

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



Bring the Grammys home with Hoopla

By Helen VanBenschoten

Music is such an important part of our lives. The health benefits of listening to music are well documented, and it can be energizing, focusing or mood setting for work and leisure.

Museum Pass Spotlight: **The JFK Presidential Library and Museum**

*Reported by Helen VanBenschoten
& Lucy Skeldon*

This issue's featured museum pass took us back in time to the 1960s and the brief but storied presidency of John F. Kennedy. As Boston-area residents, we may think we know all there is to know about Kennedy, his administration, and his family, but the JFK Presidential Library & Museum will still inform, entertain, and possibly charm you with the real story of Kennedy's "Camelot" told through his own words, vintage television clips, photographs, and artifacts from the era.

The museum, officially opened in 1979, was specifically sited on Columbia Point by the Kennedy family to provide views of the ocean and the city of Boston, both so important in the life of the 35th



*2023 Grammy fashion, Grammy winner
Walter Russel III and his proud mother.
Continued on page 3*



Lucy Skeldon examining Kennedy's 1960 Presidential election campaign materials at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

president. It's a striking piece of architecture, designed by I.M. Pei at the request of Jacqueline Kennedy. Parking is available and free, and admission with the pass is only \$3/person and covers up to 8 people.

Our visit began with an enjoyable 15-minute film covering JFK's family, early life, and WWII service. The fascinating narration is entirely in Kennedy's own voice, using snippets from interviews and speeches. The film ends with the Democratic Convention of 1960; here the story is taken up by the museum exhibits. Kennedy's path unrolls before you – his nomination, the Nixon debates and election, and his presidency. There's a recreation of Kennedy's Oval Office, displays explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis, Civil Rights progress, Bobby Kennedy's work as Attorney General, Jackie's role as first lady, and cold war diplomacy. Some

of our favorite exhibit pieces were gifts given to the Kennedys by foreign heads of state and diplomats; beautiful treasures from all over the world. They made us wonder what else must be stored in the National Archives warehouses, like the Ark of the Covenant at the end of Raiders of the Lost Ark. We were reminded of Kennedy's work as an author: "Why England Slept" (1940), his Harvard thesis, the Pulitzer Prize winning "Profiles in Courage" (1956) and "A Nation of Immigrants" (1964). There are of course many publications about Kennedy's life, politics, and impact, including the new-and-notable "Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening" (2022).



Did you notice?

By Andrea Ahearne

Did you notice the new carpet at the Beebe? Our library was closed for a week in January to replace the 20 year old carpet. It involved a lot of strategic shuffling of furniture, displays, and of course books. It's a beautiful blue color. The new carpet makes everything look cleaner and brighter. And I dare say it makes the books stand out more.

We are very lucky to have such a beautiful and historical library building in Wakefield. Sometimes I forget that there is more to see than books when I visit the Beebe. Did you ever notice the ceiling in the entranceway? Or have you ever visited the reading room or magazine room? Next time you go to the library please take the time to walk around and check out more than the books. And please take the time to notice the new carpet. We have a treasure in our Beebe library and we should enjoy all it has to offer.



ChatGPT

wrote this article for me

By James Horne

My instructions to OpenAI were to ‘write 200 words about a cat who makes a library her new home.’

Once upon a time, there was a small grey cat named Mittens. She had always loved cozy spaces and quiet places, so when she stumbled upon the local library one day, she knew she had found her new home. At first, she was hesitant to enter, but once she did, she was enchanted by the sight of the towering shelves of books and the peaceful hush that surrounded her.

Mittens began to explore the library, finding nooks and crannies to curl up in and corners where she could watch the patrons come and go. She was particularly fond of the children's section, where she would play with the colorful toys and nuzzle up against the young readers who came to peruse the picture books.

Soon enough, the librarians and regular patrons grew accustomed to seeing Mittens around. They began to leave out bowls of water and treats for her, and even brought her a cozy bed to sleep in. Mittens was in feline heaven, surrounded by the comforting scent of old books and the gentle hum of human activity.

Years passed, and Mittens became something of a fixture at the library. She was even featured in the local news, and people would come from all over just to catch a glimpse of the famous library cat. But to Mittens, it was simply her home, a place where she could be surrounded by the stories and knowledge that she loved.

And so, Mittens the library cat lived out her days in peaceful contentment, never wanting for anything as she watched the world go by from her cozy corner of the stacks.

A list of 48 ‘Examples’ is a menu of tasks available to users. They will;

Explain a piece of Python code in human understandable language.

Convert movie titles into emoji.

Create a recipe from a list of ingredients.

Translate from one programming language to another.

Extract keywords from a block of text.

Turn meeting notes into a summary.

Creates two to three sentence short horror stories from a topic input.

Generate an outline for a research topic.

Create interview questions.

Log into <https://chat.openai.com/> chat, describe your wishes into the ‘Send a Message’ box and prepare to be surprised.

Grammys, continued on page 1

“Baby Mozart” hype aside, music lessons and appreciation do enhance childhood development.

As a music lover and fan, I recently had the privilege of a lifetime, attending the 2023 Grammy Awards in LA. There were amazing performances by such greats as Stevie Wonder and nominees Mary J. Blige and Lizzo, and the fashion-watching was an enjoyable perk (see photos of “Grammy Looks”)!

The best part was learning about new musicians such as 2023 Best New Artist, jazz singer Samara Joy. This young newcomer’s rich voice and classic style invoked the greats of the cool jazz era. Best New Artist nominees DOMi and JD BECK’s interesting fashion choices belied their masterful genre-blending jazz. The beautiful melodies of Madison

Cunningham (Best Folk Album, Best Roots Album) and Molly Tuttle (Best Bluegrass Album) were other favorites.

As usual, the Beebe is right on point. Its CD collection was pared back, and they are staying in step with the times by offering “Hoopla” a free streaming service: www.hoopladigital.com. Select “music” under “Browse” and scroll down to find “Playlists” – there are many genres to choose from, as well as awards playlists – I recommend “Grammy Nominees,” for example. Hoopla also offers movies, TV shows, and E books.

I hope you will take advantage of this wonderful, free streaming service and find yourself some new favorite music. It can bring the Grammys right into your home (fashion statements optional).



The 100th Anniversary Day of Celebration was April 15th

Library indeed means so much to so many. The Beebe Library is so much more than bricks and books. It has always been a community center for the people of Wakefield, offering cultural, educational and spiritual programs along with a diversity of entertaining programs, activities, park and museum passes. With over 110,000 volumes you can give yourself an education to rival most college degrees. The library has been the recipient of many generous endowments and it is reflected in the vast array of reference material and literature.

I fondly recall the sense of pride and responsibility I felt when I was issued my first library card as a child. A whole new world was opened to my young eyes. We all love and appreciate the dedication that has made our library the welcoming respite for so many loyal patrons. It is wonderful to see patrons take refuge from extreme heat or cold spending hours reading and using Wi-Fi in the many comfortable nooks throughout the building. Our chil-

The Friends are seeking a Graphic Designer / Graphic Artist, to help with their newsletter.

This volunteer internship is a great opportunity to learn communication skills.

No experience necessary, we will train.

Happy 100th Anniversary to the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library

Dear Friends,

Happy 100th Anniversary to the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library. Congratulations to every Librarian, library worker, town leader, patron and volunteer who have assisted in making our beloved library a jewel in the library system. Our li-



Donate to the Friends of Beebe Library



Join the Friends of Beebe Library

dren have a comfortable, safe place to study and participate in so many entertaining programs.

When contemplating many of your happy memories of times spent at the Beebe Library, I am hoping you will ask yourself how you can help to continue the great legacy. Please consider making a donation to The Friends of Beebe Library in celebration of the 100th Anniversary, so that we can keep funding many of the programs you see showcased in our newsletter. If a donation is not currently feasible, please consider volunteering your time to assist at the Friends of the Beebe Library Booksale, book sale prep and upcoming book giveaways. We need your help with our largest fundraiser. We need book sorters, packers, cashiers and greeters. If you can donate a few hours of your time, please contact Cindy Schatz or Greta Garniss, co-chairs of our book sale committee (<https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/annual-book-sale>) (beebebooksale@gmail.com). We are happy to have you join us at events that are both fun and social. We also need books; books in clean and resellable condition (no text books please). Please consider a spring cleaning to clear out your bookshelves and donate your gently used books. It is a wonderful re-cycling event. Make room in your home for some of the great treasures you will find at the upcoming sale. We look forward to seeing and chatting with you at the book sale. Please donate, please come and purchase.

I want to thank every volunteer for their help. Remember to renew your membership to the Friends of the Beebe Library to secure your invitation to our preview night for an advanced opportunity for early shopping at the sale. Renewing your membership or making a donation to The Friends of the Beebe Library is easy with our new QR codes. Let's all work together to insure a bright future for our dear library. Let's toast to the next 100 years!
Regards,

Patricia Murphy

The Wakefield Daily Item goes Digital at the Beebe Library

By Nancy Tolleson

The Wakefield Daily item has been publishing since 1894, delivering the scoop on local people and events for over 130 years.

Did you ever wonder what Wakefield was like years ago? How did the great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 affect us locally? Do you have a relative who lived in Wakefield and want to know if they were in the news?

Now it is much easier to find out! The library has had microfilm of the Item as well as an earlier paper, the Wakefield Citizen & Banner, available on microfilm only from 1872-1911. It's a valuable resource but requires one to have an idea of a specific event date, then find the roll with that date and skim through it to find what you are looking for.

Now you can do your search online from a device at the library or from home. So far issues from 1894 to 1975, with over 173,000 articles have been digitized and are word searchable with some caveats to bear in mind.

The digitization is from the microfilm, so the quality is as good as the original. The older editions are harder to read than newer editions, so actual terms indexed are fewer than what actually appear on that day.

Use the Beebe menus to get to <https://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/wakefield-history/> then <https://wakefield.historyarchives.online/home> The search screen opens with a very simple initial search bar with the option to add on more advanced searching terms as you get to know the system better. Dates are a range that you can drill down 1 step at a time; year, then, month then day to start, and the same for when to finish or highlight the whole book and type in the date.

Scroll through the results if you just want to see what was going on, in say September 13, 1894. Life was much simpler then and news was very lo-

cal: Johnnie O'Connell fell out of a pear tree at the corner of Broadway and Lake, Grover Cleveland was run over - turns out a pug, not the President, and you could buy a cozy cottage of 7 rooms and 15,000 square feet of land for \$1,750.

The simple search is very broad and will bring back a lot of irrelevant citations if you are using a common term. If you click on the ALL tag next to the search bar, a menu of alternatives appears. A unique term like "Sylenda" will bring back over 100 items. Who is Sylenda? You can find Sylenda Beebe on a painted board on the way down the stairwell to the Youth Room. Next if you click on "ALL" next to the search box, an option menu appears - you can do an exact search: Sylenda Beebe and get a more focused set of results. Yes, the results are for a more current heir. Searcher tip. Journalists misspell too, so Slyinda will also pull up a

few stories.

The item you are searching is highlighted in green, so you can find it quickly on the page. Most of Splenda's references were of a personal nature so I clicked on the + sign next to the search bar and added another line to limit

Teacher Gets Degree At B. U.



Miss Virginia A. Bauer

to stories about Sylenda and the Library. I saw a result about how the library is being well patronized in 1929 due to regular articles in the Item. There was a paragraph about Slyenda making a donation along with other family members. I used the Scissors icon to clip that portion and downloaded it to a .jpg file.

I found that the browsing was as interesting as the searching; one learns so much by seeing the context of other news or journalistic, advertising styles of that time. During the Influenza outbreak, the Item was sadly full of death notices for people felled by "the Grippe" as well as a constant drumbeat to support Liberty Bonds. One could rent a furnished room from many choices. Pick a day and skim and you will have a real local history lesson.

There's lots of flexibility if you play with it, but it's not always intuitive. However, after an hour I was getting a better feel for control over search results.

Oh, the Libraries You'll Go! (To Visit!)

By Kyle Donahue

Now that spring is here, you may like to go for a nice weekend drive. Where to, you may ask? Of course! Why not visit a captivating library? In this article, I'll share details about both NOBLE Network Libraries and non-NOBLE Network Libraries that are worth the visit!

First off, why not continue driving down Route 128 after coming home from work? If you continue east about 20 to 25 minutes, you'll visit the majestic Beverly Public Library! Located at 32 Essex Street in downtown Beverly, this library is just a block or two away from The Cabot Theatre on its left, and just a block away from the Montserrat College of Art. Beverly Library's exterior is very similar to Beebe Library's with beautiful tall windows, brick walls, and an expansive brick layout,

with a tall grand stair entrance. Looking for a nearby park with your library trip? There's a park across the street which is even more beautiful when well-lit at night!

Looking for a library that's small town-like but very close to Boston? Set your Google Maps navigation to Winthrop Library, which like Beverly, is also in the NOBLE system! This library has a beautiful expansive lawn in front with a nice array of blooming flowers adorning the lower walls, and their children's section is homey and full of sweet books and activities for all kids!

If you would like to head west like Ingrid, then I have a good handful of libraries! Concord Free Library is located just west of Concord's downtown, with ample shade opportunities for outdoor reading, and a unique interior antique bookshelf system! If you're looking for expansive libraries where you can really lose yourself, head to Arlington, Lexington, or Andover libraries. Finally, if you would like a pond view with your reading, visit Winchester Public Library!

BOOK SALE

The Final Weeks

By Marlene A. Veldwisch

The Friends of Beebe Library Book Sale is fast approaching. This year it will run from **Wednesday, May 31 through Saturday, June 3 at the (former) Hurd School**. The first day is for Friends of Beebe members only; memberships can be renewed at the door or new members can join. The opportunity to peruse thousands of books and scoop up incredible bargains from (barely read) bestsellers to vintage books about cars or buildings or famous people await the early birds. Come more than once and bring your friends. Only the first day – May 31st – is just for Friends of Beebe members. The last Book Drop will be on **Saturday, May 6th**.

Consider donating. The book bargains you bought last year can become someone else's treasures this year. Or volunteer your time – volunteers are always needed during Book Drops and afterwards to “flip and sort” (check for personal items, damaged books, etc.) the donations.

Although the Book Sale volunteers have been working steadily for months, the pace quickens during the final weeks. During the last three to four weeks, boxes of books have to be unpacked, categories/groupings determined, sale tables stocked, and the room set up to facilitate easy access for customers. Not only does getting ready for the Book Sale require a number of dedicated volunteers but the Book Sale itself needs to be staffed.

Volunteer opportunities – sign-up emails will be sent out before and after May 6th – are as follows:

Set-up Volunteers: unpack boxes; arrange categories of books from fiction to biographies to children's books to books on gardening or painting; compact and store bags/boxes for sale customers; lug, sort, and enjoy an afternoon with other volunteers.

Publicity Volunteers: plant lawn signs or advertise the Book Sale in print and online media.

Book Sale Volunteers: cashiers, greeters and floor staff, re-stockers.

Clean-up/Pack-up Volunteers: help sort/box books to be donated to schools and other organizations, pack books to be stored for next year.

Unfortunately, we expect that this is the last year that the Book Sale will be at the former Hurd School. Not only will the Friends of Beebe lose a great sale space but will also lose much needed storage space. If you know of a space that may be available – same size as the Hurd Auditorium would be fantastic, but we will consider less space – for storage and/or the Book Sale itself, please notify the Book Sale Co-chairs at beebe-booksale@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF THE BEEBE LIBRARY
P.O. Box 1610
WAKEFIELD, MA 01880



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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