

**New, Earlier
Book Sale
this year!
May 15 - 18!**

The Buzz from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library *Spring 2024*



ANNUAL BOOK SALE TO BE HELD ON MAY 15 TO 18

By Karen Williams

The Friends of Beebe Library's primary fundraiser each year is our annual book sale. Many of you anxiously await it every year. Well, this year you have less time to wait as we have moved it up to May 15 to 18!

The book sale will be held in the auditorium of the Hurd School, located at 27 Cordis Street, Wakefield. Please enter via the ramp at the front of the building.

Give your Brain Cells a workout at *Library Trivia Night*

By Manavi Sharma

Last September, I came across a Trivia Night event on the Beebe calendar and excitedly signed my husband and myself up for it! We attended and had a great evening of fun so I decided to check the [library calendar](#) to see if this was a regular occurrence. And behold, I found that on the last Tuesday or Wednesday of every month, our Beebe Library hosts a regular Trivia Night!

After talking to our library quizmasters at the most recent event, I learned that Trivia

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Selection of recently donated fiction books going through the first sort at the March 23 donation drive.

Trivia Night— continued from page 1

Night has a long history. Formerly known as Trivia on Tap, this event has been around for the past 10 years and used to be held in pubs around Wakefield - Public Kitchen and Harrington's are two establishments that have played host in past years. The event eventually moved to the library and then online during the pandemic, giving Wakefield residents something fun to participate in during lockdown. There is also some hope of having summer-time trivia on the plaza!

The Trivia event, in its current form, is hosted in the library at the gorgeous Living Room from 7:00 - 8:30 in the evening. The calendar event does have a link to register you and your teammates beforehand, so do make sure to do that and get yourself a slot! The format is one guaranteed to keep you entertained! There are usually 8 rounds - some have a mix of general knowledge questions and some are special category ones. Our Beebe quizmasters put together all the questions, often crowdsourcing questions from other librarians. All you have to do is show up, have a fun team name and start exercising your brain cells to answer those tricky questions. The competition is fun and fierce, and first and second place winners get gift cards to local eateries, so everyone is ready to battle it out!

Volunteers Needed!!

The Friends' are inviting you to join us as a Director, or as our Float Coordinator, for Wakefield's 4th of July Parade.

OPEN HOUSE was March 3rd

By Karen Williams

On Sunday, March 3rd, the Friends of the Beebe Library held an Open House at the library. Prior to this one, our last open house was the weekend before COVID shut us down! We felt that it was time to introduce ourselves to new potential members and volunteers, and to inform the public of what we do and how we help the library. It was a success!

A number of members of our leadership team and key volunteers were present to greet interested attendees and to learn how they could participate in the Friends' efforts. We had at least eighteen interested people stop by, two of whom have since taken on an active role in the Friends!

If you weren't able to attend, no worries – there are still ways for you to learn more about the Friends and to help out. We hold meetings at the Beebe Library at 7 PM the second Thursday of every month from September through June. All are welcome to attend. Each year our June gathering is also our annual meeting, where elections are held for open leadership positions, including our four Director roles. All members of the Friends are permitted to vote in the annual election. One of our incumbent directors will not be re-running so we are still recruiting for a replacement. See the blue text box on this page for other open roles. And don't forget the shorter-term volunteer opportunities that are available to help out at the book sale and the subsequent related events. Reach out to us at friends@friendsofbeebe.org if you are interested in a volunteer opportunity.



Some of the bees created by Leah Ellis

Crochet Mementos

By Greta Garniss

It started about two years ago when a girl bought a 'learn to crochet kit'. This girl, Leah Ellis, picked up the hobby quickly and has already created her own designs and patterns. But this was not her first foray into the craft/design arena. In 2023, she won the "Build Your Own Beanie" contest for the children's cancer charity operation Love Your Melon. To date, the sales of her beanies have raised \$23,000 for the Dana Farber Cancer Center in Boston.

Now, Leah is putting her crochet talents to work on fundraising for the Beebe Library. Her crocheted bees for the Beebe Library have already raised \$250 and counting. She is currently working on other crocheted items for additional fundraising opportunities for kids with cancer.

"I like working on the small stuff," says Leah.

"I didn't want to fill our house with many crocheted things. Plus, I can make these in a day and see what I've made."

She is keeping a book of patterns that include a tree, a hamburger, and the bees. She is working on a prototype of a crocheted muffin, potentially a strawberry, and is hoping to crochet some little stuffed buddies at some point with personalized details.

Currently, Leah's designs are created via an on-demand basis with the personalized crocheted items available after a donation is made to one of Leah's Crafts for a Cause charities. When not crocheting you may see Leah in the Children's section of the Beebe with her dad participating in scavenger hunts and other games, as well as participating in BeebeCon.

Bee Curious - How do the Friends sweeten your experience?

Win a Jar of Beebe Honey!

By Nancy Tolleson

The Friends of Beebe Library have been active for over 50 years. The Annual Book Sale and Honey Sales are the more visible signs of all our busy "worker bees." The funds raised from these activities, along with membership donations, are used in many ways to support the Beebe Library.

You may be aware of some of the areas the Friends support to enhance your experience at the Library, especially those that add enrichment to children and adult activities. However, there are many areas you may not know that the Friends' funding supports every year, or the



A jar of Lucius Beebe Memorial Library honey, bottled in Peabody, Massachusetts

We will have thousands of books available for you to browse through across many genres including, but not limited to, cook-books, fiction, non-fiction, biography, children’s, young adult, religion, history, coffee table books, arts & crafts, and DIY. We also have some foreign language books, including a variety of children’s books in Russian. Most books are priced at \$2.00 or under with the exception of vintage and premium books as well as “hot” books. We accept payment in the form of cash, checks, debit, and credit cards.

Want to have access to the best selection? Preview Night will be held on Wednesday, May 15 from 2 – 7 PM, and is for members only. Ensure that your membership is up to date if you wish to attend that night. You can email us at

membership@friendsofbeebe.org

if you have questions about your membership status. Renewal in advance of the event is encouraged, but it is also possible to do so in person at the event.

The book sale will be open as follows:

PREVIEW NIGHT: *(Members only)*
Wednesday, May 15 2 PM – 7 PM

GENERAL PUBLIC:
Thursday, May 16 2 PM – 7 PM

GENERAL PUBLIC:
Friday, May 17 2 PM – 7 PM

GENERAL PUBLIC:
Saturday, May 18 9 AM – 2 PM

new ideas provided by the “honey pot” to get these activities started.

Come participate in the first ever “Friends of Beebe Scavenger Hunt”, Saturday, May 11th from 10am – noon and Sunday, May 12th, 2-4pm. Pick up your scavenger list and “bee” a detective to search for all the sweet clues. All ages are welcome. You will be amazed at the many ways the Friends of Beebe Library sweeten your library experience. Complete the hunt and put your name in a raffle for a jar of Beebe honey, bottled in Peabody, Massachusetts. Stop by the Friends' table and chat with a volunteer to learn more about how you can help support the Friends or get involved.

MUSEUM PASS SPOTLIGHT:

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

By Helen VanBenschoten
& Lucy Skeldon

What could be better, in the unpredictably cold, windy, and rainy spring days, than a visit to the magnificent MFA? We museum pass wielders opted for that “comfort food” of Boston museums, but like the best dishes, the day came with appreciation for the familiar and a few delicious surprises.

We started our visit by tagging along with a free tour. Led by knowledgeable docents, these tours leave from the Sharf Visitor Center fairly frequently, require no pre-registration, and you are free to join them or leave them at any point. The information desk in the Visitor’s Center is a great resource, too; the staff there can tell you where all the special exhibits are and will even map them out for you. Of course, there is so much to see at the MFA that it is practically impossible to take in more than a fraction of its treasures in one trip,



Detail from Diedrick Brackens’ *Shadow Raze*

so every visit can become a completely different experience.

An early stop was in the American wing, with John Singleton Copley’s famous oil on canvas portraits of Paul Revere and John Hancock – men at work, “revolutionary” departures from contemporary formal nobility portraiture. Kehinde Wiley’s “John, 1st Baron Byron” offers a modern contrast, depicting a young black man in casual dress posing formally, surrounded by one of Wiley’s lush signature floral patterns.

Stepping through the corridors of eras and epochs, bearing witness to the those who endured and flourished, loved and perished, we found ourselves in the modern day, in a moving exhibit from the MFA’s permanent collection entitled “Tender Loving Care,” where we were struck by the intensity of struggle in Diedrick Brackens’ “shadow raze” tapestries, Nick Cave’s wondrous and intense “Sound Suit” and the whimsical needlepoint “Swinging in a Club Mood” by Renie Breskin Adams, portraying the artist and her husband enjoying a nightclub with colorful anthropomorphized animals.



Usable art from the MFA’s
“Please Be Seated” collection:
Finnegan Shannon, *Do You Want Us Here or Not?*

Several hours in, responsibilities called, and we managed to tear ourselves away from the exhibits with enough time to enjoy delicious pastries in the café and a worthwhile perusal of the prints, books, scarves, toys, and variety of other distinctive gifts at the museum store. The visit ended too soon, but we left with filled souls and senses.

The museum pass offers admission to two adults at the reduced price of \$10 each. This provides both general admission and admission to special exhibitions.



FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! The time for new beginnings and renewal. And time for our annual book sale. We look forward to seeing you at the Hurd School on May 15 – 18 as you choose new books for you and your family. If you have not renewed your “friend”ship (membership) with us this is a good time to do so. This will allow you to attend the preview night of the book sale, along with the knowledge that you are helping the library.

The school year will be ending in a couple of months, and each year the Friends of Beebe Library is able to fund summer youth programming, a wonderful outlet for the kids. Perhaps you will also want to take advantage of the museum passes that the Friends pays for. In 2023, the Friends passed almost \$49,000 on to

the library to assist them in providing you with the services that you love.

There are several ways in which you can help us to support the library:

Join the Friends online

<https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/join>

or grab a membership form at the library.

Make a donation online

<https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/donate>

or mail a check to Friends of Beebe Library
P.O. Box 2115

Wakefield, MA 01880.

Ask your employer if they match your charitable contributions.

Attend and/or volunteer your time at the annual book sale, or at our booth at the Festival by the Lake or the Farmer’s Market. We also have volunteer options available for one-time or ongoing involvement. See the Volunteers Needed section on page 2 of this newsletter.

Visit our Everyday Book Sale, on the lower level of the library, tucked into the alcove at the bottom of the double-staircase.

Purchase some honey at the circulation desk.

Shop online via iGive.com and select Friends of Beebe Library as your charity. We will then receive a percentage of your purchases. See the Donate page of our website for more information.

Help us to find a new home for our book sale.

We are thankful for your past support, and working together we can continue to support the Beebe Library!

Feel free to reach out to us at friends@friendsofbeebe.org with any comments or ideas.

Karen Williams



*Karen King showing off the beautiful photos in
Currier and Ives: America.*

Books & book series highlighted

By Ashley Marty

As everyone should know, the Friends of Beebe Library book sale will take place May 15-18. I recently helped sort at one of the book drives organized by Cindy Schatz and wanted to highlight some interesting books and series that have been donated and will be available at the sale.

There is a wide range of fiction, from light summer reading to more literary fiction. Anyone in the Wakefield book swap Facebook group knows that Colleen Hoover books are

extremely popular. We have a nice selection of them donated and ready for sale at the book drive. There is also a wide variety of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

I was particularly surprised when I saw the huge selection of children's and young adult books. There are even multiple boxes of children's books in Russian. There are lots of young adult series as well.

There are also gorgeous photography and art coffee table books, including Currier and Ives America and an Audubon Definitive Visual Guide to Birds.

Cindy Schatz says that this year she also noticed that there is a large selection; likely a whole table's worth at the book sale, of books on military history and military vehicles this year.

While many books are donated by individuals, there are some pristine books and series of books that come directly from estates as well. When I was sorting, a few vintage Golden Science Guide books about Weather, Zoology, and Rocks & Minerals caught my eye. The sale will also have a full set of Bible study books.

The book sale will also have a large selection of the Tom Swift series. While it's not Taylor Swift, and certainly a different era, these may be of interest to Swifties and non-Swifties alike.



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Everyone is invited to our Board meetings on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, starting at 7 p.m., at the Beebe Library.

Become a member. Visit our web page to download an application or pay online via PayPal.

For more information, visit www.FriendsOfBeebe.org