

The Buzz from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library

Winter 2023



From the Board

Dear Friends,

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year. Each new year begins with a time of optimism, hope and self-examination. Every year I make the same pledge, like so many of my friends, to strive to do better and be better. It is refreshing to take a moment to reflect on our past year's success.

The Friends of the Beebe Library had a very prosperous year due to the continued support of our loyal membership and we are truly grateful. Our organization was able to grant \$35,000 to our library to help subsidize museum, park, beach, community boating passes and library programs. Our newsletter is filled with stories of the interesting programs attended at our library

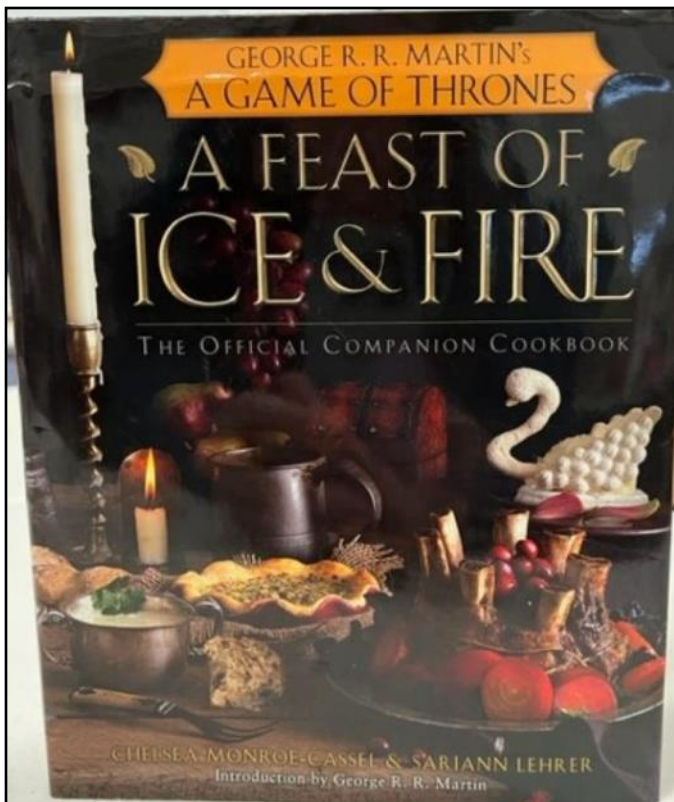
and museums. The schedule of upcoming events and reservation forms for passes are available on the library web site. Please come and enjoy some of the activities offered. You will not be disappointed.

I would like to personally express my appreciation for the many people who have helped contribute to the success of Friends over the past year. I would like to thank Stephen Maio for lending us our temporary space at the Hurd School, the DPW Department for their assistance and maintenance, our Fire and Police departments for graciously sharing their space at the school with our Booksale committee and volunteers. I also want to thank every donor,

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Check out my article on page 6.



dening, architecture, history and more depending on each donor's personal passion. The Everyday Booksale Volunteer, selects items to replenish the shelves at the foot of the double stairs to the lower lobby. Do stop by there regularly to do an easy quick browse for something enticing from fiction and non-fiction

Part of the fun of being a winter worker bee is previewing the selections coming in. While removing torn or musty books (It's always good to check your donation before drop off), one can be stunned by a particularly beautiful book or a quirky title that makes you laugh. Do you have a strong back to haul books in or tolerance for dust to sort books? Then consider volunteering. Send your inquiry to beebe-booksale@gmail.com.

Winter Worker Bees *are Humming Along*

By Nancy Tolleson

The June Book Sale and summer add-on Give-Aways are over for another season. While there may be snow on the hive, the Book Sale Worker Bees have been steadily preparing for June.

The many remainders have been picked up by various groups, teachers for classrooms, large print for senior centers, dictionaries sent overseas by 1 group and so much more. There have already been a few drop off days when our volunteers welcome car loads of books that need follow up days to sort and organize. Another source of books are small collections we pick up often as a result of a house sale. These can have amazing selections of gar-



New Yorker 1946 Magazine cover jigsaw puzzle, completed by library patrons on January 10th.



Children's Room on Dedication Day, April 14, 1923

Celebrating Our Library

By Eileen Worthley

In just a couple months, on April 14, the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library will be celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the dedication of the building.

There has been a library in town since the town was South Reading; it was established in 1856 and occupied rooms in what was, at the time, the "Town House" overlooking the Upper Common. Lucius Beebe was the first chairman of the Board of Library Trustees, and when the library moved from the old Town House to the new Town Hall, erected in 1868 by Cyrus Wakefield, Beebe donated \$500 toward the purchase of new books. The amount was comparable to a year's salary of a "blue collar" worker in those days. In appreciation of his gift and his service as chairman of the Board of Library Trustees, the town voted to change the library's name to "Beebe Town Library of Wakefield." The newly named Beebe Library remained at the then Town Hall (which was located at the corner of Water and Main Streets where the parking lot is now) until April 14, 1923.

Lucius Beebe died in 1884 and it was his son Junius who donated funds for a new library building to be named in memoriam for his father. After several years and several town meetings and several donations from several Wakefieldians, the cornerstone for the building was laid on March 17, 1922. The construction of the shell of the Classical-style building was more or less completed in June of that year. Over the following months, the inside rooms were completed, painted, furnished, and decorated. There were donations that contributed to the finished interior: A silk flag was presented by the Women's Relief Corps; a life-long friend of Junius Beebe "asked for the privilege of furnishing clocks for the building"; trusts by Marcus Beebe and Mrs. Decius Beebe were established for the purchase of books, with sufficient amounts reverting to principle in order that books might be purchased for many, many years to come.

The new building was dedicated on Saturday, April 14, 1923, at 3 o'clock. The exercises were attended by town officials, clergymen, library and school representatives. Space limitations made it infeasible for the general public to attend the formal ceremonies, but the building "was opened for public inspection later in the day."

The month of April will be a festive month at the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library this year as we celebrate its Centennial Anniversary together with the annual "Blossoms" event.

Everyone connected with the Library is excited and we hope to share our celebrations with you!

From the Board, continued from page 1

member, volunteer, committee member, committee chair, our board members and our library staff for their contributions to the success of the Friends.

If any of you are like me and make a similar resolution, to do better or be better, please consider donating or volunteering your time with the Friends of the Beebe Library. Currently there are open positions on our Board of Directors, you do not need a doctorate in Library Science, only a shared admiration of our library and programs. We value your help and advice. We need contributors to our newsletter as well as volunteer workers for our Booksale preparation, intake, sorting, organization and display. We need helpers for the sale and after sale giveaways at the Festival and Farmers Market. Please consider joining our team. You will make many new friends and feel the joy of accomplishment with friends.

The Friends are in need of an alternate location, after this season, for our book storage and Booksale location. If you know of anyone willing to donate space in a business, church hall, private club, garage or basement, please contact us.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Friends of the Beebe Library. With your help we can continue to keep The Lucius Beebe Memorial Library the treasure that it is.

Wishing you all the best,

Patricia Murphy



Jeremy Hynes

Nature Programs on Zoom

By Marlene A. Veldwisch

As I walk around Lake Quannapowitt, which I do frequently, I often check the treetops, hoping that I will see one of our eagles. It hasn't happened yet; there are plenty of grey gulls, geese, and hawks, but no eagles. I am not a bird watcher but have a passion for raptors and adore waterfowl, especially Canada Geese.

Last summer, I got a random email from the Tewksbury Library about a series of nature programs on ZOOM. Given my schedule, I was only able to watch *Living with Wildlife*. It primarily focused on land dwellers; foxes, coyotes, racoons, sloths, and was excellent. In the fall, I learned about

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The Beebe Has A Bevy of Programs This Winter....*Just for You!*

By Kyle Donohue

Now that the holidays are over, and you're back to your regular schedule...didn't someone say that variety is the spice of life? If you think so, come on down to the Beebe Library this winter for some intriguing, motivating, and exciting in-person and virtual programs, for all ages!

First, want to dive into intriguing, fascinating topics? This Tuesday, February 7, come to the Library for the first session of a wellness series titled *Why Your New Year's Resolution Is Going to Fail*, taught by psychotherapist and wellness coach Kristen Herlihy. There, you will learn how to achieve your goals in a more realistic way with science-backed techniques that improve your mental and physical health. Or are you looking to travel much farther back into history? Feel free to join us online via Zoom for a "Skype a Scientist" event on February 21 with Jen Thum, an Egyptologist, museum educator, and curatorial fellow at the Harvard Art Museums. Through this event, you'll learn about ancient sym-

bolism and about the famous hieroglyphic symbols in the Egyptian caves!

Or are you looking towards overall enrichment, in terms of enhancing your taste buds or knowledge base overall? Then Bob Fitzgibbon's Coffee Tasting Workshop is for you! Simply mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18, from 10:30am – 11:30am, for a delicious array of different types of coffee, while you learn aspects like mouth-feel, aroma, sweetness, and aftertaste. Or have you been inspired by the expansion of historical knowledge in the public domain? You may be compelled to attend the virtual event on Wednesday, February 15, titled: "Abolition's Foot Soldiers: Female Anti-Slavery Societies in Antebellum Massachusetts" (which includes nearby Reading!)

Finally, the Beebe has so many fun events for the kids! Whether your child is a language lover, very much into science, or is a scavenger hunt fiend (scavenger hunts are upcoming again on February 21-25), there is fun for all this winter! If your little one is looking for adventure/a fun challenge, there is Cupid's Crazy Obstacle Course on February 14, and for book lovers, there is Bilingual Story Time at the Library with Ms. Annie on Saturday, February 11! Lastly, stay tuned for joining Heidi and Holly for *The Magic of Science* on February 17. In the Lecture Hall, your kids will learn how to use chemical reactions to create cool polymer creations! These events and more are located on the Library calendar on the Library's website, with a myriad of event times and topics!



The speaker, Stephen Quandt, with his blind since birth cat; Jenny.

About our feline overlords...

By James Horne

'Decoding the Mysteries of Cats, or Why our feline overlords do what they do' was an entertaining program, put on by the Hooksett Public Library in December, that I participated in.

Feline behaviorist, Stephen Quandt gave the presentation. We started off by discussing appropriate names for cats who live at libraries; Paige, Plato and Libero.

Stephen talked about the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and catnewsheadlines.com

We saw videos of a cat playing a piano, and who also played a slot machine.

Stephen described the Cycle of Predation; resting, hunting, killing, eating, then sleeping. Which explains why some cats run around like crazy in the middle of the night. Cats are considered to be crepuscular because they're most active during the hours of dawn and dusk.

Cats are natural problem-solvers. Popular devices that synch with this fact are the

Puzzle Feeders available these days.

Stephen discussed the Turkish Van cat.

These cats, are originally from the Lake Van area in eastern Turkey, where they would swim to hunt fish.

Later in the program, during the *Why is this behavior happening?* section, Stephen answered questions from the attendees. Some of his responses to questions were to spray *Grannick's Bitter Apple® Taste Deterrent for Cats* onto electrical cords that cats won't stop biting. Stephen pointed out that cats befriend the person who feeds them.

He discussed cat water fountains, and flashlights that illuminate pee stains. People can contact Stephen through his website

www.cat-behavior-help.com



Author and Artist Dirk I. Tiede showcases his graphic novels and animated short.

Local Authors Fair Highlights

By Helen VanBenschoten

The Local Authors Fair was back this year, hosted at the Beebe Library on November 12, in association with The Room to Write

and Whitelam Books. A variety of genres were represented: Mystery, History, Personal Essay, Poetry, Graphic Novel, and Children's. It was a wonderful chance for stimulating one-on-one discussions with these talented and prolific Wakefield folks.

If you would like to support the participants, you can purchase books for younger readers from Monica Acker, Carol Gordon Ekster, Fred Gracely, Kari Percival, Sarah Lynne Reul, Ryan Standley, and Lisa Stringfellow.

You can purchase books for older and adult readers from Sally Chetwynd, Brian Codagnone, A R Dugan, Linda Malcolm, David McCoubrey, John Michele, Tim O'Leary, Sharon Saulenas, and Dirk Tiede.

If you are an author and would like to participate in future programs please visit: <https://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/local-authors/>. The Room to Write, founded by Colleen Getty in 2016 is an organization which supports author and aspiring authors, and is also a great resource for fans of local literature: <https://www.theroomtowrite.org/home>

Correction: Due to a computer file mix up, the News & Views article in the Fall 2022 issue, moderator Paul Robicheau's name was misspelled. Paul is a longtime contributor to the Boston Globe, who teaches journalism at Salem State. The editor regrets the error.

Nature Programs, continued from page 4

more Audubon programs, hosted this time by the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers. I watched two incredibly interesting programs: one about *Hawks* and in December an engaging webinar on *Winter Raptors*. The information was well crafted, clearly presented, and the photographs were stunning! These programs are free, virtual and interactive; participants can pose questions in the chat and have the opportunity to give feedback in a follow-up survey a few days later. In addition, all programs are recorded and registrants receive the recordings 24 – 48 hours after the webinar has aired.

Since I have attended past programs, I recently received a notice about the Tewksbury winter series. There are some great offerings; ranging from a webinar on the *Nature of Winter*, to *Ducks of New England*, and to *Birding by Ear*. I'll be attending the webinar on *Ducks*... no surprise there! For gardeners and plant lovers, there are programs coming up on *Gardening with Native Plants*, *Native Shrubs of New England* and *TBO (Try to Be Organic) Gardening*.

Each of these libraries (as do others, of course) have weekly/monthly newsletters that list all program offerings and they maintain library calendars as well. Simply visit their websites to learn more about forthcoming programs, sign up for their newsletters, or register for webinars. Plan this year's garden, or enjoy a bit of winter from the comfort of your own living room.



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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