

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

*Summer 2024*

## *My Visit to the Boston Aquarium*

*Article and photos by Veronica Pride (age 14)*

The New England Aquarium has much to offer with the many varieties of marine animals! During the summer there are special hours from 9am to 6pm. — You can purchase your tickets in advance, which is smart because tickets often sell

*Aquarium, continued on page 2*



*A large sea turtle at the top of the  
Giant Ocean Tank.*



*Bees challenge visitors to search for clues to  
Friends of Beebe contributions.*

*Nancy Tolleson and Andrea Ahearne manned the  
table and passers-by couldn't help but notice two  
bees sitting there expectantly.*

## *Scavenger Hunt — May 2024*

*By Nancy Tolleson*

Scavenger hunts are an ever-popular activity in the Youth Room, so we were inspired to try a scavenger hunt for visitors of all ages to find places in the Library that show where the Friends make extra contributions to the enrichment of the library.

Clues were researched, bee hives were cut to show where to look, The Friends' bee costume was borrowed and over 2 days the

*Scavenger Hunt, continued on page 3*

out during the weekends and holidays. We are lucky that the Beebe Library offers discounted tickets via the museum pass program. We were able to visit on a Saturday in June for 50% off per ticket. The playful Atlantic Harbor Seals will be the first sea life to grab your attention as you make your way into the building. These seals live in a 42,000-gallon tank and there are twice daily training sessions that visitors can watch. When you enter the aquarium, you are greeted by a large area with more than 50 penguins of 2 different species. People can watch the penguins dive into the water and hop around on the land! Also, on the first floor of the

*Aquarium, continued on page 7*



*A young visitor looks for sea life at the New England Aquarium through one of the many viewing port holes.*

## ***The Everyday Book Sale at the Beebe Library...***

### ***Come on Down!***

*By Missy Thomson*

Have you discovered the bookshelves under the stairs that lead to the lower level of the Beebe? That's where you'll find the Friends' Everyday Book Sale (EBS). On one side of the stairs are the shelves housing large paperback and hardback fiction; the other side features large-format 'coffee table' books, nonfiction, romance fiction, and small fiction paperbacks.

The books are priced exactly as they are at the Annual Book Sale: \$2 for hardcover books, \$1 for large paperbacks, 50¢ for small paperbacks, and 10¢ for magazines. For \$2 you can take home your own copy of a "Best Seller" recently found on the Buzz Books table at the Main Street entrance to the library.

Each book is carefully chosen from donations made to the Friends. First, we examine the books to ensure that the binding is in really good condition and the pages are pristine. Then begins the magic of choosing meaningful titles for Wakefield residents who shop these bookshelves. Sometimes, a current news topic pushes books in a popular direction. Other times, an author is making news and we do what we can to add books by that author. We're always on the lookout for books with local interest. We often add a book that we've loved and hope that you'll enjoy it, too!

We do have limited books to choose from and the Book Sale Team does the best we

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can to select books that are in great condition and that will be desirable to residents. The bookshelves are maintained weekly and we're always trying to keep up with the turnover. As long as we have good books to stock the shelves, we keep adding as space opens up.

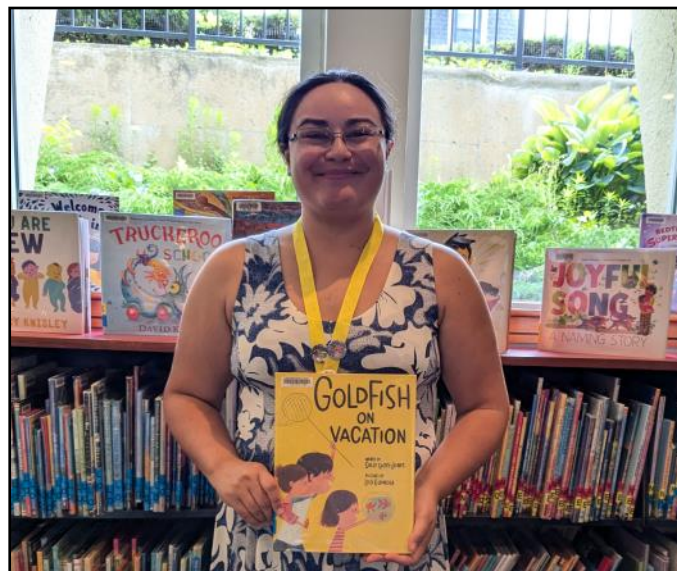
When you choose a book from the Everyday Book Sale, you simply take it to the Circulation Desk upstairs and make the purchase. (While you're there, don't forget to buy some of our locally grown honey.) Revenue from the EBS is part of the Friends of Beebe Library Book Sale funds. We are grateful for used book donations at our book drives and for readers who purchase from the Everyday Book Sale.



*Scavenger Hunt, continued from page 1*

weekend before the annual book sale we had a chance to meet many people. Kids were of course the most responsive and since it was Mother's Day on Sunday some dads were happy to have an extra activity for the kids. Clues were on all levels, and everyone got to pick a free book at the end. Each came with a bookmark for the upcoming book sale which was held in May this year for the first time.

There was also a raffle prize for one lucky winner: jar of Beebe Honey. It was a lot of fun to prepare, and we hope to be able to do it again sometime in the future.



**Meet Ariel Chu – *newest member of Youth Services***

*By Nancy Tolleson*

Ariel is the newest person to join Youth Services this past April.

Ariel Chu grew up in New Jersey and college plans brought her north, first as an undergraduate at UMass Amherst and then to Simmons for her master's in Library and Information Services. She is enjoying her new long-term home in Massachusetts.

After working in Youth Services at the Burlington Public Library part time while working on her Library degree, Ariel is excited to now be part of the Beebe Library Youth Room staff. Her focus area is on children under twelve. She is jumping right into all the activities of the summer reading program and is getting to know Buzzy and his adventure well. She suspects she may be sporting more bee themes in her upcoming attire.

Ariel loves the enthusiasm and excitement that Wakefield kids bring to Youth Room and is enjoying getting to know the

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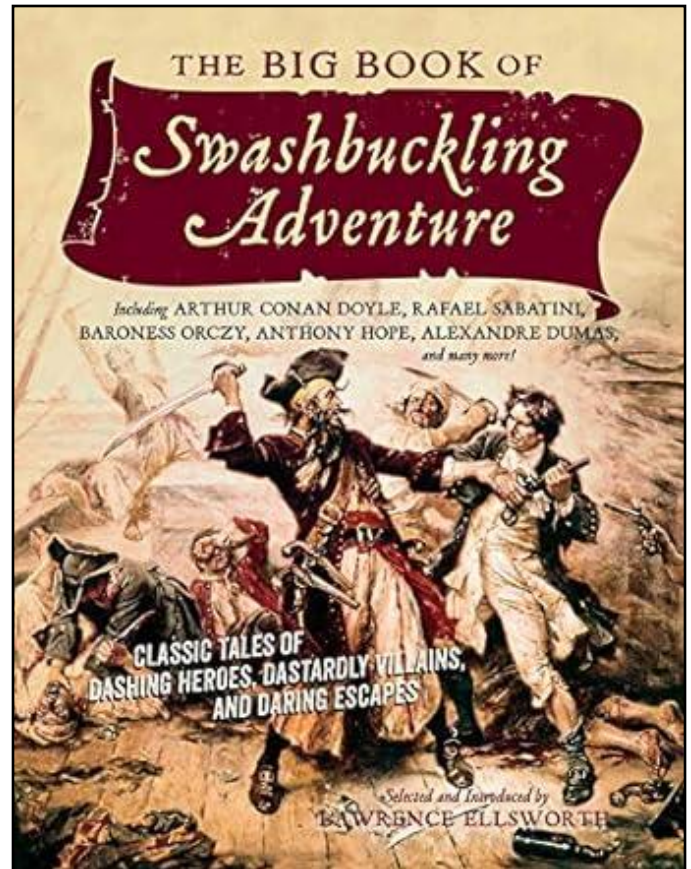
# Summer at the Library

By Manavi Sharma

Summer is already here in full swing, and with such sweltering heat (hopefully temporary), we all need some cool indoor activities to stay busy! Luckily for us, the Beebe has us covered. Their [Summer at the Library](#) program for kids has already begun (it runs through August 17th) and is sure to keep them entertained.

To enroll in the program, visit the Youth Desk at the Beebe and sign up with a librarian. Once registered, you can start participating and earning collectibles. Your fun collectibles will differ based on age group - there are stickers for the 0-5 tots, buttons for the K-4 graders and scratch tickets for the 5-12 graders. And how do you go about collecting these? Simple! Based on your collectible there are different ways such as reading a book, attending a Beebe program, [finding Buzzy](#) or just asking a librarian daily! The first Buzzy clue is already up in the library! The Summer in the Library webpage also has suggested reading lists for all ages in case anyone is looking for a guide.

Also, keep an eye out on the [library calendar](#) to see the programs being hosted throughout the upcoming months - most require registration at least a week in advance – so you want to be prompt when something catches your eye. Happy summer and happy reading!



## Short Stories at the Beebe

By James Horne

On June 20, I was beating the heat on the third day of 2024's first heat wave at the library. While there, I had the opportunity to scrutinize their large selection of short stories in the Living Room, aka Periodical Room, aka Gold Room. This very diverse collection probably has something for anyone who enjoys fiction. This assortment includes some hefty tomes; detective stories, ghost stories, mystery stories, etc. and bibliomysteries (stories of crime in the world of books & bookstores).

The shelves have several years of 'Best American Short Stories' of particular, recent years. An assortment of 'Big Book of...' books looked like fun selections; these included *Big Book of Female Detectives*, *The Black Lizard Big Book of*



## ***Friends of Beebe Library*** ***Book Sale 2024***

*By Cindy Schatz*

The 2024 Friends' Book Sale, we are happy to report, was a roaring success, as measured by several parameters. As an experiment, we moved the sale fully into May, two weeks earlier than our traditional time. We did this for a number of reasons. First, it would no longer overlap with WMHS graduation, which causes a conflict for some volunteers, and we need "all hands-on deck" for our event. Not only did we welcome new volunteers, high school students had the time to come, shop and buy. Second, we were blessed with better weather; the lower temperatures and humidity of mid-May made it much more comfortable and brought out great crowds. Third, our Book Sale Team benefitted from the earlier dates. They supervise daily work sessions to set up the sale, starting two weeks before the 4-day sale opens, and then reprise the sale with a large booth at the Festival by the Lake, which in the past has been on the following weekend. Changing our book sale dates gave the Team a much-needed respite before they had to return to plan and pack for the Festival. Finally, the assessment most people use to determine success – how much did the Book Sale raise? We are thrilled to report that our net income was over \$13K, a new high since we moved into the Hurd School! In every way, the Sale was a great success!



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*Short Stories, continued from previous page*

*Locked-Room Mysteries, Big Book of Swashbuckling Adventure, etc. Flash Fiction America, 73 Very Short Stories* is 253 pages long, roughly 3 pages per story.

When I inquired at the Reference Desk about true sports short stories, I learned that short stories are always fiction. A recounting of an actual sporting event would be an essay.

Naguib Mahfouz won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988. Some of his short stories in his book *Echoes of an Autobiography* are only a sentence or two long. I recommend it!

That day I counted roughly 145 books in the Short Story section of the Beebe Library. Of course, some books would have been borrowed by patrons, while other short stories would be in the adult fiction area downstairs. The electronic card catalog would also be helpful for locating other short stories in the building.

## ***“Where do they all go???”***

*By Karen King*

Many *Friends of Beebe Library* members attend the annual book sale and one of the most common questions the Book Sale Team hears is — what happens after the sale? What do you do with the remaining books? We work hard to ensure that every donated book that comes to us in good condition finds a new home.

Right after the sale, we select books for our booths at the Festival by the Lake and the Wakefield Farmers' Market. At each event,

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books are given away freely. It is wonderful for us to sit on the grass and help children select books that are right for their reading age. Next, we invite all teachers to come to our book storage at the Hurd School and choose books that will help them build libraries for their classrooms. Following our teachers' nights, we begin to work with a large number of charities. Volunteers representing many charities are contacted, and encouraged to come and select books for their population. We see boxes of paperbacks being taken to Beth Israel Hospital to be distributed to patients. We have volunteers who come and take current fiction to some very small, remote libraries in Maine and NH. Several local residents select books for half way houses as well as the Massachusetts Department of Correction where the books are used for classroom and training experiences. We assist the Wakefield Senior Center to replenish their library. Local garden clubs come and choose books that will assist their members in solving gardening problems. Sewing and quilt books are donated to The New England Quilt Museum in Lowell. We also offer books to the local churches who host monthly community dinners for those in need; a free meal and a book to take home; all good news! This is just a sampling of the charities and organizations with which we connect during the summer.

Lastly, we offer books to those with Little Free Libraries so that once again, our books can be distributed back to those in need of a good read. And still, there are hundreds of books remaining. During the past two years, those books have been do-

nated to a Boston group with a very large free library in Downtown Crossing. This group distributes approximately 100 books daily and they are thrilled that we share our unsold books with them.

This post-Book Sale period, which begins immediately after the Sale, lasts at least 8 weeks, and is the charity portion of our program. Led by Karen King, it involves much book selection and packing, and numerous appointments to meet teachers and volunteers at the Hurd. In short, the book team tasks continue long after the book sale ends.

As always, we thank the community for your book donations and support.

## **FROM THE BOARD**

In early May we held our annual book sale. You came, purchased lots of books, and provided us with funding to help us help the library. You also came to our booth at the Festival by the Lake, picked up some more books, and were generous with your donations. Thank you!

Your support permits us to, in turn, provide support to the library. Did you know that we fund the library's summer program for youth that helps keep our kids busy and engaged during their summer break? And that we pay for the library's 19 museum passes? These include everything from what you might expect, such as the Boston Children's Museum, to what you might not, such as the Boston Harbor Island Ferry and Wakefield Community Boating. If you've ever attended one of the many interesting online Author Talks, the money to fund those comes from the Friends of Beebe

Library as well. These are only a few examples of how the money we raise provides the services that you enjoy.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped us with our book sale activities – we couldn't do it without you! In addition, special thanks to two of our directors who recently stepped down – Greta Garniss and Bhushan Kulkarni. We appreciate all your hard work for the Friends. We are pleased that Bhushan has agreed to continue on in his role as website coordinator. And welcome to the new Board members who have recently joined us – Louise Goode as Assistant Treasurer; and Lou Prosperi, Missy Thompson, and Alastair Drummond as Directors.

Unfortunately, we are still uncertain whether we will be able to continue holding book sales due to the impending loss of our current space at the Hurd School, which is where we currently collect, store, and sort books, and hold the annual sale. Please let us know if you have any ideas on alternative sites as we have not yet been successful in finding one.

About half of our revenue comes from memberships and donations. Some may think that the only reason to join is to be able to have early access to the book sale. This is indeed a nice benefit. However we appreciate new members any time of the year to help us to fulfill our mission. Please join us at <https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/join> or donate at <https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/donate> .

We at the Friends wish you a happy rest of your summer!

*Karen Williams*

*Aquarium, continued from page 2*

aquarium is a touch tank with Epaulette Sharks and stingrays. Kids (and adults) have the opportunity to safely touch the creatures for the experience of a lifetime!

Walking up from the first floor is a spiraling, ramp-like pathway where families can watch all the different animals in a deep cylindrical tank called the Giant Ocean Tank (GOT). There are sea turtles, stingrays, small sharks, and a wide variety of small fish. At the very top of the GOT, you can look down onto the animals and their lives.

The last exhibit I visited was the Marine Mammal Center where I sat and watched the sea lions dive into the water from their platform and swim around. You can easily spend 2-3 hours at the aquarium looking at all the sea life and watching the penguins, seals and sea lions, which were my favorite.

*Ariel Chu, continued from page 3*

community better. She was at the Beebe Pop-Up Library at the recent Festival by the Lake on a beautiful sunny Saturday. When not at the library, Ariel is a classical musician on the viola and participates in a local orchestra.

I enjoyed chatting with Ariel. All the Youth Services Staff work together so creatively to bring wonderful activities and experiences to the community's children. Be sure to stop by and welcome her when you are downstairs.

**FRIENDS OF THE BEEBE LIBRARY**

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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](http://www.FriendsofBeebe.org)*