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Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

Elizabeth Andrew



FRIENDS
OF THE JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Summer Starts at the Library

A Message from our President

While it's been hard to tell by the weather lately, it is time for things to start heating up for the Summer. While we can't guarantee steamy days ahead outside, inside our library will definitely be simmering with activities for both young and old when our Summer Reading Program kicks off on June 24. Make sure to sign up your kids and yourself online so you don't miss out on any of the exciting activities...and be sure to check the website often so you can plan for all the fun.

When you come to explore our summer offerings, make sure to stop by the front desk and grab some of our free and reduced-price Museum Passes. Celebrate the country's 250th birthday with a visit to "Old Ironsides" a.k.a. the USS Constitution, or explore the military history that has kept this country free at the American Heritage Museum. Visit some historic homes with Historic New England, celebrate American literature at the Mark Twain House, or explore the history of Worcester at the Museum of Worcester. You can even relive the days of the witch trials at the Salem Witch Museum. Check out any of our other great offerings – there is something for everyone.

Don't forget, only members of the *Friends* are able to reserve these passes up to two weeks in advance so they will be there when you are ready to head out. If you haven't renewed your annual membership, it's not too late. Help spread the word about all the great programs and activities that are available at the library because of your membership dollars. Also, get a friend to become a *Friend*!

See you at the library!
Donna Englander, *President*

Summer Reading & Library News

A Letter from the Director

Dear *Friends*,

Summer Reading is coming! Last year almost 1000 adults, teens, and kids signed up for the Summer Reading Program. This year the program will run from June 24 to August 5. There will be a new look to Summer Reading this year, but as always there will be programs and prizes for all ages.

A reminder that our Sunday hours come to an end on June 28. Starting in July we will be open 6 days per week – please check our website for the most current hours.

With the approval of the ADA accessibility deck project at Town Meeting, we hope to have construction start in late summer/early fall. This could make for a bit of a mess in the back of the library, but what a great addition to our programming space and way to make sure that the library is available to everyone.

As always, 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.

Becky Plimpton, *Library Director*

Local Scout and Library Page Unveils Eagle Scout Project

Anna Burns Creates Astronomy Project for Community While Honoring Long-Time Library Trustee Joyce Sinnott



While “space fever” is ramping up these days after the groundbreaking Artemis II moon mission, one local astrophile has had her sights set on the cosmos for far longer. Local Scout and Joshua Hyde Public Library page Anna Burns was ready to take on her Eagle Scout project and naturally decided to focus on something skyward.

“I’ve always been fascinated with astronomy and all things space, so it seemed like only second nature for me to make my Eagle project relate to the stars somehow,” explains Burns, a Tantasqua High School senior. Burns was able to combine her community-minded project with her work at the library.

Burns’ project is now known as the Joyce E. Sinnott Stargazing Site. “It consists of a pedestal to mount the library’s telescope or someone’s personal telescope, as well as a sign with an interactive planisphere attached for people to use. Along with the sign is some information on the library telescope lending system and what astronomical objects you can see with your naked eye,” Burns explains. “I was able to install it temporarily at the Cedar Lake Recreation Area, where it will stay until it gets moved to its Heins Farm location.”

Not only did Burns choose a project to help the community share her love of astronomy, she helped honor the memory of long-time library Trustee Joyce Sinnott. Sinnott was heavily involved in the library for decades, working as a Trustee and ultimately becoming Chairperson. She also served on the board of the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library as Treasurer. During that time, she was always looking for the latest books on astronomy and suggesting programs to help others enjoy the stars as well.

After Sinnott’s death in 2024, friends and family made memorial donations to the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library in her honor. Library Director Becky Plimpton was looking for the most effective way to use these funds to best memorialize Sinnott’s memory and interests when she heard of Burns’ upcoming project. Plimpton gave her \$500 from this fund toward her project. Anna took the reins and put Joyce front and center in this project and is helping carry on Joyce’s legacy in this town and with our library.



(Top) Anna Burns with John Sinnott.

(Bottom left) Anna’s dedicated telescope stand with the JHPL telescope — available through the Library of Things lending program.

(Bottom right) The Burns family all came out to support Anna and her project.



Friends Summer Book Sale

Saturday, August 8 / 10 am-3 pm / JHPL

Members Only Pre-Sale: Friday, August 7, 2 pm-4 pm

Browse books for all ages and help support library programs and services!

Join the *Friends* Book Sale Team: Make a Difference Through Books

If you love books and want to support your community, volunteering with the *Friends* Book Sale team is a rewarding way to help the library while sharing your love of reading.

What do you do when you volunteer for the *Friends* Book Sale Team?

- **Sorting and Organizing Donations:** Help categorize books by genre or author and place on shelves or in boxes.
- **Preparing for Book Sales:** Assist with arranging book collections, tables, signage, and materials to create an inviting space.
- **Event Day Support:** Welcome shoppers, answer questions, and help keep things running smoothly. Help shoppers find books they might enjoy.
- **Clean-Up:** Help pack up remaining items and restore the space after the event.



A huge thank-you to the incredible volunteers from Cornerstone Bank who helped make our April book sale a tremendous success!

How much time do I need to volunteer?

We hold about four book sales each year. Volunteers usually help for a few hours before each sale to sort and prepare books, and on sale day you can work a short shift or stay longer. It's a flexible way to make a big difference.

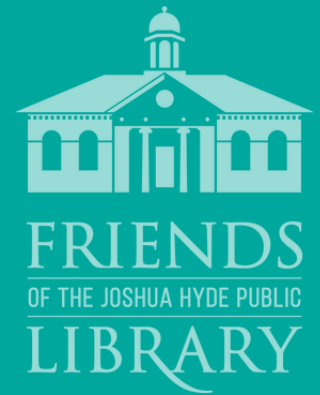
Why volunteer?

Volunteering at the book sale is a meaningful way to support the library, meet others, and enjoy working with books.

- **Support Your Community:** Your help contributes to raising funds for library programs, museum passes, story times, and other community resources.
- **Meet Fellow Book Lovers:** Work with people who share your interest in books, reading, and community service.
- **Find Great Books:** Volunteers often get an early look at donated books and hidden treasures.
- **Build Useful Skills:** Sorting, organizing, teamwork, and customer service all make this a valuable experience.

Get started!

Call Leila at 508-347-2039 or Helen at 508-479-4432



Coming Up

Aug 2

Visit our table at the
Farmer's Market

Aug 8

Summer Book Sale, 10-3
(Members Sale: Aug 7)

Oct 17

Big 'Bag of Books' Sale

Oct 18-24

National
Friends of Libraries week

Join us!



Become a member
or renew your
membership online
today!





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OF THE JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

306 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Friends Summer Book Sale

Saturday, Aug 8 / 10 am-3 pm

Members Pre-Sale: Friday, August 7, 2 pm - 4 pm

Be a Friend of JHPL! Become a member or renew your membership [online](#)

From The **Children's Room**



Hello *Friends*! Miss Meredith and Miss Savannah here, ready for another fun and busy summer at the JHPL! This year's theme is called Unearth Your Story, which means we'll be focusing on a fan-favorite down here in the children's room: dinosaurs!

Our Summer Reading Program will kick off with a science-focused, hands-on presentation hosted by Science Heroes, while a friend from the Ecotarium will have rocks and fossils on display for everyone to explore. We'll have a dinosaur-themed community art project available for patrons of all ages to work on and lots of fun summer reading treats and goodies for kiddos who sign up for the SRP. Be sure to grab a summer calendar soon; there's lots of fun to be had in the next few months: arts and crafts, movies, science, scavenger hunts, pirates, and even a party pig!

We hope you join us for a wonderful summer.



Meredith & Savannah

Children's Librarian

Library Services Specialist