

The Buzz from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library

Fall 2022



Museum Pass Spotlight: The Peabody-Essex Museum

This season's Spotlight finds our intrepid pass-wielders exploring the delightfully eclectic Peabody Essex Museum! If you haven't been, or haven't been in a while, we urge you to immediately visit <https://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/museum-passes/> to book your passes. No matter where you start, you'll find wonder at

From the Board

Dear Friends,

As I breathe the crisp Fall air and watch the colorful leaves swirl around me, I am reminded of our time of thanksgiving. I would like to thank every member of our volunteer Board of Directors, Treasurer-Keith La Graves, Assistant Treasurer-Helen VanBenschoten, Secretary-Karen Williams, Directors-Bhushan Kulkarni, Deborah Trachtenberg and Greta Garniss. I welcome them and look forward to working together this next fiscal year. I value their help and advice while appreciating their time. I am thankful to every Friends member, volunteer, Committee member, Chairperson and Board Director for helping contribute to the success of the Friends.

We work with an outstanding group of people. Our fundraising efforts, membership drives, honey sales, Everyday-Booksale, merchandising, private donations along with the huge success of our Booksale and giveaway promotions has allowed us to donate \$20,000.00 to Fall, Winter and Spring library programs and museum passes. Whether you donated

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every turn.

We began at the two-hundred-year-old Yin Yu Tang house, brought in its entirety from China, and installed as a free-standing building on the museum campus. Far more than a dwelling place, it's a window into a very different approach to daily life. The audio tour (easily accessed from your hand-held device, or from those offered by the museum) provides vivid details of extended family living, relationships, hardships, and the passage of time from traditional family-centric living into the turbulence of the Communist era. The layout of the building itself, open to the sky at its heart, designed to collect rainwater in interior pools, and reflective

of the traditional Chinese focus on the family, is rife with fascinating details; the dark wood of the rooms and exterior stone courtyard mute the present and further meditations on the past. Timed reservations are required for this exhibit.

A short walk across the museum courtyard brought us from that serene environment to the high-energy fashion of Patrick Kelly! Anyone who still thrills to the 1980s Zeitgeist will be thoroughly blissed-out here. If you were around in the 1980s you will recognize Kelly's influence. Buttons, bows, hearts, and even googly eyes adorn his chic, innovative designs. This exhibit is extensive gorgeous, candy-colored, musical, interactive in parts, nostalgia-inducing, and sprinkled throughout with the late designer's still-pertinent social critique. "Patrick Kelly: Runway of Love" gets 4 stars and a bow, but see it soon; it closes November 6th.

Another not-to-be-missed room is Anila Quayyum Agha's "*All the Flowers Are for Me.*" This installation is a truly amazing use of light, turning an otherwise empty room into an almost indescribable experience. And don't skip the gift shop! The PEM has an especially well-chosen collection of beautiful goodies to tempt anybody of any age!

The Peabody Essex's permanent and temporary exhibits "wowed" us. Their mission is "to celebrate outstanding artistic and cultural creativity", and they truly do!



Reported by Helen VanBenschoten & Lucy Skeldon



Book Sale Seeks New Space

By Cindy Schatz

The Book Sale needs to find a new home. We will have our 2023 Sale at the Hurd School, but we have to be on the lookout for a new storage site to use after that time. We don't know exactly when we will need to leave the Hurd, but we need to plan for our future.

We had our sale for over 20 years at the First Baptist Church, a space we loved, and then, due the devastating fire in October 2018, our 2019 sale was held in the former American Mutual building at the head of the Lake. The owners of that building were trying hard to sell it, so we did not return there for another sale. Offered the opportunity to move into the otherwise empty Hurd School in the fall

of 2019, we accepted. We knew then that our time at the Hurd would be for an indeterminate period of time, and we've been lucky to have such a large space for both year-round storage and for our Book Sales in 2021, 2022, and next year, 2023. The Friends' Board will be forming a space search committee to direct the effort. Due to the weight of boxed books and the difficulty and safety issues of transporting hundreds of heavy boxes up or down stairs, we are seeking first floor space. Although we can't expect to have as much room as we do currently, the optimum situation would allow us to both store and work (sorting books) in the space. We do have a number of tables we would prefer to store, rather than sell, otherwise we would need to pay for table rental at Sale time, which would adversely impact our sale income. We have not paid rent in the past, and leasing a space could erase the entire profit of our sale, which ranges \$10-13K per year. If you are aware of a sizeable, dry, secure temperate space, we ask you to contact us.

beebebooksale@gmail.com



We are collecting books for our next Book Sale on Saturdays November 5 and December 3. Event volunteers are also welcome, and community service hours can be tracked. Find the sign-up links on the Friends website and Facebook pages, or email us at beebebooksale@gmail.com for the details.



Virtual Salem: Many Spooky and Historic Sites To See!

By Kyle Donohue

Looking to spread your wings virtually and still experience both spooky and historic Salem without the crowds? Well have no fright! I have four great options for you!

The first option is the Witch Trials Online Sites Tour. On their site, salemwitchmuseum.com/witch-trials-online-tour, a large map of northeastern Massachusetts is presented, with red markers on a map in 24 towns and cities, including Boston, Salem, and nearby Reading! If you click on “Begin Your Online Tour”, you’ll travel next to a webpage

(salemwitchmuseum.com/witch-trials-guided-tour-list), with multiple historic sites. What may surprise you is that on this page, Danvers has more Salem Witch Trials sites than Salem, with 30 compared to Salem’s 26! Each site per town has a red button you can click on, “Learn More,” which takes you to a dedicated page with a wide-screen image of the site,

substantial historical description, and a slideshow of the site’s associated images as well. If you scroll to the “History and Education” tab, click on the “Virtual Exhibits” tab and prepare to be compelled emotionally to see cathartic and almost other-worldly art (paintings, poems, and images of witch-themed plays), spanning from the 18th century through today. Another option is the House of Seven Gables Immersive 360 Degrees Tour, which is presented by musae.me, an online site presented by artistic professionals that presents streaming services/immersive tours for varying prices. Tickets cost between \$15 and \$35 and include a VR headset which ships within 2-4 days. Next up, a couple fabulous options! If you read Helen and Lucy’s PEM article, you’ll love this next idea! If you’re familiar with the movie Hocus Pocus, you may be interested in taking a self-guided audio tour of the Ropes Mansion, which is now associated with the PEM. Last but certainly not least, we have the Hamilton Hall Tour, presented by Salem State History professor Dr. Donna Seger! This online tour, presented in the form of 12 videos that are nicely presented with dedicated titles and exquisite screenshots, makes you feel like you are really in Salem on a history tour! Be prepared to learn a lot about early 19th century Salem and Alexander Hamilton! Wonderfully presented and a real treat. Happy Halloween everyone!

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MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Creativebug

By Nancy Tolleson

Now that the summer has passed and autumn temps are starting to dip, it's time to think about trying some fun craft ideas. The library has a wealth of books on many handcrafts from crochet to knitting, embroidery, quilting and so much more. However, if you are new to crafting or want to try something different and are not quite sure how to go about it, visit the library website. On the Research & Learning Resources page (under Books & More) there are two crafting sites: Creativebug and the Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center.

Creativebug is an online tutorial site. You log into the Wakefield access using your library card number and pin, then create your own Creativebug account. Some of the classes are for skill building such as learning to draw; others are for specific projects geared for kids as young as five (with adult supervision) to topics for adults.

Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center has links to magazine articles and book excerpts for specific crafting ideas. Want to make some slippers? There's an adorable pattern for mouse slippers. The "Living Room" is the inviting Gold Room with comfortable seating and many attractive resources, including magazines, for relaxing and browsing. It has more than seventy titles from monthlies with crafting sections such as *Better Homes and Gardens* to craft-specific titles like *Maker* and *Threads*.

A fuller range of magazines are accessible online through Libby, <https://noble.overdrive.com/noble-wakefield/magazines/collection/1156989>. You can find nineteen arts and crafts titles devoted to beading, woodworking, quilting, painting, and more.

So, the next rainy day, check out these resources to see what appeals to your own inner creator. For as Albert Einstein said, "creativity is intelligence having fun."

News & Views

By Kyle Donohue

Ever wonder what people in your community are thinking about the issues of the day? Curious about what people across the aisle might think about, and possibly agree with you? Well come on down to *News & Views*, a bimonthly discussion group that is held at the Beebe Library on the 2nd and 4th Monday evening of every month, from 7:30- 8:45pm in the Lecture Hall (which has a nice wide table with chairs) of beautiful Beebe Library (celebrating its 100th anniversary this year!) With moderator Paul Robichaud (who is also a contributor to the Boston Globe), you'll learn a lot more about yourselves and your fellow program participants, and you might even modify your understanding of the day's top issues! Occasional drop-ins include the Director of Beebe Library, Catherine MacDonald, and if not from Wakefield, don't worry! Our moderator is from Melrose and we welcome participants with an open mind from all towns.



Book Clubs

By Marlene A Veldwisch

Have you ever belonged to a book club or do you currently? For a voracious reader it can be so joyous and satisfying to talk about “that book” with others. Book clubs come in many shapes and sizes. Some go on for years, even decades; others start with a core group and may restrict membership to keep it small and intimate. There are clubs that rotate meeting spaces, have refreshments that align with that month’s book, or focus on books/authors from a specific to a wide range of ethnicities. I once belonged to a book club where the host provided desserts and beverages (members brought their own suppers) with the treats/drinks often in sync with the book.

I have belonged to three book clubs over the years. Currently I belong to a club that meets virtually once a month and came together because of an affiliation with an educational organization. What is unique for me is that the core members are in their forties. It has been so much fun to have passionate discussions with folks thirty years younger than I am – our love

of books bridges the generation gap! The book choices have also been great and quite varied – the facilitator is a high school English teacher and eclectic reader. I have been introduced to books/authors I might not have found otherwise.

Looking for a book club to join? The following groups are sponsored by the Beebe, meet monthly September through June, and might be just what you are searching for:

- **Supper Sleuths** – meets on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 PM. This group focuses on mysteries; participants share reviews of titles they have read within that month’s theme.
- **Books by the Lake** – meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 PM. There are facilitated discussions on a different book each month. The group votes on the reading list for the coming year in the spring.
- **Books on Tap** – meets on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM. Is this a book group or a social club? This group meets at local bars/restaurants to discuss books that may push participants outside their comfort zones!

Details for any of these groups can be found at wakefieldlibrary.org. Please, join and enjoy!



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Where Wakefield Connects

two books to 100, whether you volunteered one hour, to weeks and months of devoted time, whether you purchased one book or filled a home library, I thank you. Your efforts large or small have contributed to our success.

Very importantly, we will need a new home after the 2023 book sale, next summer. Please keep your eyes and ears open for anyone who might have space to loan to the Friends for book storage or a location for our Book Sale. If you hear of a garage, basement, private hall, Church Hall, empty retail or office space which could be loaned to the Friends, please let us know. If you would like to serve on the search committee, please contact me at president@friendsofbeebe.org.

Best Regards,
Patricia Murphy



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All Friends are 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

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