The Buzz

from & about The Friends of the Beebe Library

FALL 2026

THE END OF AN ERA FOR THE BOOK SALE (?)

By Karen Williams



The Friends recently received some sad, but not totally unexpected, news. We will no longer be able to use the Hurd School to collect, store, and sell books. We are very appreciative of the opportunity we have had to use this space during the past few years for book donations and book storage, as well as our book sale. The Friends are grateful to the Town of Wakefield for their generosity.

We cannot operate the book sale, at least not in anything approaching the fashion you and we are accustomed to, without locating no-cost or very low-cost storage space to use. If no viable alternative is found, the book sale may become a thing of the past. Having said that, we are putting out one last plea for storage space. Here are our needs during the collection, sorting, and storage phases which lead up to the book sale:

- A minimum of 800 square feet
- The space must be dry. Wet books won't sell!
- Electricity and at least some heat
- Located on the first floor of the building or have elevator access
- Regularly accessible by the book sale team (several times per week, any day of the week). It is highly preferable if the space is independently accessible by us, due to the unpredictability of the timing and volume of large home pick-up requests that we currently accommodate.
- Ideally in Wakefield, but we could operate out of an adjacent town if needed.

While it would be nice to be able to continue to hold the sale at the same place where we are collecting, sorting, and storing the books, it is not a requirement.

We would love to keep the book sale going as it is a major source of revenue for us to fund programs at the Beebe. Anything you can do to help us to identify a viable space would be appreciated! You can reach us at beebebooksale@gmail.com.

Finally, the Friends of Beebe Library sincerely thanks all of our patrons, volunteers, and donors who made the book sale such a successful fundraiser for so many years, during which we have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Beebe Library programs.

From the Board

By Karen Williams

We hope that you had a spectacular summer and are having a fun fall!

Did you attend Plaza Jazz, including the last program of the season that was held at the Americal Center? Did you or a child in your life participate in some of the youth and adult programming on offer in person at the library? Did you join a program from the online library speakers consortium? Did you borrow a museum pass? Did you use the library's copier or scanner? Have you tried out the new Anywhere Active program? Have you used the Privacy Pods on the second floor when you needed to hold a private online meeting? All were funded by the Friends!

Over the past 5 years the book sale has accounted for almost 50% of the funding that we have been able to provide to the library. With the book sale's future uncertain, we will be counting more than ever on your memberships and donations. If you are not already a member, please consider joining at https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/join or making a donation at https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/donate . Memberships make a great gift as well! And don't forget about the Everyday Booksale on the lower level of the library between the two front staircases, and the honey available at the circulation desk.

We have been working on some new fundraising ideas, including a silent auction event in the spring and a murder mystery event next fall. Look out for our upcoming announcements about those exciting events! If you would like to help us out with our fundraising efforts, or volunteer in any other way, please reach out to us at friends@friendsofbeebe.org .

Wishing you Happy Holidays!

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STORE SOME TABLES OR BOOKCASES FOR THE FRIENDS?

The Friends have many tables and bookcases at the Hurd School that we have been using for the book sale. We are looking for places where we can temporarily house them in case we are able to resuscitate the book sale in the future. Do you have space where we could store one or more of these items for an indeterminate period of time? If so, please reach out to us at beebebooksale@gmail.com.

Friends of Beebe Library Calendar

Please join us at our next scheduled meeting in the program room in the youth area on the lower level of the library:

Friends of Beebe Monthly Board Meeting

Thursday, December 10th, 7 pm

All welcome!

Join us at Whitelam Books on December 14th!

Whitelam Books in Reading will be extending their hours on Monday, December 14 from 5:30-8:00 pm.

During this time Friends of Beebe will earn a portion of book sales. This is a great chance to get some of your Christmas shopping done and help the Friends at the same time.

Fundraising by Friends

The Friends have been proactive in attempting to find new ways to raise funds for continued support of the Beebe programs. This fall, we have $25.00 Harrow's gift cards for sale at the discounted price of $20.00. Cool weather and chicken pot pie while also supporting the Friends! If you would like to purchase, reach out to beebebooksale@gmail.com and one of us will connect with you to deliver your gift card and collect payment.

We are in the early stages of planning a silent auction for next spring, focused on art and antiques. We are looking for new faces who would enjoy working on an event of this type. Have some experience? We'd love it if you could join us. Contact us at friends@friendsofbeebe.org.

As we currently do not know if we will have a 2027 Booksale, fundraising becomes very important. We need your ideas and your help. Please join us.

Notes from the Underground



Have you recently visited the Friends of the Beebe Library Everyday Book Sale on the Lower Level of the Library? Come on down[stairs] and check out what's new.

For just $1 or $2 you'll find CDs and DVDs; paperbacks and hardcovers; Fiction and Nonfiction; books for kids and books for adults. We often add to the shelves a couple of times a week.

Because our offerings are dependent upon donations, we never know what we'll be able to offer on those shelves! This past year we've featured author-autographed books, coffee table large format books, books of local interest, and books to inform and celebrate America's 250th. When we have a special collection, we post a photo and blurb on the Friends' Facebook page to alert you.

Keep an eye out in November for a small collection of Opera and Musical Theater CDs. After Thanksgiving we'll offer winter holiday-themed books for adults and children. And we'll offer a unique collection of blank journals for gifts for your friends with literary aspirations.

If you wish to donate books to the Friends for use on the EBS shelves, contact the coordinator by email missythomson22@gmail.com or through the Friends' Booksale email beebebooksale@gmail.com.

We will schedule a pick-up from your front porch at a time convenient for you. Please do not bring your donations to the library.

We accept fiction and non-fiction books in very good condition, without underlining or margin notes; no mildew or moldy smell; no encyclopedias, magazines, textbooks. We are glad to accept DVDs and CDs in excellent condition, unused children's workbooks, coloring books, board books.

Thank you for your support. We are grateful for your purchases. All proceeds from the Everyday Book Sale go directly to the Friends' funding of Library programs.

Introducing Anywhere Active

By Karen Stern, Head of Reference and Information Services

Need help getting motivated to start weight training, yoga, or Pilates? Always wondered what HIIT, or Tai Chi, or Kickboxing is like? Maybe you're looking for ways to dance yourself into shape but don't want to spend a lot of money on classes? The library has an exciting new online resource for anyone out there who wants to raise their fitness game without paying for it (and isn't that everyone, really?). It's called Anywhere Active and it offers free fitness, movement, and wellness classes online - all at the click of a button on the library's website.

There are two options for using Anywhere Active: First, you can register in advance for a live, online class. Just click on the class you're interested in and register for a single session or a full series. If you miss a live class, look for the Past Classes link on the upper right of the Anywhere Active page where you can access a recording of it. Your second option is to choose from the many on-demand, recorded classes. These classes can be filtered by Effort (how much energy you want to expend), a part of the Body (arms, legs, abs, etc.) you want to work on, Duration (under 15 minutes to a full hour), and Equipment needed (including many that need no equipment).

The best thing about it is how easy it is to get started. Just head over to wakefieldlibrary.org, click on Events, then Anywhere Active. And voila - the perfect indoor fitness resource to keep you active…Anywhere….this winter and beyond!

Massachusetts Center for the Book Adult Reading Challenge

By Alicia Brennan

Looking for a way to expand your reading horizons? Try participating in the Massachusetts Center for the Book Reading Challenge!

I first tried this Reading Challenge in 2025 after seeing it publicized in a Beebe Library patron newsletter and through a few local libraries. Typically, I am wary of organized reading challenges because I prefer to be a "mood reader," or someone who chooses their next read based on what they're feeling at the moment. This challenge, however, seemed very low stakes and like a fun way to try something new.

How does it work? First, choose a book that fits the monthly challenge. Mass Center for the Book has a dedicated webpage for both adult and children's yearly reading challenges with curated lists of recommendations for each month's theme. If I couldn't figure out what to read, I checked these lists or asked a librarian at the Beebe Library Reference Desk. Sometimes, I knew exactly what to read for each month because one of the unread books on my shelf or a book that I had long been meaning to read would fit the monthly theme perfectly and give me an excuse to finally start it. Plus, the Beebe Library usually creates a display for each monthly challenge near the Avon Street entrance, complete with on-theme book recommendations, reading lists, and a printed graphic of all monthly prompts for the year!

After reading the monthly book, there is a short form on the Mass Center for the Book website where readers can write a brief review and log their reading choices for the year. I really loved this feature! If I wanted to recommend one of the Reading Challenge books to a friend or family member, I had all my picks in one place for the entire year.

Don't forget the other benefits! All dedicated readers are invited to a year-end celebration hosted by Mass Center for the Book, and two lucky readers will win a free book each month after logging their reading entries! Best of all: if you read one book in each of the 12 months of the yearly challenge, you will be entered in a drawing to win one of two totes filled with books. I haven't yet won any of these prizes, but the sense of accomplishment after reading something new each month alone definitely makes the reading challenge worth it, in my eyes.

I loved this reading challenge! It made me stop and think about what I was reading, from the content to the character interactions to the author's background. I started asking more questions about potential reads. How many books have I read that take place in the wintertime? Did you know that book was set in Massachusetts? What would I consider taboo? Where is the nearest Little Free Library?

Most of all, I loved that I was exposed to so many things that I wouldn't have normally picked up at the Beebe or a local bookstore. I read more books by and about people with different backgrounds and experiences from my own, from religion to ethnicity to family upbringing to geographic location to time period. I've found some great new authors because of this, and sometimes I will finish one of these unexpected books with more questions than answers, so I turn to something similar in genre or topic. It's also a great way to get talking about books more! Whenever someone asks what I'm reading, I talk about the reading challenge and all the new things I've learned.

Thinking about trying the reading challenge for 2027? Visit www.massbook.org/readingchallenge for more information.

Happy reading!

2027 Reading Challenge

JANUARY A book you meant to read in 2026	**FEBRUARY** A book that takes place in a big city	**MARCH** A book about immigrants or emigrants
APRIL A play, poetry collection, or literary journal	**MAY** A book that inspires you to take action or try something new	**JUNE** A book on a summer reading list at a local school
JULY A book where memory shapes the story	**AUGUST** A book with texts, emails, letters, diaries, photos, or illustrations	**SEPTEMBER** A book about family
OCTOBER A modern retelling of a classic story, myth, or fairytale	**NOVEMBER** A book in which weather or a natural disaster plays a major role	**DECEMBER** A book given to you as a gift

Why T(w)eens Are Booking It to the Library

By Annie J. Hochheiser, Teen Librarian

Have you ever heard of the term "third space"? It's a no- or low-cost place for people to relax and have an informal social gathering that is somewhere other than their home or workplace. A community space. A place to connect with others. Adults have a variety of third spaces that welcome them: cafes and bars, gyms, barbershops, recreational centers, and places of worship to name a few. For young people, though, it can be challenging to find a place that truly feels like it's "for them," a place where they can relax, be social, feel safe, and do so at no charge. Can you think of a public space, free of charge, that welcomes t(w)eens and even offers a variety of free programs and activities to boot? If you guessed the library, then congratulations on reading the title of this article!

But, seriously, every day after school, Beebe Library's Teen Section is filled with the happy hubbub of t(w)eens chatting with friends, doing homework, playing computer games, and scoping out what's new at the library. Even if no special events are happening that day, these students know they can always find something to do here; our Teen Section offers a variety of interactive displays and activities that change month-to-month, like voting for your favorite ice cream flavor, using silly name generators, sharing notes of kindness, playing literary versions of March Madness, and more. In addition to these "anytime" activities, the library offers an array of programs for middle and high schoolers. Here's a look at what's coming up:

- Teen Creativity Cafe (11/19 & 12/10)
- Family Trivia (11/27)
- Teen Advisory Board (12/1)
- Musical Theatre Club (12/3)
- Family Art Studio (12/4)
- Teen Holiday Party (12/17)

To learn more about these programs and register, visit the library's online calendar at wakefieldlibrary.org/library-calendar. And don't forget to pass the message along to any t(w)eens in your life: whether you're looking for your next favorite read, after school programs, low-key activities to pass the time, or you just want a spot to hang out and relax, Beebe Library welcomes you!

Many Thanks!

Unfortunately our Secretary and Fundraising Coordinator, **Sherri Caouette**, has had to resign. We would like to thank her for her support and the energy she brought to the Friends of Beebe Library.

We would also like to thank **Andrea Ahearne** for stepping up and agreeing to serve as Secretary. Previously Andrea served as a Director.

We now have a Director position open. If you are interested in being a Director please email us at friends@friendsofbeebe.org.

Focus on the Friends

By Karen Williams

The Board and key volunteers of the Friends of Beebe Library completed an exercise to establish what the key tenets of the organization are. We would like to share those with you so that you can get to know us better. In each of the past several newsletters we have been highlighting a different aspect of our organization. Some items are a work in progress, others further along, but all are intended to ensure that we are a good conduit for your support for the library. This is the last of this series of articles.

Supporting our three areas of focus (providing resources to the library, promoting the library and its offerings throughout the community, and advocating on behalf of the library) are several foundational objectives. We previously told you about the importance of volunteers to the organization. The remaining foundational objectives may seem more mundane, but they are very important! These include:

- Being a good steward of our resources - money donated to us and earned by us. We do this by keeping complete and accurate financial records, filing required documentation with local, state and federal agencies, maintaining a presence with key non-profit evaluation organizations, maintaining secure access by appropriate individuals to our bank and online accounts, and ensuring that money not yet paid to the library is well invested (in a CD, not the stock market).
- Ensuring that the public is aware of what we do and why. We inform the public of what library programs we fund, and work with library leadership to ensure that the library informs the public of what we fund.
- Creating and maintaining connections between us and other organizations in Town and the library community. We do this by developing relationships with other library-related organizations to obtain and share ideas and by identifying other community organizations with which we could potentially have a strategic relationship where we could garner support or offer support.
- Maintaining our 501(c)(3) status.
- Maintaining up to date online resources for internal Board use.

If you would like any further details on the above objectives, or a copy of our entire plan, let us know.

Corrections

In the Summer 2026 newsletter, the story about the new printer was incorrectly attributed. It was written by Lauren Poole.

Friends of the Beebe Library

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