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 $4,000,000. 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 Balcock-Phelps Society in 2000. 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 Balcock-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 Greek/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 Seige 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 or 860.535.0658. A trip summary can also be viewed on the Library’s website www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org
JUNE
4 10:30 am Junior Maker Space with LEGO® bricks
8 5:30 pm Teen Volunteer Summer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
10 4:30 pm Teen Volunteer Summer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
11 10:30 am Minecraft Junior Maker Space with LEGOs® bricks (Ages 6 - 12)
12 5 pm Sunday Evening Lecture Series — Cynthia Grimm Mann speaks about The Closing of the La Grange Center
13 Registration for Summer Reading 2016 OPENS (ongoing)
14 Adult Summer Reading Opens — Through July 30th
17 Food permitting — outstanding times are forgiven with the donation of a non-perishable food item — through July 30th
18 Bus Trip to the Chislets with guided tour
21 10:30 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
21 1:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
21 4:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
22 3:30 pm Little Blue Truck Day — Storytime and a visit in a little antique blue truck
23 7:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
24 7:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
27 10:00 am Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) — Material cost $7.50
28 5:00 pm Pouncing Panthers Five Point's jump rope team @ the COMO (Ages 8 - 10)
29 6:30 pm Make a Plate Drop In (All Ages) — Material cost $7.50
30 10:30 am June Volunteers Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 3:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 6:30 pm June Volunteers Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 7:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 8:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 8:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 9:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 9:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 10:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 11:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
JULY
1 1:40 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
1 4:40 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
1 7:00 pm Summer Reading Lecture Series — bestselling author Lily King discusses her book *Enchanted* @ The La Grunge Center
2 10:00 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
2 11:30 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
3 12:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
4 Independence Day — Library Closed
6 3 pm Sharpy® Marbled Marlinie — come with your nails painted white! (Ages 10+)
6 6:30 pm Jump Story Time
7 3:00 pm Touch a Truck @ The Borough Firehouse (All Ages)
8 7:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
9 10:30 am Library @ Submarine Force Museum Groton (All Ages)
10 12:30 pm Lunch at the Library with Bengt O'Malley
11 10:00 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
11 10:30 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
13 1:30 pm Kids Painting Party, a lesson with a professional (Ages 6 – 9)
14 4:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
14 10:30 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
14 1:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
15 4:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
18 1:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
18 4:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
18 5:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
18 10:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
18 11:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
19 2:30 pm Ready, Set — Hoop — Outside on the lawn (Ages 5+)
20 10:00 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 11:00 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 1:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 3:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 4:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 5:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 6:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 6:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
20 7:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
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22 8:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
22 9:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
22 10:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
22 11:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
AUGUST
1 6 pm Free Gifts and After Hours Ice Cream Sundae (All Ages)
1 6:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
6 Stonington Village Fair — Library Closed
11 5:30 pm CT Authors Trail welcomes Bruce Ware Allen discussing his historic successes and the Great Siege of Malta: The Epic Battle Between the Ottoman Empire and the Knights of St. John
12 1:40 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
13 10:00 am Saturday in Stonington — Make a Jellyfish Day
14 5 pm Sunday Evening Lecture Series — Stone Roberts discusses his painting @ The La Grunge Center
14 1:40 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
14 10:00 am Saturday in Stonington — Play Dough Day
14 11:00 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
14 1:30 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
14 2:00 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
14 3:00 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
17 10:00 am Saturday in Stonington — Sidewalk Chalk Outside! Wonder permitting!
12:30 pm WJU Gaming (Ages 9 - 18)
30 6 pm Free Gifts and After Hours Ice Cream Sundae (All Ages)
30 7:30 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 10:30 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 11:00 am Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 12:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 1:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 2:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 3:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 4:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
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30 8:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 9:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
30 10:00 pm Teen Volunteer Orientation — Applications DUE before this date!
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. 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. 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 23rd, 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 8th 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
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 11th
Mystery Dinner: 8th Annual Event - A Turkish Delight