

FRIENDS

of the Joshua Hyde Public Library

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Fall Edition



FRIENDS
OF THE JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

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Find out what the Friends are doing or renew your membership online:
slfriends.org
or
www.SturbridgeLibraryFriends.org

From Our President

Sometimes it's nice to take a step back and reexamine your mission. The Friends was recently thrust into contemplating ours. We've always known that we were created to support our library and our librarians. We do that by fundraising and providing those funds to support programming and provide supplies and other extras that simply couldn't be offered with funding from the town or state.

Our library created the "You Belong Here" program so every member of our community feels comfortable and supported in our building and at our events. It is geared toward all races, creeds and colors with a simple message: everyone is welcome! In this light and as part of the Pride Month celebration, we had joined together with other libraries to present a program for teenagers given by a drag performer they could view at home on Zoom. This unleashed quite a discussion on the community Facebook page with a call to "defund the library" at the annual Town Meeting.

I can honestly say, I was quite proud of our little town when it seemed that more people were for the library and our programming than were against us! I explained that the town funding only covers the basics: the building and its maintenance, the librarian's salaries and the books. There is no tax-payer money available for programs, or museum passes, or extra equipment or so many other things. If the voters had chosen to block the town's funding of the library, it would only close the building down and Sturbridge would have lost its library. Those who were against us argued that instead of having a program for teenagers to feel better about and better understand themselves if they might be questioning their sexuality, we should have patriotic programs or programs with a "better message." To those I say, you should actually check out the programs we do offer. In fact, some of the more than 200 programs we offered last year included: healing oils of the Bible, meditation for cancer patients, history of the Massachusetts state flag, and a program celebrating the Code Talkers of World War II.

So, for those in our community that feel discriminated against due to your sexual identity, race, political position or any other reason, please know that you have a soft place to land at the Joshua Hyde Public Library and the Friends stands firm in our position that our funding will continue to be used to make everyone feel comfortable because "You Belong Here!"

And to reinforce this message, we recently chose to update our logo to be more in line with the "You Belong Here" campaign. This was just another way we felt we could spread the word.

Now back to business... please be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming **Annual Meeting**. It will be held October 26 at 6:30 pm. We are still working out the details but are happy to announce that we will be able to offer a program prior to our meeting. But be sure to stay for the meeting as well where you can vote on the Slate of Officers and the library's Wish List as well as hearing an update of what we've been up to this year.

See you at the library!

Donna Englander

From Our Librarian

Dear Friends,

In addition to our Afternoon and Armchair Travelers book discussion groups, we have lots of great programs scheduled for the fall.

Wednesday, October 11 – 4:00 pm; *Deluxe Sock Puppets with Homeslice Puppetry*

This is a 2.5 hour advanced sock puppet class for kids and teens ages 10+. In this class, kids/teens will be given an introduction to puppetry and create a puppet character. Students will learn to build their sock puppets and give them a much greater range of motion and movement than an average sock puppet. All the necessary materials will be provided. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

Thursday, October 12 – 6:30pm; *Introduction to Beekeeping*

Join John Hedly of the Worcester County Beekeepers Association for this presentation on beekeeping for all ages. The WCBA is the oldest county beekeeping association in the country - 123 years old!

Saturday, October 21 – 1:00 pm; *Learn to Keep a Sketchbook*

During this workshop, Joan Ellis will teach you how to keep a sketchbook and observe the world around you. Her practice includes using drawing, painting, and found objects to create lasting memories! Ages 13+. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.

The HVAC project at the library is in the procurement stages, and we hope to begin work on the library in December. As previously mentioned, there may be days that we will need to be closed for the safety of staff and patrons, but we will give you as much notice as possible! We are not taking reservations for the meeting room for December or January

You can keep track of what is going on at the library on our website sturbridgelibrary.org and on the JHPL Facebook page and Instagram accounts.

Your Librarian,
Becky Plimpton

Joshua Hyde Public Library Summer Reading 2023

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

TEENY TINY ART SHOW

A 3" x 3" two-dimensional art competition
AGES 13+



Dates & Information:

September 27 - October 15 Pick up a packet with canvas and paper board at the library.

October 16 Submit your entry.

Beginning October 19 Vote for your favorite artwork.

November 6 Winners will be announced.

Calling all artists ages 13 - 100. It's time to break out the paints, the pastels, the brushes, pens, needles, thread, embroidery floss and anything your creative minds can fit into a 3" x 3" square. The Friends are once again sponsoring a Teeny Tiny Art Show!

Prizes will be awarded in two categories: Age 13 - 18 and Age 19 - 100. Winners will be announced November 6.

Let your imagination run wild and Have Fun!

2023 Bookmark Contest Winners Announced

Another successful Summer Reading Program (SRP) can mean only one thing, more great bookmark contest winners! Running concurrently with the SRP, the annual Bookmark Contest always amazes with a plethora of wonderful designs and interpretations on the SRP's theme. This year's theme: Find Your Voice.

The contest is open to all and broken down based on age group. Winners are chosen based on design, originality and reproducibility. Winners were chosen in each age group. A ceremony was held for the winners at the SRP Finale event on the Common with winners presented with a framed copy of their entry and a set of printed bookmarks to give to friends and family. Each of the winners will have their bookmarks printed and distributed at the library throughout the year.



Dominic Garjian (left) and Savannah Ramirez (right).

This year's winners:

Ages 4-6:
Dominic Garjian
Ages 7-9:
River Lane

Ages 10-13:
Savannah Ramirez
Ages 18+:
Alice Kao



Bag of Books Sale

Saturday October 14th
10am-2pm

small bag \$3
medium bag \$5
large bag \$8-\$10
Stock up- Winter is coming!



Mark your Calendar:

Friends' Annual Meeting to be held

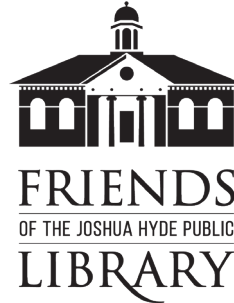
October 26
at 6:30 pm

More details to come!



Friends Redesigns Logo Friends Redesigns Logo

After fighting at the annual Town Meeting to maintain funding for the library due to a few individuals who disagreed with our programming choices, the Friends wanted to reaffirm our commitment to providing a welcoming environment for every member of our community. We believe the best way for us to do that was by redesigning our logo to be more in line with the library's "You Belong Here" campaign. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!



COME VOTE!



Come join us at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 26 at 6:30 pm and let your vote be heard! Following this year's presentation, we will be voting on the Library's Wish List and the Slate of Officers. If you are interested in running for any one of these positions, please let us know.

This year's current Slate of Officers is as follows:

President
Donna Englander
Vice President
Position Open

Clerk
Alice Kao
Treasurer
Carrie Braney

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS CELEBRATE A NEW YEAR OF READING

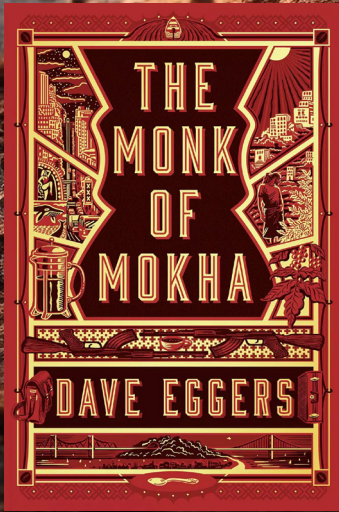
BY ELLEN K. DUZAK

The Armchair Travelers are an evening book discussion tradition at the Joshua Hyde Public Library for over 30 years. Each month a different leader takes us on a literary adventure. The discussions are very satisfying and there is always the delight of the "table of wonders" that reflect the theme of the current reading. Even the refreshments tie in to the book of the month. It is truly an evening to look forward to and enjoy.

The book group meets each month on Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Library.

Our theme for the 23-24 season is
**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS:
CHALLENGING BOUNDARIES**

We start this year with a special program on September 20. Join us for a **COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE KICK-OFF EVENT**. We will learn the history, benefits, and best preparation of these wonderful taste tempters, have fun with interactive trivia, and best of all, sample chocolates to complement the decaf coffee as we have a short discussion of the tie-in book,



The Monk of Mokha by Dave Eggers. The book is the true story of a young man reaching into his own heritage to revive the ancient art of Yemini coffee and becoming trapped by civil war.

This specific program only requires advance registration by calling 508-347-2512 or emailing sturbridgelibrary.org.

The Armchair Travelers are sponsored by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library.

Books are available at the library in advance of each meeting. The group is open to everyone. It is an evening out that you will not want to miss each month!

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

By Ellen K. Duzak

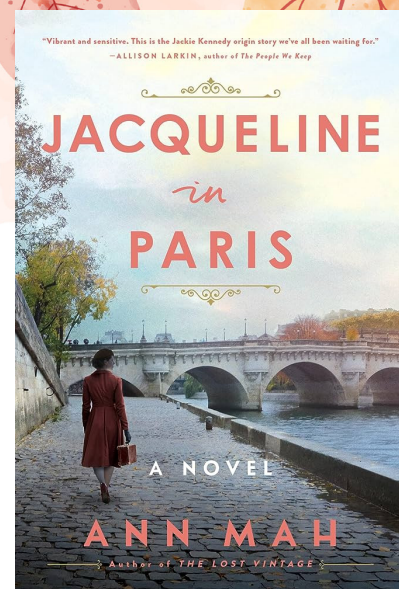
There is a touch of autumn in the air! The wonder of exploring the world of books and enjoying an afternoon of lively discussion and tasty refreshments feels invigorating and inviting. Join us on Tuesday afternoon at 1 p.m. each month in the Joshua Hyde Public Library Meeting room as the Book Group Explores the Importance of Place.

Our first meeting of the fall season is on September 12.

Our first book is *Jacqueline in Paris*, a novel by Ann Mah. In 1949 Jacqueline Bouvier arrives in postwar Paris to begin her junior year abroad. She is immediately catapulted into an intoxicating new world of champagne and chateaux, art and avant-garde theater, cafes and jazz clubs. Beneath the glitter, France is still haunted by the Occupation. Jacqueling witnesses the beginning of a political environment that will shape the rest of her life – and that of her future husband.

After this exciting Paris adventure, the year ahead promises to offer travels to Venice, Ireland, ancient China, early Nantucket, Maine, and the 19th century wilds of Canada and the US West. Each book challenges us to explore how place plays such an important role in the lives of the vibrant characters portrayed.

The Afternoon Book Group is sponsored by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library. It has a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, and is open to everyone. Books are available at the library in advance of each meeting. We hope you join us!





Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library
306 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566
www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



From the Children's Room

Dear Friends,

The Summer Reading program was a huge success! Many of our youngest patrons participated in our art programs, story times, and special programs over the last few months and it was wonderful to see! We wrapped up our summer with a bubble party on the town common – lots of dancing, playing, and awesome bubbles!

Looking forward to the next few months, Jess and I will be hosting our Tuesday and Friday story times beginning the week of September 4th. We also have some great programs planned this fall, including Professor Bugman and his “Spooky Bones and Creepy Crawlies” program in October and Something Royal’s “Princess Charm School” program in November. School field trips and preschool story time visits will also start back up again in September – I am looking forward to connecting with these students again!

Thank you for all of your support – we are able to host so many wonderful programs thanks to your generosity!

All the best,

Lisa Rice – Children's Librarian

