



Vol. 30, No. 3 Underwritten by the Friends of the Blackstone Library Summer 2007

Heard Any Good Books Lately?

If you're into technology and you love to listen to audio books, we've got the perfect thing for you. James Blackstone Memorial Library is now allowing cardholders a new way to check out books: *Free downloadable digital audio books from Overdrive.*

Audio books, in the form of CDs and cassettes have been popular for years. However, on August 1, 2007, Blackstone Library launched a digital audio book collection allowing cardholders to download audio books from the Internet, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. You can choose from over 300 titles and download them from a link on our website using your JBML library card. Simply log onto our

catalog from our website, www.blackstonelibrary.org, make your selection from a list of current best-sellers, classics, nonfiction and fiction titles for all ages and follow the easy downloading instructions to put them

onto your home pc or laptop, transfer them to a portable device MP3 player, or in some cases, burn onto a CD for

your reading and listening pleasure anywhere, anytime. You will never accrue late fees with titles you download. At the end of the loan period, titles will expire and be automatically 'returned' to the library. Try it, it's easy!

Download digital audio books anytime, day or night. All you need is a library card. It's another free service that comes with your library card. Your library never closes. For instructions or information, go to our website or call Barbara, Debby, Jason or Alana in the Reference Department at extension 318.

—Barbara Cangiano, Associate Librarian



We're Wi-Fi!

Bring your laptop to the library for free internet access.

Who was on WNPR?
Find out inside!



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 present their

Annual Book Sale

Sept. 28, 29 & 30

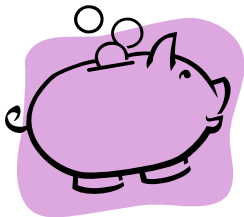
under the big tent on the
Branford Green

@ the Blackstone

Fred Biamonte's **psychobiography** programs of various artists at the Blackstone were a great success in the spring and early summer. Check our website for his upcoming talks in the fall.

Charlotte D'Aniello's **Opera Appreciation** series kicks off on September 24 with her program on Beverly Sills.

We collected \$396.00 for the **Community Dining Room** at the Volunteer Services Center, in the last fiscal year. Many thanks to everyone who contributed a 11 the



dimes, quarters, and dollars. Small change certainly adds up and all for a great cause!

We mourn the death of **Florence Banca** at the age of 95 on July 16th. Flo was a longtime employee of the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library and resident of Stony Creek. She was a fountain of information on Stony Creek's history, as well as an inspiration to many for her indomitable spirit and energy. She will be missed greatly by all who knew her.

Blackstone Library welcomes our new Board of Trustees member, **Maura Sullivan**. We will have more information in the next *Marble Columns*.

Staff Picks

☞**Linda:** Victoria Thompson's *Murder on Lenox Hill* is set in 1800s in old New York, with Detective Frank Malloy and midwife Sarah Brant finding themselves involved in a family scandal that threatens the community. Thompson's Gaslight Mystery series are enjoyable, intriguing and fast-paced—Anne Perry fans will enjoy them.

☞**Sandre:** For a great adventure and unknown facts about Thomas Jefferson read *The Navigator* by Clive Cussler.

☞**Patricia B:** *Knitrrr! & Knitrrr! 2* by Shannon Okey: As a beginner knitter, both these books have fun and fast projects. The instructions are easy to understand and in very little time you have a finished piece — I was even able to use these books to instruct our Triple T Club. *Knitting: 20 Simple & Stylish Wearables for Beginners* Catherine Ham: Another great book for beginners—no sweater yet, maybe next year

☞**Barbara:** *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris; *The Tender Bar* by J.R. Moehringer; *Running in the Family* by Michael Ondaatje: Three memoirs written by men—all funny, touching, and original.

☞**Kate H:** *The Collectors* by David Baldacci: Fast paced and quirky characters makes this book a great beach read. *The Last Templar* by Raymond Khoury: The story moves back and forth in time as well as travels around the world. A good mix of thrilling fiction and historical fiction that ends with a nice twist.

☞**Deirdre:** My Scandinavian mystery train continues with *The Cruel Stars of the Night* by Kjell Eriksson and *The Indian Bride* by Karin Fossum. The mysteries then slice down the North Sea and on to England in *The Dead Sit Round in a Ring*, featuring DS Stella Mooney in David Lawrence's police procedural. Jamaican immigrants and English "natives" confront racism, the ravages of war, and love, in Andrea Levy's intricately plotted *Small Island*.

☞**Gennett:** *His Excellency George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis: Ellis' book is a truly interesting story of Washington's life. He makes Washington come alive for the reader, and we begin to see the human being instead of the legend. Fans of biography and history will enjoy!

☞**Patricia G.:** *Gossamer* by Lois Lowry: A tiny trainee from the race of dream-givers gathers and bestows wisps of memories to humans with a "gossamer" touch. Comforting, enchanting, imaginative; strong believable characters. For ages 9 and up.

☞**Alana:** *Wicked Lovely* by Melissa Marr: Marr's landscape of myth, invisible fairies and impossible choices is exceptionally well drawn. Fans of Stephanie Meyer's Twilight series should definitely pick this up. *Sorcerers and Secretaries, Vol. 2* by Amy Kim Ganter: Readers waiting for months to find out the resolution of volume one's cliffhanger will not be disappointed by the concluding volume. Not only does the second book explore the romance between the two main characters, but also creativity, writing, and how we allow friends to influence our muses. An excellent sequel to the original volume.

☞**Kathleen:** *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers: This is a great young adult fiction book about a young man on trial for his alleged role in an armed robbery. The story is told as if it were being filmed. It is fast paced and grabs the reader's interest. *Hurry Hurry* by Eve Bunting: This picture book has beautiful illustrations and a simple story about a much anticipated event in the barnyard. Toddlers are bound to want this read over and over.

☞**Nancy:** *How Elizabeth Barrett Browning Saved My Life* by Mameve Medwed: This is a very quirky and pun-filled mystery that centers around an old chamber pot and a trip to the Antiques Roadshow—a quick and highly entertaining read. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini: A beautifully written account of life in modern day Afghanistan—it

Continued on page 4

From the Youth Services Department

Did you *Get a Clue at the Library* this summer? Well, 125 children, Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade Got a Clue at the Blackstone by participating in the summer reading program. The theme revolved around mysteries, riddles and crime solving. Thanks to the Friends of the Blackstone and Guilford Savings Bank the children attended a variety of programs, and earned prizes for reading as much as they could. Many children were introduced to some classic mystery series such as the *Boxcar Children*, *Hardy Boys* and *Nancy Drew*. They also discovered some newer series like the *Capital Crimes* and *American Girl History Mysteries*. The *CSI Crime Books 24/7* were a huge hit with the older kids as well as the *Forensic Experiments* series. There was something for everyone!

We had *Fun with Science* when paleontologist Paulette Morin discussed dinosaurs and fossil hunting. The children had an opportunity to see fossils up close and use magnifying glasses to see the intricate details of many different specimens.

The children helped Sam Case and Poochie solve *Who Stole the Golden Cat?*, when the Marshmallow Masquers came to Blackstone. Sparky, a larger than life raccoon sleuth presented the *Book Detective*, and taught the children to use codes to solve mysteries.

We were delighted to have the Science Center formally known as the Children's Museum set up a crime lab for a group of future detectives. The children used fingerprinting and chromatography to solve a "robbery".



The summer has been busy for Miss Mary's story group. In addition to hearing great stories, singing songs, dancing and crafts, the children went on a field trip to the Trolley Museum in East Haven. The children rode the

Trolley and had a picnic lunch. This wonderful opportunity was able to happen due to the generosity of an anonymous donor. The children were also thrilled to meet the firefighters from Branford Company 2. The firefighters discussed fire safety and demonstrated their equipment. As a special treat all the children had a chance to sit in the fire truck. A special thank you to the firefighters Captain Harold Barringham, First Lieutenant Brian Mazzarella,



Firefighter/EMT John Masci, EMT John Cudgma, and Cadet Bradley Young.

The Triple T, 5th-8th graders, had lots of fun kicking off the summer with a library scavenger hunt. Fifteen kids used their library searching skills to answer thirty questions about the library and the locations of various types of material. They finished off the afternoon with ice cream. Throughout the summer these kids have made tie-dye shirts, lava lamps, and hydro bracelets and necklaces. They had a talent show, game day and made their own ice cream. This group of kids is full of fun and energy. Keep your eyes open for activities during the school year— they're bound to be terrific.

Thanks to Joy Tolonen from the Girl Scouts who hosted a story and craft every Monday this summer for Kindergarten to 4th graders. Joy read some great mysteries and the children made a variety of crafts to go along with our Get a Clue theme, including magnifying glasses, Sherlock Holmes hats, and finger print mobiles.

Congratulations to Praneeth Ganedi and Richard Salg this year's winners of the Kenilworth Kennel Club

drawing contest. The Kenilworth Kennel Club sponsored the competition at various local libraries. The two boys drew pictures of a police dog with his partner. They were presented with books from the club and their art work will be featured at the club's upcoming events.

We are sad to say goodbye to Christine who has been one of our Saturday volunteers for the past year. Christine helped with the Saturday story and craft as well as shelving countless books for us. Christine is headed to Quinnipiac University. We'll miss her and wish her all the best.

A dream come true for a youth services librarian: talk about children and reading for an hour. Well that's what I was asked to do this summer as a guest on WNPR's program *Where We Live*. The show, hosted by John Dankosky, focused on the choices schools make for summer reading lists and the role of the public library in summer reading. Linda Williams from the Connecticut State Library and I were able to share our ideas about what works and what could be better about summer reading assignments. Callers shared their thoughts on current trends and their memories of summer reading of years ago. It was heartening to hear how passionate people are about children and reading. What a wonderful experience!

—Kathleen Feeney,

Associate Librarian

The Blackstone Library was the very happy winner of Blue Apple Books BookExpo America giveaway contest — a complete set of SAMi board books for our children's collection. Patricia G. and Deirdre had entered the contest while attending the international convention at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City in June.

News from Alana Abbott, our new Public Services Assistant, and author:

Though the publication of my third novel, *Regaining Home*, has been delayed (we were expecting it in August, at GenCon, but alas, neither it nor I will be there), I have some excellent news. In the past few months, I've been involved in the development of a web comic, *Cowboys and Aliens: Worlds at War*, which is a sequel to the recent *Cowboys and Aliens* graphic novel that was released back in December. The comic is being hosted on DrunkDuck.com, where the original comic is still available to read. Our site is [http://www.drunkduck.com/Cowboys and Aliens Worlds at War/](http://www.drunkduck.com/CowboysAndAliensWorldsAtWar/), and the comic begins on [http://www.drunkduck.com/Worlds at War Prelude/index.php?p=252882](http://www.drunkduck.com/WorldsAtWarPrelude/index.php?p=252882). We're posting a half-page on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, so though it'll take a little while for the story to get going, we can promise you super-regular content. We'll also have bonus content on Wednesdays and Saturdays, some of which will be influenced by our readers.

While you won't have to have read the first volume to enjoy the current story line, I recommend going back and giving it a peek. The original team created a great set-up, which we've really enjoyed playing with. It's available here at <http://www.drunkduck.com/CowboysAndAliens/index.php>.

www.drunkduck.com/CowboysAndAliens/index.php. (It also gives you something to read while we're building up the content for *Worlds at War*.)

Thanks to everyone in advance for giving the pages a look. Our publisher is planning to gauge the comic's success based on the number of hits, so every peek at the page is a great help!

Staff Picks *continued from page 2*

gives a human face to the stories we see on the news.

☞**Mary:** *Sisters* by Danielle Steel: True to life situations - tragic and happy family makes a good read. Anyone who has sisters can relate to this book. *The Hot Flash Club Chills Out* by Nancy Thayer: For women in the hot flash zone this book is for you. It's what every woman hears about and then you're there before you know it!

☞**Jason:** Michael Pollan describes four radically different food chains in *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. His "natural history of four meals" will make the reader put a lot more thought into dining habits. John Hemming's *The Conquest of the Incas* is one of the most comprehensive histories of the conquest of Peru. Hemming manages to provide a very balanced history, exploring the motivations of the

Spanish conquistadors as well as the Incas and their subjects.

☞**Kathy R.:** *Early Birds: A Mother's Story of Our Times* - Connecticut author, Jenny Minton, writes about giving birth to premature twins; life in the NICU and at home. Well researched with an enlightening and interesting glimpse of the struggles of premature infants and their parents. *Everything I Needed to Know about Being a Girl I Learned from Judy Blume* edited by Jennifer O'Connell is a compilation of short essays by women writers of children's books, young adult books, and chick-lit. A great read that sheds light on girls coming of age, whether it was twenty years ago or fifty years ago.

☞**Kathy B.:** *The Wright Sister: Katherine Wright & Her Famous Brothers* by Richard Maurer: An authoritative biography filled with behind-the-scenes vintage photos of the Wright family. This account of her life began while Maurer was setting up an exhibit for an aerospace museum in 1990. He came across Katherine's many letters and descriptions of her brothers grand experiment. *10 Ways to Let Your Greatness Shine Through* by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer: A great book for children to be exposed to self-esteem boosting attributes. It has lively illustrations and simple, understandable text for elementary grade children.