

The Buzz from & about the Friends of the Beebe Library Winter 2026

From the Board

By Karen Williams

Winter. For some, it is full of snowy adventures. For others, it is a season to snuggle up indoors. For all, there are plenty of ways that the library can help!

Outdoors types could choose to use the museum passes for Mass Audubon, DCR, Trustees of Reservations, or even Zoo New England, that the Friends pay for, to explore the winter offerings from these organizations. You could borrow a pair of binoculars from the Beebe's Library of Things to take along.

If you prefer indoor activities, you can choose from among a dozen other museum passes that allow you to visit at a discount. Or you could borrow a board game, or Roku device to entertain the family at home. And don't forget the in-person and virtual events on offer, the latter of which the Friends also pay for. Not to mention books and DVDs. We are so lucky with the depth of services that are provided by our beloved Beebe Library. And the Friends are so lucky to have all of you helping us to assist the library.

We are very pleased that the Town is permitting us to hold our annual book sale at the Hurd School again this year. This is a huge fundraiser for the Friends, as well as being a much-anticipated tradition for many people. However, we are ever cognizant of the fact that this may very well be the final year we are able to hold it. Do you know of a site that we could use to receive, sort, and store thousands of book donations and/or a location where we could hold future sales? If so, please let us know.

We continue to search for new fundraising options to supplement and potentially replace the book sale and are recruiting people with an interest in fundraising to help us. Do you have other skills that you think might be useful to us? See the back page for a list of positions for which we are specifically recruiting. Just reach out if your interest is piqued and you want more information, including typical time commitments. If you have other skills that you would like to offer, let us know!

What else can you do to help?

Be sure to renew your membership each year - you can do so at <https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/join>.

Make a donation at
<https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/donate>.

And don't forget to purchase some honey at the circulation desk at the library.

Wishing you the best this winter!

2026 Book Sale Hurd School

May 14th-16th
Member's Only Weds May 13th

Book Donation Drop Off Dates

Saturday, March 14, 9-Noon
Saturday, April 11, 9-Noon
Wednesday, April 29, 3-6:30

Focus on the Friends

By Karen Williams

Friends of Beebe have completed an exercise to establish the key tenets of our organization. In each newsletter we will highlight a different aspect of our organization.

Our second area of focus is to promote the library and its offerings throughout the community. We do this by:

- 1)** Highlighting library programs in our newsletter. As part of this we recruit volunteers to write articles for the newsletter, ask library leadership for suggestions as to programs they would like to promote, obtain suggestions for articles related to programs from the Board and newsletter volunteers, include at least one article in each newsletter that highlights programs or items that the Friends pay for, and obtain photos of events, programs, and the book sale to include in the newsletter.
- 2)** Promoting library programs via social media. This involves recruiting and assigning volunteers to create and manage postings to Board-approved social media platforms, posting information about library programs on said platforms, encouraging member feedback regarding our postings, and encouraging our members to share our social media postings.
- 3)** Promoting the library one on one, including at Town and Friends events. This includes participating in events such as Town Day and Wakefield 101, encouraging attendees to obtain a library card if they do not already have one, promoting library programs to attendees, and promoting library programs and services to others in the community, such as at the senior center and when doing book pickups.
- 4)** Promoting literacy in the community. We do this by providing free books at the Festival by the Lake, Farmers Market, Town Day, and other

events, as well as to teachers, charities, and other programs/organizations including the senior center and local groups for distribution at community dinners. In addition, it is part of our plan to hold literacy-related events such as book swaps, a teddy bear picnic, and book promotion events.

Let us know if you have any questions about who the Friends of Library are and what we do!

Friends of Beebe looking for Newsletter Editor

The newsletter is an important communication tool for any non-profit organization to stay in touch with membership to share past events and successes as well as promote upcoming plans and goals.

A newsletter editor is a person who enjoys working and coordinating with other content creators to gather submissions in a timely fashion and review/edit the articles as needed. The Editor will plan out the broad general goals for each issue during the year and attend monthly meetings or periodically check in with the Board to stay in sync.

The second part is layout and production of the newsletter and coordinating the dissemination of the newsletter primarily via email with a small print mailing by member request.

If you have skills in both areas, wonderful! Otherwise the position can be split into the content piece and the layout/printing piece. Past volunteers are on hand to help you get started. This is a great small way to get to know the Friends of Beebe Library better. It is a fun collegial group that needs many helping hands!

Go to <https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/news> to review prior newsletters. Please email volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org if you are interested in helping out.

Looking Back and Planning Ahead

By Missy Thomson

The FRIEND-ly book elves had fun in 2025 piloting some new ideas at the Everyday Book Sale (EBS) on the lower level of the library, found on both sides of the front stairway.

In 2025 a carefully collated DVD collection was donated and proved to have wide appeal. Although we do not generally accept DVDs, this may be an occasional feature. We expanded the Kids' section to include picture books, chapter books, activity and coloring books, in addition to board books.

Where else can you buy a recent Best Seller for \$2? Buzz Books that find their way to us make up a large portion of the fiction shelves.

There is now a non-fiction shelf dedicated to books of LOCAL INTEREST, from Wakefield and the surrounding area to Boston and New England.

In 2026 we plan to have an ongoing shelf of books that celebrates "250 Years of Independence (1776 – 2026)." As books become available, we will continue to stock the collection.

The books on offer at EBS are selected from donations and book drops held during the year. We choose books in excellent condition and try to target a wide variety of interests.

In 2026 there are scheduled book drops at the Hurd School on Cordis Street until the book sale in May. If you have a small bag of books to donate in between those planned drops, email us at beebebooksale@gmail.com for a porch pickup.

Thanks to all of you for your generous support of the Friends of Beebe Library through your EBS purchases. Funds from The Friends' Everyday Book Sale support the programs of the library.

Join Our Fundraising & Events Committee!

By Sherri Caouette

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the **Dine Out at the Public Kitchen!** Your support helped make it a truly **successful and energizing event**, and we're grateful to everyone that dined in or picked up take out!

As we look ahead, the Fundraising & Events Committee is already exploring a variety of fun and creative ways to support our mission. Upcoming possibilities include:

Blind Date with a Book

Silent Auction – showcasing work from talented local artists and makers.

Wrapping Up the Year with Friends – Holiday Gift Wrapping with proceeds benefitting the Friends of Beebe.

And we want *your* ideas too! If you're enthusiastic about building community, supporting our Friends of Beebe Library, or helping shape engaging events, we would love to have you join the **Fundraising & Events Committee**.

Whether you're a master planner or just someone with a spark of creativity, your voice can make a meaningful impact.

Interested in joining or sharing an idea?

Please reach out to Sherri Caouette at friends@friendsofbeebe.org. We'd be excited to welcome you!

Open Board Position

Next year, beginning in June, we will have an opening for Assistant Treasurer. If you are interested please email us at friends@friendsofbeebe.org.

The Buzz

The Buzz About Beebe Honey

By Alicia Brennan

You probably know the Friends of Beebe Library from our Annual Book Sale each spring... but did you know that we also support the Beebe Library by selling honey?

Located at the Circulation Desk, Beebe Honey is locally harvested just a few towns over at Crystal Bee Supply in Peabody, Mass. Crystal Bee Supply is a family-owned beekeeping store that has been managing up to 200 hives and selling beekeeping equipment since 1993.

One of the best parts about buying local honey? You're supporting both small businesses and native pollinator species!

Honey can also contribute to a number of health benefits. For instance, honey can aid with digestion and provide helpful antioxidants, and can be a great natural sugar in place of artificial sweeteners. Not to mention that honey can be an excellent natural remedy for coughs and other cold/allergy symptoms.

As for supporting the Beebe Library, 100% of honey sales go towards supporting the Beebe's programming and services, from Plaza Jazz to virtual author talks to library staples like the virtual meeting booths and pay phone.

Interested in purchasing honey to support the Friends? Stop by the Circulation Desk at the Beebe! We offer three different sizes:

Small (8 oz).....	\$8
Medium (16 oz).....	\$12
Large (32 oz).....	\$20

While you're there, don't forget to check out the other fun merchandise offered by the Friends! Our Beebe Library branded tote bags make excellent gifts for the book lovers in your life. Thank you in advance for supporting the Friends!



FYI: Timely tidbits for book people by Missy Thomson

Mass Center for the Book: Massbook.org
Among the many interesting features of the website is the annual Reading Challenge. The February challenge is a book outside your usual genre, or spin the genre wheel on their website. You can also check their list of book recommendations.

The January challenge, a book about or set in winter, is over but the website offers many fine suggestions you might find interesting.

Don't Do It! "10 Bad Reading Habits to give up for Lent" at the Guardian.com. It's written for children, but good advice for all readers.

Newsletter Mailing

Due to the high cost of printing and postage Friends of Beebe is evaluating whether or not we should continue to mail newsletters to those who have not provided us with an email address. We welcome your input! Please email your comments to membership@friendsofbeebe.org.

Friends Funding Enhances our Library

By Catherine McDonald, Library Director

Thanks to Friends funding, Beebe Library is a charter subscriber to the Library Speakers Consortium. Through the consortium model – more than 500 library systems in the US, Canada, and New Zealand pooling resources – Beebe patrons access world-renown authors and speakers in live conversation that is recorded and remains available on the library website. Friends fund the annual fee for this content.

Speakers cover diverse topics and genres. January features included NYT columnist David Brooks and Liz Moore, author of bestselling *The God of the Woods*. In summer, author and illustrator events for young people are presented.

Register for upcoming events and view past programs on the library website wakefieldlibrary.org. As shown below, find **Virtual Author Talks** under **Events** > **Ongoing Adult Programs**

Registration for live events requires your name and email address and provides space to ask a question of the speaker.

For help with this or any library service, contact the library staff.

Thank you, Friends, for providing this great resource.

The screenshot shows the website for the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library. At the top, a dark green header bar contains the text "The time is currently 10:33 AM. The library is open." on the left, and "English | Login | Search" on the right. Below the header, the library's logo (a beehive) and name "LUCIUS BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY" are on the left. The navigation menu includes "Books & More", "Services", "Events" (circled in red), and "About". Under the "Events" menu, there are four columns of links: "Upcoming" (Library Calendar, Community Calendar), "Book Groups" (Books by the Lake, Books on Tap, First Thursday Book Club, Next Chapter Book Club), "Ongoing Adult Programs" (Beebe Trivia, Tech Help, Virtual Author Talks - Upcoming, Virtual Author Talks - Past), and "Ongoing Youth Programs" (Story Times, Teen Creativity Cafe). The "Virtual Author Talks - Upcoming" and "Virtual Author Talks - Past" links are circled in red. At the bottom, there are three promotional banners for "medici.tv", "Libby.", and "kanopy".

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



LUCIUS
BEEBE

Where Wakefield Connects



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



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President	Karen Williams	Director	Jody Sherman
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Treasurer	Keith LaGraves	Director	Lou Prosperi
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Good	Newsletter Editor	Phil Good
Photographer	Sherri Caouette	Fundraising Coordinator	Sherri Caouette
Volunteer Coordinator	OPEN	Fundraising Committee	OPEN (Multiple)
Float Coordinator	OPEN		

Everyone is invited to our Board meetings on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, starting at 7 pm., 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

