

MARBLE COLUMNS

The Newsletter of the James Blackstone Memorial Library

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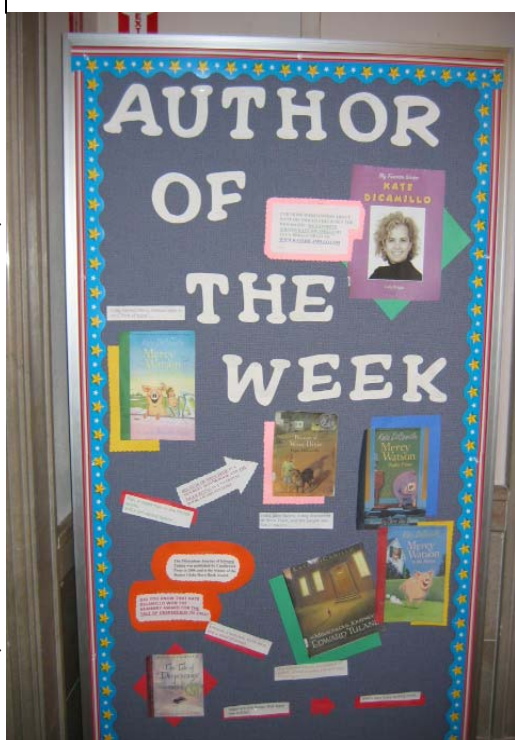
Vol. 30, No. 1 Underwritten by the Friends of the Blackstone Library Winter 2007

Youth Services Presents The Author of the Week

Did you know that Tomie De Paola was born and raised in Meriden, Connecticut? Or that Jane Yolen has written over 200 books, some with her sons and daughter? Did you know that Kate DeCamillo wrote her first story about a person at the Winn-Dixie, not a dog? These are just a few of the facts that have been found on the Youth Services' Author of the Week board.

Often the patrons of the Youth Services Department have asked us about their favorite authors. They want to know more about these men and women who have captured their imaginations. Where are they from? How do they get their ideas? What are they going to write next? In response to this wonderful curiosity, the Author of the Week was born.

Each week the Youth Services staff



chooses a popular children or young adult author to feature. The display, which changes on Saturdays, includes the author's personal web site address, interesting facts, popular titles by the author as well as some titles that readers may not be familiar with. The display is located on the landing of the Youth Services Department.

So, if you want to know what the inspiration was for the *Secrets of Dripping Fang* series or when the next *Sister Grimm* book will be published, check out the Author of the Week. Dan Greenburg and Michael Buckley will be featured in the coming weeks. The content changes each Saturday so stop by and learn a little more about your favorite author.

— Kathleen Feeney, Youth Services Librarian

Check our website for the latest program information, including *Ask-a-Lawyer* and free movies:

www.blackstonelibrary.org/events.htm

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 presents

Cabin Fever Book Sale

@ Blackstone Library

Feb. 23rd, 24th & 25th

under the dome

Raffle Winner

Uncover the winner of the *It's Hip to Knit* and *Friends of JBML* afghan raffle in the Friends newsletter inside.



Take a hike

It may not be the most popular season for hikes and walks, but some days the temperatures seem to tell us otherwise. Once you decide to start hiking,



stop by the library first for a handy map. We now have maps for distribution in the Reference Department of sixty-six recreational trails of south central Connecticut. Each map has directions to the trail and where you can park your car. The narrative includes permitted activities, such as “dogs permitted on leash.” There is a brief history of the area the trail is located and features a photo. There is also a legend with markings for water bodies, rivers and streams, roads, and railroads. The map is the perfect size for slipping in your pocket, too. These maps were made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. If you forget to pick one up when you are in the library, they are also available on the town website; www.branford-ct.gov or www.scrkog.org

Blackstone Library’s own Alana Abbot is a reviewer for *School Library Journal*. Her review of the junior fiction book *The Emerald Curse* by Simon Rose was published in the January 2007 issue.

Live Animals—Please Touch!

We hope you were here for the “Zoo Station” program on January 11th. Over eighty people were able to see the Endangered Species program brought to us from the Children’s Museum in West Hartford.

Corrie Folsom from the museum brought several animals to help educate the group on endangered animals. The first creature was a hissing

cockroach, an example of an insect who is not endangered at all, mostly because they eat most anything and can live most anywhere. She brought a domestic ferret, which is also not endangered, but it led to a discussion on the black-footed ferret which is endangered. Chinchillas in the wild are nearly extinct. It was a treat to pet the farm raised chinchilla that Corrie brought. The reason that their fur is so desirable is that each hair

follicle contains at least 100 individual hairs. They are raised on farms for their coats and surprisingly, it takes the pelt of 100 chinchillas to make one coat. The last creature was a box turtle, the one creature that was not allowed to be petted since they often carry the salmonella bacteria.

Thanks to the *Friends of the Blackstone Library* who sponsored this great program. Check out other programs at the library on our website, www.blackstonelibrary.org

Staff Picks

☞ **Linda:** *Eye of the Wolf* by Margaret Coel: If you like Tony Hillerman you will love Margaret Coel. Great characters as well as learning about Arapaho Indian culture and life on the reservation. *Dust: A Richard Jury Mystery* by Martha Grimes: great English who-done-it and a good mystery series.

☞ **Sandre:** *Santa Cruise* by Mary & Carol Higgins Clark: The characters in this book really come to life—you feel as if you know them personally. A fun read. *The Book of Fate* by Brad Meltzer: Plenty of political intrigue—it takes you behind the scenes with some of the most powerful people in Washington, D.C.

☞ **Debby:** *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy: Dark, haunting, chilling, frightening and yet, at the same time, uplifting in its depiction of a father’s love for his son and in the son’s faith that there is still good to be found in the world.

☞ **Mary:** *Sally Goes to the Vet* by Stephen Huneck: I love this book—it opens a way for children to understand that their pets go to the doctor too, and that they also have feelings, get sick or sometimes hurt.

☞ **Patricia:** *Interruption of Everything* by Terry McMillan: “You don’t have to give up everything to own your life”—loved the quote.

☞ **Alaina:** *8 Types of Leaders Every Leader Should Know* by Del Fe: It’s a book not just for business leaders but for everyone, especially if you’ve ever wondered what traits are innate in great leaders. It’s also helpful for recognizing and developing those latent leadership qualities in yourself so that you too can become a great leader.

☞ **Barbara:** *About Alice* by Calvin Trillin: An honest, moving and tender portrait of Trillin’s marriage and the subsequent loss of his beloved Alice. *Timbuktu* by Paul Auster: Mr. Bones, “a mutt of no particular worth or distinction” is the insightful narrator and confidant of Willy G. Christmas, a troubled but brilliant homeless man from Brooklyn.

☞ **Kate H:** *Next* by Michael Crichton: Long-awaited Crichton novel will not disappoint—an intellectual thriller that will have you thinking about your own DNA. *What to Eat* by Marion Nestle: A comprehensive aisle-by-aisle guide to the supermarket. By the end you will have a better understanding of package labeling, supermarketese and food laws.

☞ **Kathy B:** *The Lamp, the Ice and the Boat Called Fish* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin: a fictionalized account of a 1913 Arctic expedition and the explorers battle for survival



We were saddened that our colleague Karen Stableford lost her battle with cancer on November 9th, 2006. Karen served the library for six years as programming coordinator for the library auditorium. In her memory the following books were added to the collection: *500 Bungalows, 500 Cottages, Bauhaus: 1919-1933, Design Handbook: Concepts-Materials-Styles, Eames Primer, Edward Weston, The Garden Book, Hand to Earth: Andy Goldsworthy Sculpture, Interior Color by Design: A Tool for Homeowners, Designers, and Architects, Julia Margaret Cameron, and Louis I. Kahn: 1901-1974: Enlightened Space.*

Members of the Branford community are usually the first to let us know that the flag flying in front of the Blackstone Library is looking a little worn and it is time for a new one. We always appreciate the fact that they are watching out for this beloved symbol of America's freedom. We recently flew the flag at the library at half staff following the death of former President Gerald Ford. This brings to mind that sometimes we are questioned about flag etiquette, especially when flying the flag at half staff, so it never hurts to review the rules.

The pertinent section of the United States Flag Code says, "by order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State,

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Staff Picks *continued from page 2*

after their ship hits an iceberg. *Come with Me: Poems for a Journey* by Shihab Nye: A children's book of sixteen poems that can be enjoyed by all, including the beautiful illustrations by Dan Yaccarino; winner of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award in 2000.

☞**Deirdre:** *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: A compelling and compassionate novel set during Nigeria's civil war in the 1960s.

☞**Gennett:** *Climbing the Mango Tree: A Memoir of a Childhood in India* by Madhur Jaffrey: Cook and actress Jaffrey's memoir of growing up in India provides a window to a very different culture. Her descriptions of sights, smells and sounds are wonderful—you will feel as if you were there. *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different* by Gordon S. Wood: Wood explains the mindset of the 18th century man and how it influenced the founding fathers in building our Constitution and government. Read the introduction!— it sets the stage for the rest of the book.

☞**Nancy:** *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name* by Heather Lende: A humorous and perceptive look at life in a small Alaskan town. The main character is a woman who works at the local paper and processes all the gossip and news.

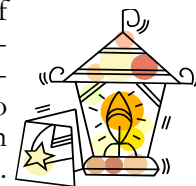
☞**Alana:** *Golden* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes: Yale grad Barnes's first novel for teens combines fantasy and high school chick lit to form an adventure worthy of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang tells three separate tales of characters who feel like outsiders, then intersects them with a twist. Yang draws on Chinese mythology and literature to create a tale directly relevant to modern readers, utilizing the strengths of the graphic novel format.

☞**Kathleen:** *Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer: I loved this book—Pfeffer demonstrates the strength of a teenager under extreme circumstances. It made me contemplate how I would react if "life as we knew it" changed.

☞**Kathy R:** *The Complete Stories of Truman Capote* by Truman Capote: I was captivated by many of these stories even though I don't usually read short story books. Capote is such a fine and gifted writer and his ability to place the reader right in his story is nothing short of miraculous.

Quoted by Nancy Pearl (author of *Book Lust*) on NPR Morning Edition: "An adventure is a tragedy that doesn't occur"

The Blackstone Library Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone who participated and supported the recent fund raiser, *Lights of Pine Orchard*. The generosity of



sponsors and homeowners was so very appreciated. Our

sponsors were Branford Building Supplies, Colin M. Gershon, Attorney at Law, James M. Troy of Smith Barney, Jeff Torello and family, The Law Offices of Elizabeth McMahon, New Alliance Bank, Citizen's Bank, Anderson Krause Insurance, Sound Runner, Fired Up!, Richard P. Shanahan of Raymond James Financial Services, Soklakian, Caiafa and Co., LLC Certified Public Accountants, Jeff Clark of Old Stone Realty, LLC, Branford Flower Shop – Jennifer Hodgins, designer, The Pawson Group, Anderson Wilcox Corporation, and The Pine Orchard Yacht and Country Club. Our homeowners were Paul Hally, Betty Ann and John Donegan, John Giordano, Mary Jane and Joe Tavalacci, Lisa and Robin Sandler, Eric and Patty Rose, Kathleen and Dick Greenalch, Kathy and Joe Thomas, and Claudia and Joe Sepot. Also a special thanks to the Fundraising Committee, along with Bill O'Brien, Orchard House, Alaina Driscoll, Controlled Air, Myers Flower Shop, Shelley's Garden Center, Cynthia's Flower Shop, J.A. Long Florist, Floral Expressions at the White Sleigh Haus, Flower Wonderland, George Caruso, Garrity Industries, and Lisa Kronauer of Madison.

Congratulations to Branford illustrator and author, Nancy Wallace on her Connecticut Book Award for Children's Illustrator in recognition of *Alphabet House*.

Youth Services Department

After a short break over the holidays, the activities have resumed in the Youth Services Department.

The Triple T Club is back in action. The group of 5th to 8th graders met with Patricia for a planning and kick-off meeting on January 23rd and they have a ton of fun planned. This year's events will include something for everyone. Keep your eyes peeled for a talent show, movies, karaoke, and tie-dyeing to name just a few. There is also a rumor that the kids will be trying recipes from the Dr. Seuss cookbook. We wonder what Pink Yink Ink Drink will taste like!

The kids in the Triple T Club have tons of energy and creativity. They add a welcome enthusiasm to the department. All kids in 5th through 8th grade are welcome to any of the events which are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Miss Mary has tons of new stories and crafts for 2007. Her red story hour cart is brimming with books including the *Bear Wants More* by Karma Wilson and *Sally Goes to the Vet* by Stephen Huneck. Miss Mary loves to pick out special books for the children. She has quite the knack for picking the best stories. The books read at often encourage the children to participate by rephrasing or their own experiences.



Story time is lots of fun but great lessons are learned there as well. Through the activities children learn to follow rules (you can only take one instrument for the Wiggle March), to take turns (you have to

wait in line for the Limbo Rock) and to share (you have to give the glue stick to your neighbor when you are done). It is great to see the children learn and grow over the months.

Story time is also a great time for the parents, grandparents and other caregivers who get a chance to sing, dance and make a craft with their child. The adults also enjoy a chance to visit with each other after story time and many go to the Preschool room to continue playing and visiting. A great time is had by all.

Saturday morning is a busy time as well. A core group of chess players are improving their skills each week and are looking for new challenges and competitors of all ages. Drop by for a game any Saturday morning.

Has your child participated in a special event or been recognized for special accomplishment? Drop off a picture or newspaper clipping at the Youth Services desk. We'd love to add their picture to "Our Community Board".

The Youth Services Display Case has been home to some terrific collections this year. Young people from our town have generously shared their collections of Barbie Dolls, Junie B. Jones books, Lego creations, original anime art and crab collections. If you have a collection you'd like to share, let us know.

Thank you to the Allan Louis Loeb Foundation for the Benefit of Wildlife and Domestic Animals for the generous award to the Youth Services Department for educational materials pertaining to the welfare of wildlife and domestic animals. The new books are terrific and enhance the collection greatly.

Flag *continued from page 3*

territory, or possession of the United States, the governor of that state, territory, or possession may proclaim that the national flag shall be flown at half-staff." The code also includes other related details including the specific length of time during which the flag should be displayed at half-staff, in the event of the death of a "principal figure" (30 days for the death of a sitting or former President, 10 days for the death of a sitting Vice-President, etc.).

Although the code is fairly clear, there are often misunderstandings that occur. For example, former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno once ordered the American Flag flown at half-staff on all U.S. Department of Justice buildings, in honor of several Drug Enforcement Agents who had died in a plane crash. While the National Flag Foundation understands this gesture, the Flag Code did not give Attorney General Reno the authority to issue that order. One time Philadelphia Mayor Tom Murphy ordered all flags flown at half-staff to honor the victims of a plane crash. Here again, a well-intentioned gesture, but one for which no authority exists. In an article in the November/December 1994 *Standard Bearer* magazine, The National Flag Foundation points out these "good-faith misunderstandings," not to criticize or embarrass anyone, but rather to head off a growing trivialization of this memorial salute and to preserve the dignity and significance of flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

We are always saddened to hear of the deaths of local military heroes and police officers, but know that we will find ways to memorialize the loss of their lives, while at the same time respect the rules of our U.S. Flag Code.