLucia, Sonja Dudley, Suzi Ruhl Duenes, Ann Dumark, Betty Eckert, Cynthia Feldman, Jane Ferrall, Frances Finn, Sue Fiskio, Donald Fisher, Polly Fitz, Adela French, Nettie Gagliardi, Ella Hackley, Miriam Hart, Ruth Haywood, Eleanor Higley, Gary Johansson, Barbara Johnson, Patricia Johnson, Marin Karsmarski, Kay Kazmaier, Joan Killion, Mary Klarman, Nina Kosoroski, Fran Kraekel, Alice and John Lambert, Alice L. Lambert, Christie Lambertson, Lois Lehr, Betty Lender, Coe Logan, Mary Lowry, Nancy Lynch, Anne Lynch, Lois Marco Trigiano, Mae Marinelli, Barbara Mattson, Dorothy Maynard, Elsie McGregor, Cathy McGuirk, Charlotte Mension, Judith Miller, Evelyn Moulton, Audrey Nelson, Lorie Nicholas, Erin O'Brien, Karen Osborn, Florence Osochowsky, Lucille Pascarella, Norcott Pemberton, Diane Provost, Susan Ramsby, Naina Ranna, Yohanna Casalini, Martha Reisman, Mark Rosenthal, Nina Salamon, Margaret Sassion, Linda Sinatra, Claire Smith, Gail Sternborski, Astrid Swanson, Mary Swith, Barbara Tamulavich, Faith Tingle, Betty Tobin, Jean Tomasso, Malaine Trecoske, Terry Twigg, Anne Varanay, Alexine Wallace, Frank Whelan, Harriet White, Elaine Yasevac, Cathy Young, Harriet Zimbouski.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The Friends will be sponsoring architectural tours of the library on April 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. as part of the celebration of National Library Week. Together, Jane Bouley, Branford Town Historian and Jason Neely, Reference Librarian, have prepared an excellent booklet about the architecture of the library. The booklet will be available on the day of the tours. Any donations for the booklet will be used to cover the costs of printing. Join us and learn more about our town treasure.

A PORTRAIT MEETS THE PUBLIC

Lilly Martin Spencer's portrait of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the late-Victorian poet who lived in Short Beach for many years, is now on display at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Donated to the Blackstone Library many years ago and nearly forgotten, the painting was recently restored and given a new frame by the Friends. It has begun a two-year stay at the museum, where it hangs in the company of another Spencer painting. To show its appreciation for the loan, the museum held a reception for trustees and Friends of the Library on January 22.

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP ACTIVE

Last year we held drawings for prizes for members who sent in their membership renewals on time, and the contest dramatically improved the rate of prompt renewals. We're hoping to offer similar encouragement this year, and will keep you posted. Membership renewal letters will be in your mailbox in early May.



More photos from the First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party (see page 2 for article)

