

# The Buzz from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library

*Fall 2021*

## Little Free Libraries *Everywhere*

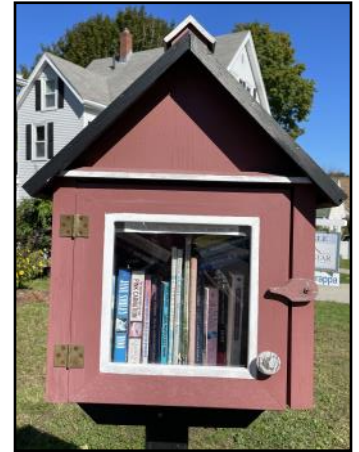
by Lucy Skeldon



Our busy Bee has been buzzing around town exploring the charming and edifying Little Free Libraries some of our neighbors have installed and decorated at

curbsides. There is a lovely variety of decoration and contents in these little biblioboxes: the Bee has found several nicely painted mini-libraries, some catering to the littler Little Library patrons who might need some Roly Poly Olie, perhaps, and others stocked with mysteries and celebrity bios for the grown-up crowd.

The original Little Free Library organization is a nonprofit which was founded in 2009 in Hudson, Wisconsin. Since then, they have expanded over all 7 continents;



according to Littlefreelibrary.org, there are now over 100,000 LFLs in over 100 countries. And that's just those that have been officially registered with the organization. There are many more that are off-the-grid freelance bookboxes (which is fine, as long as you don't infringe on their trademark by calling it an LFL). You can order a kit from the organization yourself, which will automatically be registered, you can design and build your own (well, I couldn't, but maybe you could), or sites like Etsy offer many "mini book exchange" options (while looking into this, by the way, I also found that Redbubble.com sells a miniskirt designed to look like a mini-library, which was rather disturbing). The Beebe Library itself offered a build-your-own bookbox workshop program a few years ago, from which Assistant Director Jackie Powers reports a couple of new little libraries emerged.

If you choose to register yours with LFL, you pay \$40 and receive a handsome plaque with a unique number to make your bookbox official, and, if you like, your library's location will appear on the online LFL map. The organization has announced that there will be a locator app released soon, so you'll be able to look for free reading materials almost anywhere in the world.

An informal survey shows that Wakefield has at least ten of these little book exchanges. Currently only two of these are registered LFLs, so if you want to find the rest, you'll have to hunt for them. Or ask your friends on social media, of course, if you don't think that's cheating. Then go check them out!

## **An interview with Jeff Klapes**

*by James Horne*

This month, Jeff retired from the Head of the Reference Department at the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library, after 26 years. This interview took place at the library in September, 2021.

Have patrons seen the last of the Traveling Librarian?

No. Absolutely not!

What's the most remote place you've ever traveled?

Distance wise?

No, off the beaten path.

Namibia. They have the highest sand dunes in the world. It was a great trip.

How long did it take to be the Head of Reference?

I started as one at the Lynnfield Library while attending Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

'Any advice for future librarians?

(Laughs) Yes, have a sense of humor and be adaptable, flexible.

What's the best job you can imagine?

Well, my glib answer would be, this one. Something you enjoy doing, with someone you enjoy working with, for people you enjoy doing it for. Doing something that's important, that matters. What you do matters.

What are you going to miss the most?

My co-workers. I'll still be here a lot. It will be nice to be a patron.

Have you ever considered doing tours, sim-

ilar to Perillo Tours or Rick Steves Europe?

No.

Why not?

Traveling is personal. I prefer to concentrate on photography. I like being independent.

You're leaving probably the most interesting job in Wakefield. What's next?

I don't know. Filling in here. I'll chill out. Volunteer stuff I like to do, ESL, the Wakefield Food Pantry.

What's in store for future libraries?

I hesitate to predict. The fun thing is that it's always changing. Guessing what the next big thing is.

Can we talk you out of retiring?

(Laughs) No. It's too late now.

Any final message for those seeking knowledge at the Reference Desk?

Ask Karen. She'll take care of you. I'm happy Karen Stern is taking over. I think Karen will be fantastic.



*A bee house made by members of Girl Scout Troop 62798*

## **What's the Buzz About Bees?**

*By Eileen Worthley*

At the Wakefield Farmers' Market a few weeks ago, I was intrigued by a display of bee houses made by members of Girl Scout Troop 62798. Stopping to inquire about them, I learned a lot about bees!

Did you know that not all bees are in the honey-making business? There are more than one kind of bee and most of them are

“solitary” bees rather than “hive” bees. Solitary bees are not rogue honeybees that have left the hive and are flying solo. There are over 200 species of native solitary bees; they live alone, and the Girl Scouts' bee houses were built for them. They are not reigned by a queen, and they do not produce honey; because they have no hive or stores of honey to protect, they are nonaggressive and generally do not sting. They are, however, terrific pollinators; in fact, they pollinate more crops, flowers, and trees than any other group of insects. According to the Kansas State Research and Extension Service, it takes about 250 native

solitary bees to pollinate one acre of apple trees but would take anywhere from 10,000 to 250,000 honeybees to pollinate the same size area of trees.

Hive bees, also called “social” bees, are the honey-making bees. They colonize in a hive, where they make honey and wax and see to the health and well-being of her majesty the queen. There are two types of hive bees: honeybees, which are not native to North America, and bumblebees; bumblebees are the only native species of bee that are social. Of course, it is these social hive bees that produce the delicious honey sold by the Friends. The Friends acquire the jars of honey from Crystal Bee Supply, a family-owned bee-keeping business that opened in 1993. The company maintains about 200 hives and carries multiple sizes of jars of honey, as well as bee-keeping paraphernalia.

The Friends’ honey sales include

- 8-oz jars \_\_\_\_\_ \$6
- 16-oz jars \_\_\_\_\_ \$10
- and 32-oz jars \_\_\_\_\_ \$18

Honey is a sweet gift for holiday giving!  
Small jars make excellent stocking stuffers.



*Join In Wakefield*

## ***Join In Wakefield:*** **A Capstone Project to Wrap up** **Beebe’s Grant Series**

*by Linda Malcolm*

Over the last year, Beebe Library’s grant series, *Commit to Your Community* has engaged citizens with programming directed at understanding and building our community. Throughout the series, Wakefield residents were encouraged to step outside of themselves and join a new group or cause. Now, *Join In Wakefield* provides the logistical pathway for people to do just that.

Built by Beebe Library, *Join In Wakefield* is an online searchable directory of ways to get involved around town. Looking for a neighborhood book club? Considering a run for office? Want to volunteer with a local non-profit? *Join In Wakefield* matches your interests with local non-profit organizations and groups.

There are already more than 100 groups in the *Join In Wakefield* online database. To be added to the list, groups looking for

members are encouraged to fill out and submit a form to the library. Numerous categories of organizations include Arts/Culture/Hobbies; Civic/Community/Historical; Educational; Human Services; Municipal/Politics/Advocacy; Religious; Science/Nature/Animals; Social; Sports; and Youth.

As Friends, we can help the library by spreading the word about *Join In Wakefield* as a new community resource. From life-long residents to new neighbors, this service offers Wakefield residents a place to make connections and get involved. The easiest way to find the website is through the Quick Links section on Beebe Library's home page:

<https://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/>

Make sure to mention this to local friends and family—and on social media, share the news with your local peeps!



## From the Board

by *Helen VanBenschoten*

The Friends are buzzing, summer into fall, thanks to our wonderful volunteers who are dedicated to the Beebe Library's continued vibrance! It is amazing what bookworms can do when they set their minds to it! After the impressive book drops last spring, followed by a huge book sale, the Friends still had a lot of books, and thanks to the Town, a lot of space! The community expects us to accept book donations, and that requires turnover. Our tireless book

sale committee set out to dispense the vast inventory with a series of book giveaways (while collecting donations for the Beebe, and making new Friends) at two Farmers Markets this summer, in a late summer Teachers Giveaways, and at the October 2 Festival by the Lake! A dedicated charities coordinator, profiled in this newsletter, has also been distributing books to many appreciative readers while strengthening our community ties.

We are thankful that our veteran Friends have stuck with us and are thrilled to have excellent new volunteers, many in leadership positions. Positions are still available – and we want you! In particular, we are seeking a website coordinator. We all appreciate the desire to curl up in the comfort of one's home with good books, but we promise a different kind of buzz when you join us. Among our ranks are those who have dedicated their lives to community service, hardworking people and parents with just the tiniest slivers of time, teens learning the ropes, retirees sharing their wisdom while oftentimes getting a workout, and everyone in between.

Stay tuned for details on a November 6th bag (book) event. For more events and volunteer information,

[www.FriendsofBeebe.org](http://www.FriendsofBeebe.org)

For monthly meeting details contact [president@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:president@friendsofbeebe.org)

They're good places to start.

You can also send an email to [volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org).

You can always bet there is a lot going on, and we hope to see you!

# Wakefield Charities

by Karen King

You often ask, what happens to the books that were left from the Annual Sale? The Book Sale Volunteers have been super busy and happy provide to you with some information about our activities:



Farmers Market - The Friends of Beebe added to good community vibes by giving away books at the Farmers Market on two unique Saturdays in July and August. Always great fun to see the children sitting next to our tent and looking at books.



Teachers Give-Away - On two separate occasions, we invited teachers to the Hurd School and allowed them to take books for their classrooms at no charge. Being aware that many teachers spend out of pocket money for “extras,” it was great to give them this opportunity to find books that would work well with their curriculum and in their classroom libraries.



*Reaching out to readers with 'Bisque & Books', Most Blessed Sacrament*

Thanks to Jody Sherman, former Book Sale Chair, there were a number of organizations already working with the Friends to provide books across the New England community. Because we had more books than ever before the team worked hard at new relationships. A few are mentioned here.



Wakefield Senior Center – The Covid shutdown left the McCarthy Senior Center with many empty shelves. Karen King spent some time there, and week by week, returned to restock shelves with titles by popular authors and a solid variety of good reads. Lisa Rogalin, Activities Director for the Wakefield Senior Center is excited to have people back and to offer books for their reading pleasure. Recently posted in the Wakefield Senior Center Newsletter:

“Also...thanks to the Friends of the Beebe Library for re-stocking our library. Thank you, Karen King, for coming in, cleaning out and filling our shelves.”

Local Churches provide books at Community Dinners



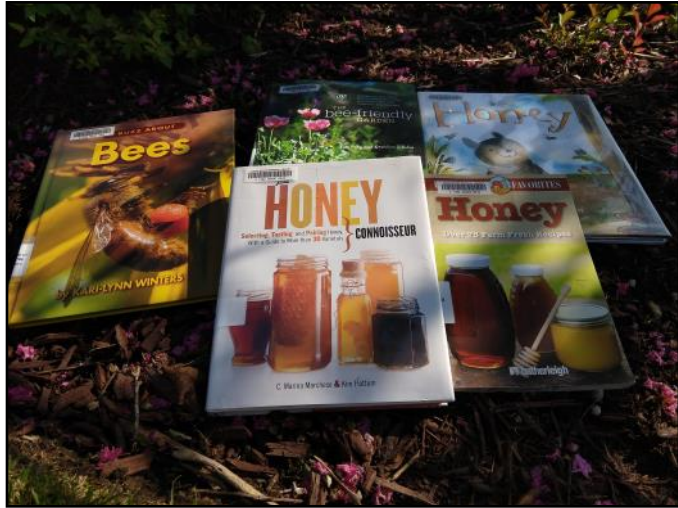
Most Blessed Sacrament and St Joseph's Church provided a variety of books to participants in the Community Dinner Program. After the 1st MBSC dinner, this email was received from the Coordinator, Pina Misciarelli: “I wanted to follow up on our *Bisque and Books Dinner*. It was a HUGE success! Guests were very appreciative of the resources. Each genre was taken; we were quickly depleted of our large print and Spanish language books. It was a won-

derful way to connect!”

We are proud of the thoughtful way the remaining books have been distributed and the good will and friendships we have made along the way.



*Photo of a storefront in Greenwood, by a thermal imaging camera, borrowed from the Library of Things, Cary Memorial Library in Lexington, Massachusetts.*



*The Friends of the Beebe Library are always working on several projects; both new and ongoing. We are presently looking to grow our team of volunteers. We are eager to meet with you and hear your ideas. Please consider joining us today.*

- Instagram Team----- Kyle Donohue, Melinda Cook & Sophie Cook
- Book sale Co-Chairs----- Cindy Schatz & Greta Garniss
- Everyday Book Sale ----- Melissa Thompson
- Facebook ----- Patricia Murphy
- Honey Coordinator ----- Patricia Brandl
- Advisor ----- Nancy Tolleson
- Twitter ----- Susan Kilkelly
- Newsletter Editor----- James Horne
- Publicity ----- Karen King
- Photographer----- TBA



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**FRIENDS OF THE BEEBE LIBRARY**

**P.O. Box 1610**

**WAKEFIELD, MA 01880**



**LUCIUS  
BEEBE**

**Where Wakefield Connects**



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*All Friends are invited to our Board meetings on the first Thursday of the month, September - June, starting at 7 p.m., via Zoom.*

**Become a member.** Visit our web page to download an application or pay online via PayPal. For more information, visit [www.FriendsofBeebe.org](http://www.FriendsofBeebe.org)

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