

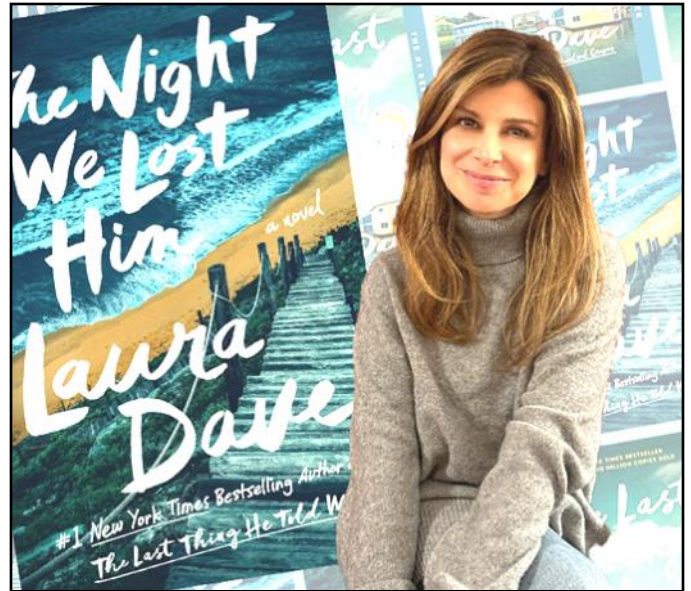
# *The Buzz* from and about the Friends of the Beebe Library

*Fall 2024*

## **Museum Pass Spotlight:** *The House of Seven Gables*

It's November, which means it's now safe to enter the City of Salem again! And your Museum Pass team has pre-screened a destination for you there: The Turner-Ingersoll Mansion, more famously known as "The House of Seven Gables." Here we have to

*House of Seven Gables, continued on next page*



## **LIBRARY SPEAKERS CONSORTIUM**

*By Karen Williams*

Did you know... that the Beebe Library is a charter member of the Library Speakers Consortium, which offers virtual author talks and presentations, and that the Friends of Beebe Library fully funds this initiative? The consortium, which counts more than 400 library systems across 45 states, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia as members, was started in 2022. Because of the size of the consortium it is able to attract best-selling authors whom individual libraries would be unable to afford. Some past exam-



*Helen and 3/7 of the Gables*

*Speakers Consortium, continued on page 6*



admit that at least one of us did not read Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1851 novel inspired by this singular structure before our visit, and that she very much regrets that omission. It is an interesting enough building without foreknowledge of the tale, but it becomes a character itself once one has set the stage with the dark history of the fictional Pyncheon family. Granted, the prose is a little dense, and you will run into some Scripps Spelling Bee-level words (for example: "eleemosynary"), but if you're reading this,

you're a Friend of the Library, so I don't imagine you will be scared off by long words! So, (1) read the book, (2) reserve your pass on the Beebe website and pick it up at the front desk (it will give you ½-price admission for up to 4 people), and (3) go to [7gables.org](http://7gables.org) and purchase your tickets. Now you're ready! Oh, and, good news, there's on-site parking.

The museum campus actually encompasses several buildings, but your timed ticket is for the tour of the gable-festooned mansion built in 1668 by John Turner (the 1st). The



*Lucy at a Secret Location*



## FROM THE BOARD

*By Karen Williams*

**W**e hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and that you took advantage of all the summer offerings from the library, such as the youth programs and the museum passes, both of which the Friends pay for. Now that the weather is getting cooler you may be finding even more to love at the library. It is a good time to settle down with a good book or movie courtesy of the library's stacks, or to partake of one the library's programs.

We received some good news recently – we will be able to hold a 2025 book sale at the Hurd School again. Thank you to the Town for allowing us the opportunity to continue at this location, at least for another year! This will permit us to continue to support existing and new services at the library, including those snazzy new virtual-meeting booths up on the second floor!

We cannot lose sight, however, that the need for a new location for our book collection and sale is imminent. Please continue to keep us in mind and pass on to us any ideas that you may have on this front. It is only with your help that we will have the funding to pass on to the library to supplement their budget from the Town.

Speaking of help, we have lost some of our book sale committee members, and we are seeking volunteers to work with Cindy

home passed down through the Turner family for several generations until it was sold to Captain Samuel Ingersoll. Susanna Ingersoll, his daughter, inherited the house in 1804. She often invited her cousin Nathaniel to visit, and apparently it made quite an impression on him!

In 1908, Caroline Emmerton, a Hawthorne fan girl, gable-enthusiast, and philanthropist, bought the House, restored several of the gables, which had been removed much earlier, and, inspired by the novel, added one or two features not original to the real-world House, but important to the fictional one (We won't spoil it; find out for yourself!). She subsequently opened the House as a museum, in support of her Settlement Association, an early effort to aid immigrants, which continues to do so to this day.

In the 1950's, Nathaniel Hawthorne's birthplace was moved to the site, and you can wander through a self-guided tour there; a docent is available to answer questions. Hawthorne, by the way, was pretty much the "hot novelist" of Puritan fiction. See his portrait and decide for yourself.

The tour guides are very knowledgeable, and tour groups are small. If you visit in Spring or Summer (such a long way off!), the gardens are beautiful, and the harbor is right there. And, as always, we love a gift shop, and this one had some charming souvenirs relevant to the House and its history, a great deal of fairly tasteful Salem merch', and many very handsome blank books for aspiring Hawthornes!

*-Lucy Skeldon & Helen VanBenschoten*



Schatz and Karen King to help to run the sale. We always need and appreciate our many book sale volunteers and will need them again this year, but a pressing need at this point is for additional people to help on the organization end of the sale. If you are, or may potentially be, interested, please contact us at [beebebooksale@gmail.com](mailto:beebebooksale@gmail.com).

In the meantime, keep your eyes open for future emails about our book collections, keep on checking out the Everyday Book Sale in between the staircases on the lower level of the library, and keep those memberships (<https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/join>) and donations (<https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/donate>) coming in.

Wishing you the best in this upcoming holiday season.



*A sample scavenger hunt activity from the minds of the Beebe librarians.*

## Summer Reading is Over, but Scavenger Hunts Offer Monthly Delights

*By Nancy Tolleson*

The Youth Room completed another very successful Summer Reading program with activities for all ages. For the hundreds of children who participated, a highlight was to come and share their latest count of books read and get new buttons for their lanyards to track their literary journey. Scratch tickets were a big draw for the older kids, who often left with a new book after claiming a prize from as small as a Jolly Rancher to a bigger piece of candy or, on a lucky day, a gift certificate to Cravings.

At the end of the summer a big drawing was held for gift certificates to Whitlam Books in Reading. Buzzy hid himself all over town, and the final prize for all the happy searchers was to draw a prize from a bedazzled treasure chest as Buzzy's last spot was



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under the sea in a book case diorama. The summer activities culminated in all-ages block party held outside with lawn games, freeze pops, board games, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and more.

Some of the most popular events were the scavenger hunts with many changing themes and challenges. Kids delighted in it and entire families would explore looking for the clues. The hunt continues this fall with a new theme cooked up monthly by Annie Hocheiser. The hunts come in many styles from hunting for clues to matching shapes, and more. The hunts are designed to be entertaining for the children and a challenge to the staff to keep them fresh. Examples planned for this fall include a skeleton hunt and another based on digging up dinosaur bones.

The summer wrapped up by saying farewell to Casey Chwiecko, who has accepted a new position in Lincoln. Casey shared her enthusiasm and creativity for 10 years in the Youth Room. A new director will have started by the time of this publication. We look forward to welcoming her and having a chance to introduce her in the next newsletter.



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people continue to work from home and subsequently have difficulties finding distraction-free places to conduct meetings and phone calls. The Beebe seeks to meet this need with their Virtual Meeting Booths.

The two single-occupancy booths are intended to be used as a quiet place for taking phone calls, conducting web conferencing sessions, and attending virtual job interviews. The booths are 41" x 41" and while they aren't completely soundproof, they will muffle sound for a focused work environment.

The booths are available by reservation only using a valid library card by phone, on the Beebe Library website, or at the Reference Desk. Reservations can be as short as 15

## ***New at the Beebe:*** **Virtual Meeting Booths**

*By Alicia Brennan*

This fall, the Beebe Library is excited to introduce their brand-new Virtual Meeting Booths on the upper level of the library!

*Continued on page 7*



ples are Bonnie Garmus, author of Lessons in Chemistry; John Irving; Sue Monk Kidd; and travel writer Rick Steves. In August they also presented a program with a Smithsonian curator called “Behind the Scenes at the Space Station.” The library offers 2 – 3 events per month through the consortium. Unlike in-person events there is no limit to the number of people who can sign up. They even include Q & A segments. Events are recorded, available 24 hours after the event, and most stay available for months. This means that even if you are not able to attend at the stated time you can still register and watch them later on at your convenience. If you enjoy thrillers or mysteries, an upcoming program that the library is excited about is Laura Dave on December 11 talking about her new book The Night We Lost Him.

So check out the library event calendar and watch your emails from the Beebe to see all the exciting programs in which you can partake!



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So, while we continue to  
'Hunt for Red October'  
or search 'Endlessly Ever After'...

## Book Sale at Hurd School again in 2025

By Nancy Tolleson

The Friends of Beebe Library have been very fortunate to have the Hurd School to store books and hold the Annual Book Sale for the last several years. The one-stop location has made it so easy to offer drop off days for the public to pass on their novels, picture books, how-to guides, etc. These donations pile up quickly and worker bees buzz around all winter sifting, sorting, and displaying titles for the next big sale. By May, thousands of books are ready for the happy crowds to pour in.

You may have also noticed an ongoing search for new space that would allow the Friends to continue this tradition for over 50 years. Outreach to the friends and the public has been steady. A subcommittee has thor-



*Our new book drop box at Lake Side Office Park provided by Bay State Books.*

oughly researched alternate locations and is ever alert to new ideas. While a permanent solution hasn't been found, we are happy to report that the Book Sale will happen again at the Hurd School in Spring 2025.

The book sale is an ever-popular event with a dedicated group of managers and volunteers. While sometimes hard work, like hauling in books in a deluge, the reward is in the end when we get to share our love of books and relish the company of others coming to find that one perfect book, a pile of beach reads, or a totally unexpected great find.

So, while we continue to “Hunt for Red October” or search “Endlessly Ever After” for the “Ultimate Storage Solution,” we will be at the Hurd School “Next Year for Sure.” If you have good ideas for a longer-term solution or other skills to help the Book Sale continue, please contact [beebebooksale@gmail.com](mailto:beebebooksale@gmail.com).

*But wait! There's more...*

The Friends now have a dedicated book drop box for days when you have a few books to donate or can't make one of the big drop-off dates. The box is provided by Bay State Books, a locally owned company with boxes placed from the edge of NY to Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

The location is at Lake Side Office Park near the Lake Side Inn. This will help ensure we also have a supply of new selected titles for the Everyday Book Sale at the foot of the double stairs to the Beebe Library's lower level. The selection turns over every month so stop by for a browse.



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*Virtual Meeting Booths, continued from page 5*

minutes or as long as 2 hours, and may be extended by 30 minutes pending availability and a librarian's approval. For immediate use, reservations must be made at the Reference Desk.

Library patrons can make one reservation at a time up to two weeks in advance with a maximum of one reservation per day and three reservations per week.

And the best part? Like so many of the Beebe's programming and services, the Virtual Meeting Booths are funded by the Friends of Beebe Library. Whether you're hosting a Zoom meeting or interviewing for a new job, the Friends and the Beebe Library hope that you'll enjoy these new spaces to enhance your work experience.

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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)*