

# Between Friends

Bee caught reading!



Friends of Beebe Library

## News from and about the Friends of Beebe Library

## Spring 2010



### LIBRARY "LOVE STORIES"

#### Not just a Treasurer but a Treasure

by Nancy Tolleson

The Friends lost a dedicated Treasurer and a wonderful volunteer when Mike Blake passed away on February 11<sup>th</sup>. He was a man who loved his library and loved his community, and who exemplified how volunteering enriches us all individually and as a community.

Mike grew up in California, married Gwenn Therrien, and together they lived in several countries throughout Latin America managing foreign offices as part of his work with the First National Bank of Boston, now known as Bank of America. After returning to the States, he focused on railroads and airlines in the transportation lending division until he retired in 2002. An avid golfer, this gave Mike time to pursue his favorite recreation but he also became involved in his community both at the Unitarian Universalist Church and the Wakefield Food Pantry.

A voracious reader all his life, Mike became involved with the newly formed Supper Sleuths book group in 2003. This group was started by Leane Ellis from Reference and Information Services and then Assistant Director, Nancy Milone-Hill. They decided to use a different approach from traditional book groups where everyone reads the

same book then discusses it. Instead broad themes within the mystery genre would be selected and each person would choose their own titles to read and share with the group. In this way, book group members would get exposed to many more titles and styles than they might read on their own.



Mike & Gwenn at the Library's 150th anniversary celebration

Always interested in reaching out to new patrons, Leane and Nancy thought this group would have a broad appeal to both men and women. Mike Blake, among many others, was quick to join and became an enthusiastic participant. Leane appreciated Mike's contributions from the beginning as he read widely and was open and honest about his literary opinions. He could be relied on to get the discussion rolling and offered constructive criticism of various authors.

Mysteries from outside the mainstream, and novels with darker themes and foreign intrigue appealed to Mike, and he was often the first person to read a book in a new genre and introduce it to the group. He was particularly fond of Swedish writers like Stieg Larsson who wrote The

Girl with a Dragon Tattoo, which was recently made into a movie. Leane credits Mike with helping her develop the Scandinavian authors' collection at the Beebe.

Several book club members, with whom I spoke, echoed Leane's sentiments. Judy Beers said he was a huge addition to the group as he always had something insightful to say and introduced so many people to new authors, getting them to reach beyond their normal interests and try something new. Janet Major mentioned Mike would take an interest in learning your likes and dislikes and often would slip a piece of paper with an author or title and a note saying, "you might like this".

The Supper Sleuths meets monthly, on the second Tuesday, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The group has almost 20 members and each meeting generally attracts 12-15 people. In the six years since the group started, Mike only missed two meetings before he became ill. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting after Mike passed away was an "open read" when each member chooses any title from any style. Janet said it was totally unplanned but somehow almost everyone came with a book from an author from a

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends:

We hope to see you at our annual meeting in June. It is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. We will be electing officers for next year, reviewing the book sale, preparing for Festival by the Lake and conducting whatever other business needs to be done before we break for the summer.

We also will be saying goodbye to Nancy Tolleson who will be finishing her term as President. Nancy has brought a lot of energy and hard work to the position of President, and we will be sorry to see her step down. We hope she won't go far away, and that we will continue to have the benefit of her energy and creativity

Missy Thomson also will be leaving her position as Secretary. Missy has been a member of the Friends for many years. She came back into an active position when we needed a secretary, and we've been very glad to have her experience and knowledge on the Board. She has a lot of other interests however and

wasn't always able to make the Board meetings, so she'll be passing the job on.

Continuing on the Board will be Treasurer Gayle Edson who took over for Mike Blake when he became too ill to continue, and Vice President Gail Severt. Directors Rosemarie Adler (Membership), Jody Sherman (Book Sale) and I (Newsletter Editor) will also be continuing.

Sincerely,  
*Susan Kilkelly*

### Notice of Annual Meeting and Nominations

June 10, 2010

7:00 p.m. - Beebe Library Lecture Hall

To be elected:

President - Diane Mulcahy  
Vice-President - Gail Severt  
Treasurer - Gayle Edson  
Secretary - Robin Green

Directors:

Rosemarie Adler  
Jody Sherman  
Susan Kilkelly  
open

Anyone who is interested in being nominated as a Director, contact Nancy Tolleson at [ntollwak@aol.com](mailto:ntollwak@aol.com) or 781-246-1335

## BEEBE BULLETIN Library News

### MAY EVENTS

#### Stories for a Safer Wakefield

During the month of May, the Beebe Library is working with the Wakefield Alliance Against Violence and many other community groups to present "Stories for a Safer Wakefield". The library is sponsoring discussion groups and activities related to books examining youth bullying, teen dating violence and domestic violence. The Friends of Beebe Library contributed funding to allow the library to buy multiple copies of books on these subjects. The books were available in the library starting in early April.

In addition to the activities at the library, each Saturday in May, the

Library will hold a "story walk" near the Spaulding Playground. The Friends of Beebe Library will contribute to this activity.

For more information about "Stories for a Safer Wakefield", check out the current projects page of <http://www.waavonline.org> the website of Wakefield Alliance Against Violence.

#### Author William Martin to Speak

On Tuesday May 18 at 7:30, the library will host author William Martin, author of many books set in Massachusetts including Back Bay, Cape Cod, and The Lost Constitution. He will speak about his new book, City of Dreams, which will be released on May 11th. In City

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## Friends of Beebe Library BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President - Nancy Tolleson  
781-246-1335

Co-Vice Presidents  
Gail Severt  
Diane Mulcahy

Treasurer - Gayle Edson

Secretary - Missy Thompson

### DIRECTORS

Susan Kilkelly  
Rosemarie Adler  
Jody Sherman

### COMMITTEES

Book Sale

Jody Sherman  
781-245-3631

Membership  
Rosemarie Adler

Membership Database  
David Knudsen  
781-621-8256

Newsletter  
Susan Kilkelly  
781-245-7245

Publicity  
Ann Marie Pasquale

Web Liaison, Special Events  
Coordinator

Nancy Tolleson

Web Content, Publicity,  
Newsletter Layout

Sherri Oken

Webmaster  
Pete Davis

Friends of Beebe Library  
c/o Lucius Beebe Memorial Library  
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[friends@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbeebe.org)

**Library News *continued***

of *Dreams*, Martin has written a fast paced, political thriller and modern treasure hunt that will enthrall the reader. Registration is not required for the program but come early to get a seat. You will not want to miss this event!

**A Fond Farewell to Laura Zalewski**

We are sad to report that Assistant Director Laura Zalewski will be leaving the Beebe Library at the end of April. Although we know that we ought to be delighted about her new job as Director of the Littleton Library, we will miss her in Wakefield.

Laura has worked very closely with the Friends of Beebe Library since her arrival several years ago. She attended many Board meetings as part of the job of Assistant Director and was always helpful and supportive of our endeavors.

***Before You Know It!*  
BYKI now available at the Beebe Library**

Before you know it, you'll be speaking Farsi or French.

Many patrons have recently discovered the BYKI language program offered by the library. The Friends of Beebe Library voted to pay for this program at a recent meeting.

BYKI stands for "Before You Know It" which describes the results of this interactive, on-line, learning system. There are over 70 languages available to learn via the Internet. You can use it at the Library or from home through the Library's website, [www.wakefieldlibrary.org](http://www.wakefieldlibrary.org)

Wakefield residents can log on using their library card number and last name. Non-residents need to contact the reference desk to set up an account. Once on the website, look for BYKI in the online databases offered. If you have any problems, the reference desk will assist you.

In additions to languages from Afrikaans to Zulu, by way of Bashkir, Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish and Urdu, (plus many others). the program offers English as a Second language. ESL is available for speakers of Spanish, Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

**A NIGHT (OR DAY)  
AT THE MUSEUM****Museum Passes for Springtime**

by Susan Kilkelly

Now that Spring is here, many people are more interested in getting outdoors and gardening than they are in spending time in a traditional museum exhibit. If you are a gardener, here are some events, offered by institutions in the Library pass program that might interest you.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's courtyard is lovely any time of the year. How do they do it? On Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 - 2:30, you can "Ask the Gardener". This program is free with your museum admission. Admission is only \$5 with the pass.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society also is offering programs for gardeners. On Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>,

from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., there is a free lecture for adults, "Landscaping for Wildlife" by Kathi Garriepy, Master Gardener at the Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary in Attleboro. On the weekend of June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a native plant sale at the Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon. Closer to home, there is often something of interest to gardeners at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. Admission with the pass is \$1 per person.

There are 13 passes for museums, parks and zoos available to Library patrons. These passes, paid for by the Friends, offer discounts on admission, parking and special exhibits. Each pass is different so check the Friends' or the Library's website for details of the pass you might like to use.

**MEET A FRIEND**

Gail Severt recently interviewed Carolyn Wheaton, a lifelong patron of the Beebe Library and a new Friend.

***How long have you been using our Library?***

I've been coming to the Library since the age of 6.

***How long have you been a member of the Friends of Beebe library?***

I just recently joined!

***Why did you join the Friends of Beebe Library?***

I watched and listened as the Library leadership and staff responded to the challenges of the current economic times, and was very impressed. I began to think about ways that I could help be a part of supporting their efforts and the Friends came to mind. I also thought that joining the Friends would be a small way to help signal that the Beebe is a treasured resource in the community.

***What is your favorite item (book, movie, cd) that you've borrowed from the library lately?***

Last week, I enjoyed the movie: "The Curious Life of Benjamin Button". I also love being able to borrow the museum passes and recently spent a

great afternoon at the Peabody Essex Museum.

***What do you especially like about our Library?***

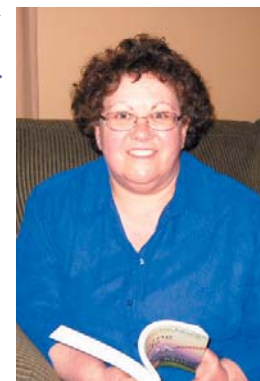
I love the inviting atmosphere, the friendliness of the staff, the resources for children...and the annual Book Sale!

***Is there anything you think people should know about our library?***

That the Library offers a service where borrowed items can be delivered to someone at home if they cannot get to the Library... and that you can make a donation to the Library for a book purchase. I've done this before and it's a great way to honor someone or celebrate a special event!

***What is your favorite book?***

The classic tale *Heidi*. I loved it as a child and enjoyed rediscovering the story as an adult.



### A Library Love Letter *continued*

different country, books that they never would have read when they first joined the group. They smiled, knowing that Mike and his influence was "with them" still.

In 2005, The Friends of Beebe Library needed a new Treasurer as Samir Patel was stepping down after serving for several years. Judy Beers suggested Mike to then Friends' President, Jody Sherman. With his wealth of financial experience, the treasurer's position would be an easy position. Jody looks back at this as the best decision she made during her years as President. Mike took quickly to the task, ensuring finances were in good order and all processes were documented and streamlined.

Mike fully participated on the Friends' Board beyond just balancing the books. He helped with virtually every project and event, especially the annual Book Sale which is always the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday and Saturday of June but in reality runs almost all year long as book donations need to be picked up, sorted, hauled, etc. He was an efficient and affable organizer. Mike was very detail oriented, but at the same time was quick to say life is too short, have fun and don't sweat the small stuff.

Mike was a huge help during the Library's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year when a birthday gala with a roaring 20s theme (the original building's corner stone was laid in 1922) had the Library jumping. He also was an active volunteer for the first two Blossoms at the Beebe events. The only thing Mike didn't participate in was the annual Fourth of July float, but I could count on him to be there, by the Library as we rounded the corner, to applaud our efforts and take our picture.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with Mike and getting to know him since he joined the Board. I appreciated his quiet confidence and sly sense of humor. He was quick to compliment and gave feedback in a way that never felt like criticism but more a suggestion on how a process might be improved or a

situation better handled. Lis Lang, a former Director who recently left for new position in Washington DC, wrote, "Mike enjoyed life and brought energy and enthusiasm to the Friends as Treasurer. I enjoyed serving on the Board with him and he will be missed". Amen.

Mike requested that in lieu of flowers, donations could be directed to the Friends. I would like to thank all the many people who sent in donations and included many thoughtful notes. It made me realize how many lives he had touched.

*Friends of Beebe Library are invited to submit their own "love letters", stories about their library experiences (with appropriate pictures), to our editor, [skkilkelly@aol.com](mailto:skkilkelly@aol.com)*

## LOOKING AHEAD: Upcoming Events

### Book Sale 2010

Mark your calendar. The 2010 Book Sale, our annual book extravaganza, will take place on Saturday, June 5, 2010, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Baptist Church. As usual, we will have tens of thousands of items on sale: books for all ages, CDs, DVDs and more.

In addition to the Book Sale itself, members of the Friends who have paid their dues during the current year (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) are invited to the Preview Sale on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6 - 9 p.m. If your copy of the newsletter includes a flyer saying "YIKES", it means our records do not show you as a current member. Do not despair however. You can pay your dues up to June 4<sup>th</sup> or you can pay your membership at the door.

The Book Sale is our largest fundraiser each year. We need help from the membership to make the Book Sale work Here are several ways you can become involved:

**DONATE!** We always need more books, CDs and DVDs. As you clean house this spring, set aside a box for us. The only things we can't use

are textbooks, condensed books, encyclopedias or anything damaged or musty. Everything else, from children's books to philosophy, and from science fiction to pet care, we will welcome gladly. Smallish donations (a few boxes or bags) can be brought to the Library. For a large donation, call Jody Sherman at 781-245-3631 or Michael Maloney at 781-224-9602.

**VOLUNTEER!** We need lots of volunteers to sort books and lift heavy boxes, bring books from storage to the church. During the sale, we need cashiers and re-stockers; packers and drivers after the Book Sale. Call Jody to sign up.

**YARD SALE SHOPPERS WANTED!** If you are visiting any yard sales, suggest they donate any unsold books to the Book Sale.

**SPREAD THE WORD!** Tell your friends, neighbors and relatives about the Book Sale. If they have books to donate, we'll take them. The Book Sale is the place to stock up on summer reading material.

### Help Float Some Creative Ideas for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

by Nancy Tolleson

The Wakefield Independence Day Parade Committee recently announced this year's parade theme: "Spirit of Democracy". The Friends have entered floats in the parade for over 12 years and won several times.

You don't have to be here on the 4<sup>th</sup> to participate as we always need people to help brainstorm and build the float as well as a few people with good feet to walk with the float down the 1.75 mile route. If you can safely handle a drill, check measurements, cut cardboard, letter a sign, offer free advice, contact Nancy Tolleson at [ntollwak@aol.com](mailto:ntollwak@aol.com) or 781-246-1335

If you have a child who would like to participate, and you can help chaperone by walking with the float, please get in touch. There usually is room for 2 - 4 children to ride on the float depending on the final design.

Serious preparation planning starts after the Book Sale in June.

## RECAP: Recent Events

### Library Lovers Loved Book Swap

On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Friends hosted a Book Swap. In honor of Library Lovers month, the refreshments and decorations had a Valentine theme. The theme of the books, however, was books we loved but were willing to share with others. Many members of the Friends and other Library patrons came by, had a bite to eat and swapped a book. Leane Ellis gave a talk about the library's resources for finding books to read. Lis Lang, who organized our first book swap but has since moved to Maryland, came back for a visit. Many members of the Friends donated delicious treats. Thanks to Missy Thomson and Susan Kilkelly for organizing this year's swap.

### Thank you to the Mystery Donor

The Friends' donations box at the circulation desk is a place where people can leave ad-hoc donations. A surprise donation appeared recently in the form of a money order for \$371.84. Please accept our appreciation, Your donation will well used to help support extra programs and innovative activities as such as "Stories for a Safer Wakefield" and "Story Walks" in May.

2010



*A picture is worth a thousand words!*



Floral arrangements were raffled



Homage to Pleasure Island



Wine Tasting



Dancing to Rent Party



Placing Auction Bids



Make Way for Ducklings

**Our sincere thanks to all who donated auction items, delicious hors d'oeuvres, fine wine, fabulous floral arrangements and especially their time, creativity and enthusiasm to the success of this special event.**



**Friends of Beebe Library**  
c/o Lucius Beebe Memorial Library  
Main Street  
Wakefield, MA 01880

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No 675  
Wakefield, MA 01880

## CALENDAR

### EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

There is always a lot more going on that isn't on the schedule in time for our deadline, so keep checking at the Library or on the Library website for upcoming events.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held in the Lecture Hall.

**Every Thursday 7:30 p.m.**  
*French Club, Conference Room*

#### MAY

**Monday, May 3** 3:30 p.m. Movie and Trivia for kids age 6+

**Tuesday, May 4** 7 p.m. Teen movie and Trivia "Speak"

**Thursday, May 6** 7 p.m. Friends of Beebe Board Meeting, Trustees Room

**Saturday, May 8** 2 p.m. Craft and Book Discussion, "Super Emma"; Grades 2 and up

**Tuesday, May 11** 6 p.m. Supper Sleuths, *Murder I Wrote: Crime stories in the first person*

**Wednesday, May 12** 7 p.m. Women's Self Defense Demo with Rick Alford; Registration required

**Saturday, May 15** 10 - 11 a.m. "Stories for a Safer Wakefield" story time, Ages 4-7

Bully Busters Martial Arts Demo  
11 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. Sensei Rick Alford; Grade 5+ (Registration req.)

**Monday, May 17** 7 - 8 p.m. Book Discussion: Strange Fits of Passion by Anita Shreve

**Tuesday, May 18** 7:30 - 9 p.m. William Martin speaking on City of Dreams

**Wednesday, May 19** 7:30 - 9 p.m. Books By the Lake, The World Without Us by Alan Weisman

**Monday, May 24** 7 - 8 p.m. Book Discussion: Picture Perfect by Jodi Piccolt

**Wednesday, May 26** 7 - 8 p.m. Book Discussion: Drawn By The Rhythm: A Memoir by Sara Hall

**Friday, May 28** 4 - 5:30 p.m. Craft & Book Discussion, "Secret Identity"; Grades 4 and up

#### JUNE

**Friday, June 4** 6 - 9 p.m. Friends' Preview of the Book Sale, Baptist Church

**Saturday, June 5** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friends' Annual Book Sale, Baptist Church

**Tuesday, June 8** 6 p.m. Supper Sleuths Free Read & Potluck

**Thursday, June 10** 7 p.m. Friends of Beebe Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 12** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friends of Beebe booth at Festival by the Lake on the Common

#### JULY

**Sunday, July 4** Cheer on the Friends' float in the annual 4th of July parade

**Wednesday, July 21** 6:30 - 9 p.m. Books by the Lake, The Emperor's Children by Claire Messud; location for potluck dinner and discussion to be announced