



Friends of the New Salem Public Library Newsletter

Friends' Local Author Series

While we have often sponsored readings by local authors, this particular series began when a friend of one of our board members (a friend of a Friend!) introduced her to Celia Jeffries's *Blue Desert*. She was told to just read the first three pages after which the Friend could not put it down. We contacted Celia through her publicist, Mary Bisbee-Beek, and a fruitful partnership began with Mary sending the Friends copies of the books of area writers she represents and facilitating our scheduling of them to do readings.

Thus far we have hosted Celia Jeffries (September 14th) and Faith Shearin (*Lost River 1918*, October 26th); Michael Miller (*High Bridge*) is scheduled for November 16th.

In addition, the former owner of Dean's Beans, Dean Cycon, will be joining us in January to read from his new novel, *Finding Home*, in recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Board member Barbara Franck wearing a chesh brought by Celia Jeffries.

The events we have sponsored so far have been very successful, drawing participants not only from New Salem but also from surrounding towns. We have even had our State Representative Aaron Saunders and his lovely wife, Melissa, and equally lovely daughter, Sophia, join us for Faith's reading! We hope to continue this series each fall, with Ms. Bisbee-Beek's invaluable help. She has already sent the Friends several other books and authors to consider so be ready to mark your calendars as we set the dates!

Reading Aloud for Grownups Enters Its 16th Season

This year we will be joined by some of our most beloved and experienced readers and maybe even a few new faces!

Save the Date:

January 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm
February 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm
March 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm

We look forward to the community coming together, enjoying the talented readers, and remembering Dorothy Johnson, who first dreamed up this event.

Museum Passes

Looking to get out of the house this winter? The Library has a wide variety of museum passes available for patrons. Whether it is a trip to The EcoTarium in Worcester, The Eric Carle Museum in Amherst or the Dr. Seuss Museum in Springfield, the children in your lives will be entertained!

Don't let the cold weather fool you, the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston and Magic Wings Conservatory & Gardens are open year round.

**MUSEUM
PASSES**
AT THE LIBRARY



If you are more interested in spending a leisurely afternoon in the Berkshires perusing some incredible exhibitions, MASSMoCA in North Adams and The Clark Institute in Williamstown are waiting for you.

All of these passes and more are available for you to check out. Passes provide free or discounted entry to the museums. Stop by the circulation desk to learn more!

Remembering John Ryan

The Friends would like to remember John Ryan, who passed away on September 30, 2023. John was a long time member of the Friends and served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors. John was a strong supporter of the New Salem Public Library and many other local organizations. His service to the community was commendable. He will be missed. Thank you to all who have made donations to the Friends in his memory.

Cooking with Nalini

On May 9 the Friends hosted Nalini Goodrial of Kitchen Wizardry for a live cooking class on Zoom. Nalini walked us through a four course meal of chickpea tikka masala, chapati, pumpkin payasam, and green chutney.

The Friends provided free spice packets to the first ten registrants. The spice blends, which Nalini sources from high quality organic ingredients, allowed home cooks to capture Nalini's deep flavor profiles in their own dishes. As Nalini gave step by step instructions, she also gave attendees background on the dishes and their flavors while answering questions. To learn more about Nalini or purchase spice blends visit kitchenwizardry.me



Stay up to date
with Friends'
events!



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Friends of the New Salem Public Library Board Members

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|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Chair | Anna Coburn | Programming |
| | | Linda Chatfield |
| Secretary | Jo Ellen Boskind | Barbara Franck |
| Treasurer | George Perides | Karen Stevens |
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Poetry Month April 2023

April is National Poetry Month, 30 days of celebrating the joy, expressiveness, and pure delight of poetry. Last April, Friends of the New Salem Library celebrated poetry month with a number of poetry programs, and this year, included a display of kid poems.

Swift River Elementary students found plenty of ways to celebrate National Poetry month! We received over 50 original and illustrated poems from Angela Corey's 6th grade students for a very whimsical display at the New Salem Library throughout the month of April. This impressive collection by our young poets included Bio Poems, Quatrain, Acrostic Poems, Color Poems, Emotion Poems, and Diamante Poems. Thanks again to Swift River students for sharing so many unique, creative, and humorous poems.

Bio Poems
written by Swift
River sixth
graders and
displayed at the
library.



Treasurer's Report

During the last year, the Friends financed their programs with the help of the generous support by you. The funds came from the regular membership, contributions in response to the annual appeal and from unsolicited donations throughout the year. The total of all the contributions amounted to \$4,194. These funds were used to pay for our programs like Reading Aloud for Grownups, Cooking with Nalini and the maintenance of the garden outside the library. We also purchased a bookshelf for the library in memory of John Clayton paid for with donations to his memory, bought the museum passes the library provides to the patrons and provided honoraria to the authors who read from their books.

Our administrative cost is about 20% of the total expenses, and includes postal services, subscription to Zoom that our library also uses and the publishing and distribution of our newsletter.

Love Your Library Month Basket Drawing

February is Love Your Library Month. To celebrate our love for the library, the Friends put together two gift baskets, stuffed with goodies — one basket for adults and one for children. Every visit to the library earned you a free ticket into the drawing. The more you visited during the month of February, the more chances you had to win!

Be on the lookout for our baskets to out again this February. Stop by, show the library some love, and earn free entries into the drawing.



Call For Volunteers

“Ask not what your library can do for you. Ask what you can do for your library.”
—said no one ever, but you feel its truth, right?

Our library is the heart of New Salem. As the Friends, we are dedicated to providing extra resources for the library. We raise funds for programs, services, and equipment not included in the library budget. We also plan and host programs to entertain and enlighten. **We have two spaces available on our board of directors. Can you fill one of them?**

Don't think you have the time? You'd be surprised! Some of us work, some are retired but busier than ever—it takes less than you think because we have a great team. We are an independent nonprofit. We meet once a month (hybrid), almost always in under an hour. We maintain the used book sale section. We spruce up the garden. We host events. If you enjoy indoor work or outside work, online or in person, behind the scenes or out front, we've got something for you. We thrive on a mix of talents and experience. Most of all, we have a shared sense of loyalty to the mission of the library and an enthusiasm to keep people engaged.

Please consider joining us. Anyone who supports the library can become a Friend! Membership comes with any donation of \$10 or more, with the benefit of voting at our annual meeting and, if we have your email, receiving advance notice of events. Joining the board gives you the inside scoop and input into all we do. Interested? Drop us a line at nsfriendsoflibrary@gmail.com, or check the box below.

Please fill out the form below, cut it out, and return it with your donation in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

I would like to support the Friends of the New Salem Public Library by becoming a member for 2024. Enclosed is my check made out to the Friends of the New Salem Public Library.

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I do not wish my name to published as a contributor to the Friends.

My membership contribution: \$10 \$25 \$5 Other \$

I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

I am interested in becoming a Board Member.

Membership fees and contributions are tax-deductible, subject to IRS limits. The Friends of the New Salem Public Library is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization.

You can also donate and become a member on our website!
Scan here

