The Buzz

from & about The Friends of the Beebe Library

SUMMER 2026

FROM THE BOARD

Summer is here!

By Karen Williams

Hopefully you will have some down time to relax and read, attend a library program, or take advantage of one of the other benefits of the library. For kids, the library will be running its annual Friends-funded youth program from June 22 – August 15. The library will also be offering a Friends-funded summer adult reading program. Did you know that your membership funds the nineteen museum passes that the Beebe has available? Several of them offer the opportunity to pursue outdoor activities, and many are kid-friendly. You could even borrow a pair of binoculars, or a tree identification chart from the Beebe's Library of Things, to bring along on your outdoor adventure.

So what is the source of the funds that the Friends give to the library to pay for these things? It's you! Your memberships, your contributions, your purchase of books at the annual book sale and the Everyday Book Sale (located on the lower level between the two front staircases), and sales of our honey at the circulation desk all provide us with the money needed to fulfill the library's requests.

Speaking of our book sale, thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped us out in the months leading up to it and during the actual sale. We had another great year, enabling us to pass more funds on to the library. We could not have done it without you.

As we have told you previously, it is very possible that we will not have a location to collect, sort, and sell our books moving forward. While we continue to hope to be able to hold a sale next year, we now have a fundraising coordinator to help us find new ways to raise funds. There will be some exciting events and opportunities coming up. If you would like to help, let us know. We are trying to build a fundraising committee, and any fundraising ideas are welcome!

If you have not yet become a member, please consider joining at friendsofbeebe.org/join. And don't forget that we also accept donations at friendsofbeebe.org/donate.

Hoping that you all have a great summer!

Friends of Beebe Library Calendar

The Friends of Beebe do not meet during the summer months. Please join us at our next scheduled meeting:

Friends of Beebe Monthly Board Meeting

Thursday, September 10th, 7 PM

Held in the Program Room. All welcome!

Summer at the Library 2026

By Kathryn Walton, Head of Youth Services

Summer at the Library runs through August 15, inviting youngsters from pre-K to 12th grade to explore books, attend programs, and make reading part of their summer. Thanks to funding from the Friends, kids entering grades K–4 who register will receive a special summer reading bandana – a "fundana" – featuring the Beebe Library logo and a nature-themed scavenger hunt. The bandanas can also hold the collectible buttons readers earn by reading and attending library programs — an alternative to the lanyards also available through the program. The scavenger hunt encourages families to head outdoors and look for plants, animals, and other signs of nature in their own neighborhoods and parks.

The fundanas were chosen as a reusable alternative to many traditional giveaway items and are designed to be useful long after the summer reading program ends. They were printed by a small business in Beverly, MA, helping support a local company while providing participants with a custom item created just for Beebe Library's Summer at the Library program.

If you see kids out and about this summer wearing cool black and yellow bandanas – you know they're participating in Summer at the Library 2026! Visit wakefieldlibrary.org for details.

Plaza Jazz, Funded by Friends of the Beebe Library

Over the years, Friends of the Beebe Library have been supporting Plaza Jazz, and we are pleased to announce the schedule for 2026! All concerts will be held on Thursdays from 6:00–8:00 PM on the Plaza in front of the library.

July 9	**Annie and the Fur Trappers**
July 16	**Phil Sargent**
July 23	**The Late Risers**
July 30	**Smack Dabs**
August 6	**Matt Savage**
August 13	**Alex Minasian**
August 20	**Rhiannon Hurst**
August 27	**Rubin Brothers**
September 3	**Lee Fish**

Upcoming Online Events Funded by Friends of the Beebe Library

There is always a lot more going on that isn't on the schedule in time for our deadline, so keep checking the library website (wakefieldlibrary.org) for upcoming events and to register for the following:

Mon, Jul 20 · 7 PM	**Author Talk: Gracia Rich — *Herstorian: The Black Experience of the Revolution***
Mon, Jul 28 · 2 PM	**Author Talk: Dr. Marisa Franco — *How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make—and Keep—Friends***
Tue, Aug 4 · 2 PM	**Author Talk: Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson — *The Legacy of Cooking Icon Julia Child***
Mon, Aug 17 · 7 PM	**Author Talk: Heather Rogers, Presidential Doodler — *Lesser Known Revolutionary War Heroes***
Tue, Aug 25 · 2 PM	**Author Talk: Beronda Montgomery — *When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History and America's Black Botanical Legacy***
Thu, Aug 27 · 2 PM	**Author Talk: Lucy Foley — *Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel***

Spring and Summer Friends Events

By Karen King

It was suddenly May and the Annual Book Sale was underway. Although the Members event was met with rain, there was a lengthy line waiting for us to open the doors and let the crowd shop. From May 13th–16th, the Friends volunteers hosted the sale and helped you select and pack books (maybe even carried them out to your car). Our volunteers are fantastic and many look forward to this event all year. The Sale was very successful, raising more than $13,000, which will help fund the children's summer reading programs, museum passes, and Plaza Jazz. We are so grateful and it is so exciting to chat with shoppers; one told me they found the "perfect" book they wanted, others asked for help with new authors, one lady who purchased a few vintage books told me they had been "Grandma's favorite." Yes, we get to know some of our shoppers during the event.

Then, at Festival by the Lake on Sunday, June 14th, the Friends of the Beebe gave away books of all genres. Volunteers were also on hand to answer questions about the work we do and graciously accept financial donations. We gave away an estimated 20 cases of books.

On June 24th, Teachers Night was held at the Hurd School from 4–7 PM to provide teachers from any school and any community with books for their classrooms and school libraries. All at no charge.

The Friends were also at the June 27th Farmers Market and will be back for the August 15th Farmers Market, again hoping for the chance to answer questions, promote Friends of the Beebe membership, and give away more books. Summer is such a great time to read; we hope you will find some good books while visiting us.

The Book Sale is vital as it raises a significant portion of the funds we provide to the Beebe Library for programs you and your children utilize, but Membership in the Friends provides the balance of our income. We hope to encourage more families to join us as "Friends."

You can join via our website at friendsofbeebe.org/join.

Reflections of a Book Sale Volunteer

By Heidi Hermiller

Why volunteer at the Friends of the Library Book Sale?

You will get ALL your steps in!

It's fun. I know, I know, thumbing through hundreds of donated books doesn't sound like a hilarious afternoon, but it is.

Cases of donated books come in from someone who clearly loved carving ducks from blocks of wood, or quilling (the subtle art of curling tiny strips of paper into raised images and designs) or a full 3-ring binder of instructions for an American Airlines pilot circa 1974. Or possibly you are fascinated by Scandinavian cookery? There's a Time-Life cookbook that can confirm you need a lot of Aquavit for all that raw fish.

You find books you loved and recommend them to fellow volunteers who will hold up a novel they loved and urge you to consider it. You wade through stacks of kid books in crazy vivid colors that make noise, have magnetic bits, and refuse to be organized because they are every size and shape, and then you find a Big Golden Book of the Poky Little Puppy from 1969 and remember loving that when you were a kid.

You'll see sheet music, journals that are only filled on page 1, a huge beautiful photo-filled coffee table book about the Greek Isles; however, all the text is in Greek. Tiny red leather-bound copies of Shakespeare's plays from 1901. I still have the Michelin red guide to Paris from 1989 (in French).

You meet fellow book lovers, civic-minded folks who love to help, retirees, high school kids, all manner of volunteers. We chat, we laugh, personally I read aloud the lurid blurbs on the back of random romance novels.

> *"It was with regret Parnella was made to leave the family manse, though to save her secret she must find the dark man who had besmirched her family name, but had still brought her to the heights of ecstasy."*

The Friends of the Beebe Library is a great organization, and the book sale is ALL about organization. Meet new people, have some laughs, help sort, and best of all get first pick of all the books! Join us!

Another great year at Wakefield's Festival by the Lake!

By Alicia Brennan

For many Beebe Library patrons, the warmer weather signals that it's time for the Friends' Annual Book Sale. Although we sell hundreds of books at the sale, we often still have hundreds left over – all thanks to the generosity of our book donors. So, what do we do with all those leftover books? The Friends find homes for them at various events throughout the year, including Festival by the Lake!

Festival by the Lake, sponsored by the Wakefield Center Neighborhood Association (WCNA), is an annual event usually held in early June that provides residents with an opportunity to stop by Lake Quannapowitt and enjoy the Town Common. The festival typically hosts about 140 vendors, including local craftspeople, artisans, and creators. In addition to the vendors, the festival boasts dozens of food trucks, live music, and activities for kids.

After the Annual Book Sale, the Friends took hundreds of books stored in the Hurd School on Cordis Street in Wakefield to our designated tent at the Festival by the Lake. We offered fiction, non-fiction, and children's books for all ages, from early readers to teens.

Despite the scorching sun and humidity, our hardworking volunteers loaded and transported books, restocked our tables, and chatted with people of all ages – as well as a few furry friends – about everything from summer reading to future Friends events, including the Farmers Market.

The best part? All the books were free, with the option to make a donation to support the Friends. We always love the opportunity to connect with Beebe patrons or Wakefield residents who are interested in learning more about volunteering with the Friends or becoming a member.

Looking to become a Friend? Check out our website at friendsofbeebe.org/join! Your membership dues and donations support the Beebe Library's programming and infrastructure year-round, from Summer Reading to Plaza Jazz to the new copier on the first floor.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see you next year at the Festival by the Lake!

New Library Copier

Meaghan Kinton, Assistant Director & Head of Public Service for the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library

On May 5th, the lucky staff and patrons here at Beebe welcomed a new addition to our ranks, and we have the Friends of Beebe to thank for it: a sleek and glistening multifunction Kyocera copier! With its technologically advanced yet user-friendly features, easy-to-understand interface, and smooth gunmetal-gray exterior, this fresh and versatile new member of Beebe's staff has integrated seamlessly into daily life here at the library: old copier who?

We didn't want our page-spitting pal to come home without a proper reception, so to kick things off, we ran a copier naming contest in the weekly library newsletter. With 113 submissions, we got quite an assortment of gems, and it was heart-wrenching to choose just one winner from so many entertaining responses. However, we ultimately had to go with a name that was as humorous as it was regal, to say nothing of funky: The Artist Formerly Known as Prints. Our winner enjoyed $25 worth of well-deserved Cravings ice cream courtesy of the Friends in thanks for coming up with such an excellent epithet.

"Sure," I hear you saying, "but now I want to know what this baby can actually *do*." Buckle up, dear reader, because the future of your library copying experience is here! One of our favorite new features is ID copy, which is a handy preset function allowing you to make a high-quality color copy of both sides of your ID on one single page. It's convenient and quick, plus it'll save you the quarter for an extra page of color printing—we love that for you! We're also obsessed with the automatic document feeder tray, which lights up when it detects that a document is in the right position, and automatically lifts so a wrinkled or folded page will feed in just as smoothly as a flat one. Basically, the only thing it doesn't do is give free haircuts! Maybe on the next upgrade?

So next time you have a piece of paper and you want to make another piece of paper that looks just like it, keep us in mind! We're proud of our new copier, and we hope you will be too. Thanks again to the Friends of Beebe, who made this (and so much more, including all of our incredible summer programming) possible!

Focus on the Friends

By Karen Williams

The Board and key volunteers of the Friends of Beebe Library have 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 newsletter we will highlight a different aspect of our organization.

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. The first is our volunteers. We need to attract, engage, and retain community members to assist us in our work. We build relationships with them, mentor them, and enfold them within the community.

We work to attract volunteers by talking one-to-one with attendees at Friends-sponsored events about volunteering, recruiting volunteers via social media postings on our pages and other Wakefield pages, holding open houses, requesting volunteers via the newsletter, and encouraging leadership and long-term passionate volunteers to talk about the Friends at other activities that they attend.

Our efforts to engage and retain volunteers include maintaining a database of volunteers and their interests, communicating regularly with volunteers, maintaining good relationships with new and existing volunteers, identifying and implementing methods to recognize contributions of volunteers such as via the newsletter and social media, and identifying strengths of volunteers to find additional ways that they can help the Friends.

Would you like to volunteer for us? See the roster below for a list of open roles – one of them is a volunteer coordinator!

Many Thanks!

The Friends of Beebe Library would like to thank **Jill Berggren**, who served as Membership Coordinator for over 10 years. She did an excellent job maintaining our membership file, blasting out emails, and handling the onrush of members at every book sale during our members-only event.

We would also like to thank **Keith LaGraves**, who served as Treasurer for 5 years. As a CPA, Keith generously donated his talents to our organization and they were much appreciated.

Last but not least, we would like to thank **Missy Thomson** for her many years on the board. Missy has given up her board position but will continue to serve as our Everyday Book Sale Coordinator.

At our annual meeting in June, we welcomed new Assistant Treasurer **John Porter** and new Director **Janet Shahood**. We are also pleased that **Louise Good** will be moving from Assistant Treasurer to Treasurer. And we would like to welcome **Benjamin Beutel**, who is volunteering as newsletter editor. Welcome!

Friends of the Beebe Library

@friends_beebe_library_ Find us on Facebook

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