

# The Librarian

Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Summer 2016 Issue

## LONGTIME PATRON HONORS THE LIBRARY WITH EXTRAORDINARY GIFT

The Board of Trustees of the Stonington Free Library is deeply honored to announce that the Library is the beneficiary of an extraordinary bequest from the estate of Jean K. Blanchet of a sum in excess of \$1,000,000. This bequest is one of the largest single gifts made to the Library in its 127-year history.

Mrs. Blanchet was born in Mystic and lived most of her life in Old Mystic. She was an avid reader and a frequent patron of the Stonington Free Library. Mrs. Blanchet was pre-deceased by her husband Rene and both her sons William and Brian who had no children of their own.

Mrs. Blanchet graduated from Wesleyan University in 1943 with a degree in education.

According to a close acquaintance and co-executor of her estate, Stuart Peckham, Mrs. Blanchet's life revolved around books and she read anything and everything she could get her hands on. She also loved NASCAR and was a fan of Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

Mrs. Blanchet's generosity will serve to support the future development of the Library. The Board of Trustees and staff of the Stonington Free Library offer heartfelt appreciation for Mrs. Blanchet's gift and intend to honor her memory through thoughtful stewardship to further the mission of the Library.

Planned giving, in the form of bequests, is an important source of funding that supports the financial stability of

the Stonington Free Library. No matter the size, bequests made to the Library are typically invested in our endowment fund. The Board of Trustees makes a modest draw from the endowment each year to support Library operations. With 60% of the Library's annual budget dependent on private donations, endowment income is important for the Library to feel secure in planning for the future of the institution.

Recognizing the importance of endowment income to the long-term financial health of the Library, the Board created the *Babcock-Phelps Society* in 2009. The Society recognizes those who have bequeathed portions of their estate to the Library, or have indicated to us that they plan to do so. If you are interested in joining the



*Babcock-Phelps Society* here at Stonington Free Library, please contact us at 860.535.0658 and we will be happy to assist you. If you have already created an estate plan that includes the Library, please let us know so that we may recognize your generosity.

## THE LIBRARY HAS TURKEY FEVER



The Stonington Free Library is excited to have Equinox Travel offer Library supporters two custom-designed, intimate group tours of Turkey in Fall 2016 to benefit the Library.

Participants can choose either **September 15-27** or **September 29 - October 11** to explore the fabled city of Istanbul and travel along the Mediterranean and Aegean coasts. A portion of the price of the trip is a tax deductible donation to support Library programs and services. The tour is designed and led by **Equinox Travel**, a boutique agency founded by Turkish archaeologist **Umit Isin**, and **Holly Chase**, a travel consultant specializing in Turkey, who combine over 20 years of experience creating custom travel programs for both groups and private travelers to Turkey.

In celebration of this venture, Stonington Free Library has coordinated several Turkish-themed events and is highlighting a collection of Turkish-themed novels, biographies, travel guides, and cookbooks to allow patrons to get a true flavor of the country.

**On Friday, May 20th at 5:30 pm, the Library will present a talk - *Turkey: The Heartland of the Eastern Empire* with local author, Ted Danforth, whose most recent book – *The Eastern Question* – focuses largely on the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire. Ted has spent much time in Turkey and will offer fascinating insights about the Greco/Roman heritage of Anatolia and also explain how and when Anatolia became Turkey.**

We will then continue this theme on **Thursday, August 11th at 5:30 pm** when the Library will host the Connecticut Authors Trail, featuring author **Bruce Ware Allen**, author of the historical account of *The Great Siege of Malta: The Epic Battle Between the Ottoman Empire and the Knights of St. John*.

Anyone interested in learning more about the tours of Turkey, or any of the other events planned around this theme are encouraged to contact Melissa Floyd at the Library. She can be reached at [development@stoningtonfreelibrary.org](mailto:development@stoningtonfreelibrary.org) or 860.535.0658. A trip summary can also be viewed on the Library's website [www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org)





**Bold** = Adult Activities    **🔒** = Pre-registration Required. Please call.

MAY

- 2 Nutmeg Nominees announced for 2017!
- 5 5:30 pm **Thoughtful Thursdays – Noreen Kepple discusses Container Gardening with a Twist**
- 7 10:30 am Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks
- 14 10:30 am Minecraft Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks (Ages 6 +)
- 16 The Nutmeg 2016 WINNERS will be announced! Stop in and see if your favorite won!
- 18 5-7 pm Coloring Party
- 20 5:30 pm **Ted Danforth discusses Turkey: The Heartland of the Eastern Empire**
- 21 11 am Instrument Petting Zoo and Mini Concert presented by Calvary Music School
- 28 10:30 am Sticker Day
- 30 **Memorial Day – Library Closed**

JUNE

- 4 10:30 am Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks
- 8 5:30 pm Teen Volunteer Summer Orientation – Applications DUE before this date!
- 9 4:30 pm Teen Volunteer Summer Orientation – Applications DUE before this date!
- 11 10:30 am Minecraft Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks (Ages 6 +)
- 12 5 pm **Sunday Evening Lecture Series – C. Griffith Mann speaks about The Cloisters @ The La Grua Center**
- 13 Registration for Summer Reading 2016 OPENS! (ongoing)
- 13 **Adult Summer Reading Opens – through July 30th**
- 13 **Food For Fines – outstanding fines are forgiven with the donation of a non-perishable food item – through July 30th**
- 14 **Bus Trip to the Cloisters with guided tour**
- 15 10:30 am Bess Eaton Donut Day (All Ages) 🔒
- 17 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 18 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 20 10 am The Olympic Outlet OPENS
- 21 Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) – Material cost \$7.50
- 10:30 am Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) – Material cost \$7.50
- Pouncing Panthers Pine Point’s jump rope team @ the COMO (Ages 8 – 10) 🔒
- 22 Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) – Material cost \$7.50
- 6:30 pm PJ Story Time
- 23 Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) – Material cost \$7.50
- 24 Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) – Material cost \$7.50
- 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 25 Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) – Material cost \$7.50
- 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 27 10:30 am *Little Blue Truck* Day – Story Time and a visit from an antique little blue truck
- 28 10:30 am Make an Olaf Night Light (Ages 4+)
- 29 10:30 am Frisbee Show & Workshop @ the COMO (Ages 7+) 🔒
- 6:30 pm PJ Story Time

JULY

- 1 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 2 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 4 **Independence Day – Library Closed**
- 6 3 pm Sharpie® Marbled Manicure – come with your nails painted white! (Ages 10+) 🔒
- 6:30 pm PJ Story Time
- 7 3-4:30 pm Touch a Truck @ the Borough Firehouse (All Ages)
- 8 1 pm Sciencetellers Power & Energy Show @ the COMO (Ages 4+) 🔒
- 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 9 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 10 5 pm **Sunday Evening Lecture Series – bestselling author Lily King discusses her book Euphoria @ The La Grua Center**
- 11 10:30 am Drop In Story Time
- 12 3 pm Kids Painting Party, a lesson with a professional (Ages 6 – 9) 🔒
- 13 1-3 pm Library Day @ Submarine Force Museum Groton (All Ages)
- 6:30 pm Lullabies at the Library with Bergin O’Malley
- 14 3 pm Teen Painting Party, a lesson with a professional (Ages 10+) 🔒
- 15 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 16 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 18 10:30 am Drop In Story Time
- 19 2:30 pm Ready, Set – Hoop! – Outside on the lawn (Ages 5 +) 🔒
- Rain @ the La Grua Center
- 20 6:30 pm PJ Story Time
- 21 4 pm Candy Sushi (Ages 10+) 🔒
- 22 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 23 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 25 10:30 am Drop In Story Time
- 26 10:30 am Zumba® Class @ the La Grua Center (Ages 4 – 6) 🔒
- 11 am Zumba® Class @ the La Grua Center (Ages 7 – 10) 🔒
- 27 6 pm TV (Teen Volunteer) Pizza Party 🔒
- 28 3-4:30 pm Mystic Cycle Center Bicycle Safety Check (Ages 3 – 8) 🔒
- 30 LAST Day for Summer Reading Program 2016! Olympic Outlet closes! Bring in your logs!

AUGUST

- 1 6 pm Prize Awards and After Hours Ice Cream Sundaes (All Ages) 🔒
- 5 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 6 **Stonington Village Fair – Library Closed**
- 11 5:30 pm **CT Authors Trail welcomes Bruce Ware Allen discussing his historical account The Great Siege of Malta: The Epic Battle Between the Ottoman Empire and the Knights of St. John**
- 12 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 13 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Make a Jellyfish Day
- 14 5 pm **Sunday Evening Lecture Series – Stone Roberts discusses his painting @ The La Grua Center**
- 19 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 20 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Play Dough Day
- 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 26 1-4:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)
- 27 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Sidewalk Chalk Outside! Weather permitting
- 12:30 pm Wii U Gaming (Ages 9 – 18)

Bookworms

By Maris Frey, Director of Youth Services  
Area Library Collaboration



We are very pleased to report that the first collaboration between the three area libraries was a smashing success. Our *Elephant and Piggie* events brought over 450 people into our three libraries! It was a wonderful experience coordinating with Bank Square Books, the Savoy Bookstore, Disney Hyperion, Mystic Noank and Westerly Libraries. And deepest, most sincere thanks to Chuck and Deborah Royce for helping make an idea a reality.

Upcoming Program Highlights

We are happy to welcome Calvary Music School with their *Instrument Petting Zoo and Mini Concert* on May 21 at 11 am. Children will have a chance to see and touch the instruments and then see them in action! No registration is needed! Drop in for a musical Saturday morning.

There will be two *Teen Volunteer Orientation* sessions June 8 at 5:30 pm and June 9 at 4:30 pm. These are training nights for our Summer Reading Program teen volunteers (students entering grade 7 and older) and will last about 30 minutes. Volunteers only need to attend one meeting and their applications are due before these meetings. Teens will receive their schedules on the night they attend and we would appreciate knowing how many to expect each night. Please call the Children’s Room with questions or for more information.

Summer Reading Program

With warmer weather arriving, thoughts turn to our popular Summer Reading Program, ready to kick off with registration opening on June 13 and the first big event will be our Bess Eaton Donut Day on June 15! This is always a popular morning, so call to reserve your spot (and donut!) beginning on June 5! Our themes are **Junior Olympians** for our youngest group, children entering kindergarten and younger, **On Your Mark, Get Set, Read** for students entering grades one through five, and **Get in the Game** for students entering grade six and higher.

Students will earn Silver Dollars for their reading time and will have the opportunity to spend them in our summer store, The Olympic Outlet, which will open on June 20. Please remember you must register in order to start counting your reading time. The **LAST** day to earn and spend will be **Saturday, July 30** and our traditional after hours *Ice Cream Party* and basket award ceremony will be held on August 1 at 6 pm. We have wonderful programs planned for all age groups and are again most grateful to the Dog Watch Café, for making our special programming possible.

We have again received a generous grant from an anonymous family foundation, enabling us to take portions of our *Summer Reading Program* “on the road.” This will allow children in some of our area’s summer camps to enjoy performers, a selection of free books to bring home and an opportunity to register for the *Summer Reading Program* at their location.

We will be collaborating with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center again with *Read and Feed*, our outreach to those in need in our community. Each time a child brings in a food, health or beauty item to donate to the PNC, they will receive a free basket ticket. Our contributions are very much appreciated every year. We will begin accepting donations in the Children’s Room on June 13.

Happy Summer!

Watch out for new programs and returning favorites by following us on Facebook, Instagram or our webpage.



Stonington Free Library

Service to All – Young And Old, River to River

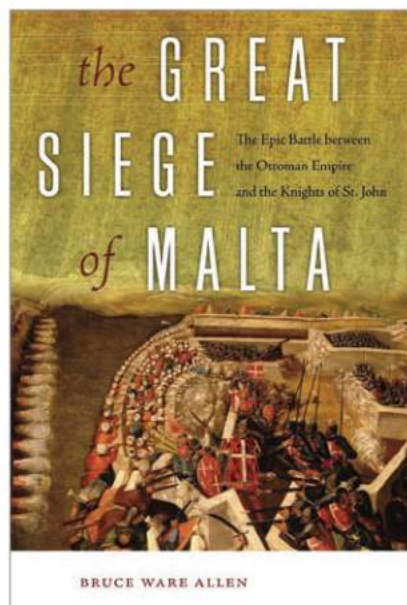
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# Connecticut Authors Trail

The Connecticut Authors Trail consists of a consortium of Eastern Connecticut Libraries who are constantly amazed at the variety of genres and diverse styles of writing among the authors who live in, or are associated with, the Nutmeg State. Beginning July 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm in Franklin and ending September 15, 2016 at the Mohegan Sun, local authors will showcase their books and share their stories.



Stonington Free Library's Connecticut Authors Trail event features Bruce Ware Allen, author of the historical account of *The Great Siege of Malta: The Epic Battle Between the Ottoman Empire and the Knights of St. John*, **Thursday August 11th at 5:30 pm at the Library**. Bruce Ware Allen has written on the sixteenth-century Mediterranean world for *Military History Quarterly*, *Military Heritage*, and for *Treasures of Malta* (the publication of the Malta Historical Society). He grew up in New York City, the Netherlands, and Italy, and was educated at Duke University. This is his first book.

Each attendee will have an opportunity to participate in a drawing for a Stonington Free Library Raffle Basket which will include a signed copy of the author's book.

We invite you to follow the 8th Annual Connecticut Authors Trail by picking up a free passport, your guide to the author events, available at participating libraries throughout the summer. Have your passport stamped at each author event for a chance to qualify for a special prize at the finale.

Events are also listed on the website: [www.connecticutauthorstrail.org/follow-the-trail](http://www.connecticutauthorstrail.org/follow-the-trail). If you miss an event during the summer, you are invited to meet many of the authors from the Trail at the Finale. The doors to The Mohegan Sun Cabaret Theatre open at 6:15 pm.



## ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2016

Did you know adults can win prizes for reading this summer too?? Our Adult Summer Reading Program is back from Monday, June 13 through Saturday, July 30. Participating is easy! Each time you visit the Library and check out materials, enter our weekly drawing – entry forms will be available at the front desk. Earn a bonus chance to enter each day you drop off a donation at the Library for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. We will have weekly drawings with three lucky winners chosen each week. Winners will select from a variety of prizes in our display cabinet.

**Enjoy Reading This Summer!**



## FOOD FOR FINES

The summer months bring an increased demand for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's services, but donations drop off. To help out, the Library will run Food for Fines from Monday, June 13 through Saturday, July 30 to coincide with our Summer Reading Programs. Library patrons may pay off all outstanding fines for overdue materials by donating non-perishable food items. Fines for any amount, excluding charges for lost or damaged materials, will be forgiven in full for those who offer at least one food item. Check upcoming monthly e-newsletters for more details and bonus incentives!

Let's help the PNC keep their food pantry stocked this summer!



*Help* US REACH  
OUR 2015-2016 *goal*

We are nearing the end of our fiscal year on June 30th. Thanks to many of you, we have made great progress toward our goal of \$176,500, but we are not quite there yet. If you have not yet donated to our Annual Fund, we ask that you help us in any way you can. We rely heavily on private donations to provide the rich array of programs, materials and services you enjoy. Every bit helps!

You can send a donation by mail to PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378, in person at 20 High Street or on our website at [www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org/support](http://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org/support). Thank you!!

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT GRANT EXPANDS LIBRARY DIGITAL CONTENT



Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, the Library has added 137 new titles to our eBook and digital audiobook collections. We also uploaded 18 new eBooks to each of our circulating Kindles®, an increasingly popular service. Keep checking our site at <http://stonington.lib.overdrive.com> for the latest titles!

**Our thanks again to the Community Foundation for their support!**



# Turkish Delights

At 6pm on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Library was transformed into a Turkish bazaar complete with all the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the Middle East. 130 guests entered through an Ottoman tent to be greeted with savory delicacies and spirits. Everyone enjoyed cocktails and good conversation while they learned at which mysterious place they were destined to dine for the evening. Thus began the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mystery Dinner celebrating the sumptuous cuisine and culture of Turkey.

Servers, as well as guests, came dressed to the theme which made for a spirited evening. At 7pm sharp, guests were ushered out of the Library and off they went to spend a brisk Spring evening at one of our 17 host homes for an extraordinary dinner and lively conversation.

Endless thanks to the tremendous leadership of first time Event Committee Chairs Allegra Griffiths and Elizabeth Leamon. Thanks also to **Antiques and Interiors, John Turrentine, Yali, Cask and Keg** and the **Stonington Garden Club** for their donations to the cocktail hour. A very special thank you to our dinner hosts who dedicated much time, effort, and expense to provide a memorable experience for each of the guests:

David and Kathryn Burchenal  
Rick Farmer and Vivian Von Walstrom  
William Fowler and Mary Wolf  
Marc and Barbara Ginsberg  
Brian and Susan Green  
Geraldine Griffin with  
Josh and Alejandra Welch  
John and Alice Groton  
Mary Elliot Haders with  
Trish and Brandon Watson

Griff and Amanda Mann  
Sally McBee and Peyton Horne  
Dan and Jane Meiser  
Tyger and Amy Nicholas  
Page and Diana Owen  
Francis and Joyce Pandolfi  
Tony and Jane Pellegrini  
Stone and Betsey Roberts  
Greg Smith and Deb Dodds

And we could not have put the event together without the tireless efforts of the Mystery Dinner Committee who began working in January to make sure no detail was overlooked:

Ann Buffum  
Denise Collins  
Nan Danforth  
Anne Fix  
Melissa Floyd  
Barbara Ginsberg  
Allegra Griffiths (co-chair)

Janet Hatton  
Elizabeth Leamon (co-chair)  
Sibby Lynch  
Clare Sheridan  
Chris Turrentine  
Alejandra Welch



# Inside:

S U M M E R 2 0 1 6

## **Incredible Gift**

Estate of Jean Blanchet Honors the Library

## **Turkey Travel**

Join the Library on a Special Trip this Fall

## **Bookmark**

May through August Calendar of Library Events

## **Bookworms**

Happenings in the Children's and Teen Rooms

## **CT Authors Trail**

Bruce Ware Allen author of *The Great Siege of Malta: The Epic Battle Between the Ottoman Empire and the Knights of St. John* comes August 11<sup>th</sup>

## **Mystery Dinner**

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Event - A Turkish Delight



Stonington Free Library PO Box 232 Stonington CT 06378

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