



Vol. 30, No. 4

Underwritten by the Friends of the Blackstone Library

Fall 2007

Three Shoreline Libraries Undergoing Major Changes

The Guilford Free Library, the Scranton Memorial Library in Madison, and the James Blackstone Memorial Library are all undergoing major transformations, funded in large measure with public dollars. All three have similar long range goals set via local strategic planning processes, but the progress to date varies significantly in the three communities.

Ten years after identifying its needs, Guilford voted to fund a major renovation of its Free Library—an \$8 million project. Of these funds, \$6.9 million will be paid using public bonds and a state construction grant, and the rest, \$1.1 million, is being raised privately in a capital campaign. There are a host of community leaders committed to helping the library reach its goal by the time the construction is finished late next year.

The Scranton Library in Madison completed its strategic plan in 2003. Last expanded in 1989, the building is woefully inadequate; there is not a single parking space dedicated to patrons. There is no space set aside for children's programs, and

Once the building is restored, we will address many of the changes recommended in our own strategic plan.

they are thus held in the Community Room. But the Scranton has quietly been accumulating land adjacent to the current building. Armed with a vision for the future that will significantly expand the current square footage while preserving the original building's historic origins, Madison is now working to build public support for a major investment by the

town in the planned renovation.

At the Blackstone, our own transformation will begin soon, with badly needed emergency repairs to the roof, the windows, and the marble covering our lovely building. We are grateful to the Town of Branford for the special funds made available for these repairs. Once the building is restored, we will address many of the changes recommended in our own strategic plan. Funds are now being sought to pay for detailed design work necessary to articulate a vision for the future of the Blackstone. Within the next few years, our own changes will doubtless be as spectacular as those now underway or clearly planned for our neighbors to the east.

—Robert McAlister

Blackstone Development Coordinator

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. 9, 2007 - May 18, 2008
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friends of JBML Annual Book Sale, edition 2007, was the greatest! Details in their newsletter. Thank you again, Friends!

The James Blackstone Memorial Library
Proudly Presents



A Holiday House Tour

Visit <http://www.blackstonelibrary.org>
for more information

Notes

The following is a quick compilation of great and/or memorable endings for books and films gathered from library staff: *Water for Elephants* (novel by Sara Gruen), *Some Like it Hot* (directed by Billy Wilder); *Dr. Strangelove, or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Bomb* (directed by Stanley Kubrick); *Being There* (directed by Hal Ashby from the novel by Jerzy Kosinski); *The Kitchen God's Wife* (novel by Amy Tan); *Missing May* (children's novel by Cynthia Rylant); *Damage* (novel by Josephine Hart); *The Year of Living Dangerously* (directed by Peter Weir). In addition, Charlotte D'Aniello's Opera Appreciation program on October 29th, featured *Great Finals*. No doubt everyone has their own list of memorable endings with, or without, a twist!

Blackstone Library extends a great hearty welcome to our new circulation assistant, Joanna O'Brien.



Megan and Patricia G., Blackstone Library circulation assistants, have been busy designing, and revising some of our reader advisory booklets. Anyone looking for reading ideas *Bordering Reality*, *Skinny Books*, *Chick-Lit—Revamped*, *Women in the World*, *Good Humor*, and other genres, check these new lists.

Staff Picks

☞**Linda:** *Shadow and Lies* by Marjorie Eccles: A novel of mystery and intrigue. The plot switches back and forth from an involvement of a death of an unknown woman found on an estate in England to troubled times in South Africa in the last years of the 19th century. Well-written—an excellent read! *China Road* by NPT correspondent Rob Gifford travels across China's route 312 from Shanghai to the Kazakhstan border. Read about Chinese culture, its people, economy and its future. Very interesting.



☞**Sandre:** *Oracle Lake* by Paul Adam: Fast action and good characterization. The way the author describes the setting makes you feel you are right there.

☞**Deirdre:** *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai is an elegiac, dryly humorous novel set in northeast India, New York and places in between. *The Last Place on Earth* by Roland Huntford is a harrowing account of Amundsen's and Scott's race to the South Pole. Scott's poorly planned and ultimately fatal journey contrasts with Amundsen's meticulous preparation, makes for a riveting read.

☞**Gennett:** *Leni Riefenstahl: A Life* by Jurgen Trimborn: Leni Riefenstahl is remembered primarily as Hitler's filmmaker, her most famous film being *Triumph of the Will*. Trimborn writes about a strong, complex woman who suffers for her choices, yet overcomes. You may not like her at the end of the book, but you will respect her perseverance. A really interesting biography!

☞**Patricia G.:** *Practicing Peace in Times of War* by Pema Chödrön: Got peace? Those familiar with Chödrön's work will embrace her latest volume of simple truths on the subject of war and peace. Concise, clear, profound, provocative, read and consider: peace is possible. *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pema Chödrön: Practical, useful techniques for cultivating wisdom, compassion, patience and courage in difficult times. Accessible, humorous, kind and wise; Chödrön skillfully uses Buddhist teachings to show the way.

☞**Alana:** *The Fox* by Sherwood Smith: In this sequel to *Inda*, Sherwood Smith continues the saga of Indevan, who has been forced to become a pirate to save his life. After leading a mutiny, he becomes known as Elgar the Fox, a fierce captain bent on destroying the evil pirate empire on the waves: the Brotherhood of Blood. This story of war, love, and survival is filled with the same magic as the first—both as part of the plot and in the way Smith weaves her prose. *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan: This wordless graphic novel about the immigrant experience is just as likely to appeal to adults as teens. Tan's hyper-realistic style emphasizes the strangeness of being alone in a new culture and nation; the diversity found in his pictures and the warmth that his characters offer the main character show and ideal of how, perhaps, strangers should be treated. The art is well worth savoring, and the stories of multiple immigrant experiences are touching.

☞**Kathleen:** *The Three Snow Bears* by Jan Brett: Brett's newest book is an Inuit retelling of Goldilocks and the three bears. The book is beautifully illustrated and is sure to become a winter favorite. *The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World* by E.L. Konigsburg is a great story that blends a present day mystery with events that took place in Nazi-occupied Holland during WWII. Although Konigsburg's two Newberry winners were written for a younger audience, this book is clearly for young adults.

☞**Nancy:** *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar* by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein. This is a very humorous synopsis of traditional philosophy where you can both laugh and have your memory refreshed at the same time. *Letters from Nuremberg* by Christopher Dodd presents a very unique perspective of one of the most terrible eras in history. It is also an incredibly beautiful love story told in the letters of former Connecticut senator Thomas Dodd to his wife as he was serving as a lawyer at the trial.

☞**Mary:** *Erika's Story* by Ruth Vanderzee: The story of a woman who has no idea who

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From the Youth Services Department

Books in the round! Have you seen the new way the Youth Services Department is displaying books? Take a look around the rotunda on the second floor. There are books displayed all around. Every couple of weeks the display changes to a new theme. We have all been taught not to judge a book by its cover but it's fun to be able to see the covers of so many books. Since we have started doing the displays, we have had mystery books, back-to school books, fairy tales, books about baseball, and books about monsters and ghosts. It has been fun to see children pick up books that they might never have thought to look at before seeing it on display. It gives new life to books that may have been forgotten as well as gives children a chance to try something different. Stop upstairs to see what we are showing off.

Are you missing Harry Potter? The end of a beloved series has left many fans of the Rowling books wondering what now? There are many good resources to suggest what to read next. Check the Youth Services website to see a list of books of what to read now that Harry Potter is over.

Programs, programs, programs, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor there will be several family programs offered this fall. In September a Blackstone favorite, Les Julian had a concert featuring new songs including "I Am Not Scared" and "Uncle Louie's Teeth." Check the website for more information.

Have you seen the new Read posters at the Blackstone? The Youth Services Department held a drawing for all of the participants in the summer reading program. See if you can find the posters of Joey, Alicia and Giana.

Now that school is back in session, Miss Mary and Miss Kathleen have been invited to visit some classrooms in town. We love the chance to visit the schools to read stories and talk about the Blackstone. Some pre-schools and daycares have made trips to the library for a story and a tour. We are always glad to make arrangements to visit your classroom.

Through the generosity of the Allan Louis Loeb Foundation for the benefit of Wildlife and Domestic Animals the Blackstone Library will be offering programs and material that will enhance children's appreciation and understanding of animals. Look for programs to start in January.

Thank to everyone who sent us postcards this summer. It was exciting to see all the great places people had been. We received postcards from as far away as China and Ecuador and as nearby as the Essex



Steam Train. Children enjoyed seeing the postcards they mailed on display. Our next patron participation bulletin board is going to be "Pets on Parade" — bring a picture of your pet and we will be glad to hang it up. Check the board to see furry, funny and even scary pets!

—Kathleen Feeney

Youth Services Librarian

120 POSTCARDS OF INDIAN NECK AREA

Jane Bouley, Town Historian, has reproduced on a CD-ROM 120 vintage postcards of Indian Neck in Branford, Connecticut. Branford is one of



several shoreline communities well known as a summer resort during the 19th and 20th centuries. Several summer hotels overlooked the water including The Montowese, the largest hotel between New York and New London. Cottages at Limewood Beach, Linden Avenue, Pawson Park, Haycock Point, and Hotchkiss Grove provided a respite from the summer heat.

Today Indian Neck is a year round neighborhood with beautiful views and unique character. All proceeds from the sale of the CD-ROMs goes to the Branford Historical Society for its programs of restoration, education, Town archives and the upkeep of Harrison House. These very special vintage postcards can be downloaded on your computer. The price is \$15.00 and makes a great gift for any occasion. They are available at Blackstone Library.

*Winnifred Judge
Chair of Publications
Branford Historical Society
203-488-8755*

she is; a book about the Holocaust, these stories touch your heart, and make you see how blessed we are, and the sad part is there are awful conditions around the world for innocent people still today.

☞ **Jason:** The Wine-Dark Sea by Patrick O'Brian: The sixteenth book in O'Brian's beautifully written Aubrey-Maturin series. The series is as much about the complicated friendship of Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin as it is about naval warfare in the age of sail. A must read for anyone that is interested in the Napoleonic Wars. The Complete Joy of Homebrewing by Charlie Papazian is a useful guide for any homebrewer, from the beginner to the expert, but it is especially useful for those that are new to the hobby. Dozens of recipes are a variety of beer styles are included.

☞ **Kathy R.:** The Maytrees by Annie Dillard: If you enjoy prose that reads like poetry, poignant love stories, and the craggy coast of Cape Cod, you will certainly enjoy this new novel by Annie Dillard. She is an exquisite writer. Her ability to convey a remarkable story that puts the reader in the position of having to think, sets her apart from many writers. Have your dictionary close at hand and take pleasure in the lives of New Englanders Lou and Toby Maytree and their strange yet wonderful friends.

☞ **Patricia B:** Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen by Bob Green: This is a true story of how a small town of 12,000 people greeted and served food to over 6 million GIs during WWII. Bob Green interviewed those who remembered the North Platte Canteen in Nebraska. I could not put the book down — heartwarming stories, this is the side of the war that you rarely hear about.

☞ **Kathy B.:** Montana 1948 by Larry Watson: This novel explores the life of a twelve year old boy through his adulthood with great sensitivity and insight. It is an easy read with great characterization, especially of the Indians involved with this boy's family. It's appropriate for a mature group—high school on up.

☞ **Megan:** The Bright Side of Disaster by Katherine Center: A light read about a woman whose fiancée disappears the day she goes into labor. Caring for the baby on her own, she discovers her own strength and finds happiness in the face of disaster.

☞ **Joanna:** In Dublin's Fair City by Rhys Bowen is the sixth in the Molly Murphy mystery series. Molly travels back to Ireland on a new assignment and finds herself mixed up in kidnapping, murder, the Irish revolt against England and second thoughts about the man she left behind!

☞ **Deby:** The Sanctuary by Raymond Khoury: From Naples in

1750 to Baghdad in 2003, Khoury weaves a suspenseful tale that includes archaeology, science, alchemy and history.

☞ **Barbara:** Climate Change Begins at Home: Life on the Two-Way Street of Global Warming by Dave Reay. Practical but not preachy ideas for anyone who cares about climate change and wants to do something now.

☞ **Robert:** I'm currently re-reading The Liar's Club: A Memoir, by Mary Karr. This remarkable book has special meaning for me; the author grew up less than 50 miles from my boyhood home in Texas. First published in 1995, I have a policy of re-reading favorite books a decade after I first enjoyed them.



Lindsay Mathews, a member of the Branford Conservation Commission, exhibited the "Green Cottage" in the library rotunda during September. Thanks Lindsay for a very informative and interactive cottage that drew many interested viewers and participants.