

MARBLE COLUMNS

The Newsletter of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

758 Main Street Branford, Connecticut 06405 203.488.1441

Vol. 29, No. 4 Underwritten by the Friends of the Blackstone Library Fall 2006

Annual Report Anyone?

Does anyone read annual reports, be they from your investment corporation or your local church? So much effort is usually put into these documents that one wonders at times if it's worth it. I believe that they are important, at least to me, because it gives me a chance to reflect on the past year's accomplishments. What better way to give ourselves an annual check-up and summarize all of the terrific things going on at the library.

This past year began with an opportunity to create a Strategic Plan. The process itself was very enlightening; giving community members a chance to express themselves about the library, as well as

offering staff members a means of expressing their preferences about the kind of workplace they want.

Once a plan was adopted, it gave the Library Board a vehicle to use in our annual request for the town appropriation. The Board of Finance was impressed with all of the information we received from the community and commended the Board for their work.

What does all this mean to the community of Branford? Hopefully you have witnessed a few changes at the library. We can't do everything we want to do all at once, but we now have a plan for the future

and a document to keep us on track.

Have you used our café? There are vending machines and comfortable seating for those looking for refreshment. Have you tried out the new comfortable seating in the Young Adult room? The chairs give a coziness to the room and a place for teens to read their favorite graphic novel. Have you tried one of our 23 public internet stations? It is true that the computers are often in use, but it's not usually a long wait. Have you seen all the additions to our collection? Our staff cata-

logged 1200 new items during July and August alone. If you can't find the book you need, let us know. We'll try to get it for you. In the meantime, we may have something else on the shelf that is just as good.

We now have committees made up of Board members who are working on publicity, collection policies, funding, technology, and programming. All of these committees are working so that we can have a great library. Visit us in person or on our website, www.blackstonelibrary.org, to find out ways your library can help you, and, if you are someone who enjoys reading annual reports, ours can be found on the website.

-Kathy Rieger, Director



Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Hours (Sept. 10, 2006—May 20, 2007)

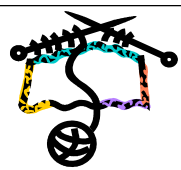
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friends of JBML Annual Cookie

Sale starts Monday Dec. 11th,
2006



(ends when all the cookies are sold!)



It's Hip to Knit afghan raffle to
benefit the Blackstone Library

(see page 3)

Branford History Archives

The Blackstone Library and Branford Historical Society have collaborated to provide finding aids and indexes to Branford history collections and databases. The Branford Historical Society has a large collection of Branford family, municipal and business archives and about 8,000 photographic images (which must be viewed with Jane Bouley). These collections plus Branford postcards are at the library. The library has a scrapbook collection of Branford news from New Haven newspapers and Branford newspapers on microfilm.

Jane Bouley, the Branford Town Historian, has provided the library with an incredible collection of material. Some of the indexes and databases that are available include a list of historic homes, history articles, transcriptions of Branford federal censuses and vital records. Stop by to view the collection and use the resources that are available—history is a lot of fun!



Branford Raptor Display



We hope you had a chance to view the photographs of ospreys and their young while it was featured at the library during August and September. The exhibit, assembled by Donna

Lorello and Diane Hull of the Osprey Observers Group, contained photographs by Tom Cleveland, Dr. Robert White,

Diane Hull and Donna Lorello. The Osprey Observers Group, sponsored by the Branford Land Trust, observed these particular birds beginning when they arrived in Branford late last March.

Book Clubs

The **Mystery Book Club** meets in the Lucy Hammer Room from 3-4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. New members are always welcome; please contact Tom Wilson at 483-6653.

The **Second Tuesday Book Group** meets in the Lucy Hammer Room from 6-7:45 p.m. Please see Barbara, Debby, Alaina or Nancy in the Reference Department for more information.

Staff Picks



- ☞Linda: *Deadly Slipper: A Novel of Death in the Dordogne* by Michelle Wan; *The Drowning Man* by Margaret Coel
- ☞Sandre: *Deceit* by James Siegel; *Faithful Spy* by Alex Berenson
- ☞Debby: *The Night Gardener* by George Pelecanos; *Echo Park* by Michael Connelly; *The Collectors* by David Baldacci
- ☞Mary: *Creepers* by David Morrell; *Lucia, Lucia* by Adriana Trigiani
- ☞Megan: *The Clique* novel series by Lisi Harrison; *Magic Hour* by Kristin Hannah
- ☞Patricia: *Life is a Banquet* by Rosalind Russell; *Journals of Louisa May Alcott* by Louisa May Alcott and Daniel Shealy; *Martha Washington: An American Life* by Patricia Brady
- ☞Alaina: *The Rays and the Initiations* by Alice Bailey; *It's Never About What It's About: What We Learned About Living While Waiting to Die* by Krandall Kraus
- ☞Barbara: *She Got Up Off the Couch* by Haven Kimmel; *Colorado Kid* by Stephen King; *Plain and Simple: A Woman's Journey to the Amish* by Sue Bender
- ☞Kate H: *Labyrinth* by Kate Mosse; *Girls of Tender Age: A Memoir* by Mary-Ann Tirone Smith; *The Know-it-All: One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Person* by A. J. Jacobs
- ☞Kathy B: *For One More Day* by Mitch Albom; *Pupniks: The Story of Two Space Dogs* by S. Ruth Lubka
- ☞Deirdre: *Sun Storm* by Åsa Larsson; *Silence of the Grave* by Arnaldur Indridason; *The Sea Runners* by Ivan Doig
- ☞Gennett: *Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peters* by R.A. Scott
- ☞Nancy: *Consider the Lobster and Other Essays* by David Wallace; *Rise and Shine* by Anna Quindlen
- ☞Alana : *Queen of the Amazon* by Judith Tarr; *Sorcerers and Secretaries, Vol. 1* by Amy Kim Ganter; *Ceres, Vol. 1* by Yu Watase
- ☞Kathleen: *Taming Horrible Harry* by Lili Chartrand; *Thunder from the Sea* by Joan Hiatt Harlow; *Full Tilt* by Neal Shusterman
- ☞Kathy R: *Running with Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs; *I Feel Bad About My Neck* by Nora Ephron

Thank You

Many thanks to Sue Cheeseman for the beautiful flag that she gave the library in memory of her husband Jack, who passed away in September.



Mark Your Calendar

The Friends of the JBML will hold their 2007 Book Sale from Sept. 28-30, 2007 on the Branford Green, under the big tent.

Raffle

Members of our *It's Hip to Knit* group have been diligently designing, knitting and putting the finishing touches to an afghan blanket to be raffled off in December to a lucky person. Watch our website for further information.

We're Wi-Fi!

Bring your laptop to the library for *free* internet access.

New OPAC

On September 25th, Libraries Online, Inc. (LION) and its twenty-one member libraries, including Blackstone Library, completed the migration of their shared integrated library system to the Millennium integrated library technology platform, a product of Innovative Interfaces, Inc. The Millennium system replaced the previous DYNIX system, which included its Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), circulation, cataloging and acquisitions modules. In the months leading to "migration Monday", the member libraries were busy preparing and training for the new system, a massive undertaking, considering the size and complexity of the consortium and its holdings. For example, the union database contains 700,000 records representing titles of books, DVDs, books on CD, videos and magazines held by the libraries.

The Blackstone Library staff and the other LION libraries are very appreciative of the patience and understanding everyone has shown while we work out the kinks in the Millennium OPAC, transit holds and holds inactivation, and the homebound module.

Vouchers

You may have noticed that the library had vouchers available on the website and at the check-out desks during September for use at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in North Haven the weekend of September 29th and 30th. The voucher event coincided with a book signing by Branford's own author Nancy Wallace who recently published a new children's book, *Look, Look, Look*.



The library received 15% of the profits from customers who made purchases at Barnes & Noble and had the voucher in hand. We have available to us over \$200 to use at Barnes & Noble because of this event. Our thanks to Fred Guida and Barnes & Noble of North Haven.

Home Tours

Save either Dec. 16th or 17th to enjoy the *Lights of Pine Orchard*, a holiday homes tour sponsored by the Blackstone Board of Trustees. More info at our website.

@ the Blackstone

It's Hip to Knit - This knitting and crocheting group meets in the Lucy Hammer Room at the Blackstone Library on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 7:45 p.m. This informal gathering is for knitters, crocheters, and other fiber craftspeople of all ages, from the beginner to the expert. First-time knitters welcome - coaches available.



Home Delivery - Just a reminder-The Blackstone Library can provide delivery of books or other library items to your Branford home if you are unable to come into the library for any reason. Please contact Nancy at 488-1441 and we can arrange to have your items picked up or delivered by one of our volunteers.

DVD Collection Grows Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Mr. William DeGroat, the library has made a substantial addition to our foreign film collection.

From the Query File:

- What do I look for when I buy an iguana?
- Are you a robot?
- How do you say "brown-nerve" in Italian?

Youth Services Department

The Youth Service Department has been a lively place with lots of activity happening.

Miss Mary’s preschool story groups have been having a great time hearing the newest books like the *Hippo Goes Bananas* by Marjorie Murray as well as some old classics such as *The Three Little Pigs*. The children and parents also have a chance to sing and move to the music. The Limbo Rock and the Hokey Pokey are just two of the favorite songs and dances. The hour finishes up with a unique craft each week. Come to the Youth Services Department to see some of the great art work the children have created.

Chess Club continues to meet every Saturday morning and is a great success, thanks to our two dedicated volunteers, Ajay and Jason. This is becoming a true “inter-generational” program as more adults are joining the fun. Players of all ages and skill levels find a challenging game and lots of laughter and camaraderie.

The Triple T Club is a continually growing group of 5th through 9th grad-

ers who come together on Tuesday afternoons from 3-7 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. Activities have included movies, crafts, and pizza and game parties. The kids help plan the activities and have a blast with Patricia who coordinates the group.



Our newest program addition is a Saturday morning story hour. Kids of all ages can come hear a story read by our volunteers, Miss Dawn or Miss Holly and enjoy a craft. Parents and children both enjoy the time together.

There is always something to do in the Youth Services Department. Come check the ever expanding collection or play in our castle/puppet house. Have fun with Thomas the Train.

Blackstone Goes to the Circus

In conjunction with Channel 8 News and the Connecticut Library Association, Blackstone patrons participated

in the Ringling Reading Adventure. The first 300 children in Connecticut to read three books related to tigers, clowns, and all things related to the circus won a free ticket to the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus on October 26, 2006. Several of Blackstone’s youngest patrons read and received their ticket. A great time was had by all.

Museum Passes Available

The Youth Services Department has museum passes available to several Connecticut museums. The pass provides free or discounted admission to many of the state’s best destinations. Next time you are planning a trip to the Beardsley Zoo or Mystic Aquarium check out a pass at the children’s Circulation desk. For a full list of available passes and specific discount information check out the Youth Services web page.