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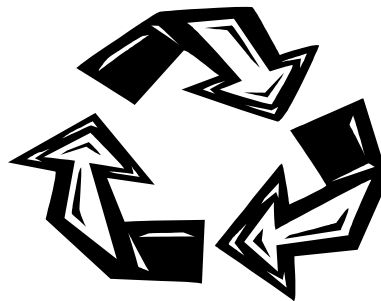
Fall 2008

Community Leaders Begin a Recycling Program

News flash! It's 1731 and Benjamin Franklin, along with some fellow printers known as the Leather Apron Club, were discussing ways to help their communities. "Let's start a recycling program!" Although I doubt those were Mr. Franklin's exact words, it was at his suggestion that the first lending library open to everyone was established in America. The club pooled their money to purchase books that people could borrow, return, and then loan (recycle) to someone else. It was a great idea in 1731 and one that is still relevant 277 years later!

We've all heard the reports about deforestation and how it causes the destruction of wildlife habitats and unpredictable climate change. It makes sense that the more libraries share books, the fewer will have to be printed or reprinted, saving paper, trees and, ultimately, saving our environment.

I doubt Ben Franklin thought about electronic resources, but this is an even more innovative way to save our environment. We currently subscribe to literally thousands of magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, and research sites. These are available to you through our website www.blackstonelibrary.org. You can read any of the articles contained in these databases without printing anything onto a piece of paper.



Not into research? Try our downloadable books! We have nearly 550 titles of fiction and non-fiction books that you can download on your

MP3 player. No trees were harmed for your listening pleasure.

Did you have an opportunity to attend the Friends of the Blackstone Library's recent book sale? This was another great way to share a book and save a tree. The Friends sell over 100,000 items that are recycled from donors. Often their customers purchase a book at the sale, read it, and give it back to the Friends to sell again the next year. Talk about a recycling program! The leftover items from the sale are also put back to use by being generously donated to the Boys and Girls Club of New Haven.

Next time you want to read a book, think about lessening your "carbon footprint." Check out that book from the library. You too can contribute to saving our planet.

— Kathy Rieger,
Library Director

Library Hours

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

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

Sunday
Sept. 7, 2008 - May 17, 2009
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

NEW!

CD-ROM of old postcards of the Thimble Islands

Jane Bouley, town historian, and the Branford Historical Society have produced a CD-ROM containing 100 vintage postcards of the . . . *Continued on page 3*



December 5, 6 & 7

Visit our website for details:
www.blackstonelibrary.org

@ the Blackstone

The Friends of Blackstone Library have an ongoing book sale table set up in our Reading Room. Prices are pay what you will.



Gennett, our Associate Librarian for Technical Services attended a workshop on *Cataloging Electronic Resources* at Middletown Library Service Center. Associate Librarian **Kathleen** participated in the *MySpace, Facebook and Social Networking Tools for Libraries* workshop at the Farmington Library. Associate Librarians **Barbara** and **Deirdre** recently participated in two workshops at the Wallingford Public Library on *Library Safety & Security* and *What's Next? Libraries as a Resource for 50+ Citizens*. Deirdre has been attending circulation roundtable meetings with other managers from Hamden, New Haven, East Haven, Cheshire, and North Haven public libraries. **Jason**, reference librarian, attended *What Web 2.0 & Library 2.0 Actually Mean* at the New Britain Public Library. In addition, Jason is a participant on the LION Overdrive Downloadable Audiobook Selection Committee. **Alana**, reference assistant, participated in a grant-writing workshop here at the Blackstone Library.



Oprah's Book Club, in partnership with the **American Library Association** (ALA), continues its distribution of free copies of the Book Club's selections, with *The Story of Edgar Santelle*. Copies are donated by the publishers and sent to schools, public and community college member libraries of the ALA and other non-profit organizational members.

Staff Picks

Linda: *Time is a River* by Mary Alice Monroe: A novel about a woman facing difficult situations in her life rents a cabin in the North Carolina mountains. The cabin once belonged to a prominent family member who was involved in a scandal in the 1920s. She begins a quest to uncover the truth which becomes a transforming healing for herself, family members and all those in the community. Very moving, inspiring, and emotional with a touch of mystery.

Sandre: *Rough Justice* by Jack Higgins: Fast-paced adventure with characters you get to know; Higgins makes them come alive.

Gennett: *The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage* by Daniel Mark Epstein: The first fifty pages are slow going, but once you are past that point, *The Lincolns* is an absorbing story! Epstein brings his subjects to life in a very human story of two people and their triumphs and struggles against the backdrop of American history. *American Priestess: The Extraordinary Story of Anna Spafford and the American Colony in Jerusalem* by Jane Fletcher Geniesse: Anna Spafford was the leader of a controversial Christian group that was founded by her husband Horatio in the mid-19th century. Their belief in the imminent Second Coming of Christ led them to settle in Jerusalem. Geniesse weaves an engrossing tale of religion, personality and history.

Patricia G.: *Train Your Mind, Change Your Brain* by Sharon Begley: Good news: the brain you have is *not* the one you're stuck with. Begley skillfully documents events of the 2004 Mind and Life Institute, a meeting of the world's leading neuroscientists, the Dalai Lama and Buddhist contemplatives on areas of mutual interest to science and Buddhism. Their findings? It is possible to reverse age-related changes in the brain, regain abilities after stroke, address dyslexia and mental health, and even increase levels of human compassion. Fascinating, inspiring, readable; recommended to all who are interested in neuroplasticity/science and Buddhism.

Alana: *Icarus at the Edge of Time* by Brian Greene: When I first read the review of this book, I expected a full scale comparison of Greek myth and modern physics. What I got instead is a short fairytale in the style of a board-book for adults, sometimes with as few as four words on a page. Each page features a huge photograph from the Hubble Telescope as the concise text tells the story of young Icarus, an expert pilot, who decides to fly up close to a black hole. It's an excellent short read--highly recommended. *Rapunzel's Revenge* by Shannon and Dean Hale, illustrated by Nathan Hale: This graphic novel is a pleaser for all ages. A retelling of the fairy tale of Rapunzel, the comic depicts a Wild West version of the long-haired princess, who uses her tresses as a lasso rather than a ladder. Her prince and sidekick is actually Jack of beanstalk fame, and the pair take on the wicked witch who kept "Punzie" prisoner. It's a fractured fairy-tale, a weird-western, and an excellent adventure.

Nancy: *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch: This is not your typical self-help book. It will help you regain some perspective on what is really important in life. *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield: This is a very enchanting and well-written mystery that centers around an antique bookstore and an unfinished manuscript. It is a real page turner.

Carol: *One Tractor: A Counting Book* by Alexandra Siy: Numbers, numbers everywhere; such a part of our everyday lives. For the little boy in this story, counting takes him on a whimsical adventure. In rhyming fashion, we see the play yard come alive with pirates and planes, and trucks and cranes . . . and other things too! Great exposure to math practice; clever pictures complete the story connection. *Hello, Day!* by Anita Lobel: Come visit the country where all animals greet you, and with each woof, oink, eek, meow, moo, neigh, honk, baaa, cock-a-doodle-doo, they all seem to say Yes, Hello, Day! But when the sun sets and the moon comes out, whoooo is there, and what does he shout? Soft illustrations make for a gentle bedtime story.

Jason: *Hot Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America* by Thomas Friedman: Friedman's newest book takes an in-depth, systematic approach to looking at the complex energy problems that we face in the 21st century. He explores how our dependence on oil lines the pockets of "petro-dictators" and helps to fund the very groups we are fighting in the War on Terror. Friedman also explores the ecological ramifications of our use of fossil fuels and provides numerous potential solutions involving renewable energy.

Kathy R.: *The Quality of Life Report* by Meghan Daum: When Lucinda Trout, a New York TV producer, visits the Midwest it's hard to believe that she actually wants to stay there, but stay she does. Her roller-coaster ride of a life isn't exactly what we, as readers expect, but we root for



From the Youth Services Department

The Youth Services Department had a great summer of *Catching the Reading Bug*. The children of Branford made weekly trips to the Blackstone to share their reading logs with staff and choose prizes. Pencils, posters, tattoos, books and book bags were among the rewards for reading every day. The children also placed a bug with their names on it on the bulletin board. It was exciting to see the board fill up with creepy crawly bugs as the weeks went on. By the end of summer we were filled with all kinds of insects! We are so proud of all the children who read this summer. The staff loved seeing the children each week and hearing about all the wonderful books that they read. The ever popular Miss Mary Story Time went on throughout the months of June and July. The children heard a variety of stories and made crafts revolving around summer reading theme. The staff was



pleased to welcome back for the summer the 4 and 5 years old children who left story hour to attend pre-school and kindergarten. They were thrilled to be Miss Mary's helpers, teaching the younger children songs, and helping to pass out materials for the crafts. Oh how they've grown!

There was a family program each week in July. Storytellers, a magician, a bee keeper, an author and a children's musician provided entertainment to the children. These were very popular with children and parents. On Fridays throughout the summer a movie was shown in the auditorium. It was a great way to beat the heat!

Patricia and the Triple T kids had a "Metamorphosis" this summer. Following the summer reading theme for intermediate children, activities and crafts revolved around "Metamorphosis". This is the first time this age group has had their own summer reading theme. It worked out very well and encouraged more children to participate by keeping a reading log.

The Triple T kids also metamorphosed into actors and artists. They participated in an improv workshop conducted by a professional acting group. The children had a ton of fun learning the games and techniques of improv. Gregory Maichack, a professional artist, provided the children with instruction on using pastels. After just an hour of instruction the children were producing amazing pastel pictures.

Remember now that you're back in school we are here to help you! You can find books for reports or use our Homework Help link on the Youth Services web page to find accurate information for school assignments. We also can help you find a book for school reading time. Stop by and see all the things the Youth Services Department can offer you.

Did you know that there is a Parent Resource shelf in the Youth Services Department? This ever expanding collection has books on a variety of topics important to parents. There are books on talking to your children about the death of a pet or loved one, bullying, child health, potty training and developmental stages, just to name a few. The collection also contains popular parenting magazines. Come browse our selection.

Books with Bite! *Breaking Dawn*, the final book in the Twilight Series is here! This long awaited finale to the wildly popular books by Stephenie Meyer measured up to the hype surrounding it but has left the teens wanting more! In response to this we have created a book list called *Books with Bite!* Check out this list at our "Books and More" link to find great books about vampires. Let us know if you know a great vampire book that we should add to our page.

— Kathleen Feeney
Youth Services Librarian

Reference Assistant **Alana Abbott** is pleased to be able to share two recently published works of fiction, one in an anthology and one published by an electronic magazine. Alana was invited to contribute to *Ransom: The Anthology: Deals Gone Bad/Good* by editor Dylan Birtolo earlier this year. The fiction collection was published in August, featuring her story "Don't Let Go," a retelling of a fairy tale set in the modern Isle of Man. Her young adult short story "Nomi's Wish" is currently available in *Coyote Wild Magazine*, and can be read for free online at <http://www.coyotewildmag.com>.

Marble Columns is a quarterly publication of the James Blackstone Memorial Library and underwritten by the Friends of JBML. Mail subscriptions to members of the Friends; additional copies available at the library or on our website.

Editor: Deirdre Santora.
Contributors: Kathy Rieger, Kathleen Feeney, Alana Abbott, Pat Whitestone, Deirdre Santora.
Many thanks to Debby Trofatter for all her help.

Crossword puzzle enthusiasts who enjoyed *The New York Times* September week of puzzles by young people under 20 may be interested knowing that the Sept. 10th puzzle was the creation of Lucas Whitestone, grandson of Blackstone Library volunteer Pat Whitestone and grandnephew of volunteer Cynthia Feldman. Now a freshman at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Luke, 18, has also had two crossword puzzles published in *USA Today*.

Continued from page 1 ... Thimble Islands in Stony Creek, Branford, Connecticut. The islands were allotted in the fifth Branford land division. Some remained in the same family for many years. The Thimble Islands were a summer resort destination for a clam-bake or to stay in one of their hotels. The granite islands vary in size and topography but each has a 360 degree view of the shoreline and water. Today the beauty, ambiance and history of the Thimble Islands can be experienced with a boat tour. The Thimble Island CD-ROM is available at the Blackstone Library or by contacting Winnifred Judge at 488-8755, for \$15.00.

We're Wi-Fi!

Bring your laptop to the library for free internet access.

her anyway and end up wishing her the best. Mrs. Kimble by Jennifer Haigh: This is an interesting book about marriage and children and the three wives of Ken Kimble. It's hard to believe that these marriages make for fascinating reading, especially since Mr. Kimble is an opportunist and all-around dishonorable guy and even though all three wives were different in many ways, the story shows how they had similar experiences with their choice of a husband.

☞**Patricia B.**: Manhunt: The Twelve-day Chase for Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson: A part of history long forgotten or left out of the history books, covers very detailed events leading up to and after Lincoln's assassination. Keep track of all the different players. Lights Out Tonight by Mary Jane Clark: Wow, never saw that coming—I picked the wrong murderer at different times throughout the book. Fast moving, many ins and outs—looking forward to reading her other books.

☞**Deirdre**: Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels: Canadian poet Michaels stunning fiction debut of love, loss and redemption; a film was recently released with equally powerful lyricism. All the Fishes Come Home to Roost: An American Misfit in India by Rachel Manija Brown: Brown's memoirs of living in India, from age seven, with her hippie parents, and other assorted characters.

☞**Kathy B.**: Wisdom of Our Fathers: Lessons and Letters from Daughters and Sons by Tim Russert: Russert chronicles stories from everyday Americans about their memories, both good and bad, about their fathers. This

book grew out of the response to Russert's Big Russ and Me, about his own dad.

☞**Megan**: The Upper Class by Hobson Brown, et al.: A charming novel about the lives of privileged teenagers that actually has some substance!

☞**Kate**: Interred With Their Bones by Jennifer Lee Carrell: Who was William Shakespeare? From the burning of the Globe Theater in 1612 fast forward through history and around the world to discover some fascinating conspiracies about who the real Shakespeare was. The Anatomy of Deception by Lawrence Goldstone: A medical historical fiction set in 1889 Philadelphia. Attention to details of early medical practices with intrigue, murder, and mystery.

☞**Joanna**: Walking the Gobi by Helen Thayer: This is the true story of Helen Thayer and her husband Bill's hike over 1500 miles across the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. Helen vividly recounts their struggles and challenges they faced along the way.

☞**Kathleen**: Old Bear by Kevin Henkes: This is a delightful picture book by a favorite children's author and illustrator. Soothing pictures and simple verse show children the progression of seasons as an old bear hibernates and dreams. For young adults: The Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz. Doesn't every school boy dream of being a spy? Well this is a spy dreaming to be a school boy! At age 14, the uncle that had been raising Alex Rider dies and Alex discovers that he has been being groomed to be a spy! Alex becomes a reluctant agent for MI6, the English equivalent of the CIA. Through the course of seven books Alex takes on bad guys across the globe. Lots of action and

of course spy gadgets make this series a great read.

☞**Debby**: Sacrifice by S.J. Bolton: Bodies in bogs — descriptive forensics — perhaps a little outlandish (Deirdre seconds that assessment!), but gripping nonetheless. N.B.: Not for the squeamish. Angel's Tip by Alafair Burke: Lots of suspense and plot twists in this new novel by James Lee Burke's daughter. Read "Dead Connection" first if you want to read the first in the series with the character Ellie Hatcher.

☞**Mary**: Sisters and Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page: A perfect book for animal lovers young and old. You will learn interesting facts like anteaters are always only children and armadillos are always born as identical quadruplets. It's a way to learn, and enjoy, a fascinating science.

☞**Barbara**: Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich: Master storyteller Louise Erdrich's eleventh novel is a series of interconnected, multigenerational stories centered around a sacred Native American drum that brings life, death or healing to those whose paths it crosses. Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children by John Wood: Microsoft marketing director, John Wood had an epiphany during a 1998 Himalayan vacation, by way of a request from a Nepalese schoolteacher that "Perhaps, sir, you will some day come back with books." In less than a year, Wood quit his comfortable job and established Books for Nepal (eventually renamed Room to Read). He documents the building of more than 210 schools and 2,500 school
