

# *The Buzz* from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library *Summer 2023*



*Helen VanBenschoten (Museum Pass wielder)*

## Museum Pass Spotlight:

### *The Cape Ann Museum*

*By Lucy Skeldon*

Since so many North Shore folks like to trek up to Massachusetts' "other" cape during the summer, your intrepid Museum Pass wielders chose to check out the Cape Ann Museum for this issue. This is a museum with a split personality, not unlike the Cape itself. Of course, Gloucester is well-known as a center of commercial fishing since its origins dating back 300 years as a fishing village, but the area has also long been a beacon to artists, with its access to dramatic seascapes. Both of these elements are explored richly at the CAM.

We found the exhibits on the history of the Gloucester fishing community to be very thor-

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## Summer at the Beebe

*By Manavi Sharma*

As we look towards (hopefully) warmer weather in the upcoming months, I am sure you are all, like me, itching to find activities outside the house and soak up our rare New England sun. Well, you're in luck because [Plaza Jazz](#) at the library is back! Every Thursday evening, from now through early September, you can pull up a chair on the front steps of the library with your friends (human or furry!) or family and listen to some soothing jazz

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were slipped into bags as an extra sweet note. Honey can always be purchased at the circulation desk at Beebe Library.

The success of the sale allows our organization to support museums passes and the reservation software for another year as well as fund the summer reading programs and so much more. The Book Sale Committee has been growing and adapting over many years as the storage and sale locations have shifted. Next year will likely require a new location yet again. If you are interested in getting involved, we're love to hear from you at [beebe-booksale@gmail.com](mailto:beebe-booksale@gmail.com). All types of skills are needed! From strong backs for donation days to logistics, marketing.

Become a member of the Friends to be sure you get notices and alerts of upcoming Book Give-Away events at the Festival by the Laker, Wakefield Farmers Market and other community events. If you are looking for just a quick browse, check out the Everyday Book Sale at the foot of the double stairs to the lower level.

## ***Books, Books & More Books!***

### ***2023 Annual Books Sale was a great success!***

*By Nancy Tolleson*

The Friends of Beebe Library have been hosting book sales since the 1970s. This year marks the third year hosting the sale at the former Hurd School on Cordis St. The 4 day format from May 31 to June 2 allows for a more relaxed experience than when it was limited to 1 evening and 1 day.

The Book Sale Committee, co-chaired by Cindy Schatz and Greta Garniss, were assisted by over 200 volunteers during the Winter and Spring to receive and organize donations. It takes a village to prepare for this annual experience. Tempting tables full of fiction and nonfiction of every era and topic for all ages were laid out to be easily browsed. Happy patrons came with greetings for annual regulars and welcomes for new visitors and all left with bags full of treasures to last the summer and more. Bottles Friends of Beebe Honey



Follow us on Instagram  
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## FROM THE BOARD

*Dear Friends,*

**W**e hope that you are all enjoying a good start to your summer. The Friends of the Beebe Library has had a good year so far, thanks to you. Whether you donated books or money, volunteered your time, purchased honey or books at the book sale or from the Everyday Book Sale shelves at the library, or simply became a member, you enabled us to help the library provide programs for young and old.

The Friends were able to donate \$20,000 to the library this spring to fund summer programming. Some of the other programs that we fund include Plaza Jazz, museum passes, and the document center. This would not be possible if it were not for you. Thank you!

We recently held our annual meeting and elections, which ushered in some changes. Thank you to our outgoing Board members - Patricia Murphy (President), Helen VanBenschoten (Assistant Treasurer), and Deborah Trachtenberg (Director), and welcome to our incoming Board members – Karen King (Secretary), and Jody Sherman (returning as Director). And of course, thank you to everyone who continues to serve, whether on the Board or one of our committees, for the book sale, or in any other way. Speaking of volunteers, we still need to fill a variety of roles, including an open Director position, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Editor/graphic artist, a photographer, and a volunteer coordinator. Contact us at [volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org) if you are interested.

Finally, we continue to search for a more permanent location at which to hold future book sales and to store books leading up to it, either separately or at the same location. If you know of any possible locations let us know.

So, enjoy your summer, take advantage of the many programs and services offered by our wonderful library, and consider joining us as a member and/or volunteer. Reach out to us at [friends@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbeebe.org) with any comments or ideas.

— Karen Williams

## Perennial Friends of Beebe Library Book Sale *Super-Fan: Cheryl Germino*

*Interview by Kyle Donohue*

How long have you and your kids attended the FOBL Book Sale?

*Since 1993, almost 30 years. As newlyweds!*

Have your kids always been enthusiastic fans? What has caught their eye?

*My son is the oldest (he is 27), and two daughters (in their twenties as well.) They've each come back with a bag of far-ranging subjects. Something [may seem like] a treasure [to them]. Their book tastes have changed as they've grown the subjects have changed. They're avid readers.*

How did your kids decide to come back to the Friends Book Sale after they moved to New York City?

*We all missed it during COVID, and it was around the time that my kids took jobs in New York. One child works as a stockbroker, and one as a production assistant for 60 Minutes. The following year was the first year when the Friends reopened after the start of the COVID pandemic, and what amazed me was that they rearranged their work schedules, because they wanted to take a trip home to specifically be there at the Friends of Beebe Book Sale. They brought a new bag of books home with them, and they're both avid readers, and it helps them stay engaged and active in their jobs.*

How has the Book Sale changed over the years?

*I have been a catechist for 40 years, and check for the religion books first. I look for a range of books, including the Giant Israeli Cookbook, which includes recipes for hummus, and I loved that. It's really been spaced out. Another favorite has been the beautiful children's books, I always give them away to who needs them.*

*Continued on next page*

Besides the books, what do you see in the Book Sale?

*The Beebe Library is a real positive that helps support the community, especially in the lives of children.*

What makes the FOBL Book Sale stand out?

*Incredible selection, incredible value, we're happy to support the Beebe Library. Every year it's a great reminder to renew Friends' membership, support the Library, all the while benefitting from such a great price. \$1 and \$2 is such an accessible price, it's a great way to buy books for some of your friends.*

How has Jody Sherman run the Book Sale/ what was her approach that came across like effortless magic?

*The attraction of the Book Sale is that it is so beautifully organized. In addition, I think she was visible. She was there at drop-off; she was typically at the front. I got a sense she knew what she was doing. Jody stood out to me because of her personality. Since Jody stepped down, Karen King has been amazing, and other volunteers. They really care.*

And your kids' experience/time attending the Book Sale? When did that begin?

*We started taking our kids, my son, born in '96, daughter, born in '97, and a daughter born in '01. All three went from the time of infancy.*

*They all looked forward to it as much as we [my husband and I] did. It became a family event that we anticipated, and fully dove head-first into.*

What do you think of the timing of the Book Sale?

*Time of year is ideal, yes, really a perfect time of year.*

What do you make of the different locations?

*Baptist Church: We could walk in at ground level; the Hurd School is also accessible. We were obviously sad when the fire happened [in October 2018]. It was a great location; I feel for the organizers.*

*There were plenty of people who stopped in spontaneously. We'd take the wagon or a stroller from our house. You'd see the organization [in terms of how books were placed in groups]. They really filled out the space, it was EXPANSIVE. You'd really be amazed [by the visual experience of the Book Sale in the Old Baptist Church.]*

Volunteers? Per location?

*Good question! There's always been plenty of help and volunteers helping you. They're plentiful volunteers, looking to help, would approach you, looking to help [and asking a friendly and useful question being of service].*

Temporary Location? (Lakeside Office Park)

*For me, that location was a little more formal. We kind of lost that casual town charm.*

*It was business-like, a departure from the casual community feel, but NONETHELESS they came through for us in spades!*

*Beautifully organized and nice place, plenty of room [to move around and browse books].*

*And I recall Jody being there! I talked to Jody about it, they really came through for use in spite of the Baptist church [fire].*

*And as for the Hurd, we were happy that they found and put a town building to use.*

And the Hurd?

*It's literally right around the corner from my house. I took to make sure to tell all the neighbors once a year when it's happening. The Hurd School is actively supported, and there's a buzz there.*

And final thoughts?

*The new people have gotten to carry on Jody's legacy with hospitality, organization, and wonderful hard work. It's a great spirit!*

*Karen [King] goes out of her way, and the warm hospitality really bubbles through.*



**Editor's Note: Cindy Schatz and Greta Garniss co-chair the Book Sale Committee.**

## ***Join our Community: Make a Difference with the Friends of Beebe Library Newsletter!***

*By James Horne*

Dear Beebe Library patron:

Being an active member of our community as Newsletter Editor, I am reaching out to you with a stimulating opportunity to contribute to the Friends in a meaningful way. We are currently seeking an enthusiastic individual to join the Friends as Co-Editor, and help us continue to produce an engaging newsletter that connects and inspires our community.

The Friends play a vital role in fostering a love of books, knowledge sharing, and community engagement. The newsletter serves as a powerful tool to keep everyone informed about upcoming events, new book releases, educational programs, and other exciting happenings. You can help shape the narrative and strengthen the bond between our library and the community it serves.

A few reasons why your involvement would make a significant impact:

- ◆ Learn Desktop Publishing from a professional printer; fonts, print production, design, layout, ChatGPT, Microsoft Publisher & Word, graphics, etc. will be covered. These skills are highly transferable and can benefit you both personally and professionally.
- ◆ Developing new skills: Whether you're a seasoned writer or just starting your journey, working on our newsletter will provide you with valuable experience in content creation, editing, and communication.



*A good time for all at the Farmer's Market.*

- ◆ Showcase your writing skills: If you enjoy writing, our newsletter provides an excellent platform for you to express your creativity. You can inspire others to explore new books, attend events, and engage in meaningful discussions.
- ◆ Build a stronger community: As Newsletter Co-Editor, you will have the opportunity to connect with fellow Friends and library patrons in our community. We will continue to create a space where ideas flourish.

Your unique perspective and talents will be an invaluable addition to our newsletter team. Together, we can continue to produce a newsletter that informs, entertains, and strengthens our community ties. We are also in need of a volunteer photographer.

If you're interested in helping us as a volunteer, or have any questions, please email us at [volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org). We would be delighted to provide further details and discuss how you can get involved.

*ChatGPT assisted me in writing this article.*



## Summer Book Recommendations: from the Friends of Beebe Library

By Kyle Donohue & Friends

Recommendations (from our trusty 2023 Friends  
of Beebe Library Book Sale volunteers!):

### Anita Doherty:

*Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

*Wrong Place Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister

*The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise*  
by Colleen Oakley

### Manavi Sharma:

*Happy Place* by Emily Henry

*Murder Your Employer: The McMasters  
Guide to Homicide* by Rupert Holmes

*The Kaiju Preservation Society* by John Scalzi

### Missy Thomson:

*Sisters of the Lost Nation* by Nick Medina

### Nancy Tolleson:

*Demon Copperhead*

by Barbara Kingsolver (very engrossing book set  
in West Virginia, listened to it as an audiobook  
with true West Virginian and  
Tennessean accents,  
said it is a *David Copperfield* for our times)

### Alannah Schuster:

*The Emperor of All Maladies*  
by Siddhartha Mukherjee

### Karen King:

*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Gamus

*Salt to the Sea* by Sepetus

*His Brother's Keeper* by Weiner

### Cindy Schatz:

*Mad Honey*

by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Gamus

### Judy Beers:

*The Bangalore Detectives Club* by Harini Magendra

*Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane

### Deborah Trachtenberg:

*Dodger* by Terry Hatchett

*A Small Death in A Great Glen* by A.D. Scott

*The Thief at the End of the World* by Joe Jackson

### Elizabeth Freeman:

*Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*

by Jennifer DeLeon (a YA book that is great for  
all, and the main character is a METCO student)

*The Secret Book of Flora Lea*

by Patti Callahan Henry (Mysterious childhood  
book with secrets about her missing sister,  
English countryside, 1939 and 1960)

*All The Days of Summer* by Nancy Thayer  
(set in Nantucket with likeable characters)



*Cape Ann Museum, from page 1*

ough! There are probably examples and explanations of almost every possible piece of fishing equipment ever used in the area, including ropes, sails, hooks, actual boats, and extremely detailed models. There is a very interesting short film showing various aspects of the fishermen's work using footage from the mid-20th century. This helped to pull the story together to create a picture of the community.

Speaking of pictures, the parts of the museum that are not fish-centric show the impressive range of the eclectic artistic life of Cape Ann. Throughout the building, one finds handsome bronze pieces and monument studies by native son Walker Hancock, including models of works he created for the 30th Street Station in Philadelphia and a lovely series of small sculptural studies of basketball players. We loved townscape paintings by William Meyerowitz, but the museum is best known as the home of an outstanding collection of paintings by local luminary and Luminist Fitz Henry Lane (formerly mistakenly referred to as Fitz "Hugh" Lane). These marine vistas and shore scenes are remarkable for Lane's ability with light and his

incredible detail work, and, since the museum's 2014 renovation, they are now displayed in a much-improved setting. Make sure to budget enough time to peruse these at your leisure!

The museum pass will admit 2 adults to the museum and archives for free (museum admission is always free for those 18 and under). The museum is closed on Mondays, and the archive is closed on Sundays as well. By the way, the museum has a second site at 13 Poplar Street, with several additional buildings which are free to visit.

Note: CAM is hosting a temporary Edward Hopper exhibit starting July 22nd. This will not be covered by the pass; an additional timed ticket is required.

*Summer at the Beebe, from page 1*

tunes played by a variety of great artists. When I moved to Wakefield last June, this quickly became one of my favorite places to be in the summer and I am thrilled to be adding this as a regularly scheduled stop on my Thursday evening dog walks once again.

And as for all the kids out of school who've already finished the entire catalogue of Netflix, the Beebe has you covered too. [Summer at the Library](#) is out in full swing with different collectibles for all kid age groups; fun stickers for the 0 – 5-year-old tots, awesome buttons for the K – 4 graders and exciting scratch tickets for the 5 – 12 graders. How do you get a collectible?

Attend a Beebe program, read a book, or simply find Buzzy! This fun program runs all summer long from June 20 – August 19 and signing up is simple. Just visit the Youth Desk at the Beebe and let a librarian know that you are interested – you'll also get a raffle ticket and could win some great prizes at the end of the summer!

These are just two awesome event series at the Beebe this summer. Keep an eye out on the [library calendar](#) to see all the other programs being hosted throughout the upcoming months – I am sure there will be quite a few that catch your eye. And don't forget to register when something does!



*The Wall of Paddles at The Cape Ann Museum*

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Newsletter Editor.....James Horne

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