

# The Buzz from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library

Winter 2022



*We thank our members for making this \$15,000 donation to the Beebe Library possible! Left to right are Casey Chwiecko, head of Youth Services, Karen Stern, head of Adult Services, and the Friends' Motor Bee.*

## From the Board

Dear Friends,

Sometimes things just can't be tied up into neat little packages. On being asked whether there was a theme to the upcoming programming (highlighted on page 6), the Beebe's wonderful Assistant Director, Jaclyn Powers, responded that there isn't a theme, except that the programs are all very

good. That seems to be the way of things this winter. No neat little packages, but folks are carrying on and doing great work.

The new year is always a time of hope, and equally, a time to put our noses back to the grindstones. If there was a theme to this newsletter, it could be "getting down to business." Contributors describe a recent visit to the Woburn Library's maker space and explain how the Beebe can make work-

ing easier. While we all love the Beebe for leisure reading, extensive programming, and outings with our children, it is also a valuable and practical resource for business. The Friends are also getting down to business! Thanks to your efforts in fundraising, the Friends are donating \$15,000 to the Beebe Library for programs, museum passes, the document center and more! Books are being sorted for future book sales, and donation drops are being scheduled (and rescheduled, to ensure everyone's safety). Please visit the Friends' website, check social media, or contact [beebe-booksale@gmail.com](mailto:beebe-booksale@gmail.com) for more information. On page 3, leadership opportunities are highlighted – to find out more email [volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org).  
*Thanks for reading!*

## **Searching For Answers: Researching at the Beebe**

*By Michael Nester*

These days, information is available everywhere...and that's the problem. Too much information, in too many places, can be overwhelming. That's where the Reference and Information Services of the Beebe Library come into play. Not computer-savvy? They can show you how. Not Google-savvy? They can help you navigate and provide training. Can't tell a reliable source from those that are ad-driven or have an agenda? Helping you avoid the info pitfalls and potholes is what they're good at. Don't know what to read next? A

real person will ask you questions to find out what you like. Based on your answers, they'll make suggestions and help generate reading lists. In short, you can get help where you need it and get educated in how to search. There are computers, copiers, faxes, and access to digitized historical documents, which are searchable. Wonder what the price of bread was on the day you were born? There are copies of the Wakefield Daily Item on microfilm that go back at least that far. Eventually these will be digitized as well.

Karen Stern, the head of the R&I Services, supervises the book-buying and weeding that keeps the Beebe current. Her department handles all the adult programming, curates the repository of local history, and answers questions on everything from recipe-finding to Wakefield's reading preferences. It is still where to go if you're writing a paper or the Great American Novel. However, it is so much more and maintains cutting edge information management support. The stacks of Encyclopedia Britannicas may be gone, but all the information is still available, and much easier to find. Check them out.



**LUCIUS  
BEEBE**

**Where Wakefield Connects**

## Why not Bee-come a Board Member of the Friends?

*By Nancy Tolleson*

Are you a member of the Friends of Beebe because you love the Annual Book Sale, utilize the museum passes underwritten by the Friends, or just like to contribute because you know the Friends support the value-added touches to Beebe programs and resources? Now is your chance to get a bit more involved. The board is made up of various positions which all turn over every few years either by personal needs or term limits. The Friends have openings coming up for the new administrative year starting July 1, 2022. We are actively looking for a few good people to join the Friends to share their ideas and bring fresh energy to this group that has been meeting and supporting Beebe library for over 45 years.

**Board of Directors:** Directors bring prior experience as a Friends volunteer or outside leadership experience to help plan and guide the overall goals for the upcoming year. Each term is 1 year and 3 positions will be open.

**Vice President** is a larger role. The VP attends meetings and steps in for the President in their absence. Hands-on experience with the Friends is valuable but a person with similar experience with another community based group would also be welcome.

Like many groups we have been challenged by COVID and have adapted to meeting by Zoom, establishing new protocols for the Annual Book Sale, which was a huge suc-

cess after a missed year. Yet the board and number of regular attendees is larger than ever and is a great working group. 2022 offers the prospect of getting back to a new normal and Friends of Beebe plan to ensure we can continue to support the Beebe Library.

For more details see <http://friendsofbeebe.org/leadership-faqs.html>.

Key things to know: we meet monthly, September to June, typically on the 1st Thursday of the month

If you are interested in learning more please contact [friends@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:friends@friendsofbeebe.org).

## Talk To Me: A Novel

**T. C. Boyle**

*By Marlene Veldwisch*

When she looks into my eyes, I often wonder what she is thinking. Certainly, my cat understands some words – particularly those to do with food – and there is no doubt that she is a sentient being. But how does she think ... what are her dreams ... does she have hopes and beliefs? If we could have deep two-way communication, how would our relationship change? Other books have dealt with this topic; humans have long wanted to talk with other species. *Talk To Me* by T. C. Boyle is a thought-provoking novel about this desire and the relationships that develop and flounder.

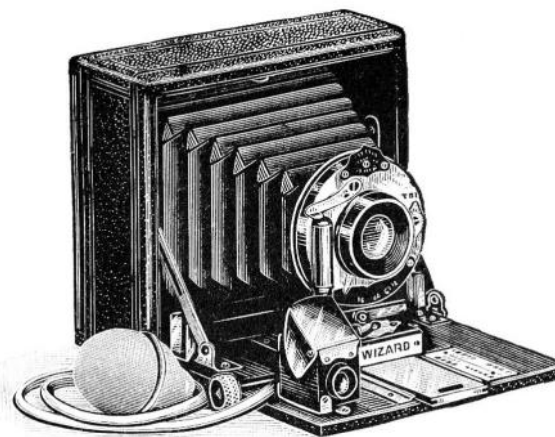
When university student, Aimee, sees an

animal behaviorist, also a professor at her university, demonstrate how he has taught his young chimp (Sam) to speak in sign language, she is so taken that she becomes his assistant. She also learns that Sam is being raised as a human, not in a cage, but in the professor's home. Aimee starts staying overnight and what was an academic and romantic interest - in both the project and the professor - quickly becomes an interspecies love triangle. As the novel progresses, however, it becomes so much more as Aimee and the chimp develop a deep emotional connection. They love each other.

What is different about this novel is how well-developed Sam is as a character; he is not just a chimp in an experiment. The novel is told in the voice of each of the three main characters and the author seam-

lessly switches from one to the other throughout the book. We share Sam's thoughts and fears and his longing for Aimee when they are separated. We become privy to the intimate conversations that Aimee and Sam have when they are on the run.

I highly recommend *Talk To Me* not only because it tackles the tough subject of human/animal consciousness and communication. It also touched me deeply; it made me think and it made me cry.



## Photograph for the Friends of the Library

*The Friends of the Beebe Library want you to join us*

*By James Horne*

Please consider being our photographer. We need at least one volunteer photographer. This would provide great experience and exposure. This opportunity is an ideal way to have your work published and be seen in our community



© Courtesy of Gwen Tiller



## Better Know A Library: Maker Space at the Woburn Library

*By Kyle Donohue and James Horne*

Did you know that you can harness your engineering skills at a library near you? The Friends recently sent two volunteers to the Woburn Library to check out their Maker Space. Debuted in 2019 as the Jones Family Maker Space, this Maker Space has had a variety of uses, and hopes to expand these uses in the future.

One may ask, what is a “maker space”? Essentially, it is a place where people of all ages can tinker and work on projects from 3D printing plastic creations, to sewing, to laser cutting – it’s like a modern workshop!

Currently, the Jones Family Maker Space is not being used by the public, due to safety precautions. What age groups use the space the most? The answer: Everyone! The reference librarian said, “Teens use it, adults use it and tutors use it.”

As for more specifics about the equipment, there are five 3D printers in the Maker

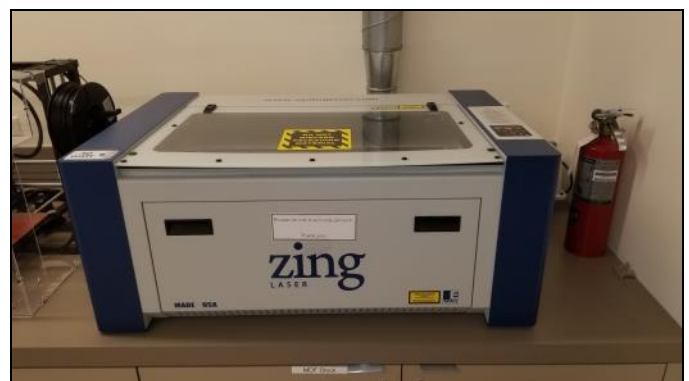
Space, with one set aside for repairs by the Technology Librarian. There are three models of 3D printers, including a LulzBot Mini and a larger, LulzBot Taz 6. There is also a sewing machine and a Zing laser cutter, which allows for a wealth of creativity; such as engraving glass and leather, as well as the cutting of wood and paper.

Of all the machines available, the reference librarian said that the 3D printers have been most popular!

One word to describe the Jones Family Maker Space: versatile. Before Covid, the Maker Space hosted knitting and sewing events, arts & crafts projects, and even circuitry projects that involved a soldering iron. They will start accepting 3D print jobs from the public soon, possibly as early as mid-February.

Lastly, the future of the Maker Space looks bright! Hermayne Gordon, the new Woburn Public Library Director, wants public programs and events, once it becomes safe to do so. At the Jones Family Maker Space, the possibilities are endless!

For a list of additional Maker Spaces in the area, visit: [https://www.umb.edu/makerspace/3d\\_printing/other\\_area\\_makerspaces](https://www.umb.edu/makerspace/3d_printing/other_area_makerspaces).



## February and March Program Highlights at Beebe

By Linda Malcolm

If being warm and cozy at home is how this winter is unfolding, Beebe's new programming will keep you engaged and entertained. Here's a glimpse of what's happening via Zoom in the next couple of months. Please note that all of these events require pre-registration.

First, you should know that despite having recently retired as Head of Reference, Jeff Klapes is still going strong as the [Traveling Librarian!](#) At 7:00 p.m. on February 15<sup>th</sup>, Jeff will bring his popular armchair travel stories and photos to you from his recent trip to Savannah, Georgia.

Later in the month, on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m., get ready for an on-screen cooking demonstration live from the kitchen of New Hampshire chef Liz Barbour. In her second presentation in this cooking series, Chef Barbour will be preparing [easy sheet pan meals](#).

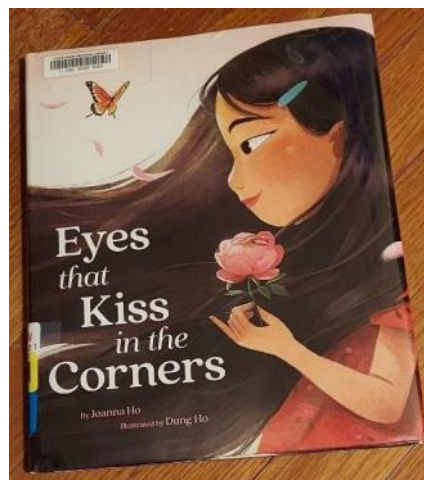
When winter rounds the bend to March, Bill Gette will host an [Introduction to Local Wildflowers](#) on March at 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. Bill, who is the retired Founding Director of the Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport, will give winter-bound gardeners a pre-season boost.

On March 9th at 10:30 a.m., Beebe is delighted to welcome author and [Boston's City Archeologist Joe Bagley](#). In his book, *Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them*, Joe highlights fifty buildings in Boston that pre-date 1800! Most of the

*buildings are within walking distance from one another in downtown Boston.*

Finally, one more option, if you are in the mood to don your coat and boots, at 10:30 a.m. on February 19<sup>th</sup> you can join in conversation with ["The Saturday Series: An Articles Discussion Group."](#) This new in-person event is run by Erin Dagenais, who is Beebe's newest staff member at the Reference Desk. The topic will be Ethical Implications of the Olympics. Once you register for the event, articles will be sent to you to read before the group meets.

This is but a handful of Beebe's programs running in February and March. Check out the [library's full calendar](#) for more happenings; from the calendar, you can register for events and also confirm if they are in-person or on Zoom.



## In the Youth Room

By Eileen Worthley

I recently visited the Youth Room to pick out a book to report on. It had been some time since I had been in the Youth Room: I got my first Beebe Library card when I was five years old—65 years ago. I clearly re-

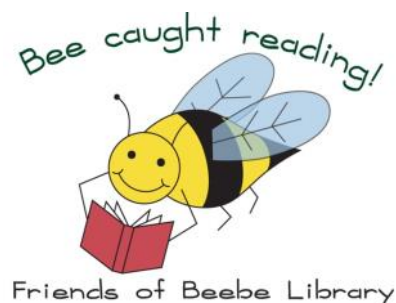
member the day my daddy took me to meet Mrs. Duggan, the Children’s Librarian. I recall that I cried because after I picked out two lovely books, Daddy said it was time to go home and I hadn’t looked at them all the way through yet. My tears were soon dried, however, when Mrs. Duggan told me I was allowed to take the books home. That day began my love affair with Mrs. Duggan and the Lucius Beebe Library.

Having returned to the Youth Room over the years with my own children and grandchildren, my delight has never slackened; the quiet, colorful, activity-filled center offers young readers far more than it did in the 1950s! The librarians are as warm and welcoming as ever Mrs. Duggan was, and just as helpful. I looked across the sea of books, bewildered; so many books, so little time. The librarian suggested I borrow a

picture book titled “Eyes that Kiss in the Corners.” Text by Joanna Ho includes many repeated phrases throughout, making it an excellent learn-to-read book, and illustrations by Dung Ho are captivatingly beautiful. “Eyes that Kiss in the Corners” is a simple story of a little Asian girl who recognizes that her eyes are shaped differently than those of her friends and classmates. Her mother tells her that her “eyes kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea.” The little girl sees that her eyes are shaped like those of her mother and her grandmother and her little sister, and that with her eyes she can see the marvelous wonders of the world. It is a story of self-love and family and appreciation of one’s heritage. It celebrates the fact that we all have qualities that make each of us different and special.

*The Friends of the Beebe Library are always working on several projects; both new and ongoing. We are presently looking to grow our team of volunteers. We are eager to meet with you and hear your ideas. Please consider joining us today by emailing us at [volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org](mailto:volunteers@friendsofbeebe.org).*

- Instagram Team----- Kyle Donohue, Melinda Cook & Sophie Cook
- Book sale Co-Chairs----- Cindy Schatz & Greta Garniss
- Everyday Book Sale ----- Melissa Thompson
- Facebook ----- Patricia Murphy
- Honey Coordinator ----- Patricia Brandl
- Advisor ----- Nancy Tolleson
- Twitter ----- Susan Kilkelly
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*All Friends are invited to our Board meetings on the first Thursday of the month, September - June, starting at 7 p.m., via Zoom.*

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