

The Buzz from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library

Summer 2021

From the Board

As this note is written we are having a heatwave. The thought of cold weather – the sparkle of snowflakes swirling in bone chilling gusts against twinkling lights – seems as far away as the North Pole. However, with the re-opening of the Beebe Library building, after more than a year and almost 16,000 side door service appointments (WOW!), and after the first book sale in two years, it feels a lot like the beginning of a new year.

The book sale is always wonderful but this year it took on a special poignancy, as people of the community finally gained respite from isolation and worry, and supported, even celebrated, the event with palpable enthusiasm. We are grateful to the town for allowing us to use the former Hurd School building, and to everyone who came out to enjoy it while helping to support the programs we all love at the Beebe.

As in years before, the loyal Friends of Beebe volunteers – veterans and brand new, selflessly donated time and energy and skill, and made the book sale into Wakefield's own special holiday. For the Friends board it is also the end of the first year of service for several of us, and a time of change. We gratefully say farewell and thank you to George

Myrus, former Treasurer, and Ashley Gianni-Bradford, former Director, and welcome Treasurer Keith LaGraves, Assistant Treasurer Melissa Fulkerson and Director Kyle Donohue.

We thank you, our members, for your support, and encourage you to continue rallying behind our wonderful Beebe, whether it's by applauding with extra vigor for the Plaza Jazz musicians, encouraging your young ones to read their summer books and paint their rocks for Summer Reading, or simply by soaking in the AC and long missed atmosphere at the Beebe. We hope you'll enjoy your own summer reading and be on the lookout for announcements from the Friends. We wish you all a happy and healthy summer!

Bee Caught Reading



Friends of Beebe Library

What are the Friends reading this summer?

By Michael Nester

Covid is waning, Summer is here, and the Friends' Board members continue to read; merely changing from hot to chilled beverage of choice, and armchair to beach chair. Here are some of the selections.

Orange Is the New Black, Piper Kerman

I'd Do It All Again, autobiography of Mayor James Curley

I, Robot, Isaac Asimov

Lord of The Rings, J.R.R. Tolkien

The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz: A True Story of Family and Survival, Jeremy Dronfield

Discover of Witches Trilogy, Deborah Harkness

Dial A for Aunties, Jesse Q Sutanto

I Feel Bad About My Neck: and Other Thoughts About Being A Woman, Norah Ephron

The Third Wife, Lisa Jewell

A Man Called Ove, Frerik Backman

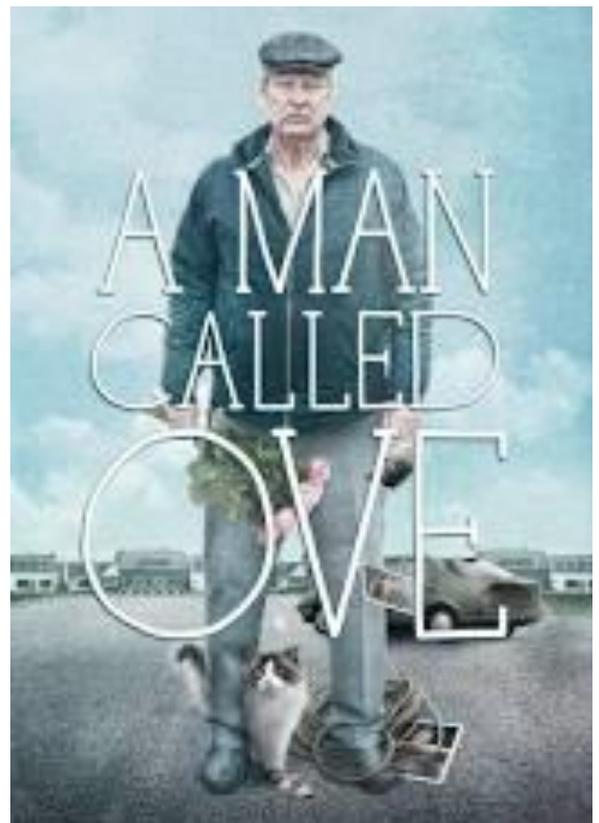
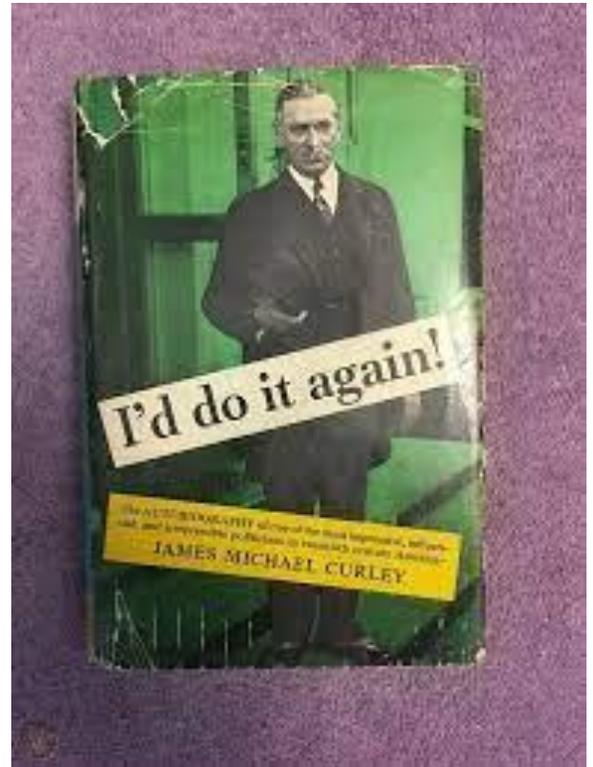
The Naked Quaker, Diane Rapaport

The Tattooist of Auschwitz, Heather Morris

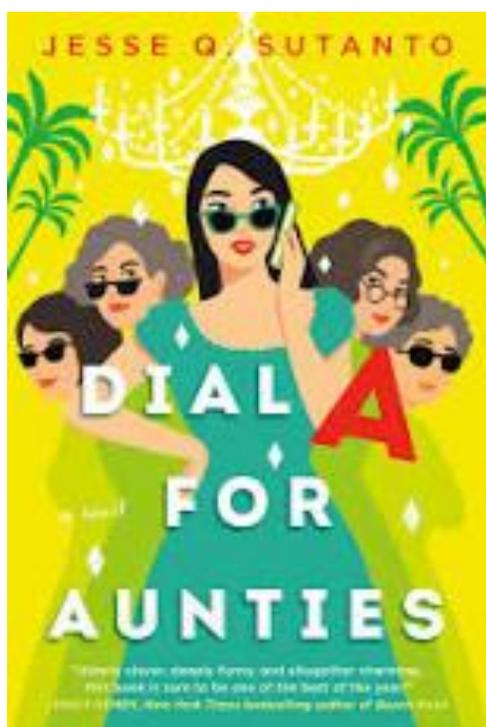
The Chester Creek Murders, Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Wolves Eat Dogs, Martin Cruz Smith

Eclecticism rules, with biography, sci-fi, mystery, comedy, romance and non-fiction, being represented. The reasons for specific choices ranged from a familial relationship (with James Michael Curley), an interest in a specific period in history (WWII, Auschwitz), and an apprecia-



tion of classic sci-fi; to less angst-ridden and more humorous fare. Some came by books as a result of metaphorically peeking over the shoulders of others. Some are reading for a discussion group, or looking for something outside of their normal genres. Each of the members wanted the same thing in books for the summer: an author who writes well, has something interesting to say, and says it in a smart, terse, manner. Wading through tomes that would dwarf the Hindenburg, or require the patience of Job to navigate a chapter, are not good choices for post-burgers-on-the-grill digestion reading. Nor would one wish to interrupt their tanning efforts with a barrage of formulaic, unoriginal, and lazy efforts from best-selling authors who didn't have an idea for a book, but wrote one anyway. I think none of the above fits into those categories and you might want to give this Friends' summer reading list a look.



This family is all abuzz about the Book Sale

Far from being “closed”, the Beebe was a hive of activity in 2020. Check out these stats:



[#wakefieldconnects](https://www.wakefieldconnects.com)



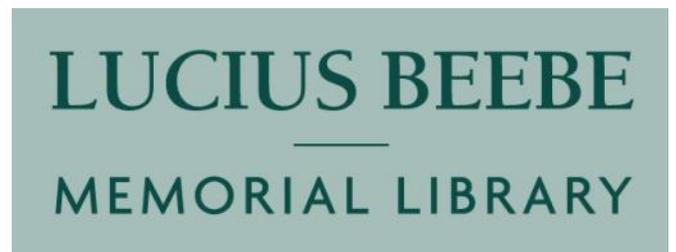
Two buddies prepping for the book sale.



Nice, peaceful Saturday morning at the Friends' pop-up tent at the Wakefield Farmers Market in June.



Book for a "Best Friend" at the Farmers Market.



Volunteer Opportunity **Everyday Book Sale Helper**

Do you visit the library regularly? Would you like to regularly refresh the books on display at the Friends Everyday Booksale, located at the foot of the Double Stairs to the lower level? Materials need to be added

and removed about biweekly to keep interest fresh. This hidden gem for many people is a great place to drop by and pick up a new title or two between other events. If interested in the volunteer opportunities listed on page 5, please email volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org

Volunteers are needed...

- ***Honey Manager***

Manage inventory, reordering, honey pickup & jar labeling.

Honey is a perennial best seller, time commitment is not large, but regular oversight needed.

- ***Archivist***

Organize the Friends of Beebe's archives – The Friends have been active since the 1970's – help preserve our history and maybe find past gems to share.

- ***Quarterly newsletter***

'Anyone with an interest in writing short interesting articles on Friends activities?

- ***Everyday Booksale Helper***

Materials need to be added and removed about biweekly to keep interest fresh.

- ***Booksale volunteers***

Many hands needed for ongoing help with receiving, sorting donation and prepping for book sale or book give-away events.

- ***Website Editor***

Looking for someone good with design, preferably experience with web builders, who can update the website a few times a month.

- ***For 2022...***

Library Appreciation week

Flower Coordinator for several arrangements purchased for display around the library.

Lead person needed for 4th of July Parade float

a wealth of past history and how-to's can be provided.

Follow us on Instagram
[@friends_beebe_library_](https://www.instagram.com/friends_beebe_library_)



Crowd at 2021 book sale (with bee lady on the left)

Friends of Beebe Library Annual Book Sale Returns

By Nancy Tolleson

How many volunteers does it take to run a book sale? A Lot!

The Friends of Beebe Library held its first post COVID book sale and it was a huge success due to the hands-on help of so many people. It was a whirlwind four days but so much had to happen first to create the opportunity to “go live”.

Over 90 people helped since the end of the 2019 Book Sale as planners, organizers, sorters, schleppers, publicists and more. A new storage location had to be found, a new book sale committee formed, then COVID happened. Donations started again slowly with many health precautions but no set date was planned. People at home all decided to clean out their collections at once so there was plenty to sort.

Vaccines started to rollout in early 2021 and the pace picked up quickly. In April of 2021 the Friends were cleared to host a book sale at the Hurd School!

The Book Sale Committee went into high gear. The dates were set for June 9th — 12th. Wednesday June 9 and Thursday June 10 were set for the Members Only Preview sale. A brutal heat wave rolled in and finally broke late Wednesday afternoon. However, people came! Thursday was much more relaxed. On Friday June 11th the Public Sale started, and by 1:30 pm there were over 70 shoppers filling bags and boxes.

The crowd ebbed and flowed and picked up again at 5 pm and stayed busy until closing. Saturday morning was similar, with many more families and children. It was hopping until the last person bagged up and left.

As in past years, various nonprofits were invited in after the sale to select materials for their groups. Saturday June 26, the Friends did a smaller ‘encore’ Book Give-Away at the Wakefield Farmers Market. People scooped up books, and the donation jar filled up quickly.

Watch for updates via the Friends website and social media, for future planned events. If you would like to pitch in with future sales please email

beebebooksale@gmail.com



Summer Reading *at the Beebe Library*

A Friends-sponsored favorite, Summer Reading 2021 is in full swing at Beebe Library. This year’s summer celebration of reading was planned to flexibly adapt to any pandemic circumstances that could occur. Participants appreciate how simple the program is and are loving their Starter Kits full of fun supplies for outdoor reading and crafting – made possible by Friends, of course!

Reading Rocks encourages readers to contribute a decorated rock to the Avon Street garden for every book read. As the garden “grows,” we see just how much Wakefield reads.

Beebe’s librarians are masters at helping to find just the right thing to read and are enjoying your visits to the library to browse their displays, attend a program, or just chill out.

Catherine McDonald is the director of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library.

Librarians produce summer reading programs to help prevent learning loss or the “summer slide” that can happen when children are not engaged in reading and learning during summer months. Reading for pleasure during the summer enhances the reading skills children need for learning in the fall.

This year’s summer reading program was introduced to children through videos, now on YouTube, produced by Beebe Children’s Librarians. It includes the annual *Where’s Buzzy Scavenger Hunt* and raffles, as well as reading, writing, music, game, and craft activities for all ages. Event and activity registration is required, and generally opens a week ahead of the event. Details are on the library website wakefieldlibrary.org

Events are also listed on the Town Community Calendar. The Summer Reading Program runs through August 13.



Colorful rock garden made by participants of the youth summer reading program outside the Beebe Library on the Avon Street side.

FRIENDS OF THE BEEBE LIBRARY

P.O. Box 1610

WAKEFIELD, MA 01880



**LUCIUS
BEEBE**

Where Wakefield Connects



**Find us on
Facebook**

President Helen VanBenschoten
 Vice President..... Anne Marie Pasquale
 Treasurer Keith LaGraves
 Assistant Treasurer Melissa Fulkerson
 Secretary Karen Williams
 Newsletter Editor James Horne

Director..... James Horne
 Director..... Patricia Murphy
 Director.....Michael Nester
 Director..... Kyle Donohue
 Newsletter Co-Editor..... Kyle Donohue
 Website Coordinator Kyle Donohue

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

The Friends of the Beebe Library benefits when you shop on Amazon.

Do you shop on Amazon? Amazon Smile is an automatic way to support a charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. To designate the Friends of Beebe Library as your charity of choice, visit smile.amazon.com *It's that easy!*